



ACCOMPANYING CIVIL SOCIETY THROUGH THE REDD+ PROCESS IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

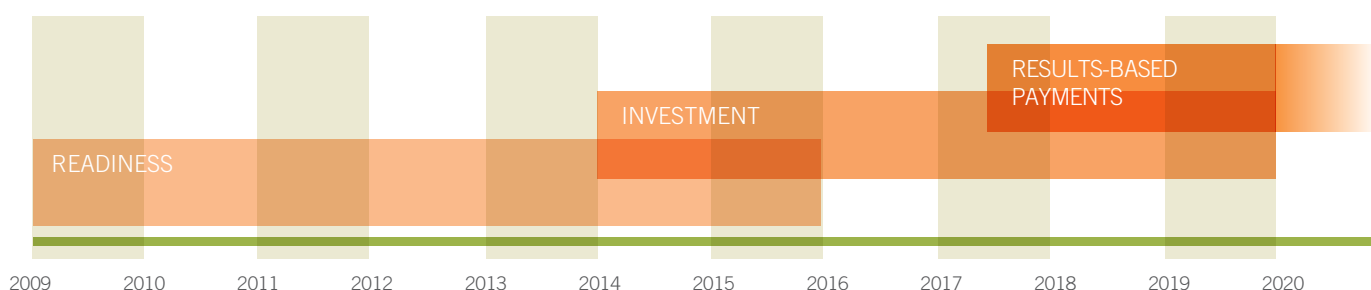
LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE ROAD MAP THAT LED RE-COMMITMENT, AND THE FORMATION OF THE GTCR-R

Founded in 2009, the GTCR's (REDD+ Climate Working Group) role was to represent local communities and indigenous peoples through its members in REDD+ processes and in national and international negotiations concerning REDD+. This platform contributed to the development of the REDD+ preparation plan (R-PP) and to the integration of key questions relating to the rights of the local communities and indigenous peoples in the DRC's national strategy REDD+ framework. At the same time, the GTCR contributed to influencing climate negotiations internationally.

As a result of civil society's will to become more effectively involved in the REDD+ process, and to heal the splitting of the GTCR into 2 groups in 2010, an internal evaluation, financed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Rainforest Foundation Norway (RFN), was carried out by members of the two structures in 2013, which elicited the subsequent challenges and opportunities of the GTCR. The internal evaluation translated into concrete recommendations and a road map paving the way to the reorganization and strengthening of the platform.

During the two following years, UNDP and the RFN committed themselves to supporting the reorganization of the GTCR to encompass civil society and indigenous peoples. The Reconstituted-GTCR (known as the 'GTCR-Rénové,' in French) was born as a result of a national and participative conference that took place 1-4 September 2015.

DRC's engagement in REDD+ : three phases



2009 : Launch of REDD+ in DRC and creation of GTCR

2010 : Vision crisis on the participation mechanisms for GTCR

2010 - 2013 : Bicephalous operating mode

2013 : National Auto-evaluation workshop, considering options for reunification

2014 : Agreement on the Nganda Roadmap for GTCR structuration through 8 axis

2015 : National Validation workshop on the new reunited GTCR-R (1st to 4th September)

2015 : Elections for the new organs' members

THE NGANDA ROADMAP: THE ROAD TOWARDS REORGANIZATION

In September 2013, the GTCR organized its internal evaluation in order to develop a comprehensive strategy that would include all the actors of civil society and indigenous people groups in the DRC's REDD+ process. Through a participative approach, this national conference held in Kinshasa in the Nganda Centre, led to the development of a road map proposal to steer the GTCR at national, provincial and local levels. The needs of other organizations and partners of civil society and indigenous peoples were taken into account while constructing this road map.

This new GTCR road map comprised 8 work axes.

