

STOP TO ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES IN DR-CONGO PROTECTED AREAS

ENGLISH

- *The Presidency of the Democratic Republic of Congo*
- *His Excellency the Prime Minister Chief of Government*
- *His Excellency Vice Prime Minister and Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development in Kinshasa*

- *His Excellency Minister of State in charge of Justice and Keeper of the Seals in Kinshasa.*
- *His Excellency the Minister of Energy*
- *His Excellency Minister of Land Affairs*
- *His Excellency Madam Minister in charge of Mines*
- *The National Assembly*
- *The Senat*
- *Excellencies Governors of the Provinces in the DRC*
- *Provincial governments*
- *The Director General of ICCN in Kinshasa.*
- *The Environment Commission of the National Assembly*
- *CAFI and REDD program partners*
- *Diplomatic delegations in DRC*

On behalf of the of Civil Society NGOs coalition working for the protection of the environment in the Democratic Republic of Congo (ROPE 1), and supported by international civil society organizations alike, allow us to take this opportunity to thank the government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) for its support to nature conservation and the protection of community rights in.

As each of us is aware today, the issues related to the destruction of our ecosystems and protected areas are now major.

Indeed, the DRC is currently home to 42 % of primary forests and it is estimated that over 400 species of mammals. More than 1.000 species of birds, more than 400 species of fish and more than 10.000 species of plants are found on the national territory. In addition to being, by these figures, a planetary, global issue, in a context of climate change and the sixth mass extinction of species, these data must be taken into consideration in a perspective of the political, social and economic trajectory of DRC. It is currently estimated that more than 50 million people in the DRC depend directly for their survival on the good health of ecosystems and the services provided by them. The conservation of the latter is therefore a major stake, at all levels.

However, it is clear that at present, the most important ecosystems of the country, generally included in Protected Areas (PA), and the various ecosystem services delivered by them, are

1 Group of civil society NGOs working for the protection of the environment in the Democratic Republic of Congo

currently under pressure. They are threatened by illegal activities, that are contrary to the development and conservation objectives directly set by the Congolese government but also by many international conventions ratified by the latter². We are thus increasingly witnessing illegal actions aimed at harvesting natural resources within these territories, which conservation services are fighting to protect, under conditions which are generally already particularly difficult. The most glaring example lies in the action of certain mining companies, often foreign. These are unfortunately regularly in collusion with members of the administration or the Congolese army, supposed to guarantee the integrity of this territory and deliverance of public services to Congolese citizens. In addition to directly threatening these areas, these activities regularly fuel, more or less indirectly, mafia activities, including the action of armed groups, thus directly threatening the security and integrity of the areas, and again the protection of vulnerable citizens, local communities and indigenous peoples (IPs) living in direct proximity to these PAs.

Selfish interests of a few thus depend on the well-being or even the survival of the greatest number and this situation is thus totally contrary to the principles of good, responsible, transparent, and inclusive governance, promoted by the authorities of the DR-Congo.

To illustrate our point, it is possible to cite a few concrete examples:

- The exploitation of gold by armed groups using some members of the indigenous Pygmy peoples as a human shields, within Kahuzi Biega National Park (KBNP), a UNESCO World Heritage site ;
- Acts creating oil blocks within Virunga National Park (VINP) , a UNESCO World Heritage site ;
- The hydroelectric project and dam Sombwe to generate electricity for the mining industry within the boundaries of Upemba National Park (UNP) ;
- A seizure of gold by the courts worth about \$ 1.9 million mined by the Chinese company " Kimia Mining " retaining illegal permits within the Okapi Wildlife Reserve (RFO), a UNESCO World Heritage site ;
- Mining by the Chinese supported by the provincial politico-administrative and military authorities, in particular in the territory of Mwenga within the Itombwe Nature Reserve (INR).

These few examples are unfortunately not exhaustive, illustrate the sad observation mentioned above, and today oblige us to raise our voices and send you this letter, in order to ask you to take all the possible arrangements as soon as possible. legal and institutional level in order to stop these unsustainable developments as quickly as possible, especially the mining and all other activities such as infrastructure that are detrimental to the environment and illegally practiced within protected areas and other areas critical for biodiversity.

