

# Inventing REDD+



**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**







## *Inventing REDD+*

*by H.E Joseph Kabila, President of Democratic Republic of Congo*

*« In Democratic Republic of Congo, reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation has become a major national strategic issue. With 145 million hectares of forests, Democratic Republic of Congo is the second largest tropical forest country and holds ten per cent of tropical forests worldwide. In parallel, the average annual income of US\$ 150 for the 70 million Congolese people is one of the World's lowest. REDD+ is therefore not only a climate and environmental issue, but also a social and economic one. In Democratic Republic of Congo, the REDD+ process pursues these two interlinked goals of mitigating climatic risks and achieving sustainable development to benefit the population.*

*Today, there is no longer a debate about Democratic Republic of Congo's interest in positioning REDD+ like a structural lever for its development strategy; this appears clearly in the upcoming Growth and Reduction of Poverty Strategic Paper where the climate issue is a pillar. REDD+ is of major stakes at the local and national as well as international levels. If only for reasons of leakage, there cannot be an effective international REDD+ mechanism in the long run without the unfaltering participation of Democratic Republic*

*of Congo. We are ready to take our responsibilities, and, as this booklet showcases, Democratic Republic of Congo is demonstrating such engagement day after day. From now on, whereas the support by the international community in the preparation phase must be acknowledged, it must also be deepened.*

*While Democratic Republic of Congo has asserted itself as an international leader on REDD+, the country owes it to its vision and leadership, mobilization, and the trust granted by its international partners. But this relationship must be reinforced and accelerated. Every day in Democratic Republic of Congo, we invent REDD+. The reality, effectiveness, and even the success of REDD+ will be built on the ground, in countries. Democratic Republic of Congo offers unique inspiration and experiences in the world, aimed at building a REDD+ model of excellence that truly transforms and delivers concrete and sustainable results in the fight against climate change and socio-economic development. Let us seize this opportunity of together making the REDD+ adventure a success in Democratic Republic of Congo, at the service of international cooperation and development. ”*





# The REDD+ Process in the DRC

The REDD+ process in the DRC is based on five founding principles, developed in conjunction with national and international partners during the first joint mission in January 2009 and driven by the Congolese Government. The five principles form the basis of the approach, underlying all REDD+ components at national and local level.

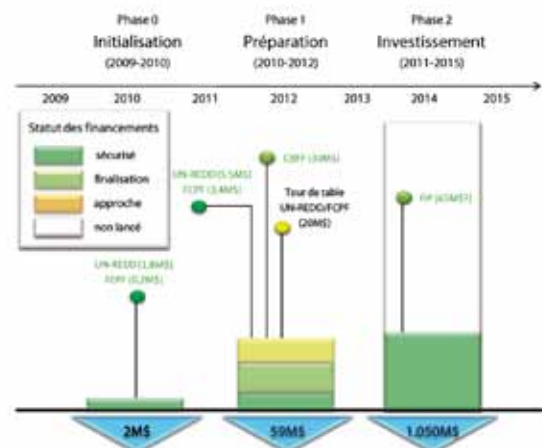


The DRC has finalized the start-up phase with the signing of a decree establishing the national institutional arrangement for REDD+ readiness (November 2009) and the development of the R-PP and its subsequent review by national and international partners (March 2010). The DRC is now under the REDD preparation phase (2010-2012) and is getting ready to start the investment phase (2011-2015).



To date, the REDD+ process in the DRC has been structured around four components. The first three components include activities under the preparation phase while the fourth component initiates the investment phase.

The funds needed under the preparation phase are estimated at about \$60M. This covers the Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP), including components 1 and 2 of the process, for \$23M, support to provincial efforts and to the participatory development process of the national strategy - about \$6M -, and the initial investment in pilot projects under Component 3 - about \$30M. Finally, the amount needed for the investment phase is estimated at 1 billion dollars to develop crosscutting enabling conditions, initiate the preliminary sector-wide programs, and achieve the first measurable results of reducing emissions and development.



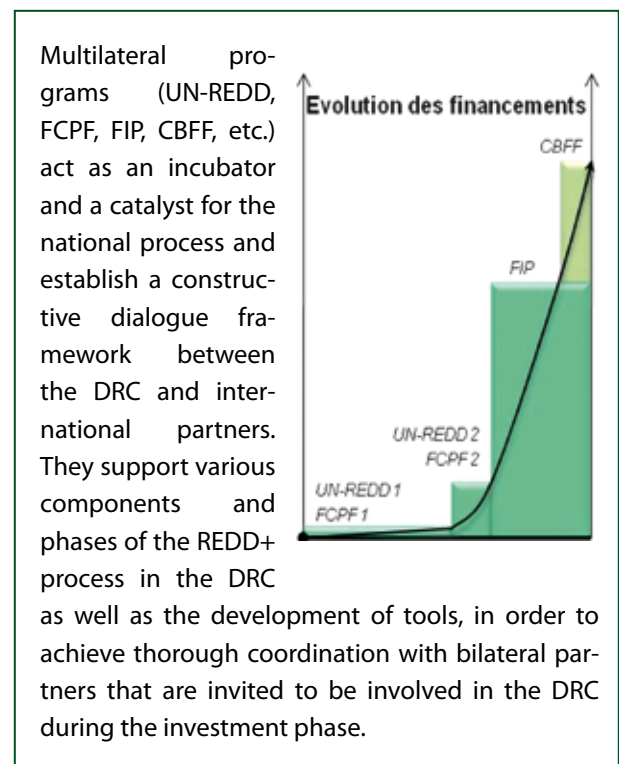
## A Successful International Partnership

In January 2009, the first joint mission of the Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Tourism (MECNT) and the UN-REDD and FCPF launched the national REDD+ process under an enhanced partnership. In addition to the MECNT, United Nations agencies, and the World Bank, many international partners – bilateral cooperation, multilateral institutions – have regularly joined joint missions for the development, funding, and implementation of the process under a national leadership.

