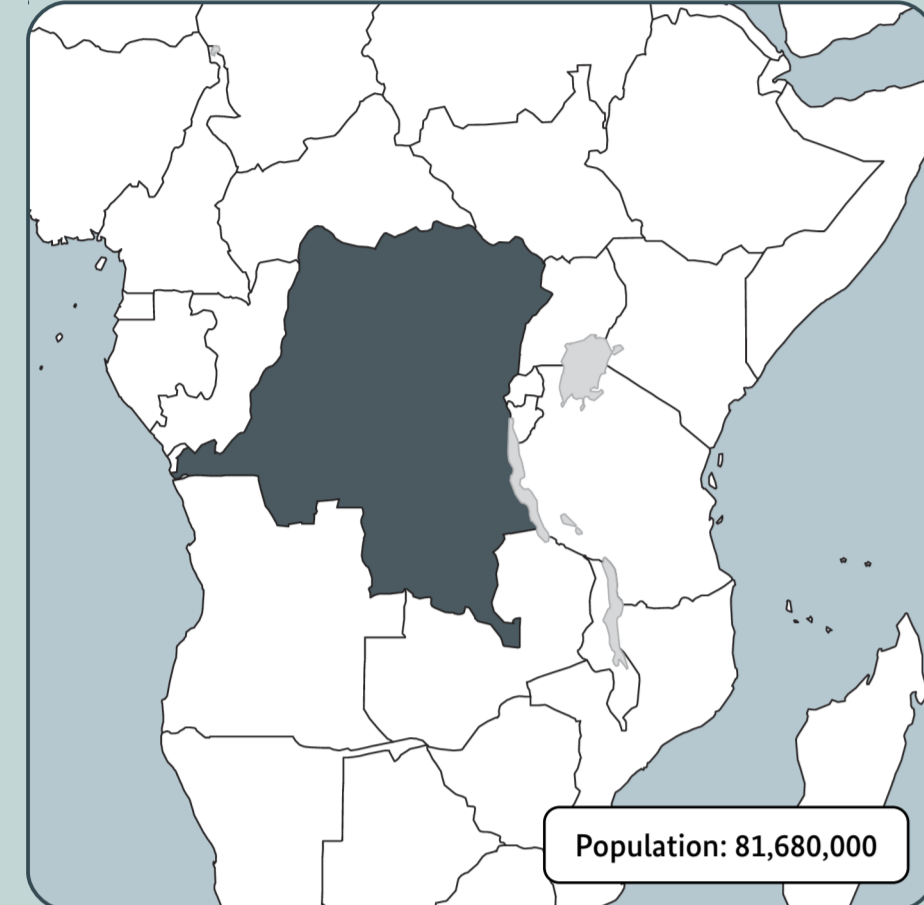


Democratic Republic of the Congo

Conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity



The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is one of the largest countries, located in the heart of Africa and covers an area of 2.345.000 km². Its population is around 70 million.

The DRC is counted among the 16 countries of the world known for their mega biodiversity. Forests represent a biome that contains important habitats in terms of biodiversity. They cover almost 67% of the national territory. This country accounts for about 10% of the world's forests and more than 47% of those in Africa.

The National Environment, Forests, Water and Biodiversity Program (PNEFEB-2) is the overall strategic framework for intervention in the environment, forestry, water resources and biodiversity sectors for the period 2014-2020.

The efforts made by the DR Congo to achieve the Aichi objectives are geared towards reducing deforestation and forest degradation as well as for the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity. This poster presents the efforts made by the Democratic Republic of Congo to achieve the Aichi objectives, including the framework for the implementation of its National Biodiversity Action Plans Strategy 2 (NBSAP 2).

