

Sustainable Community Forest Management

*By Elikia Zahinda Amani
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DR Congo*



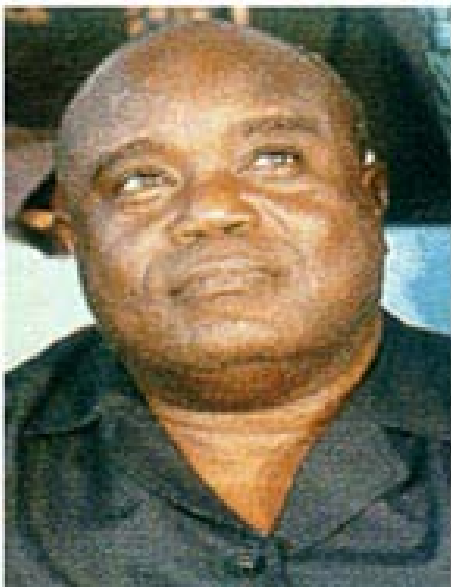
Democratic Republic of Congo

- The DR Congo is located in central Africa
 - Surface area of 2,345,000 km² (905,354 sq mi)
 - Population = 68 million
 - It is the third largest country (by area) in Africa
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- Oregon is 1/9 the size of Congo (98,386 sq mi)
 - Population= 3 million

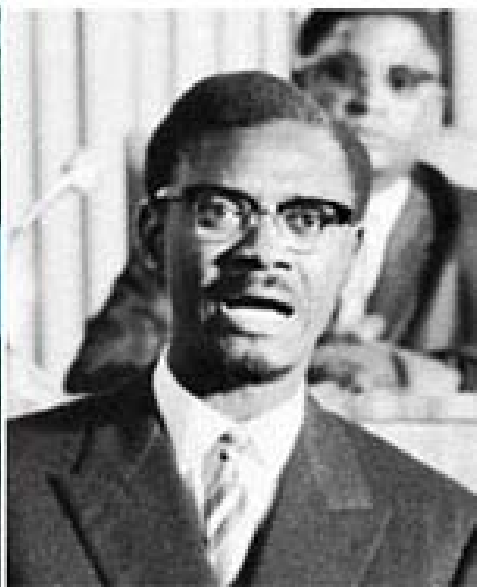


Brief history

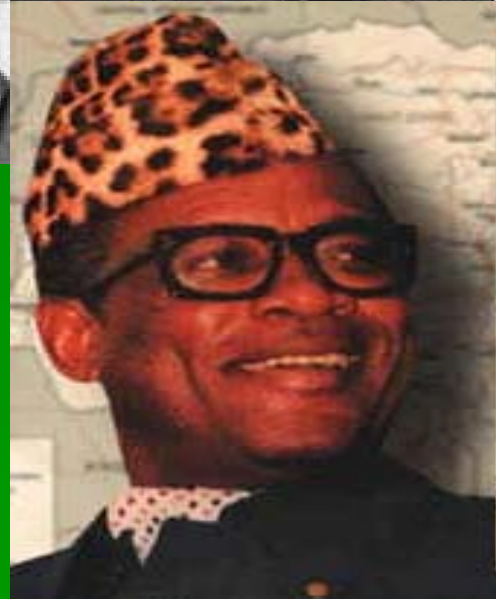
Mzee Kabilia



Lumumba



President Kabilia



Mobutu

DRC Statistics

- GDP per person = \$300 per capita
- 250 ethnic groups
- Languages: mainly French and Kikongo, Tshiluba, Swahili, and Lingala.
- 80% Christian
- Literacy Rate: **67%**
- **< 30%** of homes have electricity (fuelwood demand is high)
- **59%** of population below international poverty line of US\$1.25 per day (2005)