1. To draw up an organisational diagnosis of the current and potential members of the GTCR (mapping exercise and matrix), to determine the profile of potential member organizations that could become members, and to define the principles regulating membership of the GTCR;
2. To identify and map the existing skill base within the GTCR at national, provincial and local levels, as well as the requirements for capacity building, and to propose a capacity building plan for the GTCR (with an emphasis on capacity building of women, the youth and indigenous peoples);
3. To evaluate the GTCR's current communication system and, in consultation with its members at national, provincial and local levels, to develop a suitable internal and external communication system that will enable the GTCR to meet its goals (with an emphasis on capacity building of women, the youth and indigenous peoples);

4. To develop a communication plan adapted to the diversity of the GTCR's membership (with an emphasis on capacity building of women, the youth and indigenous peoples);
5. To evaluate the way the GTCR currently functions and is structured and to propose a structure that will enable the GTCR to achieve its goals (with an emphasis on capacity building of women, the youth and indigenous peoples);
6. To develop a strategy aimed at improving the participation of women, indigenous peoples, the youth and their organizations (with an emphasis on capacity building of women, the youth and indigenous peoples);
7. To formulate an action plan, which specifically takes into account the rights of communities and indigenous peoples (with an emphasis on capacity building of women, the youth and indigenous peoples);
8. To set up an ad hoc committee responsible for monitoring and implementing this road map.

CONSULTATIONS HELD ON THE GROUND



Among the 8 axes, 5 that had a bearing on consultations on the ground. They were clustered as follows:

- **Axis 1: organisational diagnosis of members and potential members.**

3 national consultants organised into 3 pools (east, west, and south/center), 11 consulted provinces, 3 feedback workshops organized;

- **Axis 2: Mapping of members' skills.**

4 national consultants organised into 3 pools (east, west, and south/center), 11 consulted provinces, 3 feedback workshops organized;

- **Axis 3: evaluation of the communication system.**

3 national consultants organised into 3 pools (east, west, and south/center), 11 consulted provinces, 3 feedback workshops organized.

Within the framework of axes 1, 2 and 3, 200 to 500 people were consulted, representing at least 150 organisations active in many fields including community forestry, agriculture, land tenure, and gender issues...

- **Axes 5 and 6: Development of a national strategy and a structure for the future Reconstituted-GTCR.**

2 international consultants and 3 national consultants organised into 11 consulted provinces - by adding the future province of Maï-Ndombe. Feedback was provided during the National Workshop held in Kinshasa.

Approximately 250 people, including at least 100 organizations, took part in the consultations organised around these axes during workshops, focus groups and discussions.

Let us note that these workshops organised in provinces have significantly contributed to introducing the REDD+ process to provinces.

INDEPENDENT STUDIES

Reports generated on each axis were made available to inform the thinking of the National Workshop that took place in September 2015, thus serving as organisational catalysts from which the Reconstituted-GTCR (GTCR-R) was formed. Certain axes did not translate into field visits, as specified in the road map's methodology.

- **Axis 7: Establishment of an ad hoc committee**

In November 2013, 6 delegates were appointed in a participative and consensual way, to form part of a transitory team ("Ad hoc committee") tasked with the sound implementation of this road map

- **Axis 8: Development of a communication strategy**

On the basis of the consultative process carried out on the ground, and of the evaluation of the previous internal and external communication system within the GTCR, a study was carried out with the aim of spelling out an external communication strategy for the GTCR members (advocacy, fund raising, dialogue, information sharing).

THE NATIONAL WORKSHOP

From 1-4 September, a national workshop for 54 participants including 39 delegated from all the provinces was held in the Nganda Centre, Kinshasa. The workshop was facilitated by 3 independent consultants and fully considered the role of civil society in the REDD+ process, the priorities of its advocacy strategy with regard to the rights of local communities and indigenous peoples, and what would constitute the most efficient structure to adopt to serve these objectives.