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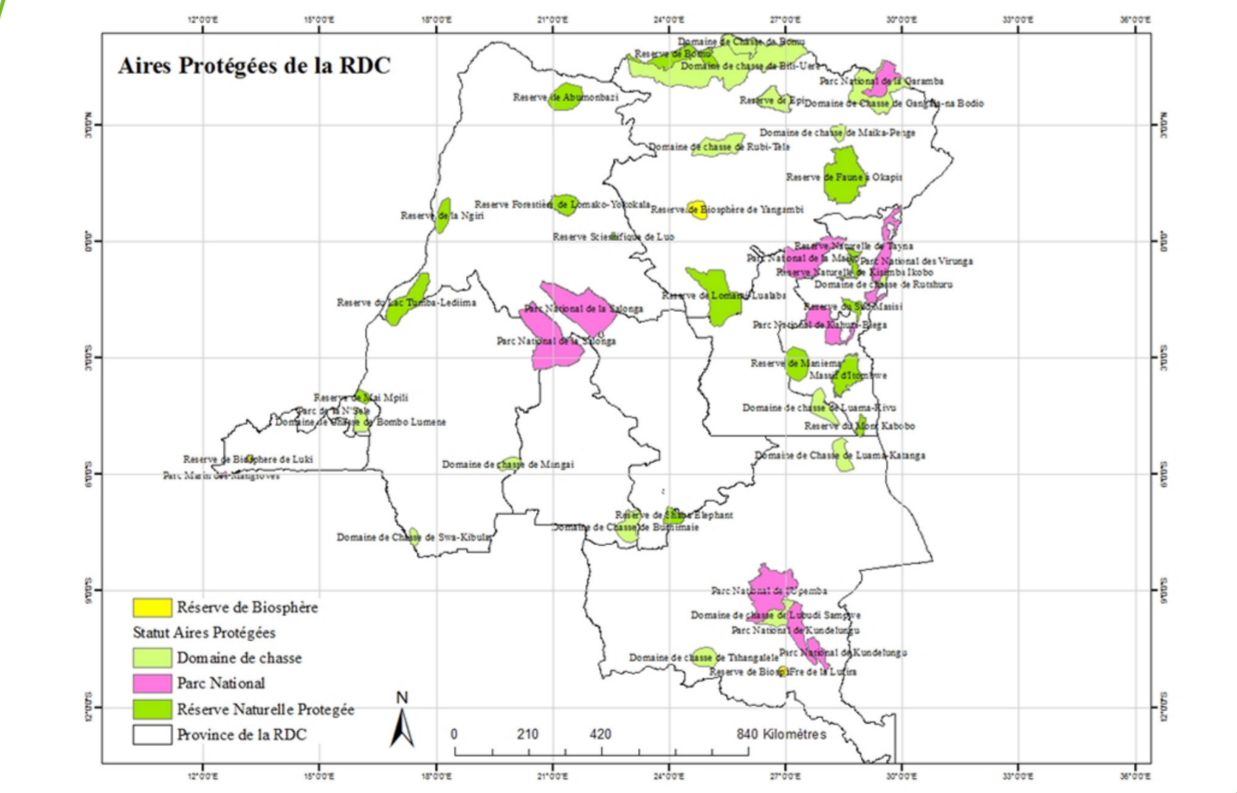
Acronyms	
ABS	Access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
GRSP II	Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (2nd generation)
NBSAP-2	National Strategy and Action Plans for Biodiversity - 2nd generation
PNEFEB-2	National Program on Environment, Forests, Waters and Biodiversity - 2nd generation
REDD+	Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation
RN	Natural Resources
SNCEE	National Strategy for Communication and Environmental Education
SNPA	National Strategy for Conservation in Protected Areas

C



Creation of new protected areas

New protected areas have been created, increasing the national coverage of protected areas to about 13%. The new protected areas are the TAYNA, LOMAKO, ITOMBWE, LAKE TUMBA and SANKURU reserves. Obviously, the Aichi Objective 11 has undergone a notable evolution in the Democratic Republic of Congo. These protected areas were established in accordance with the findings of the study on the identification of priority conservation areas.



Preliminary work on identifying priority areas for conservation, covering nearly 30% of the national territory, has been carried out. Currently around 13% are under conservation with the clear objective of increasing this coverage to 17%. Consequently, new protected areas are cropping up.

