



PAP-RDC  
Les Pygmées Aussi



SOFEPADI  
Solidarité Féminine pour la paix et le Développement intégral



2024 Update

# Powering Resilience

## Adapting to Climate Change and Protecting Forests in Mining Communities Driving the Transition to a Low-Carbon Future

The *Powering Resilience* project aims to increase the resilience of Democratic Republic of Congo's communities vulnerable to the impacts of mining, particularly critical minerals vital for the green transition. The project will enhance the local populations' capacity to restore and safeguard their ecosystems, such as tropical forests and woodlands. It will center women's leadership and promote Indigenous knowledge as part of efforts to support communities to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change.

In northeastern DRC, the project works with communities in Ituri and Tshopo provinces. This region is part of the Congo Basin tropical forest—the second largest in the world after the Amazon. In southeastern DRC, the project works with communities in Lualaba and Haut-Katanga provinces, part of the Miombo woodlands, an ecosystem of dry forests and savannah.

### 2024 Overview

In its first year, the project worked with its partners to build a foundation for future actions. This focused on identifying the communities across the four provinces where the project activities would take place, raising awareness among the stakeholders, as well as establishing relationships with community members, women's groups, Indigenous Peoples, and policymakers. Emphasis was also placed on building knowledge around ecosystems and climate change vulnerability in each unique local context. Several assessments and analyses were carried out that will lay the groundwork for the interventions to support ecosystem restoration.



Banalia Territory, Tshopo Province (OCEAN)



June 2025

## Key Results in 2024



### Restoration and Protection

**Project Sites Selected:** Local partners identified the communities where project interventions will be implemented, building relationships with local stakeholders for long-term engagement.

**Community Sensitization:** Eight sessions were held across the four provinces to raise awareness about the project and its objectives.

**Baseline Study:** A comprehensive study assessed the socio-economic, environmental, and cultural context of the communities in the four provinces targeted by the project.

**Assessment on Traditional Knowledge:** This assessment, carried out through field research and community consultations, identified Indigenous and traditional knowledge on ecosystem adaptation and restoration, while also evaluating the capacity-building needs of actors at the local and provincial levels.

**Assessment on Climate Change Vulnerability:** This extensive assessment examined the state of biodiversity in the target communities and their existing ecosystem services. The study evaluated the impact of climate change and mining on local biodiversity and analyzed the community's vulnerability to climate change.

**Assessment on Ecosystem Services:** This assessment examined the existing or potential nature-based livelihoods in target communities and analyzed the existing markets in DRC for ecosystem services.



### Community-Based Ecosystem Governance

**Conflict Analysis:** This study examined the conflict dynamics across the target provinces with a focus on access to land and natural resources, power issues and governance, as well as identity issues related to community and land.

**Gender Analysis:** This study examined the role of women in the local economy, opportunities and challenges related to empowerment, as well as decision-making around natural resources



### Community Interests in Plans and Strategies

**Project Steering Committee:** A project steering committee was established, adopting terms of references, and designating a coordinator.

Advocacy and networking initiatives are expected to be initiated through this committee to ensure the interests of beneficiary local communities are taken into account, starting in the second year of the project.



*Kambove Territory, Haut Katanga Province (PREMI-Congo)*



## Case Study

Our recent ecosystem services assessment in the Nyangwe community in Mambasa territory, Ituri Province in DRC revealed that forest degradation caused by artisanal mining is making it difficult for women to access non-timber forest products, such as kola nuts and bitter kola, which are essential for food and income.

*"In the past, these resources were available near our village. Today, we must walk long distances because mining activities are impacting the forests."*

Faliala, a vendor who relies on these products for her income.

This environmental assessment helps IMPACT understand the challenges faced by communities like Nyangwe, enabling the identification of ecosystem services and strategies to support those who depend on both forests and mining.

By helping local communities restore forested areas and promote sustainable practices, the *Powering Resilience* project creates new opportunities for women and their communities to adapt to environmental changes, strengthen their livelihoods, and build resilience.



Mambasa Territory, Ituri Province (PAP-DRC)



Mutshatsha Territory, Lualaba Province (ADGRN)



Banalia Territory, Tshopo Province (Tropenbos DRC)



Mambasa Territory, Ituri Province (SOFEPADI)

## Expected Outcomes



**Improve the restoration and protection of forest ecosystems by DRC communities affected by mining and vulnerable to climate change** by strengthening the knowledge and technical capacity of local stakeholders, specifically women and Indigenous Peoples. Communities will implement actions to restore and protect degraded forests and woodlands through an Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) approach. Communities will be incentivized to further carry out ecosystem restoration and protection through the valuation of ecosystem services such as food or wood, creating new economic opportunities and replacing those currently threatened by climate change.



**Improve ecosystem governance in DRC's forest-dependent and mining-affected communities** by strengthening community mechanisms, as well as aiming to support Indigenous and gender representation within government structures. Capacity building for women, youth and Indigenous Peoples will strengthen leadership skills, and conflict mediation will ensure communication actions towards ecosystem restoration and safeguarding are more sustainable.



**Improve consideration of community interests in plans and strategies which protect ecosystems and biodiversity, or critical mineral production in DRC** by holding participatory, consultative workshops with community members, women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples. These consultations will develop and review strategies for ecosystem governance at all levels, as well as support communities to create and disseminate recommendations integrating their interests.

## Implementing Partners

IMPACT transforms how natural resources are managed in areas where security and human rights are at risk. We investigate and develop approaches for natural resources to improve security, development, and equality. We are an independent non-profit, collaborating with local partners for lasting change. IMPACT has worked in DRC and neighbouring countries for more than a decade with multiple projects supporting responsible supply chains and transparency in the artisanal gold and cobalt sectors.  
[www.impacttransform.org](http://www.impacttransform.org)

IMPACT is implementing the project in collaboration with the following partners in **Haut Katanga and Lualaba Provinces**: ADGRN, PREMI-Congo.

IMPACT is implementing the project in collaboration with the following partners in **Tshopo and Ituri Provinces**: OCEAN, PAP-RDC, SOFEPADI, Tropenbos DRC.