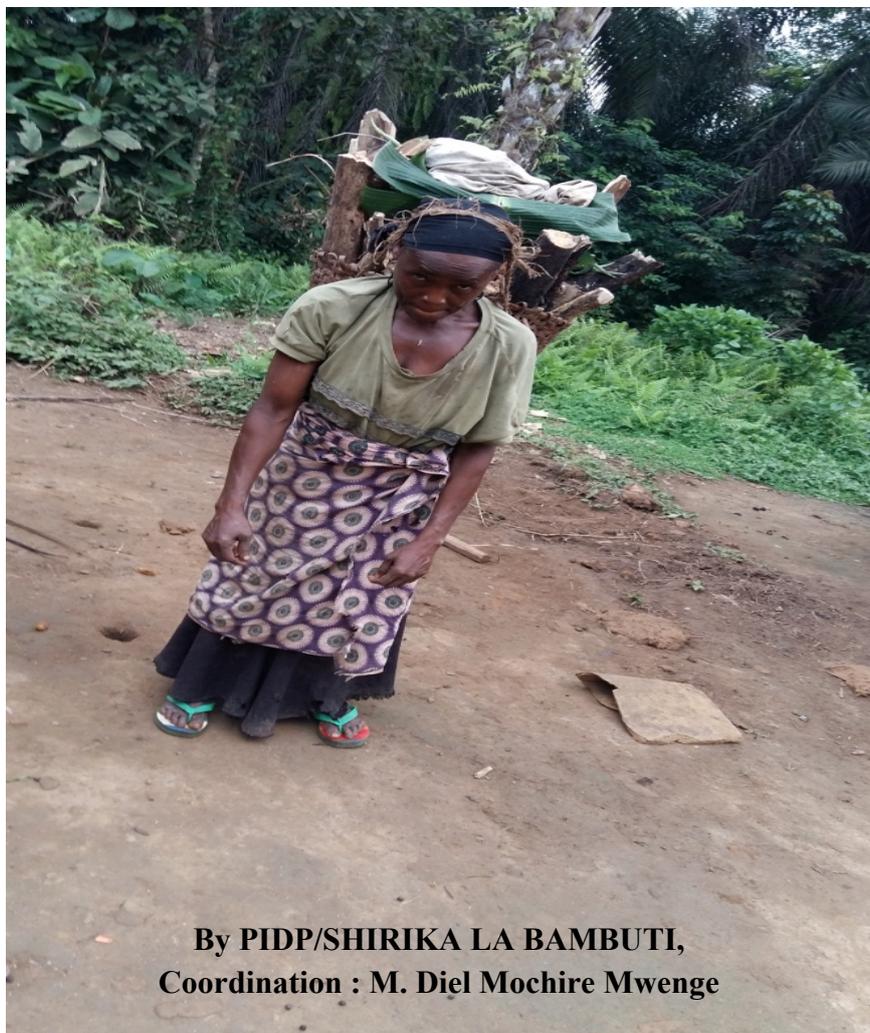




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The state of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the indigenous Pygmy peoples in the Democratic Republic of Congo



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1. Introduction

By adopting the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Climate Agreement in 2015, the Heads of State and Government have defined an ambitious roadmap to transform the world in depth. Its purpose is to eradicate poverty and inequality, to ensure a healthy planet for present and future generations, and to build peaceful societies, open to all, allowing everyone to live in dignity.

The implementation of the 17 goals that make up the 2030 Agenda is a review of the social contract and the model in which societies construct their development patterns. It is a vast program which emphasizes on the synergy between environmental, social and economic challenges, which must be tackled simultaneously, in new economic models and new ways of living.

In accordance with the vision of the President of the Republic "*walking towards development, let's go further together*", the DRC is specifically committed to working for the implementation of 17 sustainable development goals and strengthening synergies between the implementation of the 2030 program and the 2063 agenda of the African Union, by translating them into programs in its 2018-2022 national development plan. In its long-term vision, the Democratic Republic of the Congo will continue to promote the goals of the 2030 Agenda, which constitute a formidable vector for development and the eradication of poverty through the mobilization of non-state actors who are bearers of concrete solutions far beyond just climate issues.

