

# CLIMATE ACTION IN

# DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

## Country context

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has placed strong emphasis on economic growth and sustainable development, in order to more effectively harness its vast resources and human potential.

Prior to the start of the Low Emission Capacity Building (LECB) project in 2012, a National Programme of Action (developed in 2006) was in place, and the French Development Agency (AFD) was supporting the elaboration of a National Climate Plan. At that time, the REDD+ strategy (to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries) was the dominant focus, given that DRC has the largest forested area in Africa, with the potential to attract climate finance by addressing the key drivers to deforestation. A single Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) project was also in place, and the government was considering hydropower to provide energy access.

By 2012, DRC's carbon balance was under threat from rapid population growth, urbanization, growth in the mining and forestry sectors, reliance on wood as a primary energy source, and expansion of agriculture. These factors necessitated the **elaboration of an active strategy and policy on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions, together with adaptation programmes to address sustainable development demands.**

The specific objectives of LECB in DRC were to define and validate Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) in the agriculture and energy sectors; to drive the integration of climate issues into the relevant sectoral strategies; and to support the development of a Low Emission Development Strategy (LEDS) for the country.



# LECB DRC at a glance



## Total financing

USD \$ 1,061,159

5

## Timeframe

5 years (2012–2016)



## Sectors

Energy, transport, waste, agriculture, industry



## Counterparts

Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Energy



## Thematic areas

- Institutional frameworks
- GHG inventory systems
- NAMAs
- LEDS
- INDC support
- MRV systems
- Private sector involvement
- Climate finance

## LECB AFRICA

### Established national GHG inventory system

The establishment of a robust emissions inventory system at a national level benefited from the documentation and archiving of the GHG national inventory system, the analysis of key categories to be included in the system, an improvement of the inventory strategy and of data collection agreements, all supported by the LECB project. In addition, the United Nations' REDD+ programme supported the elaboration of an improved forest inventory. These led to significant successes in terms of improved data collection, a well-defined strategy for future inventories and a concrete system to build upon.

31

### Technical Working Group meetings

trainings and workshops were held, covering the four components of the project: improving the GHG inventories system; NAMAs formulation; development of MRV systems and a national LEDS.

### Development of a national LEDS

DRC's LEDS lays out mitigation measures that should be integrated in the development strategies of all the sectors of the economy with a particular focus on agriculture, energy and forestry; the three sectors that account for 99% of the country's GHG emissions. The development of the LEDS was a core component of the LECB project. The LEDS is intended to be used hand-in-hand with the National Development Strategy to guide national development and growth for the foreseeable future.

### Development of a MRV system for each NAMA

LECB supported the development of appropriate Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) frameworks for each NAMA. It started with the design of Sectoral Presentation Forms to allow sectors to report in a standardized format and culminated in a MRV framework, which was developed and validated by the sectoral stakeholders.

2

### NAMAs

and associated MRV systems formulated, for the agriculture and energy sectors

# RESULTS

### Formulation of NAMAs for the agriculture and energy sectors

LECB emphasized capacity development and engagement through two NAMA technical working groups (TWGs) for energy and agriculture, established as part of the project. The working groups identified a list of 33 NAMA ideas in the sectors of agriculture, energy, transport, waste, and construction, and prioritized them for the short, medium and long-term. Ultimately, two NAMAs were identified for full development: a sustainable charcoal production NAMA, to reduce reliance on wood energy, and a NAMA for the capture of methane as an alternative to fuel oil. The DRC team, through these working groups also contributed to an update of the country's Atlas of Renewable Energy Sources – the first of its kind in Africa.

+40

### national experts from 13 government ministries

academia, civil society and the private sector, participated in an intensive, hands-on training on NAMAs with the objective of capacitating national stakeholders to actively contribute to DRCs low emission development pathway.

