

COP 26
GLASGOW / UNITED KINGDOM

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO
COUNTRY SOLUTION
TO CLIMATE CHANGE





« Climate change poses a threat to humans and their fundamental rights. Our action in favor of the climate and the green economy as the basis of our future and our development is not only a necessity, but an urgent obligation for a peaceful and sustainable future. »

His Excellency
Felix Antoine TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO
President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo



THE PRIME MINISTER

« In its quest for recovery, Africa should develop a positive attitude and exploit the opportunities offered to it by the favorable environmental factors present on the continent, to meet the challenges it faces. »

**His Excellency
Jean-Michel SAMA LUKONDE KYENGE
Prime Minister**



« As owner and guardian of the environmental potential sought by the world to face the challenges of climate change, the Democratic Republic of the Congo presents its forests, peatlands, freshwater resources, and strategic minerals as a « NATURAL RESPONSE » to climate problems. The DRC is « THE COUNTRY SOLUTION » to the climate crisis.»

**His Excellency
Ms Eve BAZAIBA MASUDI**

**Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Environment and
sustainable Development**

Democratic Republic of the Congo
COUNTRY SOLUTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

EDITORIAL

Located in the heart of Africa, with a surface area of 2,345,444 km², and a forest area of about 155.5 million ha, namely 10% of the tropical forests of the planet, and more than 60% of the forests of the Congo Basin, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, DRC, is the second largest country with the biggest tropical rainforest in the world. It is also one of the most important reserves of the planet's natural ecosystems, comprised of several endemic species of flora and fauna. The DRC is classified 5th country in the world for its rich biodiversity.

In addition, the Congolese underground abounds in significant reserves of strategic mineral substances, such as COBALT (62% of the world's reserve), Colombo Tantalite (Coltan), Germanium, Lithium, and many others, essentials to the current ecological transition, without which it will be impossible to contain the increase of the global temperature within 1.5 degree Celsius. [Ministry of Mineral resources of the DRC]

DRC's forests sequester atmospheric carbon emitted throughout the planet, and contribute to the mitigation of global warming in wide proportions. This Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission absorption service is estimated at around 24.5 Gigatonnes per day, 3/4 of which is concentrated on 43% of the country's surface area. To this enormous climatic potential is added the potential of the peatlands of the country, which are spread over approximately 101,500 km² of the national territory, and constitute a natural stock of more than 30 gigatons of carbon dioxide, namely the equivalent of more than two years of global greenhouse gas emissions.

The DRC is also a reservoir of fresh waters, with 10% of the reserves of the planet, 52% of Africa, and 67% of the waters of the Congo Ba-

sin, which forms the second most powerful river in the world by its flow (44,000 m³ / second) after the Amazon. The Congo River is also one of the most important in length (4,700 Km). The forests of the DRC are the ones that largely regulate the Congo Basin's hydrographic regime, and that of the Nile River, which are the two major watersheds of Africa.

By its powerful flow rate, the Congo River has the capacity to produce around 44,000 MegaWatts (MW) of hydroelectric power on the INGA site alone, and thus cover the energy needs of more than 70% of households in the DRC as well as in some other countries in the Congo Basin. The many tributaries of the Congo River can generate 60,000 MW of hydroelectric power on more than 780 sites which are suitable for micro-hydroelectricity. In addition, the country has a photovoltaic potential estimated at 70,000 MW, thanks to its natural exposure under the Equator line, which divides the DRC into two parts, and makes of it a vast solar field.

The improvement of the DRC's electricity supply currently estimated at 14% is a strategy par excellence for the preservation of the forests of the Congo Basin. This is because the use of wood as a source of energy is one of the biggest drivers of deforestation in the DRC and the Congo Basin region.

As the owner and guardian of the environmental potential sought by the world to face the challenges of climate change, the DRC presents its natural resources, namely its forests, mangroves, peatlands, freshwater resources, and its strategic minerals as a "NATURAL RESPONSE" to climate problems. The DRC is "THE COUNTRY SOLUTION" to the climate crisis.

Thus, the country should have the world's attention, to safeguard this rich heritage, and guarantee to its population the «right to benefit from

all its environmental potentials", which are essentially the right to access the «CLIMATE FUND», with a view to an «EQUITABLE COMPENSATION», considering the sacrifices and abnegation which the Congolese will have to deploy for the preservation and the rational management of their resources, which are now of global interest. These are, indeed, millions of people who depend on the forests for their survival in terms of health, housing, food, employment, transportation, education, and energy supply.