In addition to taking all possible measures to stop these practices, we also allow ourselves to formulate some more general recommendations that are essential for us to implement in the

² Namely, Law No. 14/003 of February 11, 2014 relating to the conservation of nature in the DRC and Law No. 18/001 of March 9, 2018 amending and supplementing Law No. 007/2002 of July 11, 2002 relating to Mining Code, Law No. 11/009 of July 9, 2011 on fundamental principles relating to the protection of the environment, and general rules on investments, the Constitution in the DRC as well as international conventions such as the Convention on the Biological Diversity (CBD), the Paris Agreement, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and its optional protocol and the IUCN Convention etc.

future, in order to achieve a more equitable, sustainable and inclusive nature protection process for communities living directly in areas with high conservation challenges :

- Stop all mining operations carried out within PAs, in accordance with Law No. 14/003 of February 11, 2014 on nature conservation in the DRC and the mining law on the revised Mining Code of 2018 and No. 11 / 009 of 09 July 2011 on fundamental principles relating to the protection of the environment in the DRC ;
- Carry out the cancellation / Withdrawal / Radiation of the act of approval of companies of any kind whatsoever operating in violation of the rules under penalty of nullity, especially in the case of protected areas ;
- Set up a national commission within the Congolese Institute for the Conservation of Nature (ICCN), to coordinate the participatory and final demarcation of PA boundaries , where this is not yet effective, and this again. in accordance with DRC laws and climate emergency needs ;
- Set up an inter-institutional framework between the various ministries in environmental impact for harmonization and monitoring of compliance in decision-making processes, decentralization and the preparation of documents for national sectoral policies with an impact on the environment ;
- Strengthen political and diplomatic support in terms of supporting PA managers in their technical role and in monitoring the application of the law ;
- Ensure that protected area managers – with support of the body for the protection of national parks and reserves -CorPPN- are provided with the necessary technical and financial means to address armed groups etc.;

We, the signatories of this letter, are convinced that the implementation of the actions listed above will help us support the development process of socio-economic, sustainable, and inclusive development benefiting the largest number of Congolese and thus meeting the support from the various technical and international partners of the DRC such as the EU, USAID and many others.

We ask the government of the RD-Congo to contribute to strengthening the confidence of Congolese citizens and the international community in the Congolese state and its ability to effectively enforce legal provisions, in a context of the need for rapid action, to save global biodiversity and effectively and quickly combat climate change.

No	Organisations	Representative	Country
01	Conseil National de la Jeunesse de la société civile environnementale et Agro Rural du Congo SOCEACURO	BERTIN MBUYA KILABI	RD Congo
02	Réseau de la Jeunesse Congolaise pour la Biodiversité.	YOBA ALENGA Extasié	RD Congo
03	STRONG ROOTS CONGO	DOMINIQUE BIKABA	RD Congo
04	PRIMATES EXPERTISE	Prof BASABOSE Augustin	RD Congo
05	CBCS RDC	Josué ARUNA	RD Congo
06	CBCS & Jeune champion de la nature	Ladislav WITANENE	RD Congo
07	Jeune championne de la nature	Célestine MUFUNGIZI	RD Congo
08	Jeune champion et point focal SOCEARUCO BARAKA	Joseph APOLO	RD Congo
09	S.P : Solidarité Paysanne	Denis KUMBA	RD Congo
10	TRAFFED	Jean Pierre Ibucwa	RD Congo
11	Planète verte RDC	Yves IKOBO	RD Congo
12	AROM-APN	KILUMBA Hali-ya-Mutu Johnny	RD Congo
13	ACODESKI	Mme WABISA KANDOLO Judith	RD Congo
14	ESAF : Environnement Sans Frontière.	Christophe MUNGUAGANZE CIRUMIRA	RD Congo
15	RVV : Revivre MULAMBA	Abbé Gabriel BONGA	RD Congo
16	OSAMIPE	Dada SANGANYI BUNGILILA	RD Congo
17	CBFC	Julie FEZA	RD Congo
18	POPOLI FRATELI	WYLLONDA MALENGA Jean de la Croix	RD Congo
19	E.O.C : Evangelical Orthodox Church	Nestor KABAKWA IDUMBO	RD Congo
20	Humanité Solidaire	Eric Lukeka	RD Congo
21	Jeunes Méthodiste	Delus LUSAMBYA Mwenyebiyake	RD Congo
22	CAFEPADE	CITO MUSHAGALUSA Cyprien	RD Congo
23	Association des peuples autochtones batwa APAB	CISHUGI LUBASI Fabrice	RD Congo
23	AGED : Action pour la Gestion de l'Environnement et Développement Durable	LUSUNGU YALALA	RD Congo
24	ADEPEA	Innocent BAYUBASIRE	RD Congo
25	Action pour l'amélioration de l'habitat AAH-EBIMBO	Deo MUSAFIRI ESONGO	RD Congo
26	AASF BUKAVU	MANASSE LWIMO	RD Congo
27	SAIP asbl	Claude SHAMEO	RD Congo