Natural resources

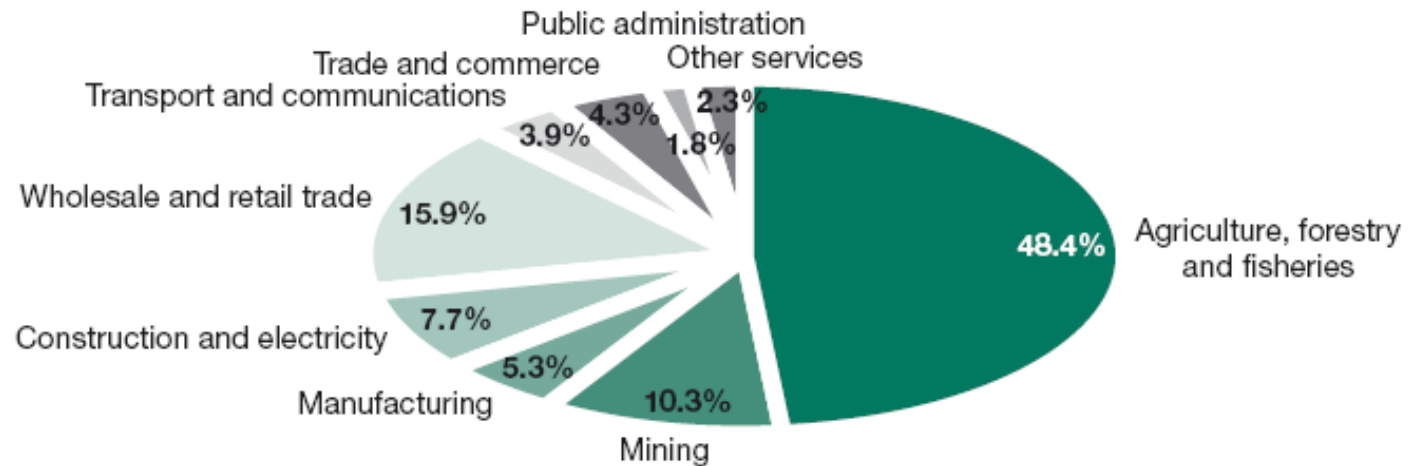
- DRC has huge deposits of diamond, copper and coltan - important in the production of high-tech goods
- Five national parks are listed by Unesco as World Heritage Sites. These are under threat from wars and mining.
- Wildlife include mountain gorillas, savannah giraffes and the rare white rhino.



Source: BBC



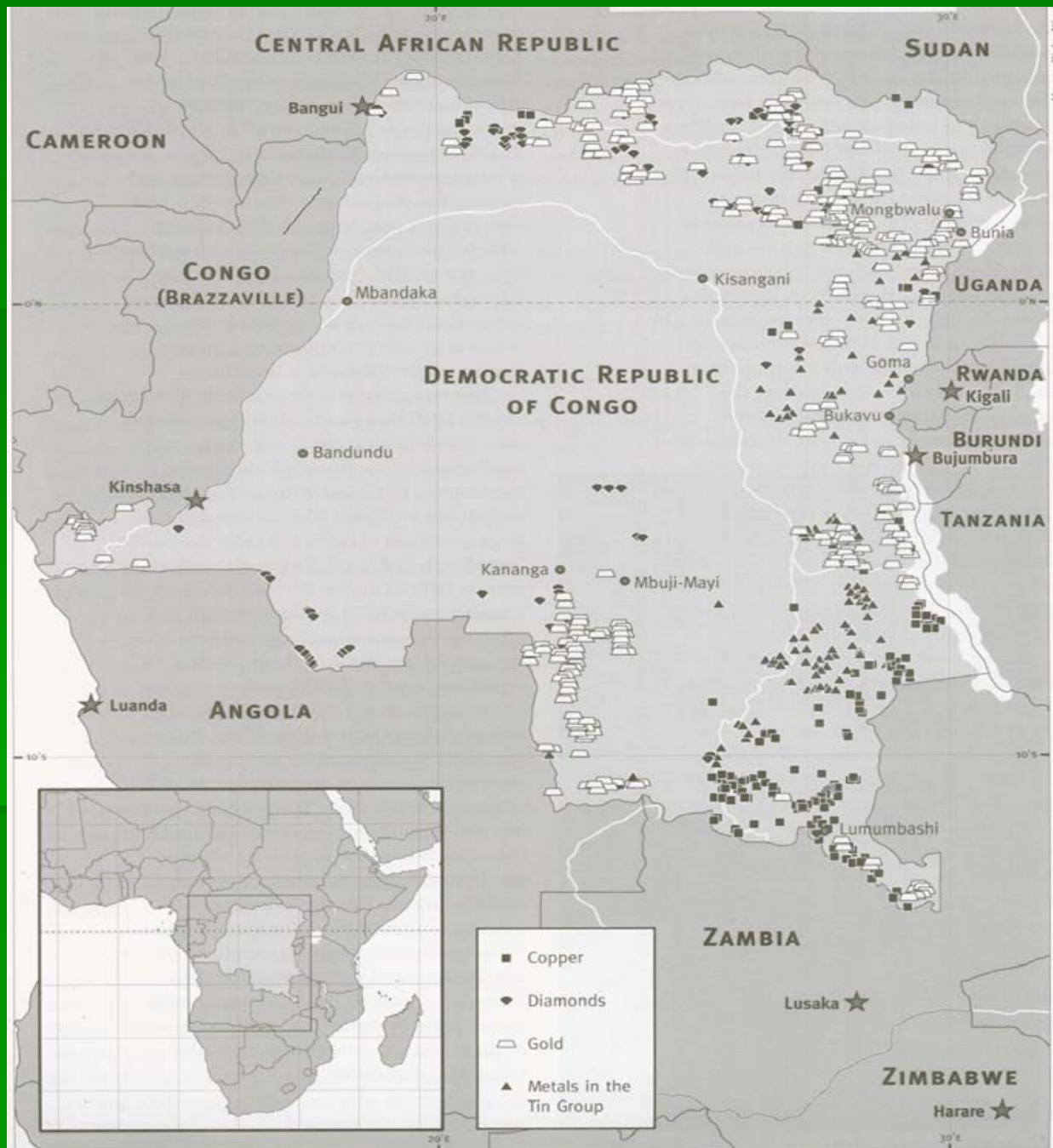
Figure 2 - GDP by Sector in 2004 (percentage)