The experience in the DRC shows that there are two crucial conditions at national level to involve all international partners for the benefit of the country:

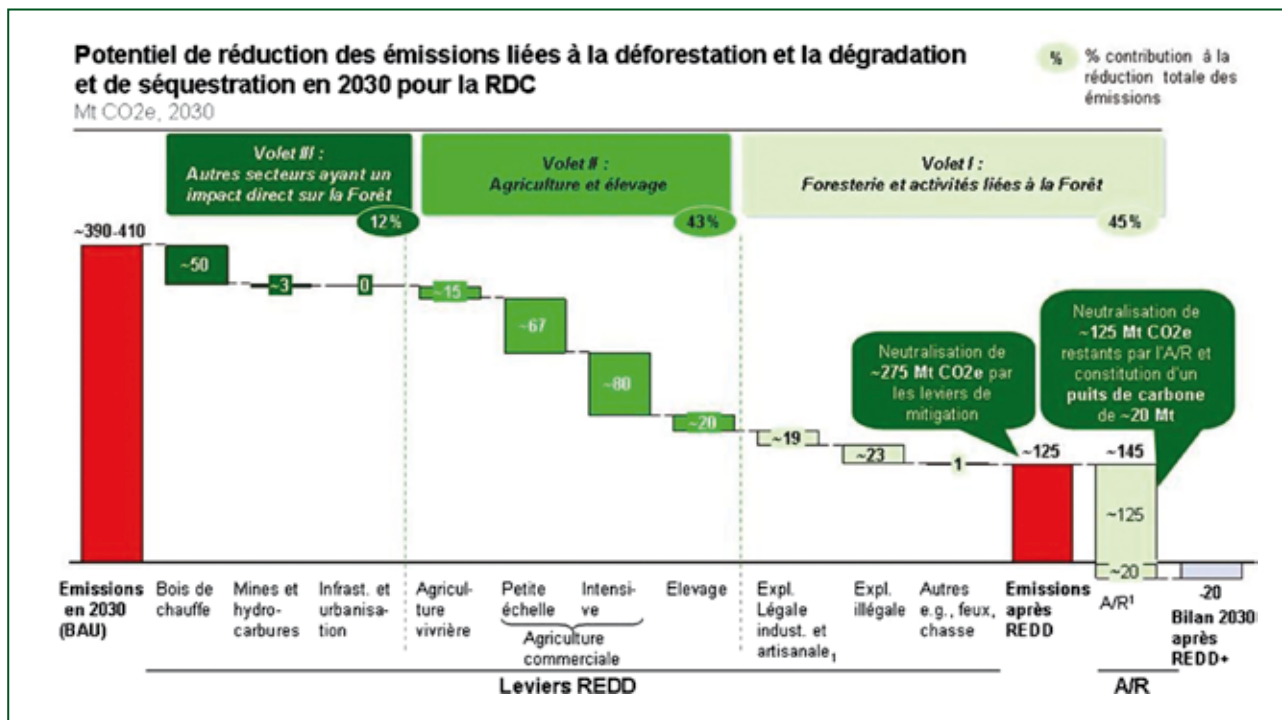
- National leadership and ownership: The DRC has established a National Coordination and a unique road map, coordinated action plans, and a consolidated budget. Funded activities are gradually validated by the national party, implemented based on jointly defined terms of references, and submitted to testing and evaluation by national REDD+ authorities.
- National capacities: the DRC is acquiring means to organize such efforts. For instance, the REDD National Coordination mobilizes about twenty national and international experts. It supports the mainstreaming of the REDD+ agenda in all ministries, organizes training workshops such as the REDD International University of August 2010, prepares capacity-building activities at all levels, etc.

At the international level, coordination and support efforts are essential. The success of REDD+ relies on operational commitment by international technical and financial partners to work for and in response to the directions defined by the national party. Such coordination is underway in the DRC and a comprehensive review of the partners' programs is ongoing to identify and map all initiatives relevant to the REDD+ process. This review is part of a donor round table to complete the budget for the preparation phase.



	Phase 0 Initialisation (2009-2010)	Phase 1 Préparation (2010-2012)	Phase 2 Investissement (2011-2015)
<b>Composante 1:</b> coordination nationale, pilotage d'ensemble, IEC, consultations et mobilisation, ancrage communautaire	UN-REDD FCPF 1,5M\$	UN-REDD FCPF bilatéral 12M\$	bilatéral 10M\$
<b>Composante 2:</b> construction de la stratégie nationale et outillage technique, réglementaire et institutionnel	UN-REDD FCPF 0,5M\$	UN-REDD FCPF bilatéral 17M\$	bilatéral 10M\$
<b>Composante 3:</b> élaboration et mise en œuvre d'un programme d'expérimentations	-	CBFF 30M\$	CBFF bilatéral 30M\$
<b>Composante 4:</b> élaboration et mise en œuvre du déploiement anticipé de la stratégie REDD	-	-	FIP bilatéral 1.000M\$

## The Transformational Capacity of REDD+ in the DRC



The latest COP of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya reasserted the convictions highlighted by the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, and notably the idea that our economic, financial, and accounting systems underestimate and reprove the socio-environmental services and capital in economic and political choices. Sustainable development in the DRC depends on the evolution of the behavior towards the environment and the human capital. REDD+ represents an historical opportunity to initiate the move towards a system where a standing forest would have more value than felled trees, for the benefit of the Congolese population.

