



Sustainability action · Project Forest and Land Use

Mai Ndombe REDD+, Democratic Republic of Congo

This forest conservation project is aimed at benefitting climate stability, wildlife habitat, and socioeconomic conditions for local stakeholders in a rural region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Project

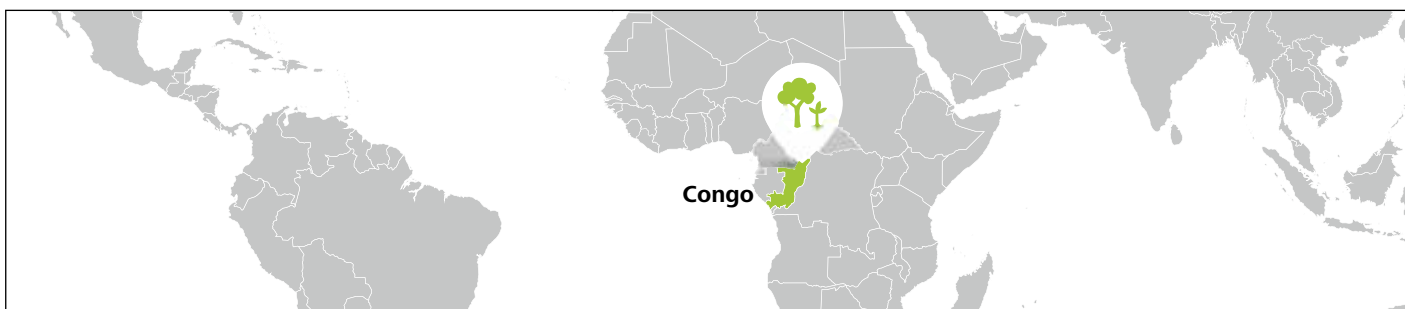
The Mai Ndombe REDD+ project protects over 740,000 acres of humid tropical and swamp forest located in the central part of the Congo River basin in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The project and surrounding area have been designated as a high conservation priority within the Congo Basin, the world's second-largest intact rainforest, and provide habitat for threatened and endemic species as well as important landscape-level connectivity.

The Mai Ndombe project makes REDD+ a viable economic alternative to unsustainable commercial logging, helping to

prevent the primary and secondary forest extraction that used to cause regional ecosystem fragmentation, biodiversity loss, soil degradation, and wetland sedimentation. The project's forest conservation activities not only safeguard local communities' environmental health and economic livelihoods, but also their traditional and cultural values.

Shortages in clean drinking water access, chronic lack of financial resources for education and healthcare, and serious concerns over food security, nutrition and economic alternatives made the need for an integrated approach to sustainable development crucial for communities in the project area. Sales from the project's carbon certificates therefore provide a pathway to low-carbon economic development — supporting improved access to potable water, agricultural and economic diversification, education and healthcare development, and empowerment of local communities.

Checklist	Additionality and permanence	3 rd party verified	Transparency	Social and environmental benefits	Marketing material
Project 301 512	According to the rules of the CCBS and VCS	By DNV	Provided by Markit Environmental Registry	As documented in our database	Pictures available



Location

The project is located at Lake Mai Ndombe in the Bandundu province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in East Africa. The project area is home to nearly 50,000 people living in 30 communities, subsisting mainly on fishing and small-scale agriculture.

Project achievements

Socio-economic impact

- An extensive consultation process took place with local communities to ensure that free, prior and informed consent was obtained prior to project initiation. Ongoing community engagement will occur throughout the full project period with community consent sought at key stages in the process.
- Training activities and the establishment of local development committees will increase local governance, administration and decision making capacity, and the ability for communities to collectively respond to local issues and determine future directions.
- The project employs more than 55 local people on a full-time basis and has trained and employed approximately 80 additional people on a part-time basis for the collection of forest inventory data, biodiversity data, and for the implementation of the community consultation process.
- Local communities in the project area identified school construction as a high priority, and thus a minimum of 19 schools in project communities are being constructed. This will substantially increase the quantity and quality of local educational infrastructure, as well as access to educational opportunities.
- The Mai Ndombe project will establish a mobile medical clinic to improve access to health care for isolated rural villages. The project will also construct at least five new health care centres and repair existing healthcare clinics in the region to improve healthcare access for the entire project zone.

Environmental impact

- The Mai Ndombe project area is home to the bonobo, the globally endangered great ape that is humankind's closest relative and found only in the Congo basin. Also present in the project area are the near threatened giant pangolin, brown-cheeked hornbill, and Osborn's dwarf crocodile.
- As a result of the flora inventory that has been carried out under the project, two species of endangered plants and five species of vulnerable plants have been observed on the site to date. In addition to these, there are at least five endemic species and one endemic subspecies of plants.