Inga dam on Congo River - hydroelectric power



The DRC is
very rich!



Natural resources

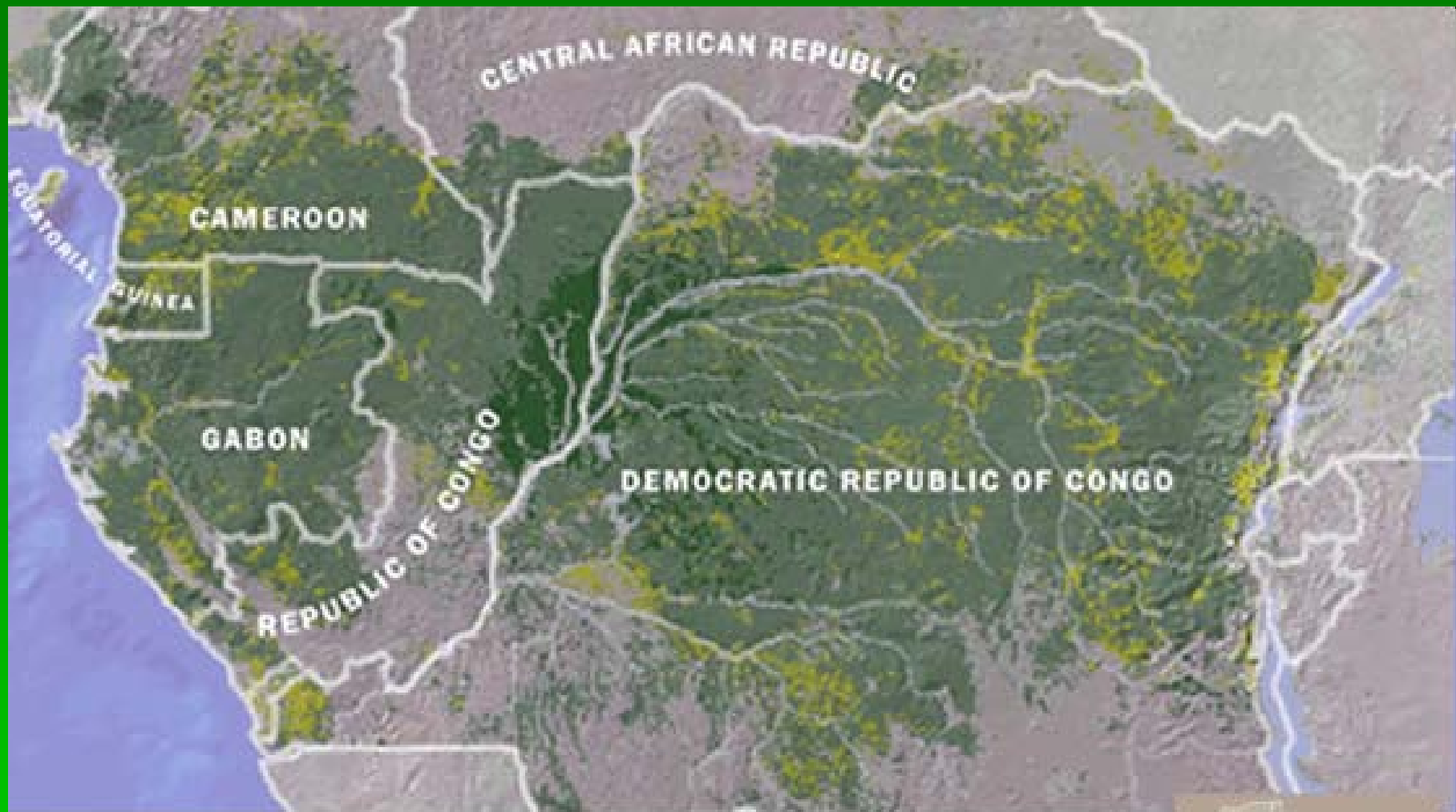
- DR Congo is one of the most biologically important countries in Africa, with the greatest extent of tropical rainforests in Africa, covering more than 100 million hectares.
- More than 50% of the land area is covered by tropical rainforests, which are the second world lung.
- The forests in the east are amazingly diverse as one of the few forest areas in Africa to have survived the ice age.

