



GREEN CORRIDOR

KIVU - KINSHASA

GREEN CORRIDOR - KIVU KINSHASA

Our forests constitute an essential shield against climate change. Faced with clearly identified problems and solutions within reach, it is crucial to act concretely [...]. It is imperative that improving the socio-economic conditions of local communities, who play a key role in the preservation of these forests, be placed at the center of global governance priorities.

His Excellency

Monsieur Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo,

President of the Democratic Republic of Congo at the 79th ordinary session of the United Nations General Assembly, New York, September 25, 2024.

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

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GREEN CORRIDOR - KIVU KINSHASA

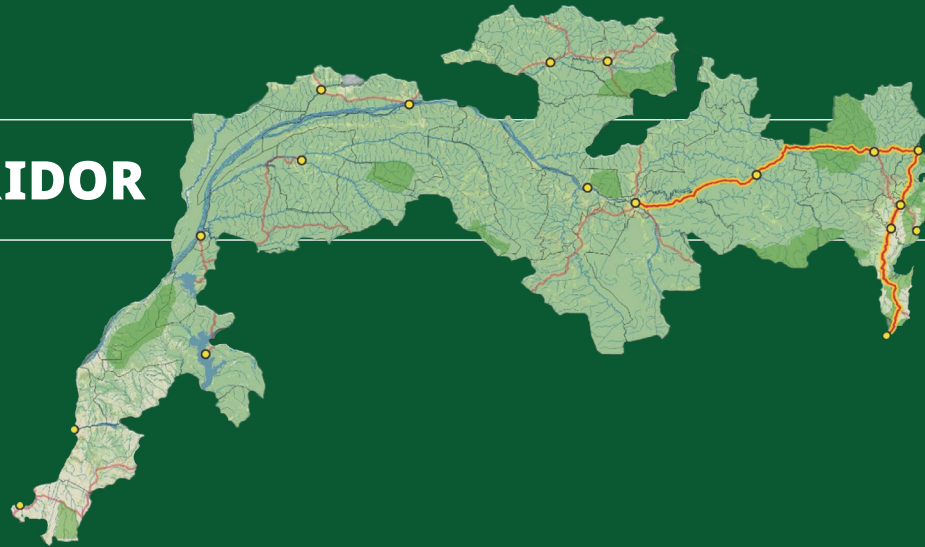
THE CREATION OF THE KIVU-KINSHASA GREEN CORRIDOR IS AN INITIATIVE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO AIMED AT PROVIDING A CONCRETE AND OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S AMBITION TO CONSTITUTE A "SOLUTION COUNTRY" FOR GLOBAL CLIMATE ISSUES, WHILE PRIMARILY TARGETING THE URGENT ISSUES THAT CONSTITUTE, FOR THE CONGOLESE POPULATION, THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC INTEGRATION OF THE COUNTRY, THE DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES, AS WELL AS PEACE AND SECURITY

Extending over an area of more than 500,000 km² and with the ambition of contributing to the effective protection of more than 100,000 km² of primary forests, this new protected area will constitute a vast zone for promoting the green economy linking the East and West of the country. It will be articulated around National Road No. 4 between Beni and Kisangani on the one hand, and in the vast forest regions located on either side of the course of the Congo River between Kisangani and Kinshasa on the other hand.

Designed as a protected area with the vocation of a community reserve, the Kivu Kinshasa Green Corridor will aim for environmental and conservation

objectives while integrating the active presence of local populations, as well as economic development and the strengthening of infrastructure. Rather than a strictly protected zone, it will be made up of spaces with multiple vocations, where the productive activities of economic actors and local communities will not only be authorized, but also encouraged and supervised as long as they are compatible with sustainable development and specific environmental objectives (maintenance of forest cover, protection of biodiversity, preservation of ecological balances and enhancement of ecosystem services).

GREEN CORRIDOR



KIVU - KINSHASA

THE KIVU KINSHASA GREEN CORRIDOR WILL BE BASED ON 4 COMPLEMENTARY PILLARS



the protection and development of the country's exceptional "green" potential, particularly aiming at the integration of agricultural value chains and rural electrification within a sustainable framework



respect for the rights and defense of the interests of local communities and indigenous Pygmy peoples. No major change in land use may be considered within the Green Corridor without the free, informed and prior consent of the populations concerned.



promoting responsible private investments within the framework of the green economy, relying on tax incentives and facilitating access to international investment funds



reducing violence and the promotion of civil peace

The ecological potential of the Green Corridor

UNIQUE RESOURCES IN THE WORLD TO BE MANAGED SUSTAINABLY FOR THE COUNTRY AND THE PLANET

The Kivu-Kinshasa Green Corridor is a visionary initiative which aims to connect the eastern regions to Kinshasa by following the RN4 and the Congo River, while reconciling biodiversity conservation and socio-economic development. This project embodies the DRC's commitment to becoming a major player in the fight against climate change while meeting the socio-economic needs of its populations.