In November 2009, a preliminary study based on conservative deforestation and degradation projections by 2030 estimated that the DRC had a REDD+ potential of over 400 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year (source: Mc Kinsey). Compared to a GDP of about 10 billion dollars, REDD+ represents an exceptional financial and economic potential at the country's scale.

To seize this opportunity, the DRC has to produce tangible REDD+ results. The REDD+ strategy in the DRC will

be developed accordingly by December 2012 through participatory and sound scientific approaches. For instance, all REDD+ options will be examined and the measurable impacts in terms of emission reductions as well as the economic, social, and environmental co-benefits will be estimated. Prioritization, structuring of REDD+ options, and the ultimate strategy consolidation will be based on an innovative exercise: choices will be made through the "integration of multiple externalities", for instance in the agricultural, mining, or infrastructure sectors. This approach will give a new perspective on the national political and technical decisions and initiate thorough changes within both the forest and the global economy.

The DRC has initiated a systematic approach on REDD+. To achieve the REDD+ objectives, the country is aware of the changes to be made within the sectors directly threatening the forests – agriculture, energy, forestry, etc. – as well as for cross-cutting and enabling aspects – tenure, land planning, governance, business climate, etc.





## *REDD+ at the Center of the National Development Strategy*



The REDD+ strategy cannot be reduced to programmatic planning. It should be supported by an objective assessment of the weaknesses and the deficiencies in the DRC and be established as a catalyst tool for the structural political directions of the country, for instance on aspects related to the strengthening of peace, sovereignty, rule of law, decentralization, and obviously human development.

REDD+ should be a pragmatic response, anchored in the Congolese reality, to serve a strategic vision of change for the country. The work has already started. Since June 2010, the Ministry of Planning has initiated the process for the development of the second Poverty Reduction and Growth Strategy Paper with the support of the UNDP. The REDD National Coordination was closely associated in the strategic discussion and the sector-wide planning within all ministries. Climate change was identified as a major pillar of the next PRGSP. An awareness campaign helped senior executives within each ministry

gain better knowledge on environmental, climate, and REDD issues. A systematic review of all ministerial programs helped identify linkages with the REDD+ process,



potential synergies, and priority programs in order to progress together towards a united inter-ministerial stand, in accordance with the REDD+ objectives.

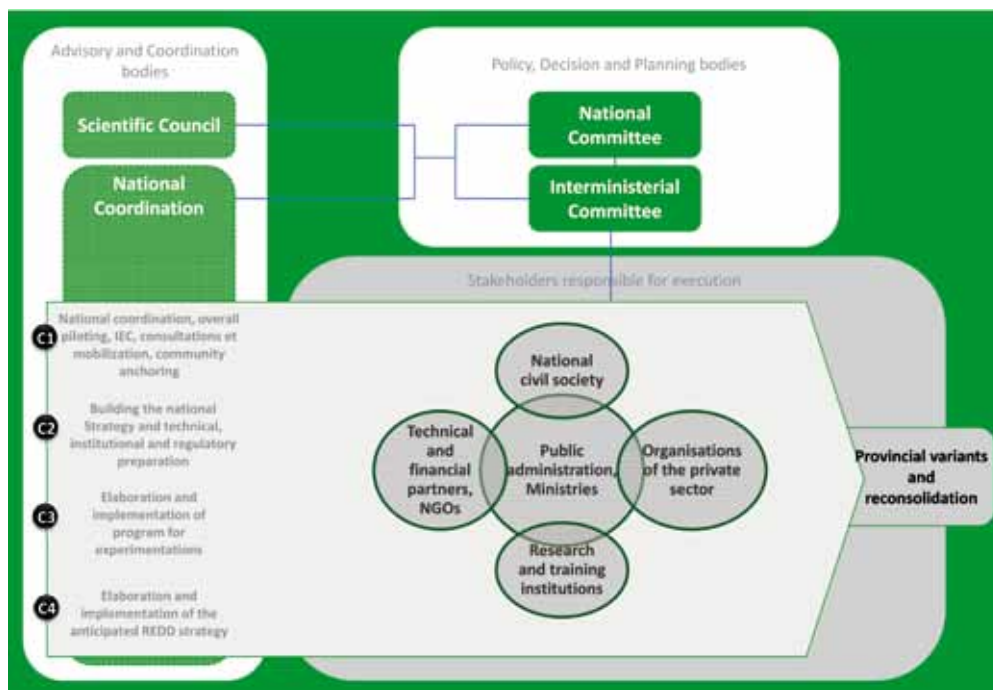


## Evolution of the National Process



The national process progresses rapidly, motivated by strong political commitment and the wide involvement of national partners from the private sector, the academic sector, and particularly from the civil society with high hopes for the environment, the local communities,

and the indigenous peoples. The financial and technical support of the international community helps keep the momentum, in line with the Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) – internationally acclaimed and noticed for its ambition.



The DRC stays on course and pursues the readiness process, with the gradual support of the institutional arrangement established by a Prime Minister's decree on November 26, 2009. This arrangement will be at the core of the process. It will define its directions, decisions, planning, coordination, and steering, while catalyzing and supporting efforts by all stakeholder







## *Involve all Players in the Country*



The REDD+ Readiness Proposal (R-PP) focuses on the multipartite dimension of the national process. Given the extent of the efforts, the huge expanses of the country and the diversity of backgrounds and cultures, REDD+ can only succeed if all stakeholders are empowered: at local and national levels, public authorities, the private sector, the academic world, and the civil society. The business community, researchers, and developers of all horizons should support the future REDD+ strategy.

