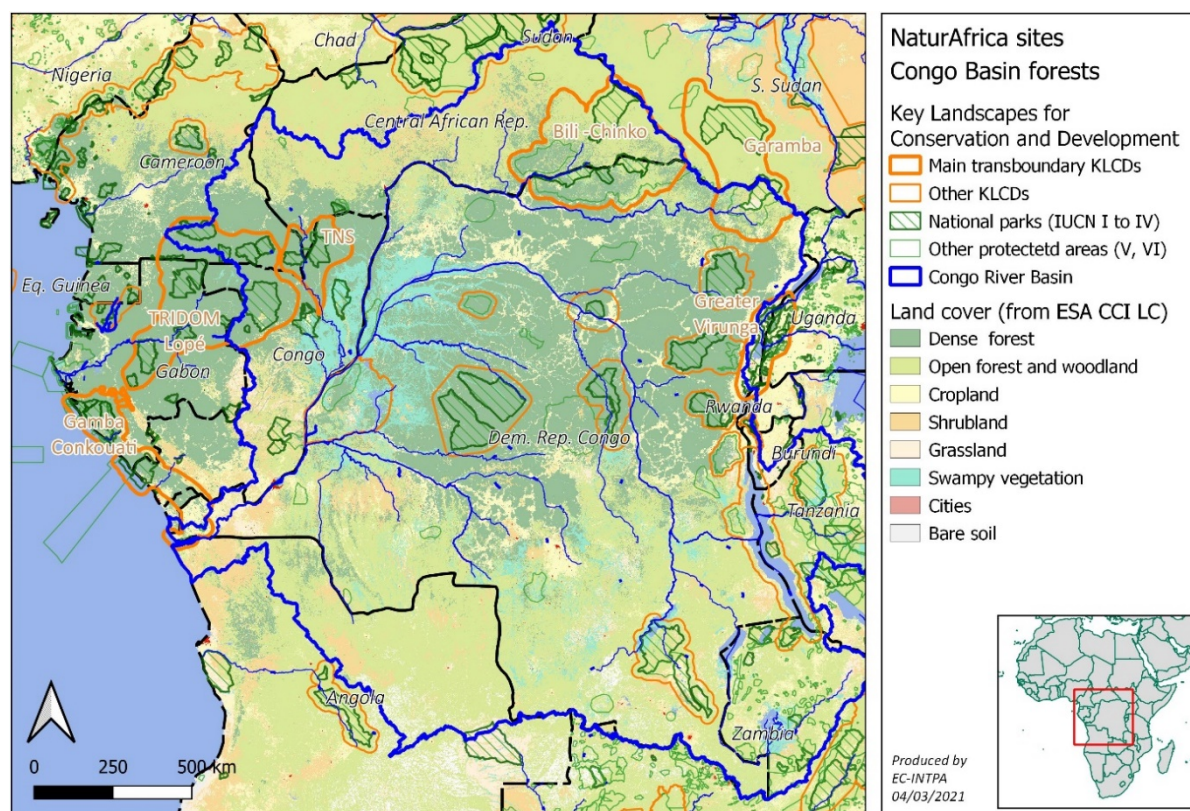


Regional MIP for Sub-Saharan Africa : Green Deal

Component 4: Biodiversity and Environment – NaturAfrica initiative

Natural resource management of transfrontier ecosystems of Congo Basin – Central Africa



Geographical extent/countries

Burundi, Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, Congo Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda, South Soudan, Uganda.

Targeted Key Landscape for Conservation and Development (KLCD): CAF_02 : Greater Virunga ; CAF_03 : Greater Tridom – TNS ; CAF_04 : Gamba-Mayumba – Conkouati ; CAF_05 : Garamba-Lantoto-Bili Uere - Chinko-Southern ; CAF_13 Nyungwe-Kibira ; CAF_19 : Monts de Cristal – Atos Nsork. The Batéké landscape (Gabon/Congo) is to be considered.

Context and challenges

With more than 200 million hectares of forest, the Congo Basin is the second largest forest in the world. The block of tropical rainforest commonly referred to as the Congo Basin is the dominant feature of the Central African region in terms of area, species richness and diversity, carbon sequestration and climate influence.

All the countries concerned are obliged to create, on the one hand, wealth to meet the vital needs of their ever-growing population, in particular by diversifying their economy still based mainly on income from mineral resources (oil, minerals) and on the other, to protect biodiversity and conserve their potential for capturing CO².

Despite the protection efforts and the accumulated experiences, threats are always still increasing:

- Unsustainable trade in proteins from wild animals (bushmeat and overfishing)
- Criminal international trade in wildlife and ivory
- Habitat loss (deforestation - destruction of the coastline) are due to shifting agriculture, the need for energy, industrial logging, mining and oil extractions and agro-industrial plantations...
- Appearance of new diseases (zoonosis).

Growing population and poverty, poor governance, insecurity due to conflicts or trafficking, but also climate change as the main vectors of these threats.

This proposal aims to foster the replication of the NaturAfrica approach, linking conservation and development. There is an important political, economic, sociological and ecological coherence and relevance. A regional perspective common to the Congo Basin is necessary in order to guarantee close coordination between countries, the harmonization of the policies, the definition of common objectives and the establishment of links and synergies between the various regional and national initiatives. From a technical point of view, a regional approach allows the adoption of common methodologies to coordinate cross-border anti-poaching actions while linking it with the fight against trafficking, increased knowledge exchanges and the monitoring of forests and carbon emissions.

Objectives of the program

Global objectives: contribute to the fight against the loss of biodiversity and climate change (including disaster risks), to the stability and development of the green economy in Central Africa.

Specific objective: To support the biodiversity protection of key transfrontier landscapes while offering development opportunities for the benefit of local populations.

Main activities

- 1- Support to protected areas and law enforcement
- 2- Land use planning;
- 3- Access facilitation to renewable energy, water supply, and waste management ;
- 4- Food and nutrition security ; access to health and education ;
- 5- Support to (deforestation-free) sustainable agriculture and fishery value chains ; ecotourism development ; SME development support ;
- 6- Sustainable forest management, governance and trade.

A link to the other thematic SSA initiatives is necessary: knowledge production and capacity building (eg. OFAC, ERAIFT), anti-trafficking and corruption, green policies harmonization, green financing...

Replicability and transformative power

The proposal is based on the successful example of EU action in the Virunga and replicate it in a modular manner around other landscapes. It contributes to tackle a broader range of EU and Africa priority objectives: green deal; sustainable growth and development; governance, peace, security and human development; and digital, science, technology and innovation...

Existing EU programs: ECOFAC, CITES, PARCIC (UNODC), Sustainable Wildlife Management, BIOPAMA, MIKES, SOS, FLEGT, CAFI...

Complementarity with national programmes

Country	Component in MIP
Cameroon	
Congo	Green economy transition in selected landscape - agriculture and ecotourism (SO 1.1) Sustainable natural resources management (SO 2.1) Promotion of plantation timber as a resource for bioenergy (SO 2.3)
DRC	Synergies with the "Alliance Verte" of the MIP
Gabon	Green economy in selected landscape (SO 1.1)
Rwanda	
Burundi	Alliance Verte englobant un parc naturel
Uganda	
CAR	Préservation de ses écosystèmes/paysages naturels, et de la biodiversité (SO1)

Potential for a regional TEI : Germany and France are very present in the region and open to a regional TEI.