The time has come for the effective implementation of Article 6 of the PARIS AGREEMENT on Climate, and Goal 17 of the GLOBAL AGENDA by 2030. This will mean for the industrialized countries, which are the main source of emissions, and at the same time the donor countries, to apply the POLLUTER-PAY principle, while gradually abandoning the approach of « development assistance » to conclude much responsible (win-win) partnerships with the developing world, in favor of humanity, and which offer better solutions for the planet.

At the COP26 in November 2021 at GLASCOW, commitments and concrete actions will have to replace speeches.

Ms. Eve BAZAIBA MASUDI

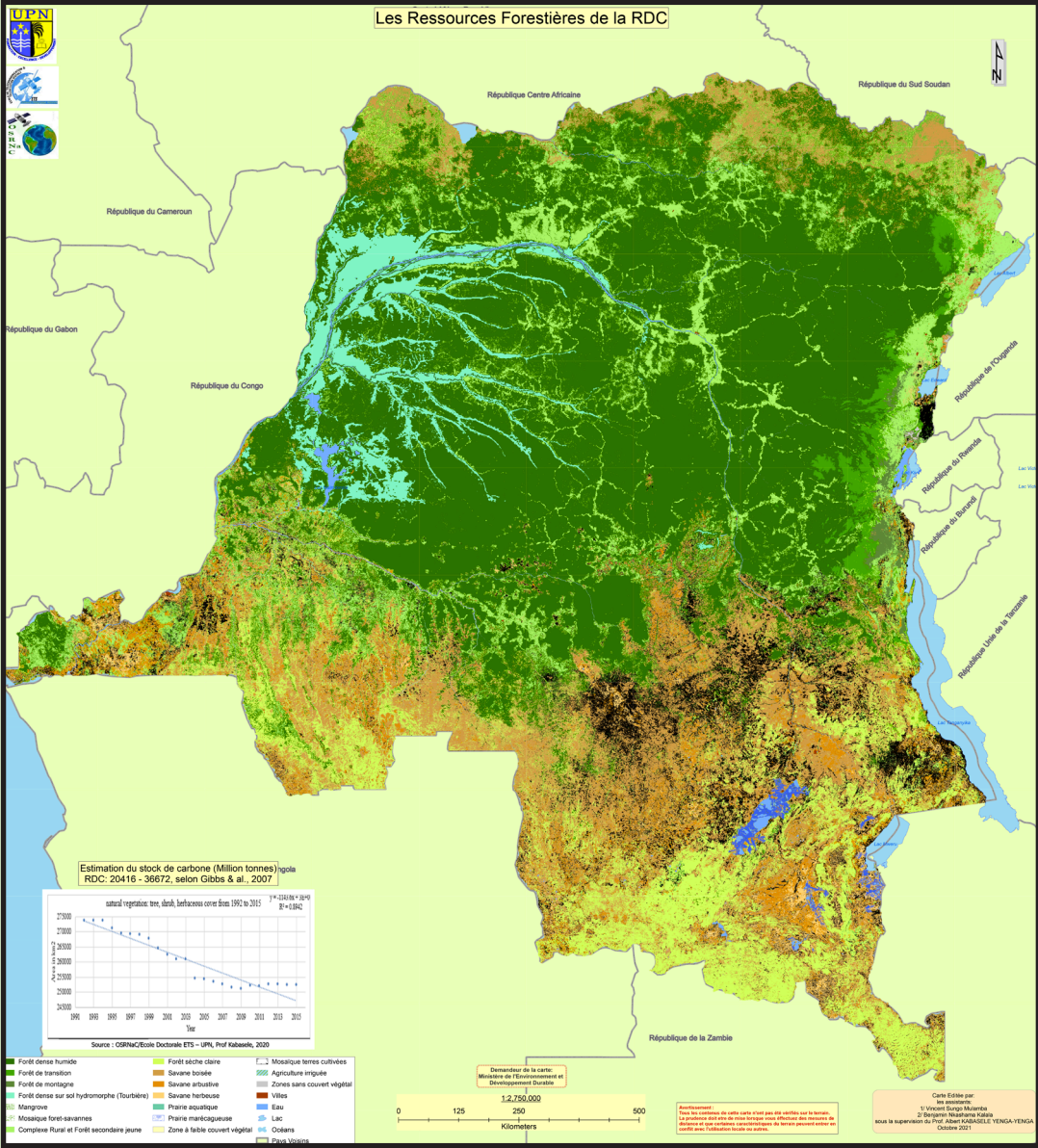
**Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of the Environment
and Sustainable Development**

