

# Democratic Republic of the Congo: Biodiversity conservation and sustainable forest management (BGF)

Protect Africa's largest forest area and its biodiversity from deforestation and poaching for present and future generations.

## Objective

The forests of the Congo Basin are a global asset of extraordinary importance for the conservation of the world's climate and biodiversity. For the benefit of all people on earth, it is essential to protect one of the world's largest remaining carbon reservoirs and the habitat of an extremely rich and diverse flora and fauna. By developing and implementing sustainable forest management options, local communities can gain sources of income without further increasing pressure on the ecosystem. Governmental and non-governmental actors are strengthened both at the national level and in the country's provinces, so they can better fulfil their biodiversity protection tasks.

## Challenge

Illegal harvesting, especially to produce energy wood or timber, unsustainable agriculture and poaching are leading to a dramatic decline of the country's animal and plant wealth. Meanwhile, the population does not sufficiently benefit from local structures and the value creation potential of the use of ecosystem services.

## Measures

The project is being implemented in the capital Kinshasa and in the provinces of Maniema and South Kivu. The target group is the poor rural population in the forest areas of both provinces, including the peripheral areas of the Kahuzi-Biega and Lomami national parks.



<b>Project title</b>	Biodiversity conservation and sustainable forest management (BGF)
<b>On behalf of</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)</li> <li>Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI)</li> </ul>
<b>Implementing Organisation</b>	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
<b>Partner Country</b>	Democratic Republic of the Congo
<b>Political Partner</b>	Congolese Ministry of the Environment and sustainable Development (MEDD)
<b>Term</b>	01 April 2020 – 31 May 2026
<b>Budget</b>	68 million euros, incl. co-financing CAFI/UNDP for the execution of PIREDD Maniema

The project receives co-financing from the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI) and the National REDD+ Fund (FONAREDD) of 26.7 million euros over a five-year period for the implementation of the integrated REDD+ Programme in Maniema Province (PIREDD Maniema). BGF also includes a "One Health" component and supports a network of local communities for forest conservation (RECOF).



Left: Members of a local community in Kahuzi-Biega National Park during a workshop. © GIZ, Frank Ribas

Right: In the heart of the Lomami National Park within Maniema Province. © GIZ, Frank Ribas

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*Left: Gorilla newborn in Kahuzi-Biega National Park. © GIZ, Frank Ribas*

*Right: Reforestation measure in South Kivu. © GIZ, Frank Ribas*

## Approach

The project includes the following main activities:

- Accompanying state, private and civil society actors in the coherent design of policies, strategies and approaches for the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity and forest resources in accordance with international standards;
- Support decentralized authorities and local development committees in developing new economic opportunities to contribute to the sustainable development of local communities and in particular autochthonous groups;
- Supporting the development of sustainable management approaches, including other effective conservation measures and approaches in the context of Forest Landscape Restoration, and accompanying the respective stakeholders in the implementation of community-based forest management;
- Accompanying the introduction of measures to strengthen respect for human rights in the management of protected areas;
- Supporting the local population and autochthonous communities in the protection of primary forests, in the valorization and enhancement of environmental services and strengthening the protection of biodiversity in the peripheral areas of the Kahuzi-Biega and Lomami National Parks;
- Supporting state actors, researchers and civil society, especially in South Kivu and Maniema, to pursue a "One Health" approach to zoonotic disease control, which aims to prevent health risks at the intersection of animals, humans and their environment;

- All activities are based on a human rights-based approach and take gender-specific challenges into account.

## Impacts in facts...

- More than 50,000 people have so far benefited from the conservation of ecosystem services in the forest areas around the national parks.
- More than 4,500 hectares of forest have been reforested, five forest concessions of local communities have been established and seven local development plans have been developed in a participatory manner.
- More than 2,500 households benefit directly from green value chains and 150 autochthonous households from income-generating activities.
- In addition, more than 5 million sustainable (fruit) trees have been planted for allotment gardeners and schools.

## ...and figures

More than 900 villages with a total of around two million inhabitants are benefiting from the seven local development plans that have been drawn up and the establishment of the associated development committees in the peripheral areas of the Lomami and Kahuzi-Biega National Parks. Five community forests have been established, whose concessions transfer ownership of these forests and the right to their sustainable use to the local communities. In cooperation with the German Financial Cooperation (KfW), the implementation of the Bukavu Agreement was further advanced. A national guideline for complaints mechanisms was developed.

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