A program to save the last Rhinoceros is under way. Materials on awareness-raising on threatened species have been produced. *Prinus Africana* and *Pericopisilata* have been the subject of a study justifying their non-detrimental trade.

As part of agricultural adaptation activities in the face of climate change, a climate change adaptation project on the selection of resilient varieties was successfully implemented in 4 provinces (Bakongo, Katanga, Kasai and Bandundu).

A



Preparation of application texts of the new Conservation Law on Nature

The texts for implementing the Nature Conservation Law are in progress. This law incorporates modern principles of biodiversity management, in particular the participation of all stakeholders and that of integrating biodiversity into all relevant sectors. A task force has been set up to identify the necessary enforcement measures and prepare draft texts for the application of the Law.



Creation and operation of a National Center for Environmental Information within the Ministry in charge of biodiversity and development of an NESFS focusing on climate and sustainable development, as well as biodiversity. Creation of a research and development-oriented Center for the Monitoring of Biodiversity (CSB) and managed by the University of Kisangani. Operation of two consultation and exchange platforms at national level (CoCaCongo) and at the level of protected areas (CoCoSi).

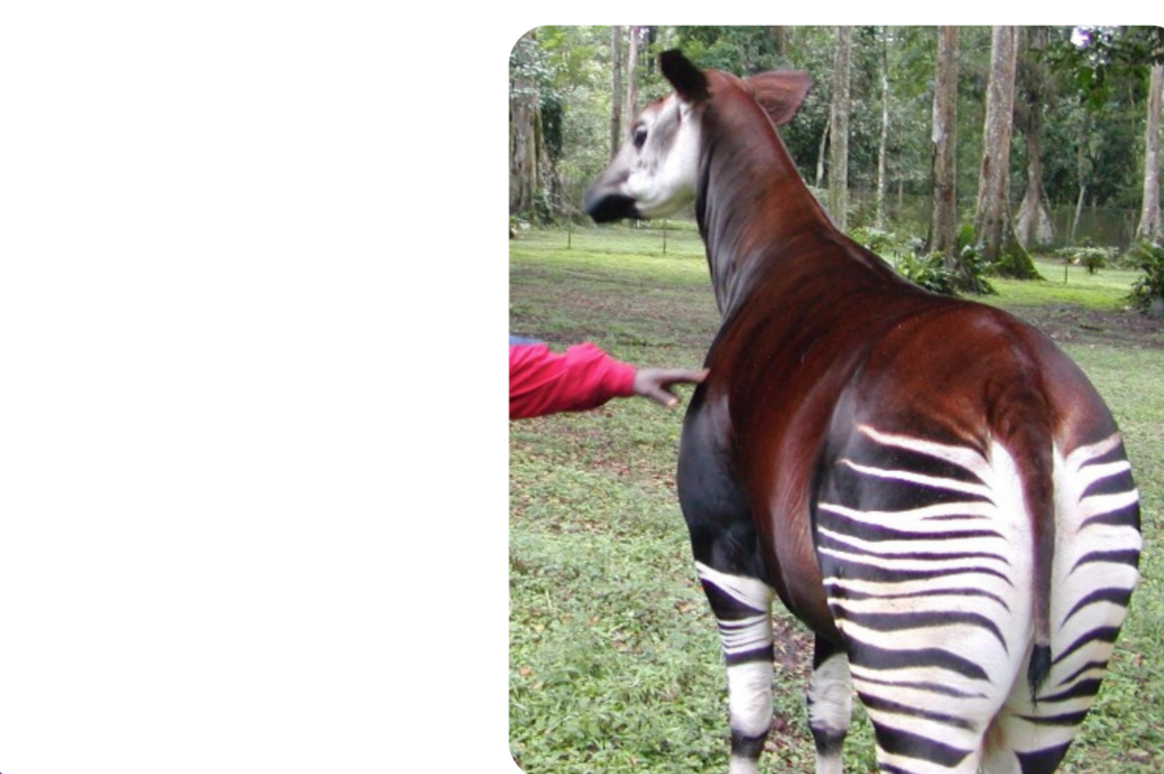
Consideration of the values of biodiversity in the strategic planning documents: DSCRPII, PNEFEB, SNPADB, SNPA on conservation in the protected areas and the national strategy REDD+. Promulgation of laws recognizing the values of biodiversity: laws on the fundamental principles of environmental management, nature conservation law.