SUMMARY

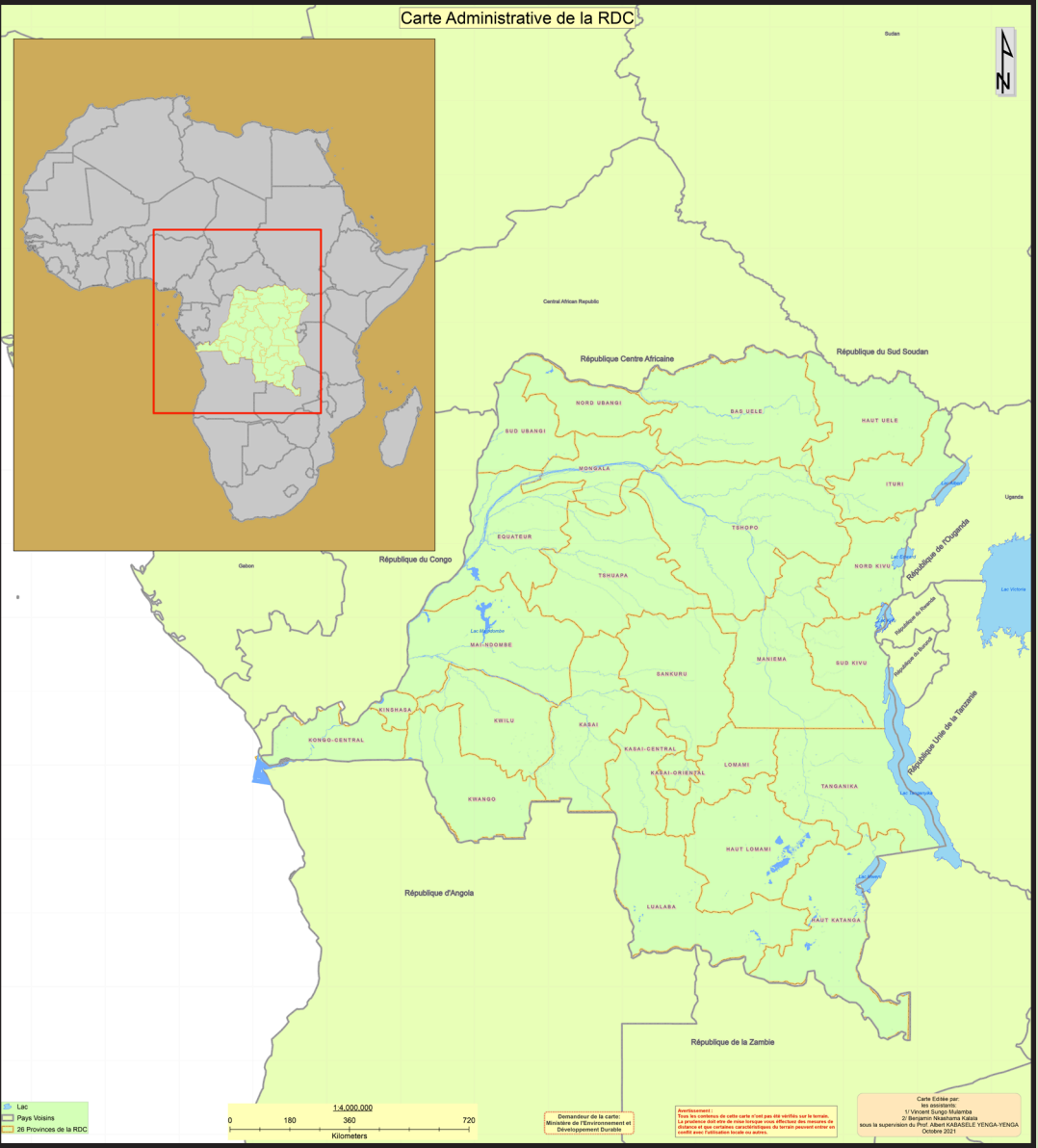
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Les Ressources Forestières de la RDC



Carte Administrative de la RDC




1. HUGE FORESTRY POTENTIAL

The DRC is endowed with approximately 155.5 million ha of humid tropical forest. This area represents more than 60% of the Congo Basin's forest, which is the second largest tropical forest on the planet. To this enormous forest massif are added vast areas of peatlands, covering approximately 101,500 km² of the national territory. The Congo Basin sucks nearly 1.5 billion tons of atmospheric CO₂ annually, the equivalence of approximately 4% of global emissions [Central African Forest Initiative, 2021].