A PROJECT WITH ECOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

The Green Corridor is home to the heart of the Congo Basin forests, the planet's first lung, sequestering around 1.1 billion tonnes of CO₂ annually (COMIFAC, 2021). With an area of 544,270 km² which extends over 41 territories, the Green Corridor covers approximately a quarter of the Congo River basin. It is home to critical ecosystems, including primary forests and peatlands, essential for regulating the global climate and maintaining biodiversity.

The Green Corridor is also a driver of sustainable development, integrating key urban areas such as Kinshasa, Kisangani, and Goma. With a population of 31.5 million inhabitants, including 22 million in the ten main cities located within it, it aims to promote agroecological chains, sustainable infrastructure and a green economy beneficial to all stakeholders, both in rural areas than in urban areas.

SCIENTIFIC AND COLLABORATIVE PLANNING

The Kivu-Kinshasa Green Corridor is based on rigorous systematic planning, using Marxan software to identify optimal areas combining conservation and sustainable development. This globally recognized tool helps balance ecological and socio-economic priorities by optimizing the necessary compromises.

This scientific approach ensures that the Green Corridor respects the objectives set by an ambitious political decision: protecting critical ecosystems, such as primary forests and peatlands, while supporting sustainable economic activities. The criteria selected integrate the preservation of habitats for threatened species, ecological connectivity and the socio-economic development potential of the territories concerned.

Thanks to this methodology, the Green Corridor becomes a unique model of integrated management, reconciling environmental imperatives and social aspirations for a resilient and prosperous future. The result of this spatial modeling makes it possible to establish the Green Corridor over an area of 544,270 km² including 166 decentralized territorial entities distributed in 41 territories. Comprising mainly sparsely populated rural and forest areas outside the communication axes, the Green Corridor is entirely located in the Congo River basin, of which it represents approximately a quarter of the total area.

By protecting vital ecosystems while supporting local communities and strengthening their integration into the national economy, the Green Corridor lays the foundations for the country to simultaneously pursue its objectives of development and conservation of an environmental heritage unique in the world and of global importance for the planet.

TOTAL AREA OF THE GREEN CORRIDOR	544 270 KM²	(100%)
.....		
Unaffected primary forests	163 047 KM²	(30%)
- including peat land	60 003 KM²	
.....		
Primary forests affected	122 104 KM²	(22%)
- including protected conservation areas	51 418 KM²	
- including forestry concessions	56 877 KM²	
- including local community forests	4 480 KM²	
.....		
Secondary forests/zone agro-forestry	64 803 KM²	(30%)
.....		
Other land uses in the Green Corridor	194 316 KM²	(36%)

As a “protected area intended as a community reserve”, establishing the boundaries of the Green Corridor is not as critical an issue as for more strict conservation zones, notably national parks for example. The recent revision of the law on nature conservation, which establishes this new category of protected areas in Congolese law, specifies that “unlike other categories of protected areas, protected areas with a reserve vocation community do not create either rights and obligations or restrictions, as long as a more precise territorial allocation of uses has not been made within them. The prior public inquiry, which is a key condition for the legitimacy and local acceptance of any protected area, is also postponed until this later stage of the precise allocation of uses within the Green Corridor. This step must be carried out for each investment or conservation project that wishes to benefit from the favorable financial regime put in place.

A proactive economic strategy

LINKED TO RESPECT FOR THE RIGHTS OF COMMUNITIES AND THE EMANCIPATION OF ALL

The Green Corridor has the official status of a “protected area intended as a community reserve”. So that the achievements can live up to the ambition, it is essential to put in place procedures which guarantee that local actors have their say and are able to influence the operation and evolution of the projects. investment which will benefit from the preferential regime offered by the Green Corridor (page 4), and this at all times and in a structural manner.

