

# Country Profile: Republic of Congo



Image by US FWS / Flickr

## OVERVIEW

**Project Title:** Strengthening the Management of Wildlife and Improving Livelihoods in Northern Republic of Congo

**Project Sites:** Nouabale-Ndoki National Park, Ntokou Pikounda National Park

**Species Focus:** Elephants, Silverback Gorilla

**Total Project Cost:** \$6.5 million

**Executing Partner:** Ministry of Forest Economy, Sustainable Development and Environment

**GEF Implementing Agency:** World Bank

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## CONTEXT

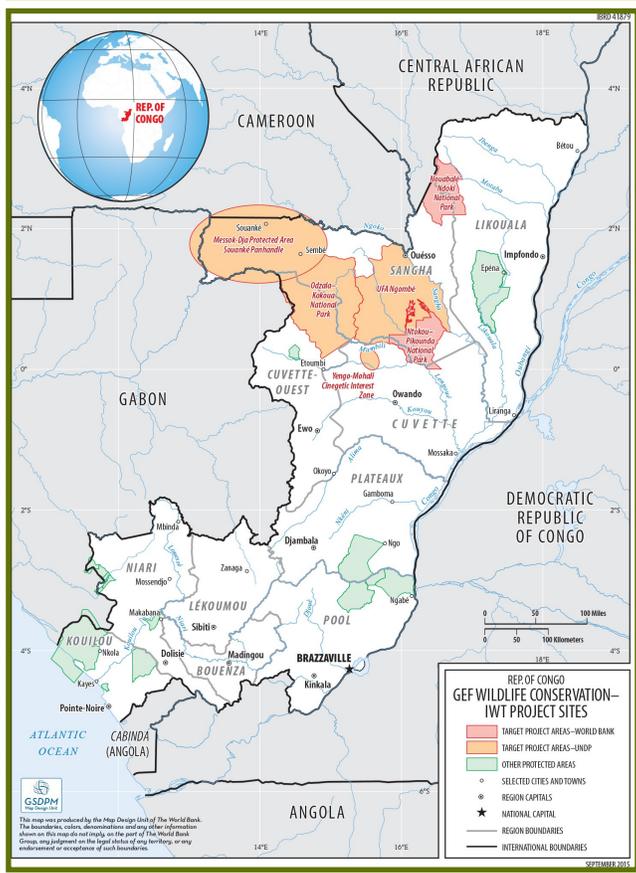
Congo's forest biodiversity is one of the richest and most biologically important on the planet. Around 65% of the country is covered by lowland tropical forests which possess a wealth of biodiversity including forest elephants and leopards and are important sources of income and livelihood products for many local communities and indigenous peoples. However, these rich biological resources are under threat from unregulated activities. Forest habitats are being fragmented and destroyed due to unregulated forestry and the uncontrolled harvesting of non-timber forest products. Commercial logging opens up formerly inaccessible forest, which perpetuates the decline of wildlife populations from unsustainable hunting to supply the bushmeat trade and illegal income generation from illegal wildlife trade and commercial hunting.

The Congolese government has made significant contributions towards protecting the forest by creating national parks. Ongoing conservation efforts include establishment of a National Elephant Action Plan (NEAP)/National Ivory Action Plan (NIAP), the priorities for protection of twelve trans-boundary conservation areas through the "Plan de Convergence", the regional trans-boundary biodiversity efforts focused in the Tri-national Sangha region. ICCWC recently identified and completed priority interventions that will be incorporated

## PROJECT COMPONENTS

The GWP Congo project aims to improve wildlife management in northern Republic of Congo and to protect habitats while improving local livelihoods. The project components are:

1. Capacity building and institutional strengthening
2. Involvement of local communities and indigenous people in forest resource management
3. Habitat and biodiversity conservation



See the World Bank website for more information: [Global Wildlife Program](#)