The forests of the DRC sequester daily around 24.5 Gigatons of greenhouse gases, 3/4 of which are concentrated on 43% of the country's surface area. Its peatlands constitute a natural stock of more than 30 Gigatons of carbon dioxide, the equivalent of more than two years of global emissions of Greenhouse Gases.

Unlike most forest countries of the world, the DRC has not practiced industrial logging for several decades. For this reason much of its forests areas are of a high ecological value.



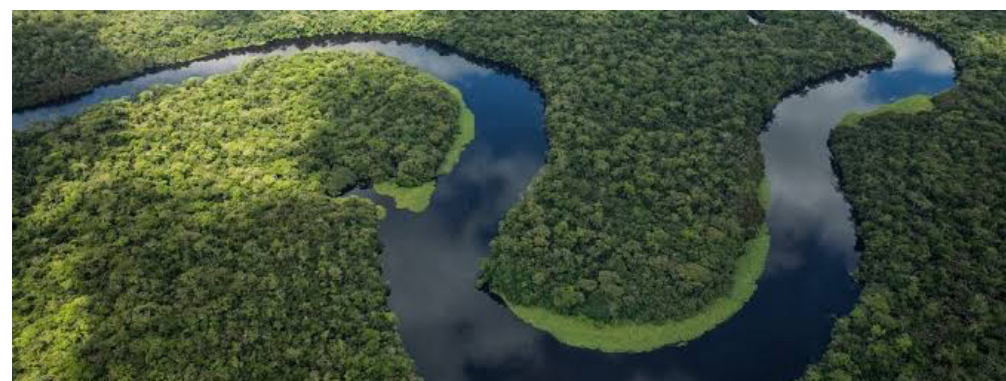


In 2021, the government adopted a series of measures aimed at improving the governance of the forestry sector and combating deforestation. The planting program of one billion trees by 2023 have been launched by the President of the Republic, with the objective of contributing to the restoration of the forest ecosystems, and the increase of the cover forest, which must reach 63% of the national surface area by the year 2030.

2. IMMEASURABLE FRESHWATER RESOURCES

The DRC is a real reservoir of fresh waters for the planet. The Congo River is 4,700 km long, the second longest in Africa after the Nile. It has an average flow rate of 45,000 m³ per second, the second after the Amazon. It is the deepest river in the world (220 m deep).

The Congo Basin from which it emanates carries around 10% of the waters of the planet, and 52% of those on the African continent. However, the internal waters of the DRC represent about 67% of the waters flowing through the Congo Basin.



Le Réseau Hydrographique de la RDC



Fleuve Congo: 4700 Km
 Débit: 43000 mètre cube/seconde
 Bassin du fleuve: 3700000 Km carré dont + 60% pour la RDC
 (CICOS, 2019)