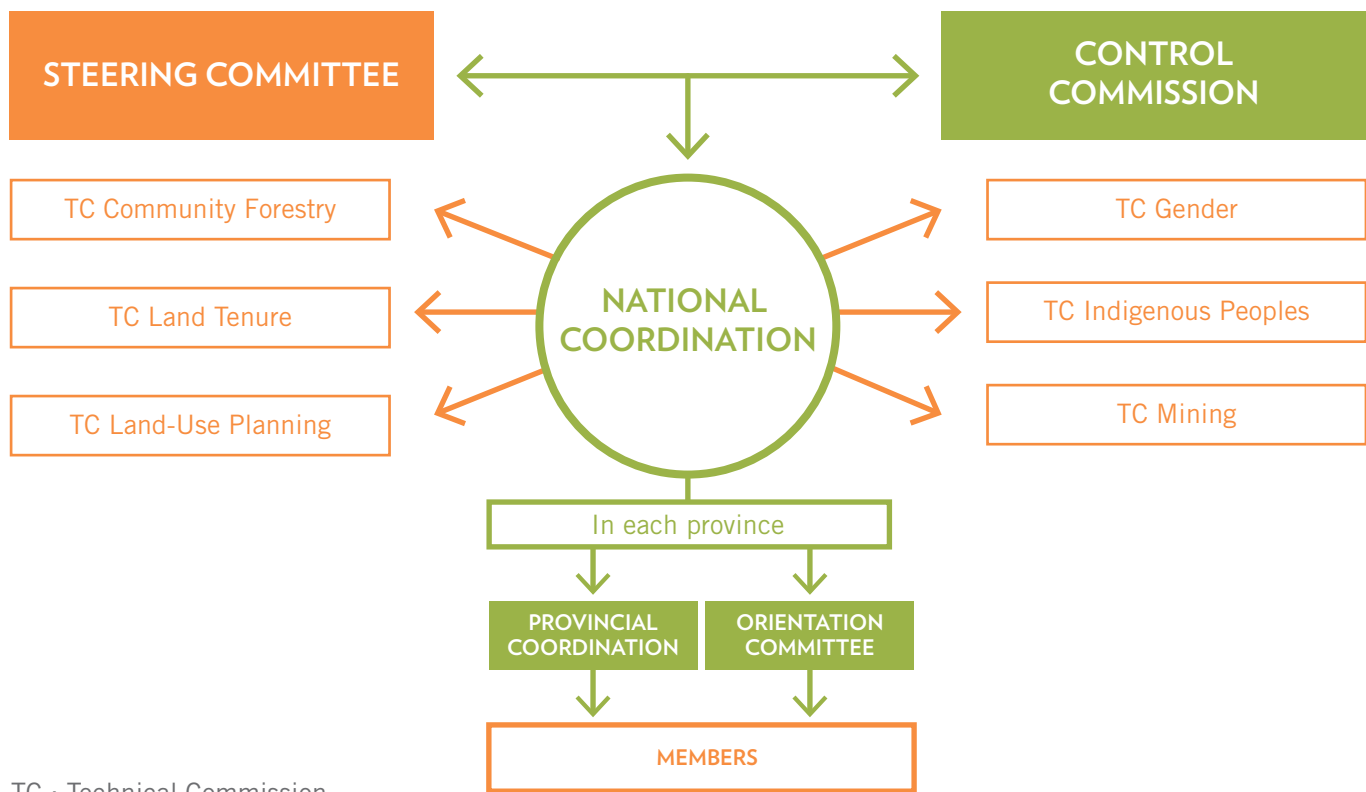
Workshop proceedings:

- 1 September: Debates and decisions reached on the role of the Reconstituted-GTCR, presentation of the outcomes of the road map;
- 2 September: Debates and decisions on the strategy to adopt with respect to civil society;
- 3 September: Debates and decisions on the structure of the Reconstituted-GTCR;
- Evening of the 3 September: Refusal of the 2 former coordinators of the bicephalous GTCR to sign the merger agreement between their two structures;
- 4 September: Extraordinary session organized by the vast majority of the participants, defenders of the reunification and those who wished to see the advent of a Reconstituted-GTCR. Drafting and signing of a commitment agreement to which one of the two former coordinators later lent support. Only one member-organization of the two former GTCRs refused to join the Reconstituted-GTCR.

THE COMMITMENT AGREEMENT

Following the workshop, a Commitment Agreement was proposed and submitted to all the members for signature. The commitment marks the endorsement of the outcome of the road map as well as of the national workshop, announces the creation of the Reconstituted-GTCR and envisages the establishment of an appropriate body in the following weeks, under the coordination of a temporary steering committee comprising 4 members.