Forest Types of DRC



Itombwe forest

- **Total forest area in DR Congo:** 133,610,000 ha (58.9% of land area)
- DR Congo covers 50% of the tropical rainforest that occurs in all of the Congo Basin.
- Forest types include:
 - virgin forest, savannah, mangrove forest...
 - Primary forest, Modified natural (human influence), Semi-natural (reforested), Production plantation



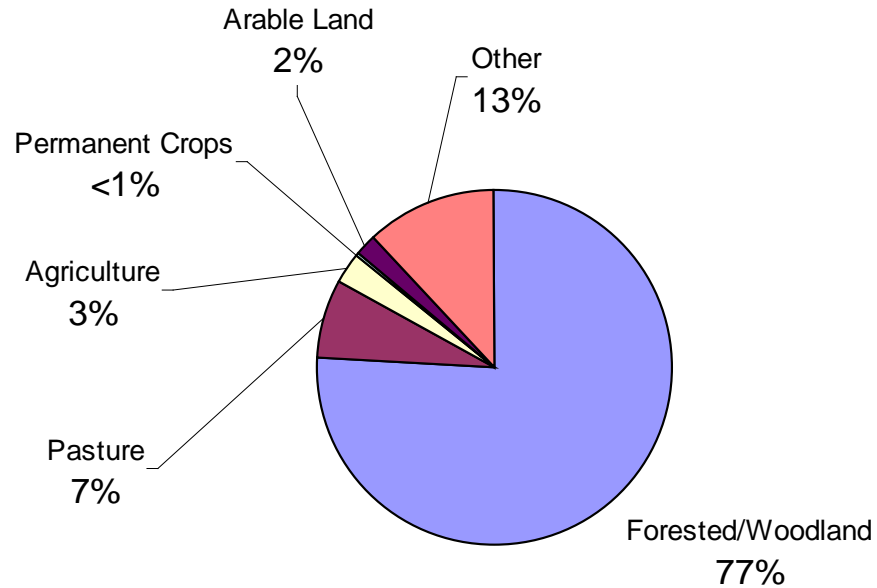
- Swamp forest
- Lowland forest
- Secondary forest

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www.cbfp.org



Land use

Estimated Land Use in DR Congo (1993)



