

COMMUNITY FORESTS IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

STRENGTHENING FOREST COMMUNITIES' RIGHTS AND ENABLING THEM TO MANAGE THEIR TRADITIONAL LANDS IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS OF BOTH PROTECTING RAINFORESTS AND FIGHTING POVERTY.

IN 2014, THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC) PASSED COMMUNITY FOREST LEGISLATION IN WHAT IS ARGUABLY THE MOST GROUND-BREAKING LEGAL DEVELOPMENT RELATED TO CONGO BASIN RAINFORESTS IN RECENT YEARS.

50 THOUSAND HECTARES

COMMUNITIES CAN NOW MANAGE UP TO 50,000 HECTARES OF FORESTS ACCORDING TO THEIR OWN CUSTOMS AND NEEDS. IN PERPETUITY.

75 MILLION HECTARES

OF FOREST COULD BE AVAILABLE TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES. THAT'S THREE TIMES THE SIZE OF THE UK. **3**x

RFUK HAS PROMOTED COMMUNITY FORESTRY IN DRC FOR YEARS AND SINCE 2016 HAS LED A CONSORTIUM PROJECT THAT HAS PUSHED THE ISSUE TO THE FOREFRONT OF FOREST MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES.



OUR IMPACT

SECURING COMMUNITY LANDS



 including women, indigenous people and marginalised groups - are actively involved in our work, which is based on customary tenure arrangements

community has piloted an officially approved SIMPLE MANAGEMENT PLAN setting out ways to improve livelihoods whilst preserving the forest for future generations

communities have developed LAND USE PLANS to ensure they manage their forests equitably and sustainably

EMPOWERING KEY ACTORS

PROVINCES now have local authorities that understand the community forests law and are able to process applications and support communities



National authorities have skills and technology to monitor the community forestry process and to manage information in a

NATIONAL DATABASE

PRODUCING AND SHARING KNOWLEDGE



for different audiences, including research studies, training guides, briefings and multimedia outputs

6 COMMUNITY FOREST CONCESSIONS

granted and 4 more in the pipeline in Equateur and North Kivu, benefitting

\$25,000 PEOPLE &PROTECTING 100,000 HECTARES

STEERING INCLUSIVE POLICY MAKING



for Community Forests in DRC, building consensus around the strategic direction and core principles underpinning community forestry



was adopted by the government in 2018 sustaining the vision of learning by doing, a gradual approach, based on community rights and traditional management practices



WHERE WE WORK

Hundreds of people from all provinces of DRC have taken part in our training, workshops, and provincial and national roundtables.

" THE ONLY PROJECT WHICH HAS HELPED COMMUNITY FORESTRY IN DRC IS RFUK AND PARTNERS, THERE HAVE BEEN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS SPENT BY OTHER ORGANISATIONS BUT ONLY RFUK AND PARTNERS HAVE REALLY HELPED

Division, Ministry of Environment, DRC



LOOKING FORWARD

- Supporting the National Community Forests Strategy experimental phase and pave the way for national scaling-up of community forests in 2023
- Continuing to develop and test the legal and policy framework
- Providing continued training and tools to DRC government at national and local levels
- Maintaining and strengthening civil society monitoring and advocacy
- Supporting more communities to obtain their community forests
- Preparing for the management phase:
 - Strengthening community governance to ensure equity and inclusion
 - Testing models to improve livelihoods and attract private investment into community forests
 - Designing management plans that prevent deforestation and protect biodiversity



MAP KEY

MBANZA-NGUNGU

MATADI 🔵

PROVINCIAL ROUND TABLES

1ST PROVINCIAL ROUNDTABLE

KINSHASA

2ND PROVINCIAL ROUNDTABLE

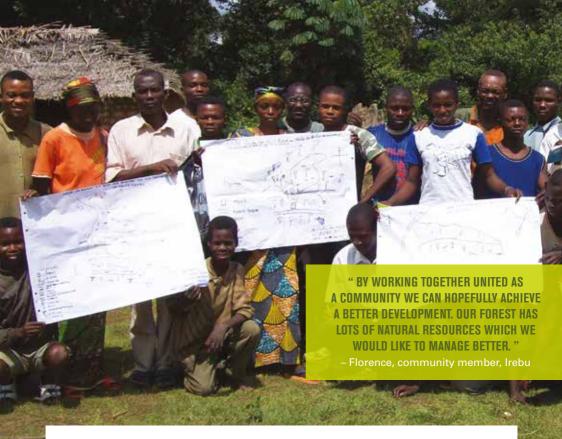
4TH PROVINCIAL ROUNDTABLE

5TH PROVINCIAL ROUNDTABLE

3RD PROVINCIAL ROUNDTABLE



WORKSHOPS AND TRAININGS



















THE RAINFOREST FOUNDATION UK

2-4 The Atelier, The Old Dairy Court 17 Crouch Hill, London, N4 4AP, United Kingdom

Tel +44 (0) 20 7485 0193 Fax +44 (0) 20 7485 0315

SEPTEMBER 2019

MORE INFORMATION AT: WWW.RAINFORESTFOUNDATIONUK.ORG