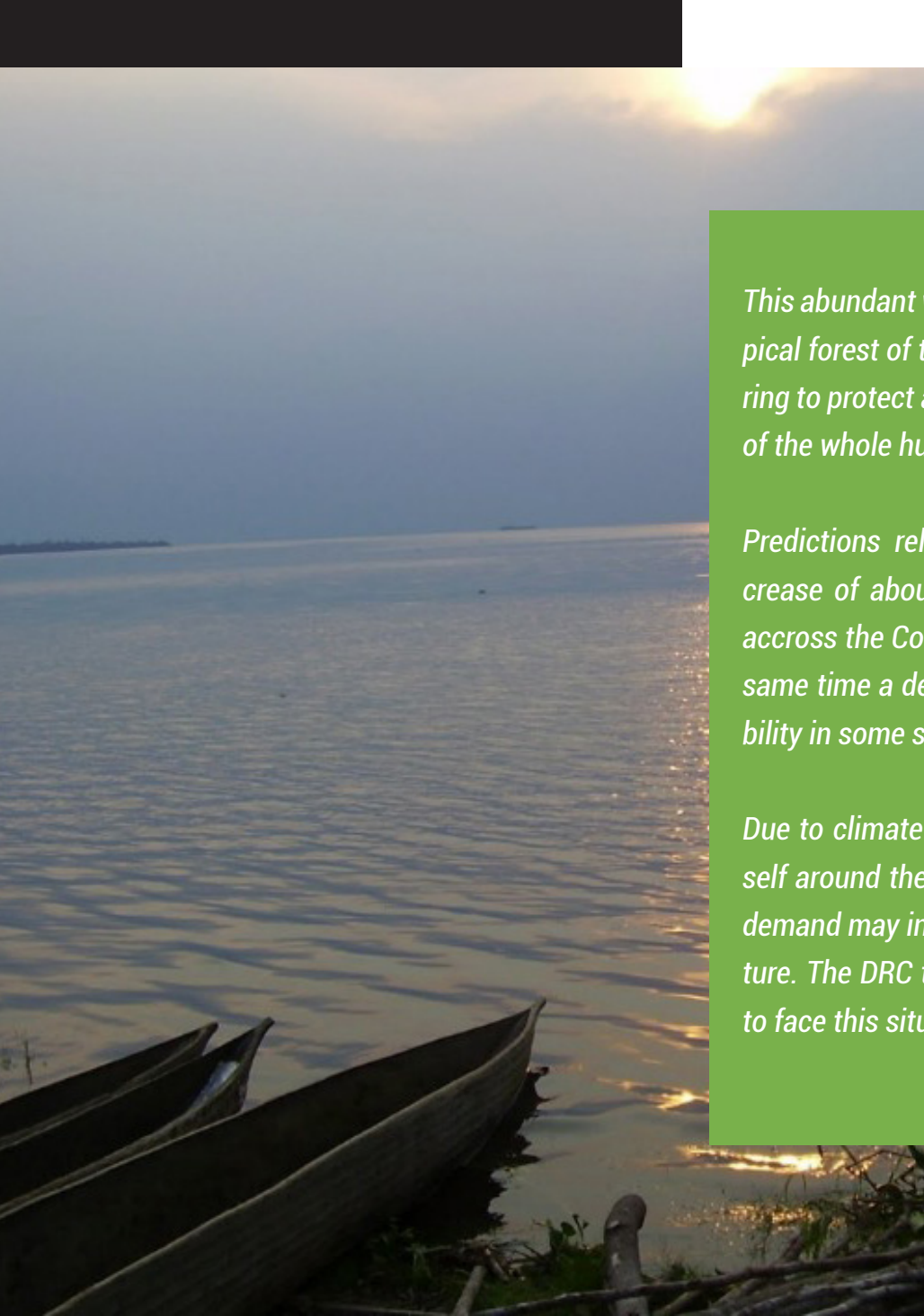
Rivères 26 Provinces de la RDC
 Lac Pays Voisins
 Océans

0 125 250 500
 Kilomètres
 1:2.750.000

Demandeur de la carte:
 Ministère de l'Environnement et
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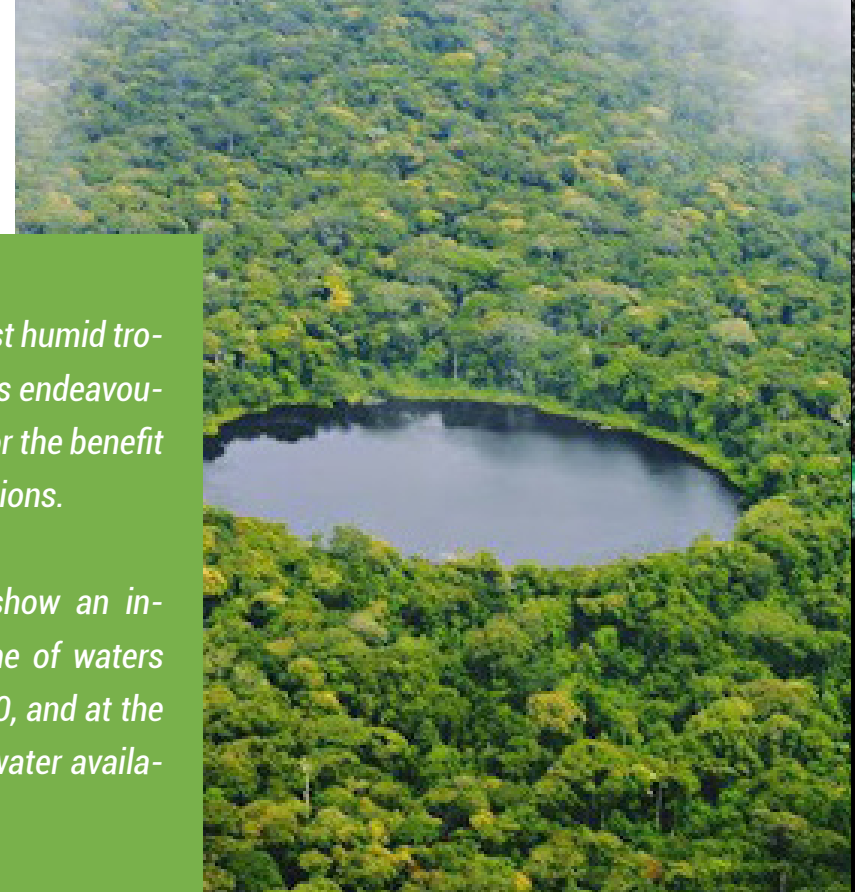
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 Octobre 2021