By so doing, the Democratic Republic of Congo is insuring that the implementation of the sustainable development goals should be in line with the national development programs and projects. An ambitious plan which aims to restore macroeconomic and financial balances and to resume strong, resilient and shared economic growth. The 2030 agenda and its fourteen goals (14) adopted by the Democratic Republic of the Congo are thus a major challenge due to the size of the country, the human and financial resources it requires from the Government and from its available technical and financial partners in the context of bilateral and other cooperation.

The Government being on the trajectory of a restrictive budgetary policy, the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) becomes an issue of increased responsibility of the government, the private sector, civil society, researchers and all other stakeholders of Congolese society.

The success of this program aimed at transforming the world in general and the Democratic Republic of Congo in particular requires imperatively the permanent search for a peaceful society, more equality, more inclusive and freer from fear and violence. There is no sustainable development without peace; and without peace, sustainable development will only be a utopia. The implementation of the SDGs will permit Congolese society as a whole to overcome these challenges and live in an economy whose growth benefit everyone.

2. Brief presentation of the Democratic Republic of Congo

The Democratic Republic of Congo is a vast country located in Central Africa. With a surface area of 2,345,410 km². In Africa, it occupies the second place in terms of surface area after Algeria. A little comparison to better understand the gigantic size of the Congolese territory:

the area of the Democratic Republic of Congo is four times that of France, eighty times that of Belgium and a quarter of that of the entire European Union.

With its 155 million hectares of forests, representing 62% of the forests of the Congo Basin, the Democratic Republic of Congo is rich in biodiversity and is home to millions of animal and plant species, some of which are endemic. The forest provides millions of people especially the indigenous people with habitat, livelihoods, medicine, water, an environment of belief and intrinsic spirituality. The country has vast peat bogs, a vital ecosystem in terms of carbon sequestration, as well as for the preservation of biodiversity.

The country is extremely rich in precious minerals and there are an estimated \$ 24 trillion of untapped crude mineral deposits in the country, including the world's largest reserves of cobalt (51% of known reserves) and significant quantities of diamonds, gold and copper. In 2009, the country's share of world production of cobalt ores was 40%. The global share associated with other ores during the same year is listed as follows: industrial diamond, 31%; tantalum, 9%; gem quality diamond, 6%; tin, 4%; copper, 2%.

An important hydrographic network covering approximately 77,810 km² and consisting of the river (the Congo River) as well as lakes and rivers and has approximately 52% of the total surface of the water reserves of the African continent. We must first count the imposing Congo River, about 4,320 km long, and its tributaries, the most important of which are the Ubangi and the Kasai. This river represents a very significant hydrographic potential, with a basin of almost 3,75 million km², which places it in second position in the world just after the Amazon and second in Africa starting its length after the Nile. As a result, the availability of renewable water resources is estimated at more than 300 billion m³ per year.

There are equally some major lakes which includes:

- Lake Tanganyika, (3,900 Km², between the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Zambia and Burundi).
- Lake Edouard (located at an altitude of 916 m over 2,150 km² of surface, between the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda. It flows into Lake Albert via the Semiliki)
- Lake Albert (5,000 Km², crossed by the Nile between the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda).
- Lake Kivu (2,700 Km², between the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda. It contains a large reserve of methane gas).
- Lake Mai-Ndombe (2,325 Km²) of surface and 400 m of altitude.
- Lake Tumba.
- Lake Moero.

1. Socioeconomic, demographic and cultural context of Indigenous Peoples in the DRC

The Democratic Republic of Congo is made up of a mosaic of populations grouped into four major ethnic groups including the Bantus, the Nilotics, the Sudanese and the pygmies. The latter are the first inhabitants, and existed on Congolese territory before the arrival of the other three ethnic groups of farmers-breeders as well as farmers from different migrations that have developed in African countries.

The criteria established by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, including seniority in the occupation of the territory, self-identification, marginalization, discrimination, exclusion leading to sub domination, and maintaining their distinct cultures in relation to the

dominant groups, the status of indigenous peoples is recognized by pygmies in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The exact number of indigenous Pygmy peoples is not known in the DRC. No official census has already been organized by the Congolese government. A 2009 World Bank survey estimated indigenous people's population at about 750,000 with of 53% of the population being women, and 65% young people. Today, indigenous peoples are estimated at about 1 million people or more than 1% of the population of the DRC estimated at 84,508,410 inhabitants across the country.

