



REPUBLIC OF CONGO

LINKING REDD+ AND GREEN ECONOMY



Introduction:

Total area of Country:

342.000 km²

Total area of forest:

**22.471.271 ha (about
65% national area)**

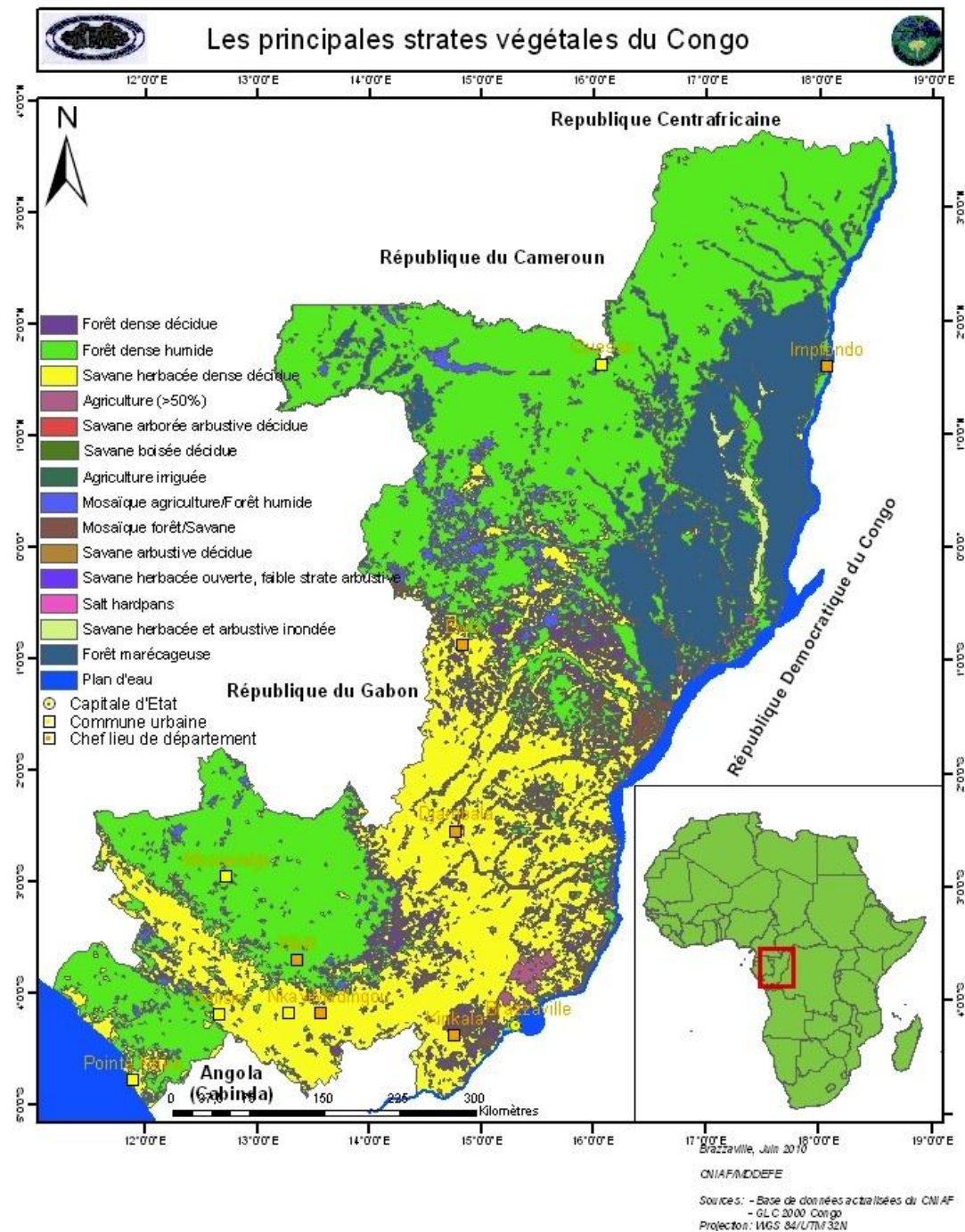
Total area of Savannah:

**11.000.000 ha (about
35% national area)**

Population:

4 millions habitant

Annual rate of population
growth: **30%**



The aims of the Republic of Congo in the REDD+ are to :

- (1) fight against climate change and poverty;
- (2) Strengthen its forest and environmental policy, based on the conservation and sustainable management of forest ecosystems.

The President of the Republic committed that the economy of the country would be emergent by 2025 .

The green economy is the basis of this commitment.

The REDD+ National Coordination team, has reflected on how REDD + will contribute to the emergence of a green economy in the Republic of Congo?

Stakeholders have asked the National Coordination team to reassure the linkages between REDD+ and the green economy?

These are two preoccupation which are the two points of our discussion :

- (1) How REDD + can contribute to the emergence of a green economy in the Republic of Congo?
- (2) What are the links between REDD + and the green economy?

I- How REDD + can contribute to the emergence of a green economy in the Republic of Congo?