The REDD National Coordination has developed an IEC+ 2012 Plan – Information, Education, Communication and Consultations. Numerous activities have been carried out such as information workshops in Kinshasa and in other provinces, media intervention, academic activities, training workshops for journalists, etc. Furthermore, various dissemination tools are currently produced: short plays, reports, a song, a movie, a comics, etc. Between 2011 and 2012, a major national campaign will involve weeks of awareness and training in each of the 144 national territories. Networks of focal points will be designated at local level. Numerous initiatives are under preparation to involve and sustain all players, notably targeting community radio networks, the national school system, business people, managers, members of the Parliament, researchers, etc.

Commitment is also exhibited in daily work. Through its activities, the REDD National Coordination discusses with stakeholders and helps them gain ownership of

the national process through participation in working groups, assessment missions, training workshops, or international negotiations.

### **REDD, a Catalyst for Decentralization**

In the DRC, the decentralization process initiated by the new 2006 Constitution is facing some delays. There are many obstacles and constraints but economic and political stakes are important. REDD+ is part of and enhances this ongoing trend. All provinces will gradually have a REDD+ Coordination to be in charge of the local and provincial processes, notably to motivate local efforts among key actors. Through pilot projects and programs and awareness and training efforts, the provinces will increasingly contribute to the REDD+ process. Informal task forces are already active in many provinces on initiatives, information campaigns, or discussions on the provincial REDD+ strategy such as in Orientale, Nord Kivu, Maniema, etc.



## The Civil Society and REDD+

The Congolese civil society has rapidly gained ownership of the REDD+ issue and has worked closely with the MECNT and the National Coordination from the start. It is involved in many areas including awareness and training, consultation and lobbying, development of REDD+ tools such as the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment, the assessment of the causes and drivers of deforestation and degradation etc. But REDD+ is also a driver for change of the civil society itself. Current discussions on the creation of one or more officially recognized groups and partners of the MECNT are a motivation factor. Through increased representation, transparency, participation in management, and better local presence, REDD+ encourages national civil society organizations to improve their practices and capacities and to fulfill their crucial role for the benefit of the populations and the environment. Initially, environmental or indigenous populations movements mostly represented the civil society. A civil society platform is gradually emerging and integrating multiple complementary areas, such as the media, poverty reduction, human rights, religion faiths, etc.

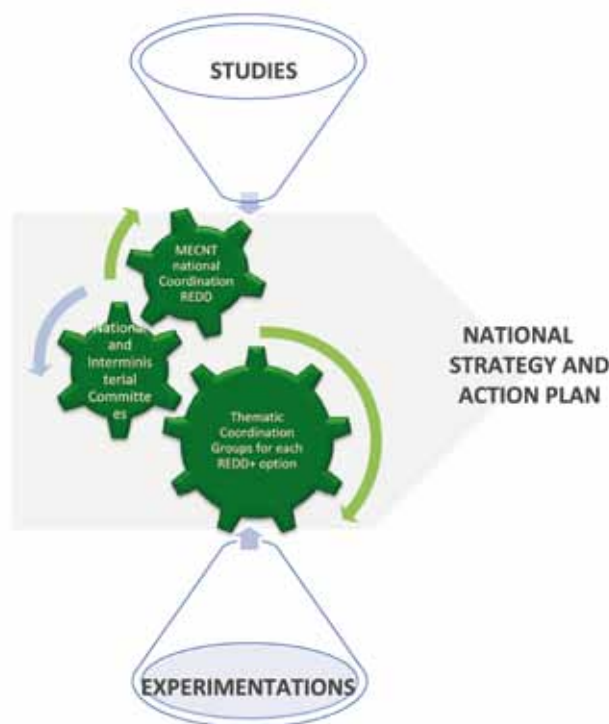




## Building the National Strategy Together

The national strategy is the backbone of the future REDD+ arrangement in the DRC. It provides its global direction and should be translated in sector-wide action plans to be implemented by the various ministries and stakeholders. In the DRC, this strategic development process is planned over three years until December 2012 with the input of numerous studies and lessons learned from pilot activities. The strategy development should be both a technical and a political process, assessing the backgrounds and the various options, providing the opportunity to involve all stakeholders and to capitalize on their creativity and potential, and creating a true participatory and collective effort.

Arrangement keystone: the thematic coordination groups. For each REDD+ option, a working group led by the public directorate and facilitated by the REDD National Coordination will gather the main relevant partners around a core objective: demonstrate, assess, and identify the contribution of each option to the future REDD+ strategy. In November 2010, a national workshop helped identify all options and establish the coordination groups. Expected outcomes: a series of sector-wide strategy proposals developed in a participatory, transparent, coordinated, and meticulous way.



**Illustration :** The “Conservation” Thematic Coordination Group is led by the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation – ICCN- and gathers the national civil society and international technical and financial partners – WWF, Conservation International, GTZ, etc. In January 2011, the working group facilitated by the National Coordination will present its work plan developed by coordinating and capitalizing on the contributions of all stakeholders. The result will be known on June 30, 2012 when a note arguing on the role of protected areas in the future REDD+ strategy will be produced: which needs for which carbon results and other co-benefits, where, how, with whom? Public authorities will be able to make a decision based on sound technical arguments and with the support of partners ready for implementation.