28	ASPADA : Action Sociales pour Promotion Agricole et Défense des Animaux	SOBANUKA KIGOMBO Prosper	RD Congo
29	ACTIONS SANS FRONTIERE	FIDELE MUCHUNGU	RD Congo
30	Tchabirimu Action	Espérance KAHEMU	RD Congo Nord Kivu
31	ACNDC-asbl	LUGENDO MUSOBOKELWA	RD Congo Nord Kivu
32	PIAP REMAK	KALAFULA	RD Congo
33	AGED	DANIEL MASTAKI	RD Congo
34	ADIC	ZAIRWA BIUTA Jacques	RD Congo
35	A.R.S.F.	Madame Takubusoga Mundjo Bibyche	RD Congo
36	COVIRA	ANZURUNI RUMOREKA Yothamu	RD Congo
37	LUNACOP	MASIMANGO KOSHET	RD Congo
38	SYNELU	FIKIRI MUNYOLOLO	RD Congo
39	PIDP	Diel MOCHIRE MWENGE	RD Congo
40	FDAPID	VICAR BATUNDI	RD Congo
41	RHA	GANG KARUME	RD Congo
42	ARAL	BAUDIN KIPAKA	RD Congo
43	MEPAC	BYAMUNGU BAHATI	RD Congo
44	REESE	Emmanuel NDIMWIZA	RD Congo
45	AJDC	MOISE RIBAKARE	RD Congo
46	UPDDHE	Meschac NAKANYWENGE	RD Congo
47	UFO	Jeanne ABUTOGE	RD Congo
48	YEC	Claudien IRAGI	RD Congo
49	ADAES	Alexandre KYUNGU MUSHETO	RD Congo
50	FAPD	Josaphat KAHEMU	RD Congo
51	AGIR ENSEMBLE	Loris kambere kanyaha	RDC/ Nord kivu
52	DYNAJED	KASEREKA NGUNGU	RD Congo
53	SAK	Bertin SINGIRAKABO	RD Congo
54	VAM	Ephrem BUSHA	RD Congo
55	PRODDHDO	Muhindo DUNGA	RD Congo
56	PALPER asbl-RDC	NDUSHABANDI MASHAGIRO Martin	RD Congo
57	RTEDH	Augustin PALUKU	RD Congo
58	SYFUDP	KASEREKA MAOMBI Joséphine	RD Congo
59	RACOD	Paulin BARANGIRANA BWENGE	RD Congo
60	RADIO COMMUNAUTAIRE LA VERITE	MOUSSA DUNIA	RD Congo

