



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO
ENVIRONMENTAL CIVIL SOCIETY



Renovated REDD+ Climate Working Group, "RRCWG"
NATIONAL COORDINATION

**MEMORANDUM ADDRESSED
TO THE STATES PARTIES TO THE COP 27
IN SHARM EL SHEIKH IN EGYPT**



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The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is the largest country in Central Africa. It is home to the largest share of tropical forests on the African continent, with more than 155 million hectares of forests rich in highly endemic biodiversity. However, like all the other countries in the world; the DRC is impacted by climate change. It can, however, cope with this scourge because it possesses exceptional natural resources, such as mangroves, forests, peatlands, freshwater resources and strategic minerals. These are “natural response” to climate problems. As such, DRC considers that it is “A SOLUTION COUNTRY” to the climate crisis. It is in this capacity that it participates each year in the session of the Conference of the Parties (COPs) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) because it wants to contribute to solving the climate challenge.

At COP 15 in Copenhagen, State parties made several commitments to support adaptation to the effects of climate change. Further commitments were made in the Paris Agreement on climate change of 2015 and the Glasgow Pact adopted in 2021. However, the pledges or commitments made by the State parties have not been fully met.

Nevertheless, following the review of its National Determined Contribution (NDC) with collaboration of environmental civil society organizations and its submission to the UNFCCC Secretariat, the Congolese Government has made efforts to mitigate the impacts of climate change, including by :

- Developing a roadmap for the implementation of its revised NDC
- Launching wetland and peatland conservation initiatives
- Securing community lands, conserving and regenerating forests through community forestry (CF) offering an opportunity for communities to improve their livelihoods
- Drafting a law protecting and promoting the rights of Indigenous Pygmy Peoples
- Making efforts to secure land rights for women





However, a gap persists in terms of the availability of financial resources to support the adaptation of local communities and indigenous pygmy peoples specially women and youths; who are the most vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change (disruption of the water cycle, floods, health of populations, food insecurity, access to energy, etc.).

As a result, on 26 October 2022, the environmental civil society organizations of DRC gathered within the Renovated REDD+ Climate Working Group (GTCRR) in collaboration with one of its members, the “Cercle pour la Défense de l’Environnement (CEDEN)” drew up an inventory and analysed the commitments made in the “Paris Rulebook” and the “Glasgow Pact.”¹ They made the following recommendations to the UNFCCC parties :

1 To States Parties to the UNFCCC :

- assess the level of compliance of the various parties with the commitments made at previous COPs
- develop win-win partnerships that can enhance human capital and benefit local communities and indigenous pygmy peoples through the development of income-generating activities and the establishment of effective control mechanisms through better decentralization and empowerment of basic structures
- support/finance multidisciplinary scientific research and provide equipment and infrastructure for research support structures in tropical forest countries and more particularly Congo Basin countries
- improve the governance of protected areas, among other things, through participatory management, effective implementation of management plans, and improvement of the living conditions of local populations through the equitable sharing of benefits
- involve local communities and indigenous pygmy peoples as stakeholders in the development of energy systems
- promote the rights of local communities and indigenous pygmy peoples to invest in renewable energies. As such, guarantee them the rights to access all energy markets, directly or via third parties
- request a basis for establishing national energy legal frameworks favourable to local communities and indigenous pygmy peoples, based on national assessments.

1 These two texts come from the last Conference of the Parties on climate (COP 26)

2 To Technical and Financial partners :

- define flexible, transparent and accessible funding mechanisms for local communities, indigenous pygmy peoples, and youth and women's organizations for adaptation to climate change
- compensate the conservation efforts of community initiatives developed by youth, women and indigenous pygmy peoples
- technically and financially support the implementation of innovative community initiatives for adaptation and mitigation of the effects of climate change, in particular those of "community carbon" developed in simple management plans
- provide climate finance for forests that is predictable and ensures climate justice
- guarantee payments for environmental services supporting the efforts of local communities and indigenous pygmy peoples in the fight against climate change
- finance initiatives for the development of renewable energies in developing countries as part of adaptation efforts.

3 To polluting countries :

to respect the commitments made in relation to contributions to mitigation and adaptation efforts for the benefit of developing countries, including those of the Congo Basin, more specifically DRC.

4 To the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo :

to practise a governance that makes resources profitable at the national and international level for the benefit of local communities and indigenous Pygmy peoples through payment for environmental services.

Done in Kinshasa, 2 November 2022