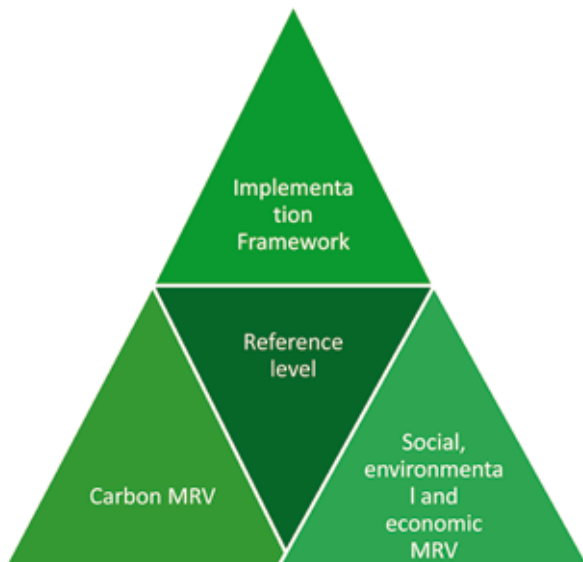






## Develop a Comprehensive Technical Arrangement for REDD

The implementation of the REDD+ national strategy should be based on four essential tools:



### 1. Implementation Framework

The Implementation Framework is the legal and institutional arrangement needed to implement the REDD+ strategy. The REDD process is supported by the Decree of November 26, 2009 instituting the various bodies in charge of decision-making (National Committee), planning (Inter-ministerial Committee), and coordination (National Coordination). This arrangement aims at supporting the REDD+ process during the readiness phase while establishing the foundations of a sustainable institutional system and its general principles: participation and transparency, responsibility, capacities, crosscutting and systematic approach, etc. Moreover, the REDD+ process plays a role in ongoing reforms by contributing for instance

to the development of the enabling regulations of the Forestry Code, including on some important aspects for REDD+, such as the status of local community forests. The framework law on the environment is also being reviewed within a joint parliamentary commission and should bring several improvements, such as the creation of a National Environmental Agency. Finally, more specific efforts have been made, including on the creation of a REDD+ National Fund or the approval and registration process of forest carbon projects that will open the way to a formal, transparent, and equitable REDD+ benefit-sharing scheme.

### 2. Social, Environmental, and Economic MRV

Implementation of the national REDD+ strategy should be based on a comprehensive steering arrangement, with the objective of safeguarding against the risks associated to REDD+ as well as maximizing the co-benefits generated by the process. This management system will be based on the collection, organization, dissemination, and analysis of approved and verifiable data. It will help evaluate the efficiency of political decisions and funded activities and optimize the replication of the strategy implementation. A Monitoring Committee was established to supervise the entire component. It will be led by the MECNT and gathers several relevant directorates as well as the civil society, the private sector, and technical and financial partners (World Bank, UNDP, UNEP, etc.). The Committee has already prepared and finalized the terms of references of the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment to be launched early 2011. A joint effort with the Congolese civil society develops the preliminary social, environmental, and governance standards.







### 3. Carbon MRV

With the support of the FAO, the DRC has initiated the establishment of an ambitious carbon MRV scheme, in accordance with the IPCC REDD+ requirements. Many partners have expressed their interest in supporting this highly technical component, namely from Japan, Brazil, France, or the United States. The MECNT is currently finalizing its operational plan and organizing consultations to ensure that all stakeholders contribute to a coordinated project and that the committed funding is efficiently used. The Carbon MRV will have three components: a land surveillance satellite system, the national forest inventory, and the greenhouse gas inventory. Training and the first equipment purchases have started. Beyond the national system, a series of coordinated field initiatives aims at building capacities at various scales and at testing and facilitating the standardization of the MRV approaches to support provincial and local initiatives as well as the reference national scheme under the UNFCCC.

### 4. Reference Level

It is essential to determine the reference level for the emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in the DRC. Projecting the historical deforestation rates is totally inadequate for the country. After years of conflicts and instability and a spiral of socioeconomic breakdown, the DRC is again on a path of political stability and growth and justifiably aspires to capitalize on its rich natural wealth to achieve the economic and social development of one of the world's poorest populations. REDD+ presents a unique opportunity to engage this continent country with an innovative, successful, and truly sustainable development approach. Given the threats posed by a

conventional development scheme on forests and local populations, the extent of the factor of adjustment to development applicable to the reference scenario should be correctly assessed. Multiple initiatives are underway to collect, organize, and assess the needed information, in relation with the social, environmental, and economic MRV component. For instance, a REDD+ component was specifically developed with a national household survey planned for 2011. Through consolidation efforts should provide the preliminary directions in 2011.





## REDD Field Experiences

Experimenting REDD+ in the field is a mandatory step to achieve credibility for the national readiness process. In the DRC, the pilot program has three key objectives:

- Involve partners and stimulate local initiatives
- Challenge and implement the strategic planning
- Establish the practical foundations of coordination and steering

Three components jointly cover these main objectives:

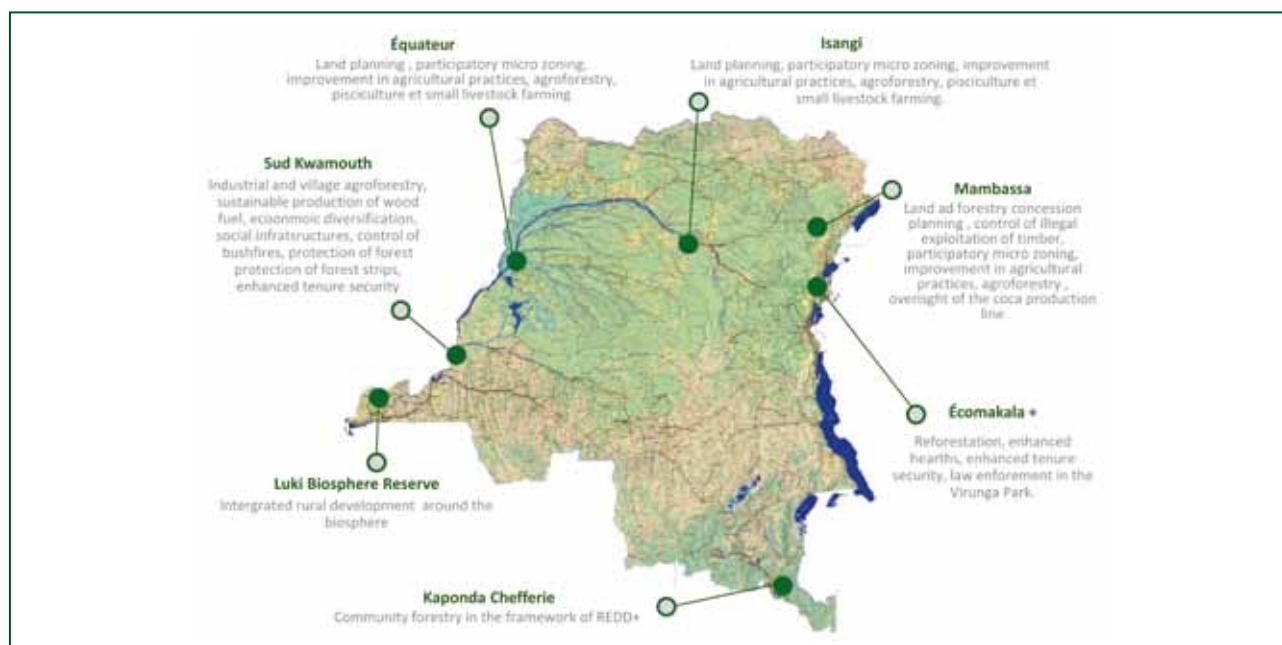
### 1. Align, coordinate, and assess initiatives and pilot projects

Multiple useful experiences for the REDD+ are planned or ongoing in the DRC. On one hand, some initiatives help understand and test activities with potential direct or indirect impacts against deforestation and forest degradation – e.g. a microfinance project in rural areas, participatory zoning, non-timber forest products trade channels, etc. -. On the other hand, there are REDD+ projects including a specific element on the assessment of impacts on carbon of implemented activities. Initiatives and projects can either be sector-related, generally exploring a REDD+ option in response to a direct cause of deforestation and degradation, or enabling when they address underlying factors – tenure security, law enforcement, governance, etc. In the DRC, the REDD National

Coordination is systematically assessing initiatives of all its partners to identify and map all ongoing activities and committed funding, advise and guide project developers, coordinate activities, and to establish a dialogue for better learning.

### 2. Test an Integrated REDD+ Approach at Local Level

The MECNT has initiated pilot projects to test an integrated REDD+ strategy at small scale. From the direct and underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation in a given area, the MECNT and its partners have developed a comprehensive program to test the various REDD+ strategy options as well as the multiple implementing legal, organizational, financial, or human conditions. Given the complexity and diversity of issues and backgrounds in the DRC, and the multiple cross-cutting areas to be integrated in a sound REDD+ strategy, the country has developed seven complementary pilot projects to cover the depth of experimentation needed to develop a comprehensive, ambitious, and operational national strategy. It has received the support of various implementation partners, with project developers from the private sector, the national civil society, and international NGOs. In November 2010, six projects have been approved for funding by the Congo Basin Forest Fund for a total amount of \$ 22.5 M;







### 3. Establish and Test a Temporary Implementation Framework

Design, support, coordination, and assessment efforts require a solid and equipped arrangement. Two tools are currently developed to this effect: the registry and the approval procedure.

The REDD+ Projects and Initiatives Registry of the DRC will make the REDD+ activities visible to the national and international community using a free access Internet interface - observatoire-comifac.net. The MECNT will manage the system. The project developers themselves will input the basic information as well as updated data on their activities using pre-established forms. These information will be validated at three levels: by the MECNT through monitoring and evaluation missions, by independent auditors, and by the civil society using participatory validation tools such as the Moabi system developed by WWF - rdc.moabi.org. The registry will also have a display interface as well as a consolidation and analysis tool, to allow for instance to:

- Periodically establish the status of REDD+ investments in the DRC – amount invested, generated/exchanged volume of credits, sales prices, etc.
- Analyze the financial structure of projects – implementation costs, operational costs, profitability, etc.

- Monitor socioeconomic and environmental impacts of projects – do they contribute to poverty reduction, to economic diversification, do they produce co-benefits for biodiversity, water services, etc.?
- Establish a linkage with the Carbon MRV and allow comparison between reference levels at various scales (national/provincial/project).

An approval process that is currently being formalized will support this registry. This process aims at ensuring transparency, equity, respect of national sovereignty and the rights of the Congolese citizens, and consistency among all REDD+ projects and programs planned to trade carbon credits in the DRC. This temporary implementation framework will encourage and provide security to the pioneer project developers while ensuring national coordination and respect of the principles of the national REDD+ process, in accordance with social and environmental standards.

Through these mechanisms, the DRC has the means to ensure transparent and equitable management of REDD+ funding, to avoid double counting, to trace and secure international funding, to guarantee the validity and the permanence of emission reduction units, to get key information to refine its national strategy, and to facilitate the relationship between project developers and investors or donors.