To date, 60 organizations have signed the Commitment Agreement of the Reconstituted-GTCR, among which are all the relevant major networks: RRN, REPALF, DGPA, LICOCO, LINAPYCO, CONAPAC, etc. Others, such as CODELT, have expressed their intention to become members in the near future and are already directly collaborating with the Reconstituted-GTCR. Similar intentions were expressed by 480 member NGOs that took part in the 12 provincial workshops during which the outcomes of the national workshop were shared, and then operationalized by the Reconstituted-GTCR from 12-18 October 2015. These 480 signatories support the commitment agreement of the Reconstituted-GTCR. The other structures that have requested to become members will be advised as to how to join once the first planning meeting of existing members is held on 21-22 December 2015.



THE RECONSTITUTED-GTCR'S FIRST STEPS

- Since September 2015, the Reconstituted-GTCR has been active in its role as a representative body of civil society
- On 12 September, 54 representatives of the GTCR-R, attending a meeting in the parish of Eloi Saint in Kinshasa, elected 4 members to form a steering committee;
- Provincial workshops elected the members of the oversight committee in each of the 11 provinces: 7 elected members and 3 members of the oversight committee, of which one member is from the provinces;
- In September 2015 there were consultations on the REDD+ Investment Plan's working document;
- Participation in the COP21 included: preparation of key messages, analysis of challenges, designation of delegates according to representational criteria (gender, indigenous peoples, youth), participation in many side-events, information sharing with members.

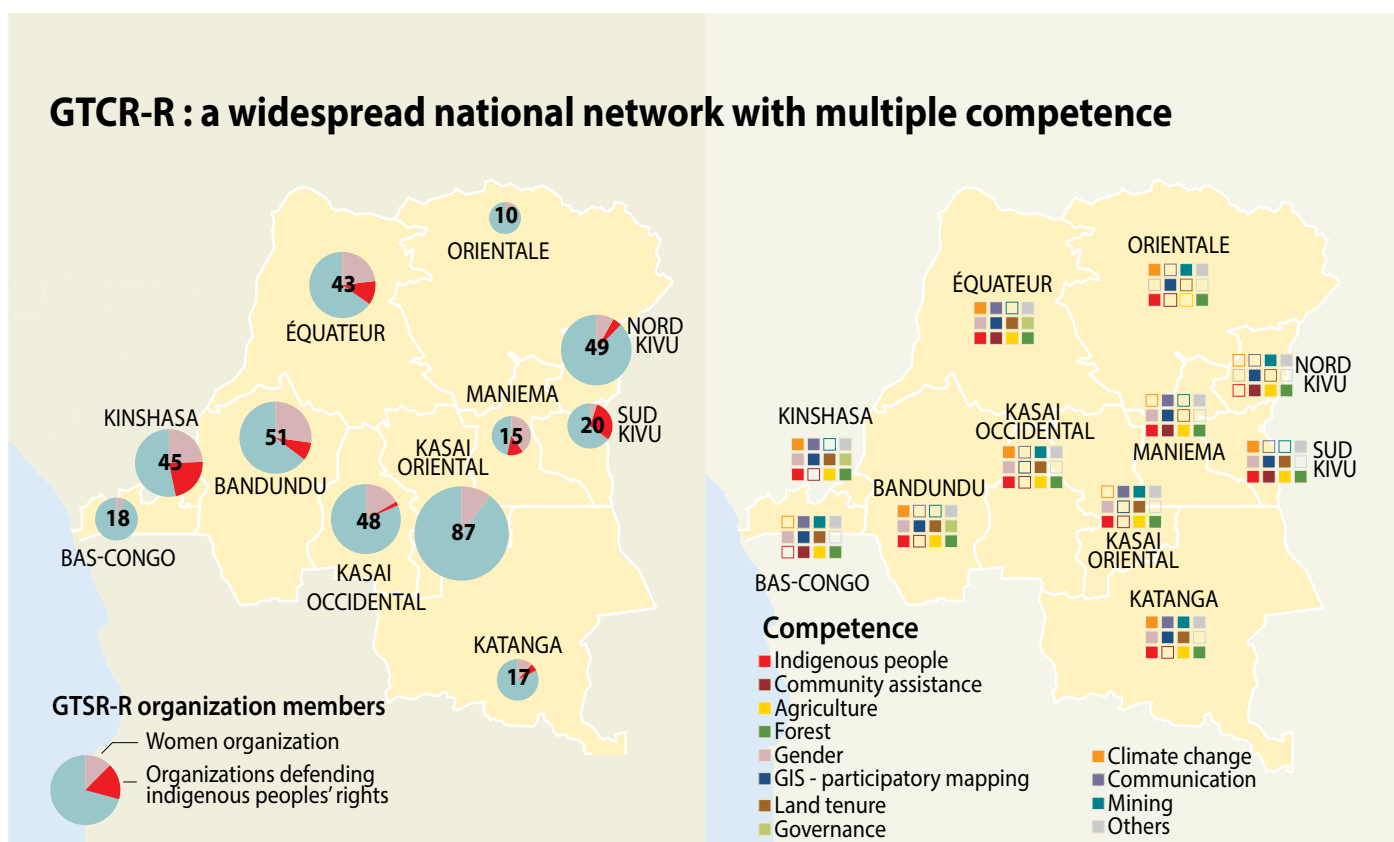
THE SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