The different groups of indigenous peoples generally referred to as "Pygmies" are known locally under the names of Batwa, Batswa, Batwa, Balumbe, Bilangi, Bafonto Samalia, Bone Bayeki in the province of Equateur; Batsa, Batwa, Bamone Bakengele, in the province of Bandundu; Bambuti, Baka, Efe, Bambeleketi in Orientale province; Bashimbi (Bashimbe), Bamboté, Bakalanga in the province of Katanga; Batwa (Batswa) in the two Kasai; Batwa (Batswa), Bambuti, Bayanda, Babuluku, Banwa, Bambuti, Bambote in North Kivu, South Kivu and Maniema. Other groups are spread across the forest region of the DRC, notably the Aka along the northwest border with the Republic of Congo and the Bambega in Oubangui in Equator region bordering the Central African Republic.

The socio-economic and cultural rights as well as the civil and political rights of the indigenous peoples are not recognized and respected in the DRC. As a result, they face a life of precariousness. Their daily income is less than \$1 per household of 5 people on average. In most cases, indigenous peoples live in forests, inaccessible areas sometimes without access to basic social infrastructure including hospitals, schools, markets, drinking water, information, etc. Some indigenous peoples are forced to live in Bantu villages, where they make up to 75% of the workforce with little or no compensation.

2. Brief description of laws and policies relating to indigenous peoples

The international context recognizes, through legal instruments adopted by the United Nations, the rights of indigenous peoples around the world, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Right, The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Convention 169 of the International Labor Organization relating to indigenous and tribal peoples, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the African Commission on human and peoples' rights (ACHPR).

The UN also has indicated two decades for indigenous peoples (1994-2005 and 2005-2015) with the following events marking the recognition of the later: the International Day of Indigenous Peoples, celebrated on August 9 each year, the UN Special Rapporteur on the fundamental rights and freedoms of Indigenous Peoples, the United Nations Indigenous Peoples Forums, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (IPQA), the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, meetings and sessions of the treaty and treaty monitoring bodies the UN. ^[1]_{SEP}

The Democratic Republic of Congo does not have a law recognizing the specific rights of indigenous peoples. However, article 51 of the Constitution of the Republic, indicates that the State undertakes to promote the rights of vulnerable groups and minorities. In addition, article 123 point 16 of the same constitution obliges the state to take measures to ensure the

protection of vulnerable groups, particularly the indigenous peoples. Respect for human dignity and worth, as proclaimed by the Constitution of February 18, 2006 as amended by Law No. 11/002 of January 20, 2011 revising certain provisions of the Constitution, as well as by the instrument's international legal rights, constitutes the substance of human rights.

However, since 2011, an advocacy process has been initiated with the Congolese government on the legal recognition of indigenous peoples in the DRC. As a result, a proposal for an organic law on fundamental principles relating to the rights of indigenous peoples has been tabled in parliament since 2016.

However, two edicts (provincial laws) promoting and protecting the rights of Batwa indigenous peoples were adopted in 2018 in the provinces of Nsakuru and Maï-Ndombe respectively. Only two (2) provinces out of twenty-six (26) have a legal framework for the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

- These are: Order-Edit n_002 / 018 of 06/29/2018 protecting and promoting Batwa indigenous peoples in Sankuru province;
- Edit N ° 011/2018 of 05/06/2018 Promoting and Protecting the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Batwa in the province of Maï-Ndombe.

These edicts are provincial laws legislated at the provincial level. They reinforce the commitment of the State through the two provinces to build a more just society where the cultures, aspirations and different needs of the indigenous peoples are taken into account. The purpose of these edicts is to protect, promote and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for indigenous peoples and to guarantee respect for their intrinsic dignity.

3. National plan and objectives of the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo

DR Congo has embarked on a process of developing a National Strategic Development Plan (PNSD) 2018 - 2022. The development of this plan was done on the basis of consultations with all stakeholders including the government, civil society, indigenous peoples and customary authorities. This plan was a consensual framework that united various documents, such as the national prospective study, national sectoral strategies and policies as well as the national and international commitments made by the DRC.