61	AfricaReconciled	MUGISHO CINYABUGUMA Emmanuel	RD Congo
62	R.C.O asbl	Jean-Claude BELABEA	RD Congo
63	ADPR-RDC asbl	BAHATI Denis	RD Congo
64	OAD-RDC	HABUMUGISHA NTAMUGABUMWA	RD Congo
65	Groupe de planteurs d'abres	JEAN MALENGELA	RD Congo
66	YCFA asbl	Mr ZOBENAT Muhundo KAMUHA	RD Congo
67	AJVDC	MUTABESHA	RD Congo
68	LINAPYCO	MBILIZI Fidele	RD Congo
69	IFDP	Floribert MUTIKI	RD Congo
70	FODI	Maurice NSASE	RD Congo
71	CREDDHO (Droits Humains, environnement) Nord Kivu	Florence	RD Congo
71	AASF GRAND KATANGA	Alixis MBUMB KAZEMB	RD Congo
72	SAIFE	EMAIRANCE MASOKA	RD Congo
73	AODECO	SOMBO MUSOGA Justin	RD Congo
74	GRAMENA	BONANE WILONJA Freddy	RD Congo
75	AEPCO	BARUTI MILENGEATHANASE	RD Congo
76	PIFEVA	Véronique BULAYA	RD Congo
77	GRADECON	SONGA MYANGO	RD Congo
78	EST	Jean Marie MANGAYA	RD Congo
79	SORADEC	Espoir SHEKIHUMI	RD Congo
80	UFAREP	Janvier KAIKOLO	RD Congo
81	RCGW	Kisuba Muliro Rousseau	RD Congo
82	IDPE	Bantu Lukambo	RD Congo
83	SVAN	Masika Tulinabo	RD Congo
84	Synergie Jeune	Samson Rukira	RD Congo
85	COPEILE	Josué Mukura	RD Congo
86	AFRO RDC	FIDELE MUCHUNGU	RD Congo
87	PLANETE JEUNE	HENRI CHAKIRWA	RD Congo
88	SIDESHA ASBL	Théophile KILUWE	RD Congo
89	Actions de Solidarité (AS)	Joséphine SYNDANO	RD Congo
90	ACMEJ	ERIC MOVOMO	RD Congo
91	COUD	Christian BALOLEBWAMI	RD Congo
92	ADPF	MAOMBI WISSOBA	RD Congo
93	ALEFEM	BULAMBO MAWAZO Françoise	RD Congo
94	ADFEM	ZITHA MILENGE	RD Congo
95	ASPI	MUKUNDA MWOTELWA Innocent	RD Congo
96	ACODEPAMRU	MANENO MANDA	RD Congo

97	APADEM	MUNDJUNDJU MOKA	RD Congo
98	APDC	WASOLU Dieudonné	RD Congo
99	COOPROCOKA	TAMBWE NDJUNGU Albert	RD Congo
100	APAK	WAKILONGO NGOMU Portas	RD Congo
101	SOADI	ATUMISI MUBANGU	RD Congo
102	ADEPDH Rutshuru	Paluku Lwalegha	RD Congo
103	FAEMER	Past BAZIYAZA IZUBA	RD Congo
104	TRAFFED	ASHA IBUCWA ELIANNE	RD Congo
105	AODECO	SOMBO MUSOGA Justin	RD Congo
106	AEPCO	BARUTI MILENGEATHANASE	RD Congo
107	CAN	MURHULA BALEZI Pascal	RD Congo
108	FCPEEP	Maitre John CIZA	RD Congo
109	CEPED	Eddy KAMBALE	RD Congo
110	ACEDH	Olivier Ndoole	RD Congo
111	JUSTICIA	Timothée MBUYA	RD Congo
112	GRUWA	Jonas MULUMBA	RD Congo
113	PPJI	SAMMY TAKIMBULA	RD Congo
114	ADEKA (Association pour le Développement de KANSANZA/SHABUNDA)	MUSIGILWA SINABANTU SIMON	RD Congo
115	CADE	Augustin KAHUGUBA OHUNAMUNGU	RD Congo
116	Plate-forme des Energies Nouvelles et Renouvelables à l'Est de la RDC	Jean Pierre IBUCWA LIPANDA	RD Congo
117	ESAF	Alfred SHUKURU	RD Congo
118	Mbou-Mon-Tour (MMT)	BOKIKA NGAWOLO Jean-Christophe	RD Congo
119	BUCODAC	MTO WA SOKYE Wells	RD Congo
120	ADMR	Désiré Wilondja	RD Congo
121	AFEDEM	Christian ZIHINDULA	RD Congo
122	Research centre for environmental planning RCEP GOMA	Péguy Emmanuel	RD Congo
123	Mouvement de jeunes pour la protection de l'environnement MJPE asbl	Bonaventure BONDO	RD Congo
124	Action féminine pour l'alimentation AFAL	CECILE MUTUGA	RD Congo
125	Research centre for environmental planning RCEP GOMA	Marie Paul BAMBAGA	RD Congo
126	Climate Change Africa Opportunities CCAO	Tresor BADISUNGU	RD Congo
127	Action des volontaires d'innovation pour le développement AVID asbl	Sylvin TUNGA	RD Congo
128	Mouvement Citoyen Casque Vert	Josaphat RUBENGA	RD Congo