These investments will therefore give systematic priority to local communities and disadvantaged actors in the rural world, whose daily lives and development prospects are closely dependent on the exploitation of natural resources. Without a proactive strategy for change, the absence of socio-economic structuring of the rural world currently makes them hostage to “short-term” strategies for valorizing these resources, which are both unprofitable for them and unsustainable for the environment. .

Within these priority communities, female actors constitute a potential force for modernization that is structurally marginalized, particularly due to the absence of prospects for change and development linked to precariousness and socio-economic inertia in rural areas. . No sustainable solution for agriculture and the environment can be envisaged without ensuring their emancipation, and the investments which will be supported to develop the rural world in the Green Corridor will be structurally linked to this objective.



A proactive economic strategy

LINKED TO RESPECT FOR THE RIGHTS OF COMMUNITIES AND THE EMANCIPATION OF ALL

Among the key players in the rural world, the indigenous Pygmy peoples constitute a particular group because of their way of life closely linked to their natural environment and the specificities of their relationships with other segments of Congolese society. Since 2022, they have benefited from a dedicated law to promote respect for their rights and the defense of their interests, as well as to allow them to emancipate themselves in a self-determined manner. The investments that will be considered in the Green Corridor will take this into account as a priority.

In the implementation of the Green Corridor, any future project involving land reallocation and which wishes to benefit from investment support will be based on a process of prior consultation and negotiation, thus guaranteeing the recognition of existing land rights as well as taking into account the uses of natural resources. This close association of socio-economic logics already deployed by actors at the local level will constitute the guarantee of the “social sustainability” of the investments considered.

Two tools will be favored to achieve these objectives within the framework of the Green Corridor: the systematic implementation of CLIP (Free, Informed and Prior Consent of the stakeholders concerned) in the instruction and monitoring of the investment projects considered, as well as the use of participatory mapping during the feasibility studies which will be carried out beforehand.

The proposed draft decree aims to formalize accountability, by specifying the methods for disseminating financial reports and environmental impact analyses. It also introduces clear environmental and social performance

indicators which will be assessed periodically to ensure compliance with the Sustainable Development Goals. By integrating these mechanisms into the grievance management system, this project ensures responsible governance and greater community participation in decision-making processes. This includes the establishment of accessible tools to collect and process feedback from communities on the impacts of projects in real time.



Promote responsible investments

WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO REAL LOCAL DEVELOPMENT WHILE PROTECTING ECO-SYSTEMIC BALANCES

The fundamental raison d'être of the Green Corridor is to promote the green economy, by simultaneously promoting poverty reduction and development on the one hand, while allowing sustainable development of the ecological and environmental assets of rural forest environments that the Corridor will cross on the other hand.

To ensure this promotion of the green economy from the point of view of the private sector, the Green Corridor relies on two complementary instruments. It sets up an investment support mechanism based on preferential access to tax incentives on the one hand (national dimension), as well as on the facilitation of contacts and support for the preparation of files with major funds. green investments on the other hand (international dimension).

It is obvious that access to the favorable Green Corridor regime will be conditional on a demonstrated and permanent contribution to the objectives of the green economy, starting with respect for the rights of local communities. The conditions to be met by candidate investors will include the following elements:

- a. has. Observation of legal procedures, including public inquiries and environmental and social impact studies, to identify and guarantee strict compliance with pre-existing rights and uses depending on the nature of the activity or project.
- b. Obtaining Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) from local communities and Pygmy indigenous peoples whose rights could be affected by economic development or conservation activities.

c. Respect for the principles relating to protected areas intended as community reserves, and to the green economy, as defined in Law No. 14/003 of February 11, 2014 relating to nature conservation, amended in December 2024

d. Significant contribution to the socio-economic well-being of local populations, indigenous Pygmy peoples, or to the preservation and improvement of the environment.

e. Alignment with Local Development and Land Use Planning Plans, where applicable.

f. Commitment to produce an annual financial, social and environmental audit of the economic development or nature conservation project if the laws in force require an environmental and social impact study for the project in question.

g. Guarantee of transparency regarding the use of funds, accompanied by public access to the consolidated annual accounts.

h. Submission to the non-judicial grievance and conflict management mechanism which will be put in place during the pilot phase, without prejudice to the right of appeal to the competent courts.

Promote responsible investments

WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO REAL LOCAL DEVELOPMENT WHILE PROTECTING ECO-SYSTEMIC BALANCES

Investments linked to economic projects or conservation or development activities which will be approved may benefit from tax incentives already provided for in the Law establishing the Investment Code, the Law establishing the Special Economic Zones Regime, the Law on Contracts of Collaboration, and any other provisions, as well as other financial instruments that will be created in the future.