The plan has four (4) objectives, namely

- *Stabilize / rebuild areas affected by conflicts;*
- *Consolidate and maintain strong economic growth;*
- *Support and create decent jobs;*
- *Improve the level of human development.*

To achieve these four objectives, the development strategy was based on four pillars namely

1. *the internalization of a new governance which implies a radical change of mentalities;*
2. *economic diversification and improvement of competitiveness;*
3. *improvement of human development and social protection; and,*
4. *combating climate change and strengthening environmental sustainability, which is a transversal pillar.*

The plan filled the existing vacuum with a view to accelerating the transformation and diversification of the economic fabric which should strengthen growth and job creation in order to resist exogenous economic shocks. The plan ensures consistency and complies with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This plan was a development trajectory compatible with the country's ambitions, in particular those of ensuring its emergence.

The country has twenty-six (26) provinces and indigenous peoples live in forest and rural areas that are sometimes inaccessible. However, the indigenous peoples have not been sufficiently consulted. Some representatives of the indigenous peoples residing in cities or provincial capitals were consulted. The plan does not take into account the socio-cultural and anthropological specificities of the indigenous peoples.

Despite the development of several tools for the development of indigenous peoples such as the Framework-of-Planning-in-Favor-of-Indigenous Populations developed by the social fund of the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2019, the strategic framework for the development of indigenous peoples in the DRC from the World Bank and others, the participation of indigenous peoples in the planning of the sustainable development goals in the DRC at local and national levels remains very low. The absence of a free, informed and prior consultation law remains a challenge for indigenous peoples. Compared to Brazil, where the State has a law, indigenous communities have developed tools called protocols to guarantee and respect free, informed and prior consent on any matter that affects their life or their land, in accordance with the declaration United Nations on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples 2007.

4. Summary of the main questions, concerns, challenges and priorities of indigenous peoples in relation to the SDGs, including a specific section on indigenous women - Objective 5 and related objectives

With an area of 2,345,410 km², the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is one of the largest countries in Africa. In the absence of a precise census, its population is estimated at around 85,026,000 inhabitants, according to estimates by the National Institute of Statistics (statistical year book 2014). The DRC is currently ranked among the poorest countries in the world, despite its immense natural resources.

Objective 1: Eradicate poverty in all its forms and everywhere in the world

Indigenous peoples live in absolute precariousness. They live on less than \$1 per household of 5 people on average. In certain environments, they constitute the workforce whose payment is not always proportional to the work carried out. The price is not negotiated, nor fair. Only the “boss” a term used to designate those who employ indigenous peoples for daily activities decides the remuneration according to his own will. Some may pay 500 Congolese francs, or 0.30 usd, which is an abuse and violation of their rights that jeopardizes their dignity as a citizen. The root cause of this situation is the land grabbing belonging to the indigenous peoples.

It should be noted that the indigenous peoples have close ties to their lands and resources as their means of substance and their identity and their lives depend on it. The latter live on traditional land acquired by virtue of custom. The predominant management method is the collective one.

The autonomy of land management poses a problem. Cases of dispossession, expropriation and forced relocation are the basis of land disputes and the expulsion of indigenous peoples from their lands, without their consent or free, prior and informed consultation. In the last five years, 267 cases of land disputes have been documented to date, including conflicts between the pygmies and the Bantu in the province of Tanganyika and those of Idjwi in South Kivu.

And yet, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which also received the vote of the DRC when it was adopted by the General Assembly, provides international legal standards which guarantee the land rights of indigenous peoples. It reaffirms the right of indigenous peoples to maintain and strengthen their spiritual ties to their lands and resources, and sets out the close ties that exist between them, their lands, culture, identity and integrity.

Goal 2: End hunger, ensure food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Most of the indigenous peoples of the DRC are hunters and gatherers. Forests are the supermarkets of indigenous peoples. With the allocation of forests by granting titles to exploiting companies and wealthy farmers, indigenous peoples no longer have access to natural resources and their land. 15% of the indigenous peoples develop family farming for their subsistence. As a result, the lack of access to land but also to quality seeds and agricultural inputs is a challenge that they face. In most cases, indigenous households eat once a day and the meals are unbalanced. This is against the principle that 3 balanced meals a day must be guaranteed in each household.