129	Association Guineenne pour la promotion des énergies renouvelables AGUIPER	Aissatou Billy SOW	GUINEE
130	Association des jeunes engagés pour la transition écologique AJENTE	Williams KAPAMBU	RD Congo
131	CRSM Asbl	Vianney KAGAMBA	RD Congo
132	Emoyo Yefwe International	Luke KAPCHANGA	KENYA
133	Jeunes Engagés pour le Développement Durable OJEDD	BIEN VENU BOLA	RD Congo
134	COPAJE-AF (Conseil Promotionnel pour l'Action des jeunes en Afrique	Joseph MUSAMBYA	RD Congo
135	New Vision in World NVW	Sagesse BUREGEYA	RD Congo
136	SOPDKA	David SAFARI	RD Congo
137	AGDBI	Eugene	RD Congo
138	Vision Féminine pour le Développement Endogène VIFEDE-Kinshasa	Henriette EA	RD Congo
139	Action Communautaire pour le Développement et la conservation ACDC-asbl	Beni HYANGYA LWIKITCHA	RD Congo
140	Union des Peuples pour la Paix et le Développement Endogène UPADE asbl	Pardo MWETANINWA	RD Congo
141	RCO/RGPU asbl	Jean Claude Ngoy	RD Congo
142	Action pour le Développement, l'Education Civique et la Défense des Droits humains « ADEC/DDH »	KARPATE TULINABO	RD Congo
143	Action solidaire pour les jeunes et l'Environnement durable « ASOJED »	Norbert SIVANZIRE	RD Congo Nor-Kivu
144	Carrefour d'Opinion sur la Protection de l'Environnement « COPE,asbl »	Franklin BUKUHI	RD Congo Nor-Kivu
145	Enable The Disable Action « EDA ONGD »	Sylvain OBEDI	RD Congo
146	PANORAMA des jeunes de Vitshumbi	Romeo SIKIMINYWA	RD Congo Nor-Kivu
147	Programme d'Action de Développement Rural « PADERU »	Justin MASHAURI	RD Congo Nor-Kivu
148	Umoja wa Wamama wa Ziwa Edouard « UWAZE, asbl »	KAVIRA KAHAMBU	RD Congo Nor-Kivu
149	Syndicat des Armateurs Pêcheurs Individuels, Artisans et Environnementalistes de Vitshumbi « SAPIAEVI »	Shadrack BUNOKA	RD Congo Nor-Kivu
150	AAST, Action d'aides aux survivants de la torture,	Evariste OMARI	RD Congo