The UNDP and the RFN have for 2 years jointly supported the implementation of this road map with human, technical and financial resources.

- **Financial support**
The funds were used to organise multiple consultation streams in the provinces, to recruit independent consultants to carry out planned studies related to the various axes while ensuring the GTCR is capacitated to participate in the REDD+ process.
- **Technical support**
As custodians of international principles relating to full and effective participation such as the FPIC, the GTCR partners have acted as observers and sometimes as advisers on the implementation of the road map. They can thus today attest to its quality and of the fully participative approach that led to the adoption of the structure.

IMPORTANCE OF THE RECONSTITUTED-GTCR IN THE REDD+ PROCESS

- A representative and legitimate avenue of civil society in the DRC;
- A strong, coherent and credible voice of civil society and indigenous peoples;
- A safeguard of the respect of the rights of local communities and indigenous peoples in defining, developing, validating, implementing, monitoring and evaluating the strategic orientation programmes and projects of the REDD+ in the DRC;
- A positive force for the advancement and on-going improvement of the REDD+ process both in the DRC and at an international level;



- The participation of grassroots NGOs and local communities in the field and in the provinces;
- Knowledge and experience of realities on the ground;
- A conduit for information from and to the local communities and indigenous peoples, thus ensuring linkages at national and international levels;
- A capacity building vehicle for civil society and indigenous peoples.

The GTCR is about to finalize its reorganization process with the establishment of its new structure. This phase is crucial and, once final, the structure must be respected by decision makers and other stakeholders involved in the REDD+ process. This will allow the GTCR successfully to complete a process that spanned two years, and ensure that REDD+ processes unfold in an effective manner, which is a fundamental condition for the validation of any strategic or programmatic orientation procedures relating to the REDD+ process, starting with the DRC's REDD+ Investment Plan.

AN EXAMPLE OF GOOD GOVERNANCE AND CO-OPERATION

The GTCR undertook a major task of internal-evaluation, strategic reflection, reorganization and ongoing improvement, which was initiated by the network on a national scale. The transparent and participative character of this approach, which must be acknowledged and appreciated by all, is an example of good governance and cooperation. This is precisely what the GTCR advocates and where its strength lies: a diversity of actors collectively able to look critically at a situation and to find solutions together, by communicating clearly on the stakes and challenges, thereby contributing to national development processes on their home ground in a constructive manner.

A FEW FIGURES ABOUT THE RECONSTITUTED-GTCR

26

NEW PROVINCES REPRESENTED

60

FOUNDING MEMBERS

480

ORGANISATIONS WISHING TO BECOME MEMBERS

1

ELECTED STEERING COMMITTEE (4 FROM KINSHASA, 7 FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY)

1

OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (2 FROM KINSHASA, 1 FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY)

1

TECHNICAL COORDINATION UNIT TO BE RECRUITED BY AN INDEPENDENT FIRM ON THE BASIS OF A CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

6

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE



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