This abundant wealth is the fruit of the vast humid tropical forest of the region, which the DRC is endeavouring to protect and expand in the future, for the benefit of the whole humanity, and future generations.

Predictions related to climate change show an increase of about 10 to 15% in the volume of waters across the Congo Basin by the year 2050, and at the same time a decrease in the quantity of water availability in some surrounding river basins.

Due to climate change, a belt of aridity is forming itself around the Congo Basin, because of which water demand may increase in the Congo basin in a near future. The DRC takes all the extent of its responsibility to face this situation.



3. SIGNIFICANT RESERVES OF STRATEGIC MINERALS

The Congolese soil is full of huge reserves of mineral substances such as cobalt (62% of world's reserves), copper (10% of world's reserves) worldwide), Colombo Tantalite (Coltan), Germanium, lithium, nickel, graphite, aluminum, and many more, which are essential to the current ecological transition.

Without the ecological transition, it will be impossible to contain the increase in global temperature within 1.5 ° degree Celsius.

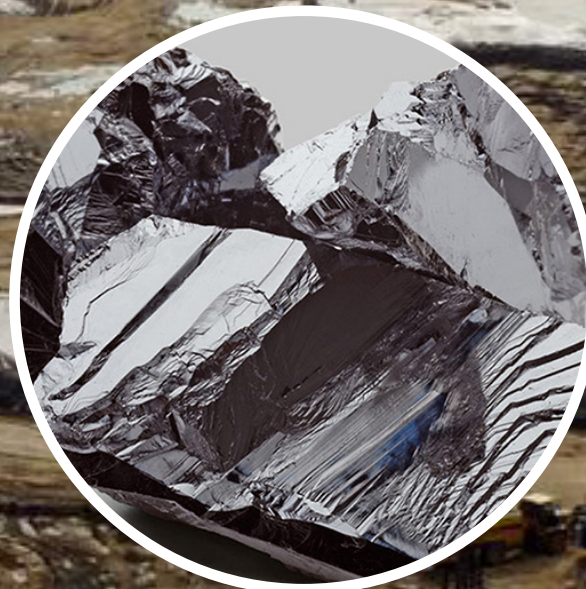
Cobalt and lithium are needed to manufacture batteries, motors and bodies of electric vehicles, while the Colombo Tantalite (Coltan) and Germanium are necessary for electronics and new technologies of information and communication.



Cristal chalcopyrite CuFeS_2 , Kamga, Katanga

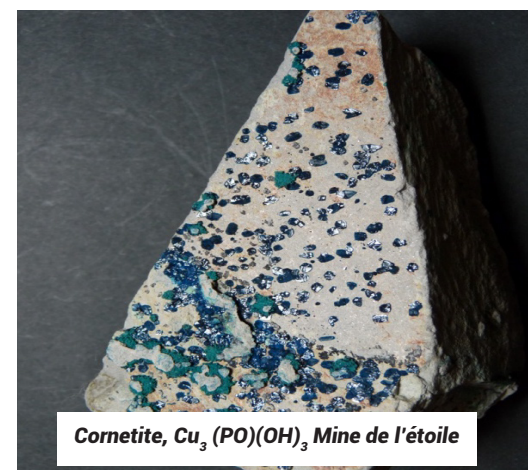


Diaptase $\text{CuSiO}_2(\text{OH})_2$



The DRC is committed to improving the governance of its strategic mineral resources, For an exploitation which respects the principles of sustainable development.