Objective 3: Empower individuals to live healthy lives and promote the well-being of all at all ages.

The Congolese government has a health care program and special programs to support health institutions. Notwithstanding, health institutions initiated by indigenous peoples in their communities hardly benefit from the support of the Congolese government. Most indigenous people's women give birth at home, and few of them attend antenatal and postnatal consultations. In North Kivu, out of 11,651 women from 164 villages / sites, 4,217 have access to these services in 67 villages / sites, or 36%. Out of 19,719 children, only 4,761 children, or 24% of indigenous children have access to the vaccination program.

Lack of access to health care is the result of insufficient information. In 2016, 53% of the indigenous population were not informed of the organization of health education sessions at the Health Centers. Due to lack of money to pay consultation fees, indigenous women give birth at home with several consequences. Between 2016 and 2018, in North Kivu, an estimate of 5 indigenous women died during childbirth, while 7 women who gave birth through operation were retained in hospitals due to lack of funds.

The majority of indigenous peoples are animists and according to them, the forest is the place of natural spirits that watch over them, protect them or punish them. The traditional pharmacopoeia of the indigenous peoples is not recognized and promoted by the Congolese government.

Objective 4: Ensure that all can have access to quality education under conditions of equity and promote opportunities for lifelong learning

The Constitution of the Republic guarantees free education (Articles 43 paragraphs 5 and 44). In addition, the school curriculum established by the Congolese government does not take into account the socio-economic and cultural lifestyle of the indigenous peoples.

Despite the decision to provide free education at the primary school level in public schools, several strikes have been observed since the announcement of this decision by the President of the Republic. This measure has an impact on more than 105,000 teachers without salaries. This situation negatively affects education in the DRC.

Although this decision was taken by the President of the Republic, we still notice the payment of very high sums of money as school fees. This makes access to education for indigenous children difficult due to the low purchasing power and extreme poverty of parents. The access of indigenous children of school age depends varies from one zone to another. South Kivu and North Kivu, for example, constitute the main areas of the highest rates of 4 to 11% of access to primary education for indigenous children.

Finally, school building and rehabilitation programs do not benefit areas in which indigenous children attend schools because they are built in urban areas and large centers and in the areas where the native people live. Some schools initiated by the indigenous peoples themselves are in a dilapidated state and do not benefit from these programs. Most teachers in these schools are not paid.

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Indigenous women are victims of marginalization and discrimination, notably due to their gender, but also their ethnicity and often their poverty. This discrimination, in addition to violating international human rights conventions to which the DRC is a party, directly violates the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

In the DRC, indigenous women continue to face both racial and gender-based discrimination, and no measures have so far been put in place by the DRC government to ensure that indigenous women can fully enjoy their rights to land and natural resources, health, education and information. Only about 0.03% indigenous girls have access to education and 95% of indigenous women give birth at home and do not have access to antenatal and postnatal consultations. This lack of protection of pregnant indigenous people's women is a challenge and is the basis of the very high infant mortality rate within the indigenous peoples.

Objective 6: Guarantee access to clean water and sanitation services for all and ensure sustainable management of water services

Indigenous people do not have access to clean water. At least 95% of indigenous households consume water from untreated streams and rivers. This is the basis of several health problems such as cholera, diarrhea, dysentery and other waterborne related consequences. In some areas, water is polluted by mining and oil operators. It should be noted that there are no measures taken either by the operating companies or by the government to ensure that indigenous peoples have access to clean water.

Objective 7: Guarantee access for all to reliable, sustainable and modern energy services at an affordable cost

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, 99% of indigenous people's villages and camps are not electrified. It is worthy to note that electricity remains the engine of development, hence the absence of factories processing local products. This situation does not favor the indigenous peoples to sell their finished products to the modern market and increase their production capacity.

Objective 8: Promote sustained, shared and sustainable economic growth, full productive employment and decent work for all

Goal 8 includes targets for economic growth, increased productivity and the creation of decent jobs. It plans to combat forced labor and end modern slavery and human trafficking by 2030. However, in the DRC, economic growth and increased productivity of indigenous peoples is not effective.

