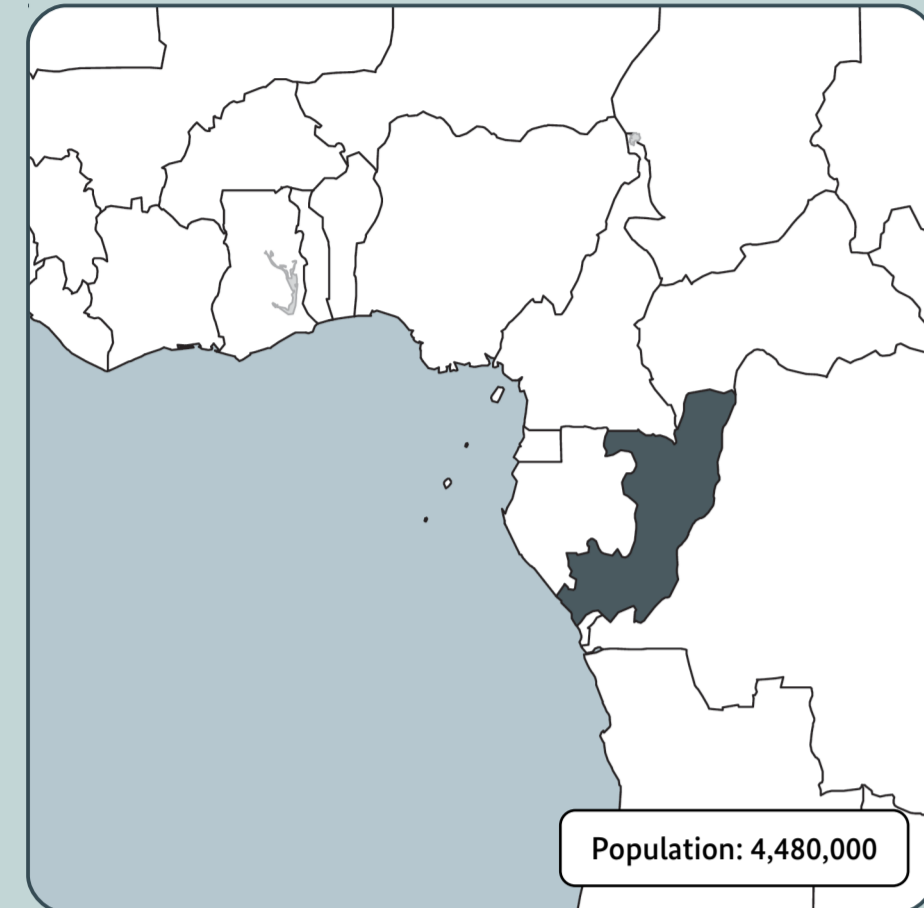


Republic of Congo Protected Areas and Biodiversity Conservation



The Republic of Congo covers an area of 342,000 km². It is located in Central Africa. Congolese forests and savannahs occupy about 65%, respectively, representing 10% of all dense African rainforests and 35% of the national territory.

The main ecosystems that make up the Congolese territory are: the coastal plain, the Mayombe range, the Niari-Nyanga valley plain, the Chaillu massif, the Batékés plateau, the Congolese basin and the Northwest Plateaux. Congo has abundant bio-diversity. Faced with the magnitude of the threats of this biodiversity, national policies have been implemented to safeguard the country's biodiversity through laws, agreements, treaties, conventions, protocols, etc. The progress made in the implementation of the Aichi objectives is achieved in situ in the strategic axes of conservation in the protected areas.

In 2000, Congo had 16 protected areas covering 3,778,496 ha, or about 11% of the national territory. Currently, this area covers 4,179,200 ha, or 13.1% of the country as a whole. This poster summarizes Congo's efforts to achieve the Aichi objectives, whose implementation framework is the Congo's national biodiversity strategy. The Republic of Congo signed and ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity in 1992 and 1995 respectively. This commitment enabled the country to implement the PNAE in 2000, and develop its first Strategy. The Cartagena Protocol was ratified on 25 October 2005 and that of Nagoya Kuala-Lampur on 16 May 2016. The Nagoya Protocol was ratified on 14 May 2015. Several actions have been implemented by the Government to achieve certain Aichi objectives which were included in the Fifth National Report on Biodiversity and the NBSAP.