Reason why the country is now seeking the local processing of its minerals, through win-win partnerships. For the DRC, such approach will create jobs, and promote the reduction of pressure from the local population on forest resources.



Cornetite, $Cu_3(PO)(OH)_3$ Mine de l'étoile



Cuprite Cu_2O Katanga

4. WHY SHOULD THE DRC BE CONSIDERED A COUNTRY SOLUTION TO THE CLIMATE CRISIS ?

There are three main reasons:

First: The immense forest resources of the DRC, its peatlands, as well as its mangroves, make it a vast area of sequestration and atmospheric carbon storage, without which global warming would worsen ;

Second: The DRC's large freshwater reserves can cover the needs of the African continent and beyond, and even serve for the production of food, liquid hydrogen, etc. for energy needs in future ;

Third: In terms of minerals, cobalt, lithium, Colombo Tantalite (Coltan) and Germanium from the DRC are crucial to the expansion of the electronic industry, and new information and communication technologies.

At the start of 2021, scientists sounded the alarm bells on the widening gap between the global climate decarbonization ambitions, and the availability of the strategic minerals which are essential for such decarbonization. This situation caused the rush of certain States towards these metals, therefore the competition against each other to secure long-term supplies.

Being the holder of significant reserves of these minerals, the DRC has today the opportunity to play a key leadership role in this subject area.

Reason why the DRC is the country solution to the climate crisis





5. CONSIDERABLE TOURISM POTENTIAL AND RICH BIODIVERSITY

The biological diversity of the DRC is one of the richest in the world because of the innumerable and variables faunal and floral wealth it comprises. The country abounds in 352 species of reptiles including 33 endemic, 168 species of amphibians, 1,086 species of birds including 23 endemic, 421 species of mammals including 28 endemic, and more than a thousand species of fish. Emblematic species such as the Bonobo, the peacock, the okapi, the mountain gorilla, are met there.

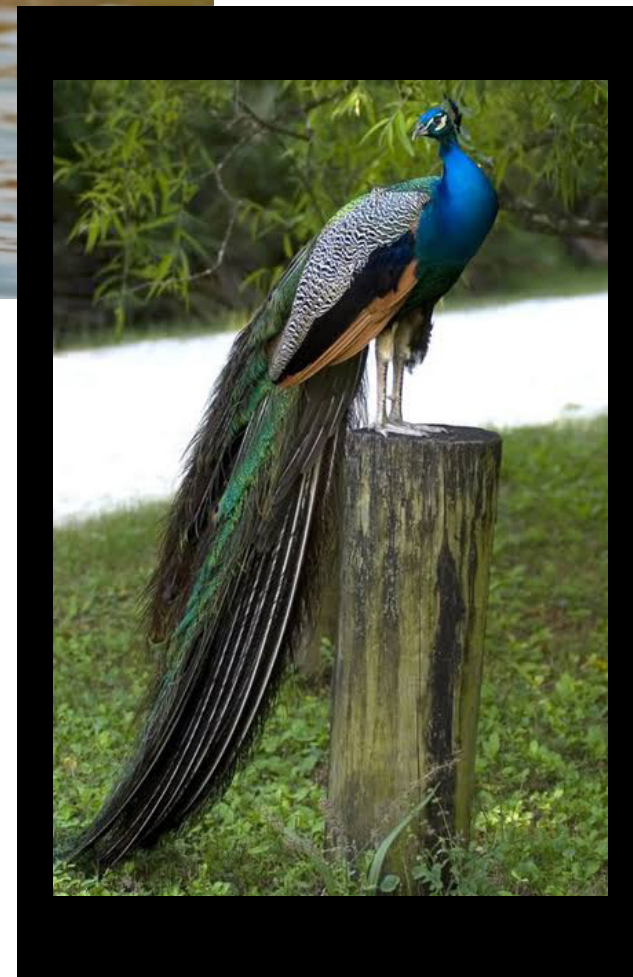
In addition, the country has 9 national parks, more than sixty hunting grounds and natural reserves covering more than 13.5% of the national territory; an area which the country has pledged to soon grow to 17% of the national territory.

Despite protection efforts, this wealthy and unique heritage is now threatened by various factors including poaching, agricultural expansion, artisanal mining and forestry, the lack of alternatives for the riverine communities, the lack of electrical energy, the Sahelian transhumant herders, who identify themselves as victims of climate change.