The poverty rate is extremely high. Access to land remains a major challenge for indigenous peoples. There is no policy to facilitate access to employment for indigenous peoples. 95% of indigenous graduates (D6, graduates or graduates) are unemployed. Only 5% of pygmies holding school qualifications work in civil society organizations, and especially those set up by themselves. Access to modern markets by indigenous peoples is problematic insofar as they live in inaccessible areas without road infrastructure. Agricultural roads are not maintained, and sometimes do not exist. Finally, the potential and skills of the indigenous peoples are not recognized and promoted by the Congolese government. Indigenous peoples constitute the labor force in rural areas. However, they are victims of forced labor and modern slavery.

Objective 9: Build a resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization that benefits everyone and encourage innovation

Investments in sustainable infrastructure as well as in scientific and technological research enhance economic growth, create jobs and promote the well-being of populations. However, Objective 9 aims to build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and encourage innovation.

Achieving this objective with indigenous peoples for their development remains relevant. However, there is no quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure in indigenous people's villages in the DRC. The absence of small sustainable industries that benefit the indigenous peoples increases their unemployment rate. Most publications do not refer to the role, contributions and added value of indigenous peoples in sustainable development in the Democratic Republic of Congo. However, the researchers focus mainly on the negative impacts which victimize the indigenous peoples in sustainable development.

Objective 10: Reduce inequalities within countries and from one country to another

Global inequalities are very significant and constitute one of the main obstacles to sustainable development and the eradication of poverty for the indigenous peoples in the DRC. These inequalities have increased and are predictable through discrimination, exclusion, discredit and marginalization of indigenous peoples in the management of public affairs in the DRC. Indigenous peoples are not associated and integrated into governance and the management of public affairs.

There is no national policy or law promoting the integration, involvement and participation of indigenous peoples in the management of public affairs. The electoral law favors the customary chiefs who have the possibility of being elected at the expense of the indigenous peoples who are statistically very weak in the electoral districts. Law proposal of the organic law on fundamental principles relating to the rights of indigenous peoples is still pending approval in parliament. Its adoption is an added value in the fight against stereotypes and inequalities that indigenous peoples are facing in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Government programs and action plans do not target indigenous peoples in the DRC. This situation reinforces the inequalities in the distribution and access to basic social infrastructure, the redistribution of resources for the benefit of indigenous Pygmy peoples.

Objective 12: Establish sustainable consumption and production patterns

Indigenous peoples depend on natural resources to which they do not have access to their expropriated, despoiled and monopolized lands. Forest exploitation, mining, oil extraction and industrial agriculture affect access to natural resources by indigenous peoples. These factors are considered being the main causes of the expropriation, spoliation and land grabbing of indigenous peoples in the DRC. In addition, the creation of protected areas for wildlife conservation was carried with the consequences being the expropriation followed by the expulsion of the indigenous peoples in violation of the law on expropriation in the event of public interest.

Goal 12 indicates that each country will focus on implementing the UN Ten-Year Programming Framework for Sustainable Consumption and Production. This includes environmentally friendly chemicals and waste management, reducing waste generation, including through recycling, and cutting food waste by half. Environmental management is not a government priority in the DRC. Finally, insecurity and multiple wars are the basis for the development of military activities, military occupation on land belonging to the indigenous peoples. Water pollution, chemical products and toxic pollution are stored at times on indigenous owned lands. This has enormous consequences on the health of indigenous peoples. The lack of a strategy for the environmentally sound and rational management of chemical and toxic products, of all waste without mitigation measures for impacts on indigenous people's lands constitutes a public danger for this category of the population.

Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Climate change is a crucial issue for sustainable development. To date, the effects of climate change have had enormous consequences on the lives of indigenous peoples in the DRC, in particular floods, erosions, drought in rivers and streams, losses of certain plants for the indigenous pharmacopoeia, etc.

In addition, changes in rainfall and temperatures affect ecosystems such as forests, cultivated agricultural areas, mountain regions and oceans, as well as the flora and fauna and people who live there. Between 1990 and 2012, global carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions increased by more than 50%. The low involvement, participation and consideration of traditional knowledge and practices constitutes one of the causes of this international scourge. These changes threaten the living conditions of indigenous peoples in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

However, under Goal 13, states are urged to include climate protection measures in their national policies and to support each other in the face of the challenges ahead. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is recognized as the main intergovernmental and international structure for negotiating global action on climate change. In addition to the related negotiations, it is planned to build resilience to climate-related natural disasters and to implement the commitment made by developed countries.