The driving force of the Green Corridor is that investors whose projects have been deemed eligible for the preferential tax regime will find themselves in an advantageous position to also present their projects to investment funds. They will also be able to choose to link the two ambitions, and to prepare their files for investment funds with the perspective of benefiting from the tax facilities linked to the Green Corridor.

The entire dynamic is based on a liberal approach: no specific fund will be created, but the numerous green investment funds already existing on the international financial scene will be interested in financing projects which will fall within the framework of the Green Corridor, in due to the credible and highly professional nature of the support framework that will be put in place.



Protecting agri-food value chains

A VECTOR OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE RURAL WORLD AND FOR THE COUNTRY

Investments in the formalization and integration of agri-food value chains that respect the environment while contributing to economic accumulation at the local level not only present potentially high rates of return for investors, but can also contribute significantly to security stabilization and the consolidation of civil peace.

This is particularly true in regions affected for a long time by predatory logics based on the exploitation of the precariousness of local actors and maintained by armed violence, in which the spiral of violence can only be stopped by the emergence alternative economic models.

In the Virunga landscape in the east of the country, investments in supporting sustainable agricultural value chains have been considered from the simultaneous point of view of promoting security and strengthening local governance. Citizens' assemblies were set up as part of the investments with a view to simultaneously improving the productive capacities and security of communities and their property. These investments were linked to violence avoidance audits involving community groups, farmers, local authorities (civil and customary) as well as security forces (police and FARDC).

In the operational bases set up, the involvement of security forces in community strategies for organizing and protecting production areas makes it possible to both stabilize rural regions exposed to violence while developing modes of production. modern, in which it is possible to promote the traceability of products – an essential element of the certification of their sustainability and their marketing on an international scale.



Protecting agri-food value chains

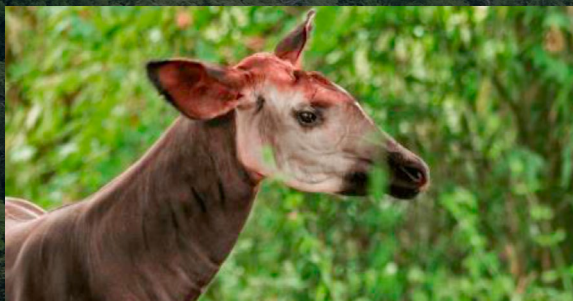
A VECTOR OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE RURAL WORLD AND FOR THE COUNTRY

Investments in the national integration of agri-food value chains will also have beneficial effects for the country as a whole, promoting its socio-economic cohesion and its resilience in the face of external threats and global challenges. With targeted investments in sustainable production, packaging and transport of wheat flour from North Kivu and market garden products from Ituri for example, new markets will be able to be created as far away as Kinshasa and improve food security and food quality.

In order to ensure the feasibility and impact of this strategic objective, the identification of priority investments in support of agri-food value chains will be carried out in close consultation with the Presidential Advisory Council for the National Agricultural Pact and the Food (CCP-PNAA) and in conjunction with the Agricultural Transformation agenda which supports the local development program of the 145 territories (PDL-145).



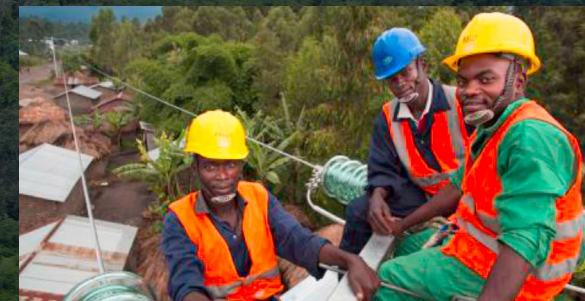
GREEN CORRIDOR KIVU - KINSHASA



By providing a favorable framework for private investments better linked to the sustainable management of natural resources, the green corridor will strengthen regional planning for the benefit of biodiversity and the ecosystem services of the country's forests. Particular attention will be paid to the establishment of ecological corridors favorable to the most threatened species.



The negative impacts of slash-and-burn agriculture will diminish alongside investments in the formalization of commercial agriculture for rapidly growing urban markets both nationally and internationally. By enabling a significant increase in farmer productivity, these investments can create more paid jobs than existing informal models, including in associated services (packaging, transport, and marketing).



