

Global Carbon Markets and IP&LC Involvement-Experience from the DRC

THE 3D Seminar hosted by GIGA

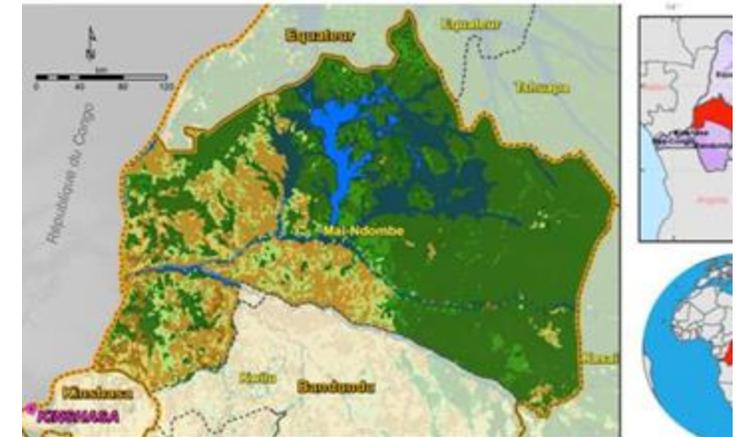
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REDD+ Projects in Mai-Ndombe

- The Mai Ndombe province– the REDD+ laboratory in the Congo Basin
- Covers 12.3 million hectares, of which 10 million are forests.
- Population of over 2 million, consisting of Bantu and Indigenous Peoples of the Batwa ethnic group.
- Host 3 large REDD+ projects
 - The ERA/WWC Mai-Ndombe REDD+ project covering 300,000 ha
 - The World Bank’s Forest Carbon Partnership Facility jurisdictional REDD+ project covering 9 million ha
 - The World Bank PIREDD Plateau project

Project Objectives

- Reducing Emissions
- Biodiversity Conservation
- Community Development
- Sustainable Land Management



Project achievements for communities

- **World Bank REDD project**

- 15,406 people had participated in consultations, of whom more than half (8,165), were women.
- 1,295,800 acacia seedlings planted across 1,178 hectares.
- 3,772 smallholders, including 1,113 women, have benefited from the program through Payments for Environmental Services (PES).
- 14 Rural Agricultural Management Committees (RAMC) supported.
- 199 Local Development Committees (CLD) were created or revitalized.

- **ERA/WWC REDD+ project**

- 10 fishponds constructed
- New cassava strains introduced for improved food security
- Over 20 women groups trained in farm gardening
- Over 300 local jobs created
- 11 solar-powered, sustainable clean water wells
- 12 schools built or renovated
- 18 mobile health clinics and one hospital established
- Over 25 Local Development Committees (CLD) were created or revitalized.

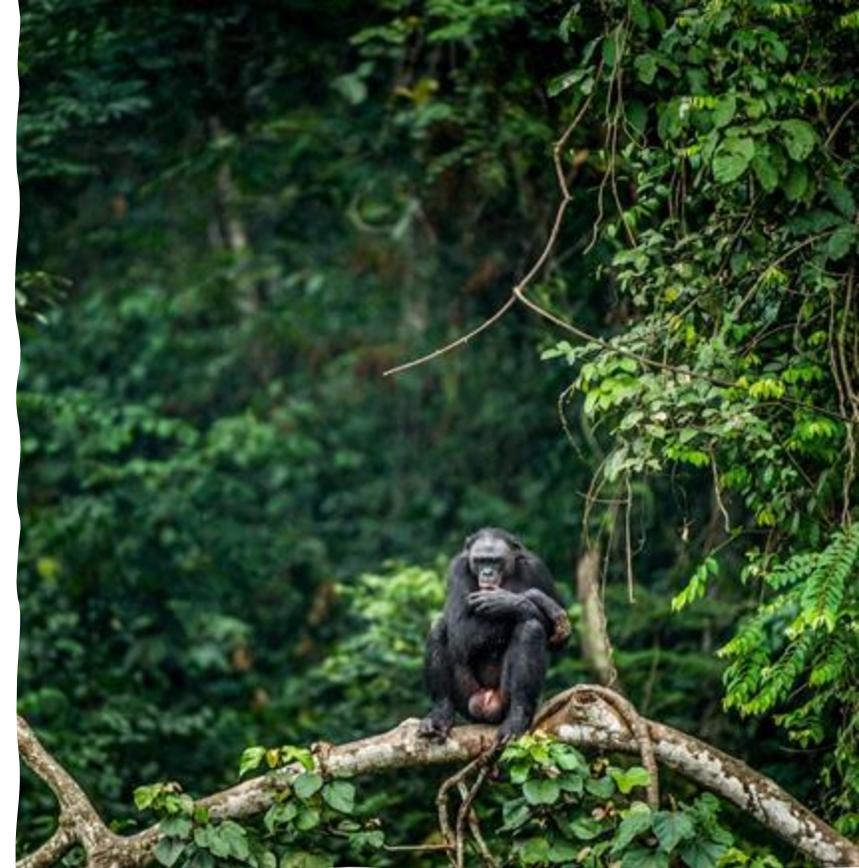
Key Challenges to IP and LC

- Lack of Clear Land Rights Recognition: Many Indigenous and local communities lack formal land titles
- Limited Benefit-Sharing Mechanisms: Revenues often controlled by governments or project developers
- Weak Community Engagement-FPIC (Free, Prior, and Informed Consent) not fully respected
- Transparency and Accountability Issues**: Unclear carbon revenue allocation and project governance
- Conflict over Land Use: Restrictions on traditional land use affecting livelihoods
- Dysfunctional Complaint Mechanisms: Despite featuring a grievance redress mechanism in its design, it systematically failed to resolve issues



Lessons Learned

- Without strong legal land rights, communities remain vulnerable
- Meaningful participation ensures better project acceptance
- Transparent governance structures improve trust in carbon markets
- The safeguard standards do not contain specific guidelines to uphold IP&LC rights



Possible Solutions to Address these Issues

1. Ensure Genuine Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC)

- Strengthen community involvement from the outset.
- Ensure full transparency in decision-making processes.

2. Strengthen Land Tenure Rights for IP and LC

- Provide legal recognition of customary land rights.
- Prevent forced land-use changes without community approval.

3. Improve Benefit-Sharing Mechanisms

- Ensure fair, transparent, and timely payments to communities.
- Directly involve communities in designing financial compensation plans.

4. Reform the Complaint & Accountability System

- Establish independent oversight bodies for grievance mechanisms.
- Make the complaint process more accessible, ensuring local languages and community training.

5. Adopt a More Community-Centric Approach

- Promote community-led conservation rather than imposing external regulations.
- Integrate traditional knowledge and practices into project frameworks.



Thanks for
listening