D



Restoration of the Miombo forests

A Miombo forest restoration pilot project is being implemented in the south of the country with the support of the Global Environment Facility and FAO. The objectives of this project are to promote the sustainable management of Miombo forests and the restoration of Miombo ecosystems with the aim of reducing carbon emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and improving the sustainability of the means of livelihood of the local population.



Not a lot of DR Congo ecosystems are at the advanced levels of degradation except those around large settlement centers, most of which are located in less forest areas. Thus, three priority supply basins have been identified for a restoration program. In addition, activities are continuing under the "Bonn challenge" on restoration.

Pre-forest inventory to determine the current forest carbon stock is in progress. Studies on the distribution of the benefits resulting from REDD+ have been completed. Five geographically integrated REDD projects are being implemented.

Concerning the measures taken for the operation of the Protocol, the Nature Conservation Law promulgated in February 2014 devotes a whole title to access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing. However, a prime-ministerial decree will have to determine the practical modalities currently being designed. Studies have been carried out to identify the stakeholders of the APA and analyze the Congolese legal framework.

B



Implementation of REDD pilot projects

Pilot projects to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. Developing and strengthening the implementation of national guidelines on the sustainable use of forest resources as a REDD+ action has obvious synergies with the implementation of Aichi Objective 7, which requires that areas devoted to tree farming be sustainably managed to ensure the conservation of biodiversity. This action also has considerable potential for synergy with the achievement of Aichi Objective 12 on the avoidance of the extinction of threatened species known for improving or maintaining their conservation status.



Development and implementation of the national REDD+ strategy. Commitment to the sustainable management of forest concessions. Consideration of environmental safeguard measures in the tapping of NRs with a political will to develop a national land use planning scheme. Brief on a large-scale planning policy for the use of lands. Initiation of the process for the national development scheme.

A law on water and its resources has just been promulgated.

Development of appropriate policy documents, strategies and plans: policy briefs; measures to enforce sectoral laws (Forest Code, new Nature Conservation Law, etc.).

Commitment to develop a process for the planning and allocation of lands in accordance with their priority.

E



Development of a coherent biodiversity management framework

The National Biodiversity Strategy and Plan of Action (NBSAP) for the period 2016-2020 was finalized in October 2016 and is being implemented as a contribution of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the achievement of the objectives of Aichi.

The process of revising and updating the NBSAP is nearing completion. The DR Congo will need to have a revised NBSAP by the end of October.

The new law on nature conservation brings innovations in the management of traditional knowledge, particularly those associated with genetic resources. It entered into force since August 2014.

The trust fund also known as the "Okapi Fund" was launched in February 2014 with capital consisting of US \$ 11.5 million and 20 million respectively made available by the Global Environment Facility and the World Bank.

Other funds have been established, inter alia: Trust Fund for Protected Areas; National Biodiversity Strategy and Plan of Action (NBSAP) and the National Strategy for the Conservation of Bio-Diversity in protected areas.



IMPRINT
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AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS STRATEGIC GOALS

A Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society

- Target 1: By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.
- Target 2: By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.
- Target 3: By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio-economic conditions.
- Target 4: By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.

B Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use

- Target 5: By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.
- Target 6: By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.
- Target 7: By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.
- Target 8: By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.
- Target 9: By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.
- Target 10: By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.

C To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity

- Target 11: By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.
- Target 12: By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved or sustained.
- Target 13: By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.

D Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services

- Target 14: By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.
- Target 15: By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.
- Target 16: By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.

E Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building

- Target 17: By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.
- Target 18: By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.
- Target 19: By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.
- Target 20: By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.