Opening up and connecting production zones and consumer markets constitute one of the keys to clean development in the DRC. The modernization of strategic road infrastructure, such as that of the RN4 between Béni and Kisangani, constitutes a challenge for the sustainable management of resources and eco-systemic balances in the forest zone. The Green Corridor will make it possible to better manage the environmental impacts of future investments.



To ensure the promotion of the green economy from the point of view of the private sector, the Green Corridor relies on two complementary instruments. It sets up an investment support mechanism based on preferential access to tax incentives on the one hand (national dimension), as well as on the facilitation of contacts and support for the preparation of application files with green investment funds on the other hand (international dimension).

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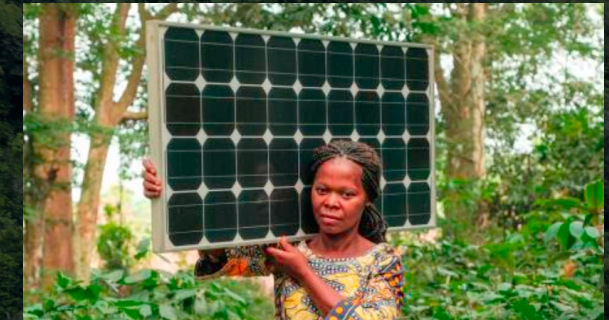
The Kivu Kinshasa green corridor connects the volcano zone in the east of the country to Pool Malebo downstream of the Congo River. Over a distance of 2,400 km of national road (RN4) and waterway, it constitutes a new integrated management unit for economic and environmental sustainability issues across the country. The national pillar of a "solution country".



The intensification of agricultural practices and the deployment of modern agro-forestry methods are likely to promote real development at the local scale in forest areas while allowing the maintenance of the forest cover and its ecological functions of global importance, in particular for the rain regime in the tropical zone and for the mitigation of climatic imbalances.



The green corridor also concerns the major cities of the country which it will connect to each other, including the capital Kinshasa. Cities indeed constitute natural commercial outlets for the sustainable development of the enormous agricultural production potential between the East and West of the country within the framework of the green economy. Furthermore, investments aimed at protecting the environment must also be encouraged, in urban areas, particularly with regard to waste management.



Accessibility to energy packages that are less dependent on wood resources constitute one of the keys to preserving the living environment of populations and improving their future prospects in rural and forested environments. The electrification of the rural world will be one of the best allies for the emancipation of women and girls. Private investments in small renewable electricity supply systems will be encouraged in the Green Corridor

Consultations in the territories concerned and pilot launch phase in 2025 - 2026

The ICCN is the public body that the Congolese state set up to manage protected areas of national interest. The ICCN will therefore pilot the initial launch phase of the Green Corridor in 2025-2026. The institution will be strengthened in order to be able to manage the multi-dimensional dimension of the Green Corridor, and the institution will work to this end in close coordination with the services of the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development, as well as with other administrations. public authorities called upon to be involved in the deployment of the Green Corridor.

In the first months of 2025, a consultation phase will be organized in the public authorities concerned by the Green Corridor (41 territories / 166 territorial and decentralized entities), as well as with local communities and civil society organizations. This process will inform local stakeholders of the proposed modalities for the implementation of the Corridor, as well as collect their contributions aimed at ensuring that the initiative achieves its ecological objectives while meeting the needs of populations living within it. its limits.



An operational strategy will be adopted based on these consultations. It will be built on implementation manuals aimed at meeting the requirements linked to the development of a green economy, effective management and good governance. These manuals will include:

- The principles of participatory governance that projects considered in the Green Corridor must respect, including procedures for obtaining free, informed and prior consent (FPIC) and participatory mapping as part of public inquiries.
- Directives on financial and environmental transparency as well as accountability.
- A description of the green economy criteria and how they should be monitored over time.
- The grievance management mechanism.

Pilot investment projects in line with green economy criteria will be launched in 2026 following the consultation phase. The implementation of the CLIP and participatory development processes will be closely monitored during their implementation, and lessons will be learned to clarify the governance instruments of the Green Corridor and make them more effective. A roadmap establishing criteria and priorities for the selection of future investment projects will also be established.

At the end of this pilot phase, the Green Corridor will be open for business and ready to accept or consider project proposals from private investors. Investment ideas can also be generated and carried by communities themselves, on the basis of support and dedicated subsidies which will be put in place with the support of international technical and financial partners in the sustainable environment sector in DRC.



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