Acronyms	Access and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources
FAO	Fund for Agriculture and Food
FIPAC	International Forum of Indigenous Peoples of Central Africa
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan
NWFP	Non-timber Forest Products
PA	Protected Areas
PNAE	National Environmental Action Program
ProNAR	National Afforestation and Reforestation Program
RENAPAC	National Network of Indigenous Peoples of the Congo
SNAT	National Pattern of Land Allocation
UFA	Forest Management Units

C



Sensitization of communities on simple management plans for the Bas Kouilou community area



Concertation meeting on bush meat

11 Identification of new protected areas and areas of connectivity. Implementation of several types of protected area governance comprising, inter alia, community protected areas and private and community protected areas. Creation of crossborder protected areas. Development and adoption of land use or management plans, as well as business plans.

A



Youth participation in the national tree planting day (Ylé 2011)

Traditional dance during sensitization

5 Establishment of the national and decentralized warning and awareness-raising / sensitization structures according to the "IEC" (Information, Education, Communication) approach. Sensitization of decision makers and civil society on the protection of biodiversity. Institutionalization of National Tree Day and National Sustainable Development Day

6 Integrating of Biodiversity into the Strategy Framework for Poverty Reduction and for Adaptation to Climate Change.

7 Establishment of a management plan for various ecosystems especially the most fragile and systematization of the realization of EIES and / or Strategic audits

8 Updating laws on biodiversity conservation; Strategic Environmental Assessment (EES) and sustainable management plans to reduce ecological impact. Development of the strategy and the plan for PFNL development.

D



Focus Group discussion of the local community of Souanké (Dép.-Sangha) on ABS sensitisation (2016, july)



Workshop on the geographical limitation of a given community within the framework of territorial management

15 Existence of a forestry survey plan underpinned by national forest management plans; Implementation of the National Plan for Territorial Development (SNAT); FAO Support Project for Water Erosion Control; Launch and implementation of the National Afforestation and Reforestation Program (ProNAR with 1 million ha of agroforestry and forestry plantations to be set up by 2020).

16 Signing of the Nagoya Agreement by the Congo on 27 September 2011; Integration of the Concept into the new legal provisions under review on forestry and environmental matters; Sensitization campaigns on the APA aimed at different actors (CAL, executives, parliamentarians, researchers...) with a view to its forthcoming Ratification.

B



Entrance to the Likouala river evaded by exotic invasive species



Eichhornia crassipes evaded a river course

5 Development of a land use planning and the identification and securitization of natural habitats of a high conservation value.

6 Development of a rational plan for the tapping of fisheries resources; Updating of the law on fishing and fishery and the relaunch and promotion of fish ponds.

7 Development of a land allocation plan and management plans for agricultural, aquaculture and tree farming areas.

8 Establishment of an on-going wastewater treatment plant.

9 Existence of a national program to check the expansion of these EEs; Establishment of environmental committees to ensure the prevention and control of intentional introductions;

10 Creation of the Mayumba - Konkouati Transborder Protected Area between Gabon and Congo.

E



Types of fish caught in Congo's inland waters



Types of fish caught in Congo's inland waters

17 Creation of structures in charge of PFNL in the organization chart of the Ministry in charge of Forests and the National Advisory Committee on PFNL .

18 Promulgation of Law 5 2011 of 25 February 2011 on the protection and promotion of the rights of the indigenous populations of the Congo; Institutionalization of the National Forum on Indigenous Peoples of Central Africa (FIPAC).

19 Provision of scientific research / Staff with an encouraging and attractive working environment; Promotion of dynamic partnership between businesses and training / research institutions on biodiversity and related technologies.

20 Promotion and development of a dynamic and attractive public-private partnership; Strengthening the capacity of local experts on innovative sources and mechanisms for financing plans and programs related to the sustainable management of biodiversity.

AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS STRATEGIC GOALS

A Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society

- Target 1: By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.
- Target 2: By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.
- Target 3: By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio-economic conditions.
- Target 4: By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.

B Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use

- Target 5: By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.
- Target 6: By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.
- Target 7: By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.
- Target 8: By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.
- Target 9: By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.
- Target 10: By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.

C To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity

- Target 11: By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.
- Target 12: By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.
- Target 13: By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.

D Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services

- Target 14: By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.
- Target 15: By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.
- Target 16: By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.

E Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building

- Target 17: By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.
- Target 18: By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.
- Target 19: By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.
- Target 20: By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.