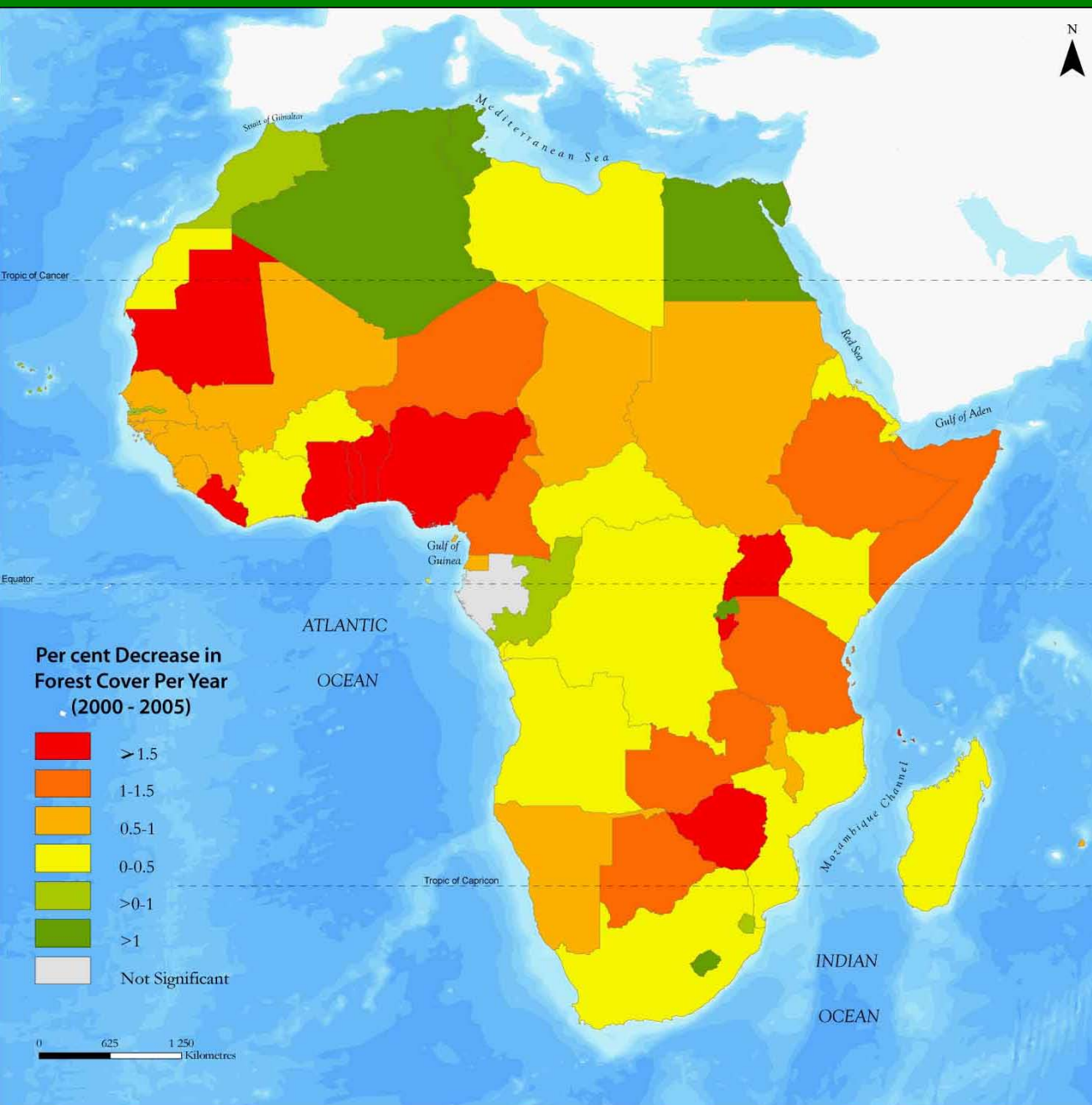
Satellite image of DR Congo

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography_of_the_Democratic_Republic_of_the_Congo

Forests in DR Congo

- Accurate statistics of forests in DR Congo are not easy to find because of the destruction of documentation during more than ten years of war.
- Some forests, where we have enough data, are protected areas
- At the present, protected areas account for 10.4% of the national surface area-- 7 National Parks and 70 Related Reserves. The objective of our country is to widen this area from 10 to 15% of the Territory.