## Entering in the Investment Phase with the First REDD+ Programs

The Six First Anticipated Programs and their Global Rationale for the REDD+ Process		
Programme	Strengths	Challenges
<b>Enabling programmes</b>		
1. Establishment of a national policy for land planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fundamental enabling condition</li> <li>National technical handle</li> <li>Moderate cost</li> <li>High feasibility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High engagement of different Ministries on land use planning, and work with civil society</li> </ul>
2. Modernisation and enhanced tenure security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fundamental enabling condition</li> <li>Multiple co-benefits</li> <li>Complete national and local coverage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High engagement of different Ministries, collective work with civil society, high technical and leadership requirements, high cost</li> </ul>
<b>Sectoral programmes</b>		
3. Reduction of the impact of agriculture on forests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Popular mobilization in forest areas</li> <li>Major potential for REDD+ results, Key sector for REDD+</li> <li>Incremental results</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High implication of different Ministries, collective work with civil society, high investment costs, incomplete national know how</li> </ul>
4. Afforestation and reforestation in large cities basin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Major potential for REDD+ results</li> <li>Diversity of economic models</li> <li>Low costs, progressive results</li> <li>Engagement of urban population, technical aspects relatively well handled</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Depends on enhanced security of tenure</li> </ul>
5. Improvement in energy efficiency through the diffusion of enhanced hearths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Population towards private productive initiative</li> <li>Low and well-handled technical aspects</li> <li>Low costs, high potential, direct and incremental results</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High engagement of different Ministries</li> </ul>
<b>Integrated programme</b>		
6. Integrated REDD+ programmes at the Mai Ndombe district level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engages all actors, sectors and levers at the district level</li> <li>Strategic potential for direct results and duplication</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High complexity</li> <li>Unflinching local leadership</li> <li>High investment costs</li> </ul>

Until 2012, the DRC has been strongly involved in the REDD+ readiness phase that should lead to its national strategy and the associated action plan, build implementation frameworks and tools, and engage all

actors in a deep change for the country. The DRC is simultaneously initiating the REDD+ investment phase. Beyond readiness, the structural conditions for REDD+ large-scale operations will be developed starting in 2011 and the first sector-wide change programs will be initiated. The initiation of the investment phase is crucial, as it should materialize the international financial commitments and the national credibility development process, in order to establish trust between the country and its partners. This phase also determines the country's internal capacity in sustaining its intensive technical, organizational, and political investment in REDD+.



To advance this investment phase, the DRC is developing a series of structuring and complementary national programs, launched to anticipate the future national REDD+ strategy. Their implementation is supported by tools developed under the REDD+ readiness process, such as the REDD+ National Fund, the registry of financial flows and REDD+ activities, the approval process for projects and initiatives, etc.



### **Illustration of a Support Component of the Investment Phase and Implementation of REDD+ Programs: Towards the Creation of a REDD+ National Fund**

In October 2010, a workshop gathering the President's Office, relevant administrations (Central Bank, Ministries of Finance, Budget, Planning, Environment, Agriculture, etc.), technical and financial partners, the civil society, and the private sector helped outline a future national mechanism to manage REDD+ funding. The future REDD+ National Fund will be independent and based on an autonomous and auditable management arrangement and a participatory decision-making structure. The Fund will support the REDD+ national strategy and will be aligned with the prevailing regulatory and legal system in the DRC. The Fund will ensure participatory governance, a "MRVable", efficient, and transparent fiduciary management, a continuous performance-based payment principle in funding national programs, provision of resources to the field, etc. All these elements will ensure credibility to the eyes of the international community.

### **Demonstration of the Leverage Effect of the National Readiness Process: Implement the Inter-Ministerial and Multi-Sector Efforts.**

The programs to engage the DRC in the REDD+ investment phase focus on inter-ministerial efforts and systematic principles. With the support of the REDD National Coordination, the various ministries have tackled the first programs. The Ministries in charge of tenure issues, decentralization, and land planning or of the agriculture have directly developed their respective REDD+ programs in collaboration with the Ministry in charge of the environment. In addition, various ministries have the opportunity to work together within each program. The integrated REDD+ Mai Ndombe Program provides a perfect example: the program will leverage the various sector-wide and enabling elements to address the causes of deforestation and forest degradation: agriculture, forestry, conservation, energy, education and capacity-building, social strengthening, zoning, community management and land planning, tenure security, law enforcement, etc. Implementing an integrated REDD+ strategy at a district scale of 30,000 km<sup>2</sup> will involve all stakeholders.