151	ACIDH, Action Contre l'Impunité pour les Droits de l'Homme	Me Donat Bella	RD Congo
152	ADH, Association pour les Droits Humanitaires,	Bernard KAKULU	RD Congo
153	ADID, Association pour le développement intégré et durable	Martin NAWAJ	RD Congo
154	AFREWATCH, African Resources Watch	Mr Richard MUKENA	RD Congo
155	AIDEF, Association Internationale pour les Droits de l'Enfant et de la Femme,	Jean Pierre TSHIBITSHABU	RD Congo
156	AMA, Afia Mama/Grand Katanga	Me Christelle TSHAMALA	RD Congo
157	ARD, Actions Rapides pour le Développement,	Bertin TSHOZ	RD Congo
158	ASADHO/Haut-Katanga	Jean Claude BAKA	RD Congo
159	ASDEF, Association pour la santé et développement de l'enfant et la femme	Mme Dorcas TSHIKA	RD Congo
160	CEIPDHO, Centre International de Promotion de Développement et des Droits de l'Homme	Ir. Jean Paul TSHITSHIMBI	RD Congo
161	CDHD : Centre de défense des Droits de l'homme et Démocratie	Christian ALUBATI	RD Congo
162	COSCCET, Comité de Suivi pour la Contribution des Communautés et Eglises à la Transformation Humaine	Père Angelos	RD Congo
163	GD, Génération Déterminée,	Francois BIYOMBO	RD Congo
164	GANVE, Groupe d'Actions Non-violence Evangélique	Réné NTUMBA	RD Congo
165	FILIMBI/ Katanga	Bienvenu MATANDA	RD Congo
166	JED/Haut-katanga, Journalistes en danger	Sylvie MANDA	RD Congo
167	JUSTICIA Asbl	Maitre Timothée MBUYA	RD Congo
168	LIC/RDC, Ligue Internationale des Conseillers	Jonathan LUMBALA	RD Congo
169	LIDDM: Ligue des défenseurs des droits des malades	Dr Michel MUTEBA	RD Congo
170	LINAPEDHO/Kilwa	Michel YANGI	RD Congo
171	Save Virunga	Mutiple Persons	RD Congo
172	MDR, Mouvement pour les Droits de l'homme et Réconciliation	Me David ILUNGA	RD Congo

173	NDSCI, Nouvelle Dynamique de la Société Civile en RDC/Grand Katanga	Gaspard KAHENGA	RD Congo
174	NDS, Nouvelle dynamique syndicale	Anne Marie MABO	RD Congo
175	OBEAC, Organisation pour le bien être des albinos au Congo,	Simon KALENGA	RD Congo
176	PSF, Psychologues sans Frontières	Psychologues sans frontières	RD Congo
177	UNPC/Katanga, Union Nationale de la presse du Congo	Mariam MULAND	RD Congo
178	UNEF, Union des écologistes Forestiers	KUT-A KUT	RD Congo
179	Forum des Engagés pour le Développement Durable "FORED"	John LUFUKARIBU	RD Congo ITURI
180	JUSTICE-PLUS / JP	Xavier MACKY	RD Congo ITURI
181	ASSOCIATION COOPERATIVE VIE FUTURE "ACOOVF"	GUBENGA ASIMWE Seraphim	RD Congo ITURI
182	CPIDI	Evariste Kirere	RD Congo ITURI
183	ASSOCIATION DES FILLES MERES "AFM"	MBABAZI DHEVE Julienne	RD Congo ITURI
184	FEDERATION DES COMITES DES PECHEURS DU LAC ALBERT "FECOPELA"	MOISE UWECI WELE	RD Congo ITURI
185	ACTION HUMANITAIRE POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE "AHDD"	JOHNSON RISQUANT KASIKA	RD Congo ITURI
186	SEPD	FARUKU ABASI	Nord Kivu
187	GRANS ACTION POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT "GAD"	MUHSA K. DESIRE	RD Congo ITURI
188	WORLD PEACE PROTECTION "WPP"	Arsène KALALA MUKENDI	RD Congo ITURI
189	ASSOCIATION DES MAMANS POUR LA LUTTE CONTRE LES TRAUMATISMES "AMALUT"	RACIW MODESTINE	RD Congo ITURI
190	ONEF	Samuel BATALINGAYA	RD Congo ITURI
191	FONDATION DEL'EST DES JEUNES ENTREPRENEURS DU CONGO "FEJEC"	MBEO MASTAKI	RD Congo ITURI
192	SECONDE CHANCE	MORISHO	RD Congo ITURI