- DRC lacks reliable national statistics on forest change, but is estimated to have lost an average of 319,000 hectares of forest (0.2%) each year between 2000 and 2005

- Compared to other parts of Africa, forest cover in DRC has not declined much

Forest ownership

- Timber concessions are allocated to companies from Liechtenstein, Portugal, China, and India (Illegal logging)

Comparison of the area of industrial concessions and community forestland

| Pacific Northwest – Oregon | | | Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|---|--|----------------|---|
| <u>Public</u> | <u>Private</u> | <u>Observations</u> | <u>Public</u> | <u>Private</u> | <u>Observations</u> |
| 65% | 35% | Private forestland owners have a good portion of forestland | 100% | 0% | Nearly all of the 133,610,000 ha belong to the government |

Forest industries

- Now, a bigger threat to the tropical forest are the national and international companies which are cutting them down massively.
- Forescom (Public company)
- Enzyme Refiners Association (Enra, is private)
- The government, working with national and international NGOs are actively pursuing forest certification in order to reduce illegal logging.

Timber in different stages of the export process in the Republic of Congo.

Photo by Mr. Moussoki.

www.landcoalition.org/cpl-blog/?tag=gabon



Forests and Cultures

- Beyond their culture, the Congolese are naturally forest conservationists.
- There are more than 450 tribes in the DRCongo , and each tribe has its animal or tree totem or prohibited things in their culture, meaning a species that one cannot destroy.
- It means that each day of the year a species is protected by a Congolese tribe.

Forests and cultures

- Historically, Pygmies (natives) lived in and off of the forest, hunting animals for food and using non-timber forest products such as honey.
- The establishment of national parks forced the pygmies to relocate outside of forests, and into a life of farming.
- Particular attention must be focused on this group as their livelihoods are so closely tied to the forest.



blog.canpan.info/tnf/archive/38

DR Congo Pygmies



“It is sad if we are denying these people their right to their property”

Major threats to forests



- Illegal logging by small-scale (1-2 person) operations for commercial reasons (sell wood for lumber and fuel)
- Farming—70 million ha have been brought into cultivation, at a rate of 4 mil ha per year.
- Congo Basin is the commercial bushmeat trade, which is often linked to the arrival of logging roads and workers in remote areas.

Threats



Threats



Photo: Mitch Eaton

Ecosystem Health

Bushmeat



Photo: Hilde van Leuwe



War



Clearing a forest for farming in the DRC

Threats

- The poverty of the people living around the forests makes them destroy the forest resources for money and fuel.
- Mining activities lead to polluted streams and runoff into the forests.
- Bad agricultural practices –such as slash and burn.
- The lack of information and feeble training of the population (illiteracy) in conservation.

My region: South-Kivu

- South-Kivu is the province where the demographic pressure has 400 persons per km²
- The forests have almost disappeared.
- The hills are deforested and the soil is impoverished.
- Climate change is evident in this area.



South-Kivu (Bukavu City)



South-Kivu (Bukavu City)



Why change is important

- Improved livelihood of communities that use forest resources
- Conservation of tropical rainforest
- Needs to be incentive for conservation of forest resources



Batwa (pygmy) women(Kahuzi Biega Park)



Some corrective measures

- Intensify reforestation and increase respect of forests.
- School attendance of youth and adults to improve literacy.
- Improved economic opportunities near communities surrounding the forests.
- Review of the laws concerning conservation.

Congolese Foresters Network, NGO to educate and promote

- **Mission.**

Monitoring of the trends of the Tropical Rainforest resources in DR Congo.

Conservation of the Tropical Rainforest biodiversity

Preserving the Tropical Rainforest

Fighting against the Global Warming (Climate Change).

- **Goal.**

Fighting against the climate change and improving the Human Beings life by the Sustainable Forest Management Practices.

- **Audience.**

Local Communities (in the villages and Bukavu City), underprivileged local communities surrounding the forests and pygmies , and Associations Partnership.

WFI Fellowship

- Forest management and conservation practices in the PNW
 - Literature review
 - Site visits
 - Interviews
 - Conference attendance



Technology Transfer

- Processes that can be applied in DR Congo
 - Forest management plans
 - Educational materials
 - Standards of forest management



Additional Methods

- Development of partnerships
 - PLD Kivu (micro-finance NGO)
- ISO (International Organization for Standardization)
 - FSC (Forest Stewardship Council)
 - USFS International Program
- Education and inspiration of youth and local communities

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

*MERCI BEAUCOUP A
TOUS!*