All economic operators in the Republic of Congo, who work in the formal and informal sectors are encouraged to implement strategies to develop the green economy and low-carbon economy.

In the context of REDD +, **6 indicators** helped the Government to include the "diversification of the economy based on green economy" as a national priority:

Indicator 1: The vast forest cover.

- If we consider the definition of forest with trees of **2 meters** or more in height, **90%** of the country is covered by forest.
- If we consider the definition of forest with trees of **5 meters** or more in height, **65%** of the country is covered by forest.

Indicator 2: The national economy is heavily dependent on natural resources.

- Oil
- Agriculture
- Forest / Wood
- Mine

Indicator 3: The level of development of the country:
The Republic of Congo is still in the category of developing countries

Indicator 4: The level of poverty of the population.
National data indicate **51%** of the population still lives below the poverty threshold, with only **US \$ 400** per adult per year (ECOM 2005).

Indicator 5: The criterion of "virtuous countries" in terms of conservation and sustainable management of forest resources:

The Republic of Congo, the current account:

- **15 Protected Areas** covering more than **4 million ha**, or **12%** of the national territory;
- **10 Managed Forest Concessions** covering **5 million ha**, or **45%** of production forests;
- **4 Certified Forest Concessions** covering nearly **3 million ha**, **60%** of forests already developed;
- **22 Forest Concessions** covering about **6 million ha**, or **55%** of production forests have begun the forest management process;
- **6 hectares natural forest per capita**. This data placing in the top group of countries where the forest area per capita is the most important.

Indicator 6: The political will of the Government. Since 1970, the country has embarked on a program of conservation and sustainable management of forest ecosystems.

Among the results of this political commitment include:

- (i) The **cloning of Eucalyptus**, which has greatly improved the productivity of industrial plantations in Congo and in the world. This scientific achievement will enable the country to implement a comprehensive program of 1 million hectares of forest plantations and agroforestry: This is the "**PRONAR**", to increase the national carbon stocks and ensure the country's supply in-timber forest products (timber, fuel wood, timber service) and non-timber (essential oils, resins, honey, fruits, vegetables and other);
- (ii) **Sustainable forest management and forest certification** which led the Republic of Congo at the forefront of countries which have the largest areas of managed and certified tropical forest in the world;

- (iii) The creation of the Ministry of Sustainable Development** to strengthen the commitment of the Republic of the Congo to the green economy;
- (iv) The establishment of the International Forum Green business** to bring businessmen to invest in the green economy. The Forum is organized every year by the Ministry of Forest Economy and Sustainable Development, the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Agriculture and Crafts of Pointe-Noire (CCIAM) and other partners, involved;
- (v) The country's commitment to FLEGT-VPA process** to better monitor and regulate the harvesting of trees and their destination;

- (vi) The country's commitment to the REDD+,** to continue its global climate mitigation efforts and mobilize international funding for the fight against poverty and to develop alternative activities from Deforestation and forest degradation in the country ;

- (vii) The establishment of the International Forum of Indigenous Peoples of Central Africa (FIPAC)** to support the empowerment of indigenous peoples and promoting their expertise;

- (viii) Review laws on forestry, environment and land** for the main REDD + and the green economy.

It is mainly these performance indicators have strengthened the political will of the Government of the Republic of Congo and have strengthened its commitment to the development of the "Green Economy".

II- What are the linkages between REDD+ and the green economy?

The National Forum on Sustainable Development, organized by the Ministry of Forest Economy and Sustainable Development in April 2013 in Brazzaville, described REDD+ as:

**“ a tool for sustainable development“, and
"a base for the green economy"**

This recognition led the country to put in place a National REDD+ Strategy, which will effectively:

- Support investment opportunities in the green economy;
- Improve efficiency in the exploitation of natural resources;
- Reduce the level of poverty of the population.

The analysis of these three strategic areas, has helped to clarify the linkages between REDD + and the green economy.

These links are shown in the following figure:

- Strategic directions for REDD + in the Congo
- Promoting of agriculture and sustainable farming
- Promoting a program of afforestation and reforestation
- Promoting of sustainable forestry
- Promoting of sustainable energy (hydro, cogeneration, etc.)
- Development of National Allocation Plan for securing land tenure rights
- Promoting of agroforestry
- Promoting the sustainable management of protected areas
- Promoting of sustainable extractive industries (oil, mining,..)
- Promoting sustainable crafts
- Completion of the legal framework for REDD + to clarify the status of forest carbon

The majority of the poor depend on forest resources for their livelihoods. It is therefore important for economic development, to understand how forests under REDD + national strategy can reduce poverty.

Conclusion:

The set of initiatives in the Republic of Congo is committed, should, with the support of the International Community allow it to capitalize on opportunities of growth and make gains against poverty that are possible with the green economy.

The REDD + investments can attract other investments that give value to ecosystem services such as carbon, eco-tourism, and so on.

One question remains relevant: **REDD + will be able to finance the green economy.**



« Museum of forest”. Since 2000, It’s forbidden to cut them to create “Green Job”.

THANK YOU