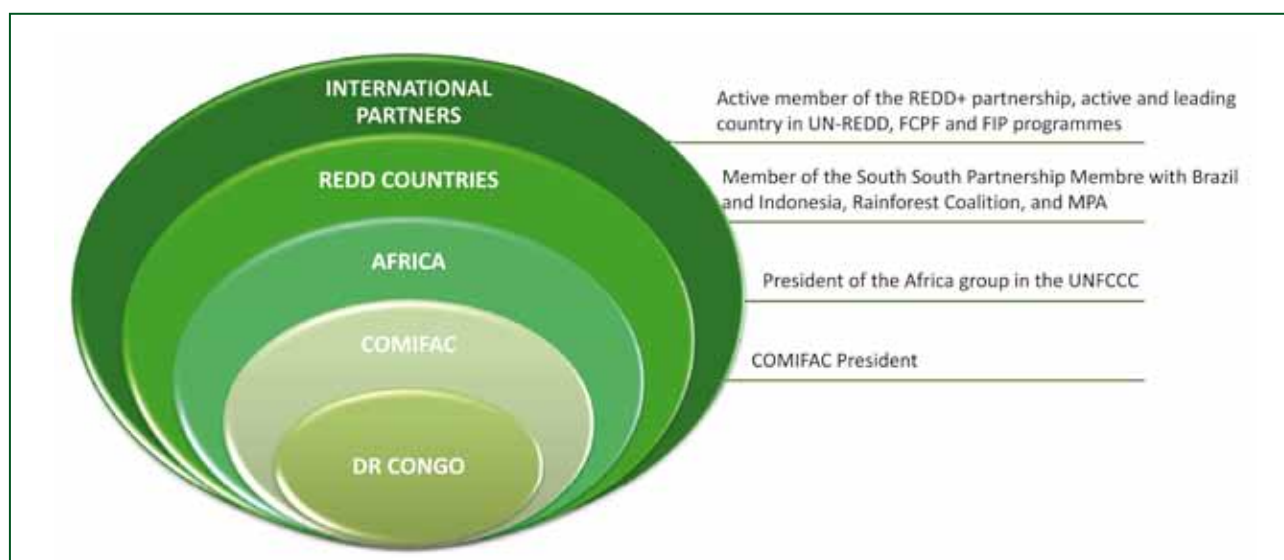
## *The DRC, a Constructive Leader at the Service of the International REDD+ Process*

The DRC commitment to the REDD+ process and the progress achieved since 2009 have made the country one of the world's leader on REDD+. Given the diversity and the complexity of its structural and operational challenges, the country has a wealth of experiences, discussions, and innovations that are particularly useful to international partners. At all levels of international relations, the DRC has adopted a dialogue and transparency approach. The country shares its experiences and contributes to coordination among regional programs with its COMIFAC partners. As for the REDD+ partnership and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the DRC also plays an active role by contributing to the debate with its experiences, backgrounds and national opportunities.

A high level of collaboration and coordination has been established with the international partner institutions for the REDD+ process, particularly the UN-REDD program and UNDP, FAO, and UNEP, the World Bank's FCPF Program, as well as the CBFF, FIP, technical partners, etc. This privileged relationship has helped disseminate and share experiences. The DRC is regularly given the opportunity to chair the executive committees of these organizations, an indication of its predominant

and constructive role in advancing the technical discussions on REDD+. Among its remarkable contributions, the DRC is a pioneer on aspects such as :

- ♦ Involvement of the civil society, transparency and inclusiveness of the national process, awareness and dialogue campaign in all territories, REDD University, pioneering work on SESA and the environmental and social MRV, etc.
- ♦ Innovative strategic development process, over the long term, through thematic coordination groups who examine all REDD+ options in a transparent, meticulous, and participatory way
- ♦ Coordination with international institutions, programs of bilateral partners and sector-wide policies of ministries, integration in the national development strategy etc.
- ♦ The national approach and local initiatives, the national REDD+ financial flows and activities registry, the decentralization process, etc.
- ♦ The economic and financial complexity of the REDD+ transformation, the reality of opportunity, implementation, and transaction costs, etc.
- ♦ Requirements in terms of Carbon MRV, assessment of degradation, etc.







## *Democratic Republic of Congo, a center of creativity and of excellence for REDD+*

*by H.E. Jose E.B. Endundo, Minister of Environment, Nature, Conservation and Tourism*

*« While the objectives of REDD+ are overall shared, while the contours of a future international mechanism are taking shape, remains to be addressed a key and critical question for REDD+ : How to make REDD+ a success ? How to invent, finance and unroll credible, operational and effective strategies that will really transform deforestation and forest degradation paths?*

*Democratic Republic of Congo is determined to answer this question through a dynamic of excellence. The constraints and opportunities to make REDD+ a success in Democratic Republic of Congo are vast. Because we share the same philosophy, the same convictions, because we apprehend the same risks, in particular about vulnerable populations and long-term development of our country, because we share an understanding on the opportunities to reduce climate change but also to improve livelihoods and protect biodiversity, Democratic Republic of Congo and the international community have been working together since 2009 to implement the REDD+ national process. With the United Nations agencies associated with the UN-REDD Programme (UNDP, FAO, UNEP), with the World Bank (FCPE, FIP), with the momentum provided by Norway and many technical and financial international partners, Democratic Republic of Congo is perhaps a unique example in the world of integration and collaboration in the REDD+ area.*

*We have set up a single process, with its own integrated roadmap and coordination with*

*strong capacity that informs all Ministries and mobilizes all stakeholders in all sectors in a shared and coherent direction. The structures are in place. Competences are strengthened. The programs have started. Admittedly, there are multiple challenges and the road is still long, but the momentum has launched in an ambitious approach that is credible and built on shared principles: transparency, participation, inclusion, responsibility, sustainability, efficiency, technical and scientific excellence, regional integration... Day after day, we are building an innovative REDD+ model that capitalizes on these structural principles and embodies them in the specific context of Democratic Republic of Congo.*

*For two years, developments in Democratic Republic of Congo on REDD+ front have been colossal. We are still multiplying our efforts. Through this booklet, we wish to share our ongoing dynamics and vision to invent REDD+. In parallel to a process already on track, Democratic Republic of Congo is ready to engage in the investment phase. We are in particular mobilizing all Ministries on sectoral and enabling programs for REDD+, on a national register of REDD+ financing and activities and on a national independent fund to structure and coordinate international financing. The selection of our country by the Forest Investment Programme is a first step. We must go further. Together, let us build in Democratic Republic of Congo a path of REDD+ excellence and performance that will inform development strategies for the fight against the climate change in many areas of the world. »*





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