## Input into the Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC)

The country's INDC pivots around three key emissions sectors: forestry, energy and agriculture. Given its unique flexibility and history as a convening entity LECB was able to contribute to the development of the INDC by identifying and prioritizing the projects included in the INDC, with special consideration given to the deep, structural causes of deforestation, such as forest clearing for agricultural production, and the heavy reliance on wood as cooking fuel by Congolese households.

# IMPACTS



### Ability to develop climate policies with reliable GHG emission data

The planning infrastructure, developed through LECB, is evidenced by a GHG national inventory system with trained staff and reliable systems for compiling GHG inventories and documenting and archiving GHG inventory data. This infrastructure supported the formulation of the Third National Communication, the Sustainable Energy for All policy and the NDC. The TWGs will continue to provide a platform for cross-sectoral working on climate action.



### Long-term visioning embedded into national planning

The LECB project influenced national development planners involved with the National Development Plan to take a long-term view in developing a road map on projections for per capita gross domestic product (GDP) growth up to 2100. The project also advocated strongly for the inclusion of low emission development indicators into a preliminary version of the National Development Strategy in the first half of 2016.



## General overview of the UNDP Low Emission Capacity Building Programme

Since its inception, the UNDP LECB programme has paved the way for effective and lasting climate action. Focusing specifically on essential building blocks such as strengthening GHG inventory data and systems; formalization of institutional arrangement for climate actions; development and alignment of low emission development strategies (LEDS); and the creation of Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs), LECB provided much of the enabling environment necessary for countries to respond quickly to emerging needs, such as the submission of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) and socialization of the Paris Agreement. Given its flexible nature and strong country ownership, often the originally-envisaged and measurable LECB outputs have been exceeded, leading to some unplanned but highly welcomed additional impacts.

## CASE STUDY

# DEVELOPING DRC'S LEDS, AND STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES

LECB supported the development of DRC's Low Emission Development Strategy (LEDS) in line with the objective of building institutional capacities and supporting decision makers in the coordination, planning, design and implementation of NAMAs and LEDS. This also included integration of financial planning into the design and implementation of NAMAs and LEDS in key sectors and selected countries. **The building of institutional capacities in the DRC, like in a majority of countries, had shifted from awareness-raising to learning by doing by means of technical working groups and key stakeholder engagement.** A key component of the institutional capacity building was the convening in May 2016 of more than 40 national experts drawn from 13 government ministries, academia, civil society and the private sector, to participate in an intensive, hands-on training on

NAMAs design. The objective of the training was to provide national stakeholders with the tools to identify and design mitigation actions that can contribute to the country's low emission development pathway.

The final draft of DRC's LEDS was presented for stakeholder validation on 15 June of 2016. The validation process - which included working group sessions to drill down on the institutional arrangements - brought together more than 75 stakeholders, representing all key line Ministries, research and academia, civil society, and the private sector. A member of the LECB Global Support Unit attended the validation meeting, and met with senior advisors to the President and the Prime Minister to discuss options for the institutional architecture of the

LEDS, based upon the stakeholder feedback. The LEDS prioritizes the three sectors that generate nearly 99% of GHGs - energy, agriculture, and forestry - and will be implemented in four phases. The preparatory phase (2016 - 2021) focuses on resource mobilization, the institutional framework, and capacity building. Priority mitigation measures for the energy, agriculture, and forestry sectors will be implemented in phase 2 (2021 - 2030), while low emission actions for the remaining economic sectors come into play in phase 3 (2031 - 2050). The final phase (2051 - 2100) envisions the move toward carbon neutrality. The LEDS is fully aligned with the National Strategic Plan for Development.

The UNDP Low Emission Capacity Building (LECB) Programme was launched in January 2011 as part of a joint collaboration between the European Union, the Governments of Germany and Australia and UNDP. It is a global programme that helps countries build the public and private sector capacities needed to scale up country-driven mitigation actions.

### LECB DRC made possible by:



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.



Supported by:



Federal Ministry  
for the Environment, Nature Conservation  
and Nuclear Safety

based on a decision of the German Bundestag



Australian Government