This situation also needs a readjustment in order to improve governance, protection and biodiversity safeguard across the DRC, in so much as the country is in the dynamics of the implementation of the Agenda 21, adopted by the International Community in view of sustainable development.





VIRUNGA NATIONAL PARK (PNVI)

The Virunga National Park is the most biodiverse protected area in Africa. It is home to over a thousand species of mammals, reptiles, birds, and amphibians. It is also home to a significant number of mountain gorillas, which is an endangered species.

The forest and savanna elephant, hippopotamus, okapi, lion and mountain gorilla are among the main species found in Virunga National Park.

Despite its high environmental and tourist value, the park is constantly threatened by various factors including, poaching, illegal mining activities, and natural disasters. The park is also suffering from the invasion of local populations and others.



Located in the heart of the DRC, the Salonga National Park is a true gift of nature. It is Africa's largest forest park, and one of the last remaining intact tropical forests in the world. It is home to 40% of the world's bonobo populations, and constitutes a viable space for the natural ecosystems of the Congo Basin.

Today the great news is the withdrawal of this park from the list of World Heritage sites in Danger, twenty years after its inclusion in this category. It is the fact that the Salonga National Park is excluded from any oil blocks.

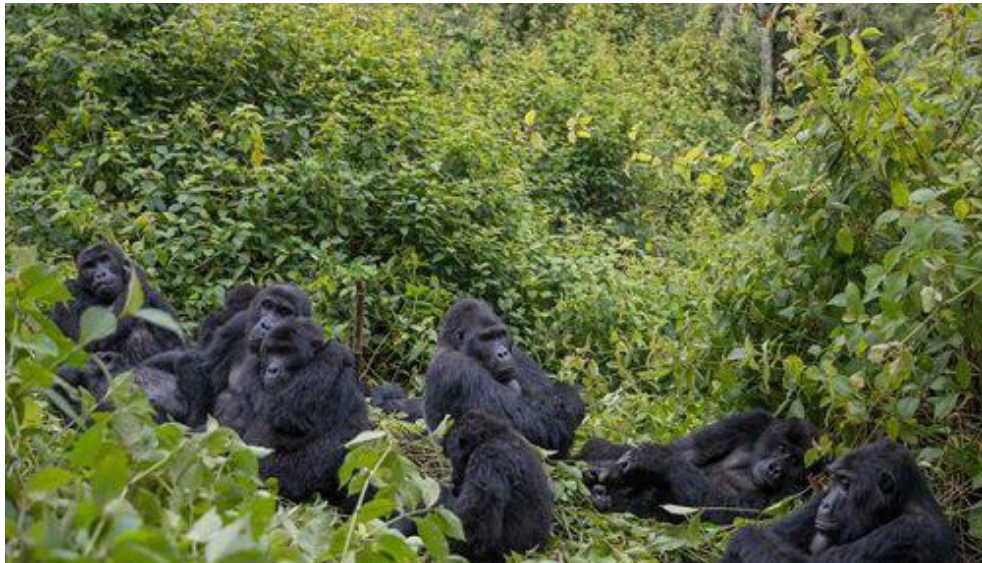


GARAMBA NATIONAL PARK

The Garamba National Park is located in the North East of the DRC. It is home to a population of white rhinos as well as other large mammals such as elephant, northern giraffe, hippo and buffalo. The landscapes of the park include immense savannas, grassy or wooded, interspersed with gallery forests along rivers and marshy depressions. Large populations of hippos and diversity of savanna antelopes. This park is making significant progress towards its rehabilitation, despite some challenges.



KAHUZI-BIEGA NATIONAL PARK (PNKB)



The Kahuzi Biega National Park is a vast expanse of primary tropical forest located between 2,100 and 2,400 m elevation. It has an abundant and varied fauna, including the last populations of the lowland gorillas of the eastern DRC (around 250 individuals).

Preservation efforts against the various forms of anthropogenic pressures are required.





■ THE OKAPI WILDLIFE RESERVE (RFO)

Rich evergreen forest and natural habitat of the Okapi, however facing challenges in preserving the forest from illegal mining sites.

■ THE ITOMBUE NATURE RESERVE, THE KUNDELUNGU(PNKL) AND UPEMBA (PNV) NATIONAL PARKS

Important mountainous forests still pristine, but facing pockets of insecurity.

■ UPEMBA KUNDELUNGU COMPLEX

Vast savannah ecosystems and significant hydroelectricity reserves for the periferic zone.





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