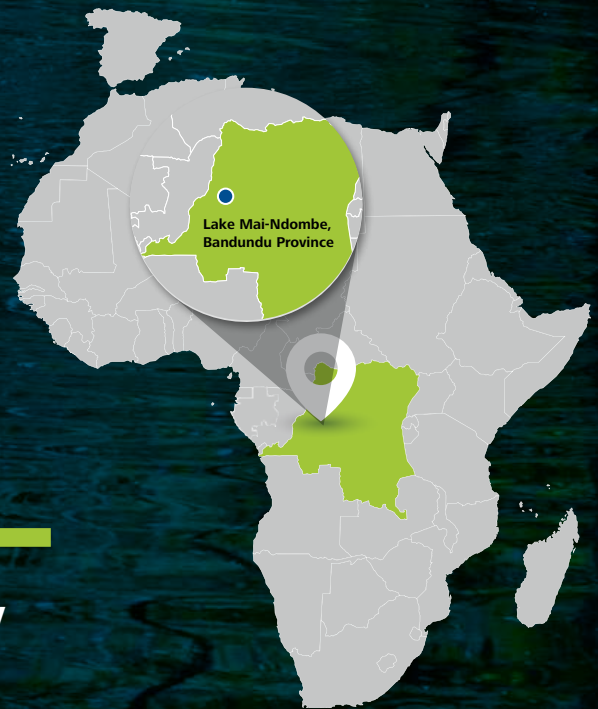




MAI-NDOMBE REDD+ FOREST PROTECTION DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Reducing emissions, protecting biodiversity
and ameliorating poverty in Central Africa



This project protects almost 250,000 hectares of forests from logging, unsustainable fuelwood extraction and slash-and-burn agriculture in the DRC's Bandundu Province. At the same time, life is ameliorated for communities living on the western shores of Lake Mai-Ndombe in one of the world's poorest countries.

The Context

The DRC is one of the world's most impoverished nations, and persisting socio-economic issues are a challenge to biodiversity conservation; unsustainable practices like slash-and-burn agriculture remain a reliable income stream for many, while industry corruption also remains widespread.

The Project

In 2008, two timber concessions on the western shores of Lake Mai-Ndombe were among a group of 91 logging contracts suspended by the government in an effort to address sector-wide corruption causing environmental and community neglect. The two concessions, spanning 248,956 hectares and containing over 3.5 million m² of highly merchantable hardwood, were reassigned for the purpose of conservation management, with the aim of protecting the area from illegal and legal destructive logging.

The Benefits

A joint venture between Ecosystem Restoration Associates (ERA) Congo and Wildlife Works, the Mai-Ndombe project mitigates greenhouse gas emissions by preventing unsustainable land use and deforestation in the project area. It does so by focussing on participatory community-based conservation initiatives that emphasise improved agriculture to address deforestation and empower communities. For example, agronomists have trained local people to oversee agroforestry and teach sustainable agriculture in their own villages. The project also establishes community initiatives in areas of education, health and improved infrastructure, and also monitors regional biodiversity. 19 large mammal species were identified in the project area between 2012 and 2016 – including the endangered bonobo (pygmy chimpanzee), one of humankind's closest relatives.

Over its 30-year lifetime, this project will mitigate over 175 million tCO₂e, and deliver significant socio-economic and biodiversity benefits to local communities and surrounding ecosystems.



594 people

with improved livelihoods due to improved capabilities or assets for income generation



2,988 people

with access to improved health services



28 schools

planned for construction over the project's lifetime



15 women

employed full time in the project activities, and 320 women and girls now with improved education



112 people

employed full time in the project activities, recruited from local communities



13 gardens

built to demonstrate sustainable agricultural intensification, with agronomists working across the project on commercial crop production



5,671,613 tCO₂e

mitigated on average annually by preventing deforestation by logging corporations



246,216.2 ha of forests

saved from deforestation through land management for conservation

For more information on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, please visit: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

Official name: The Mai Ndombe REDD+ Project, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the | **VCS link:** <https://www.vcsprojectdatabase.org/#/ccb-all-project-details/934> | **VCS ID:** 934