The indigenous peoples of the shared DRC participate through their organizations at several levels in activities to combat climate change. In addition, they have developed strategies for resilience to climate change in their communities by making use of their traditional knowledge and practices, forest conservation, governance and local management of biodiversity. Etc. In addition, Capacity development and advocacy projects for the recognition and securing of Indigenous and Community Areas and Heritage are underway.

Objective 15: Preserve and restore terrestrial ecosystems

Conservation through governance and sustainable management of biodiversity is essential for social and economic development and the survival of humanity. Indigenous peoples depend mainly on forests and natural resources. However, there has been a total decline in biodiversity and the disappearance of forests following mining, agricultural and petroleum development, infrastructure development, etc. The decline in forest areas threatens the well-being of the human species, in particular that of the poor, including indigenous and local communities. Biodiversity and forests help reduce poverty by, for example, promoting food security and health through the development of the pharmacopoeia, providing clean air and clean water, absorbing emissions CO₂ and constitute the basis of ecological development.

To do this, the DRC is committed to conserving 17% of national forests through protected areas, in particular national parks, integral natural reserves, botanical and zoological gardens, wildlife reserves and hunting areas, reserves biospheres, recreational forests and urban forests. In accordance with article 22 of the forest code, local communities and indigenous peoples are committed and involved in community forestry. The granting of forest concession titles to indigenous communities and peoples, it is very likely that the area can vary from 17% to 30% of the forests conserved. Local communities are still advocating for the co-management of protected areas in the DRC, with a view to coping with conservation policy, which has long been criticized, and reducing the human rights violations perpetrated by forests-guards.

However, the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources and the promotion of appropriate access to them remain one of the greatest challenges to be overcome by the indigenous people in the DRC. Forest exploitation licenses are issued in violation of the moratorium signed by the Congolese government. The social clauses are not respected by the forest exploitation companies. There is no existence of restoration policies aimed at ensuring the preservation, restoration and sustainable exploitation of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems and related services, especially forests, wetlands, mountains and arid areas on lands and territories of indigenous peoples, in accordance with obligations under international agreements.

Goal 17: Strengthen and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

To achieve this global vision of sustainable development, the indigenous peoples as stakeholders and with the principle of *leaving no one behind*, the indigenous peoples through their organizations seek support on a global funding base that exceeds the funds of official development assistance. In addition to public and private funding by developing partnerships, indigenous people's partners with institutions such as the Bank through various programs including DGM, PIREDD, Pro route, CAFI, and other institutions such as the AfDB, USAID, etc.

In order to limit the dependence of indigenous peoples and their organizations, the mobilization of national resources, international collaboration in the field of science, technology and innovation as well as the promotion of collaboration and partnership are favored. Also, the socio-economic stability and the coherence of the policies in favor of the sustainable development of the indigenous peoples in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

There is a weak means of implementing the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development following the low financial mobilization capacity of the indigenous peoples. Despite the presence of mobilization strategies for lasting partnerships, buy-in and ownership through the integration of indigenous peoples concerns and questions into national government plans by area is not likely.

5. Summary of indigenous peoples' efforts / actions and initiatives for sustainable development

at. Roles and contributions of indigenous peoples (including women and youth) to sustainable development

Indigenous peoples play a key role in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals. The traditional knowledge and practices available among the indigenous peoples are an added value for achieving the objectives of sustainable development. However, since the indigenous peoples do not have a legally recognized status in the DRC, they have created organizations/associations, which ensures their capacity building on all fronts. They lead and participate in various advocacy processes, where their contributions are appreciated by other stakeholders.

Indigenous peoples contribute to their emancipation, development and empowerment by developing projects on their land though they still don't yet have legal right. They are participating in several reforms underway in the DRC, including land, forestry, land use planning, etc. Advocacy is underway on legal recognition of indigenous peoples in the Democratic Republic of Congo. A proposal for an organic law on fundamental principles for the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples was tabled in parliament in 2014, which we believe will be adopted and promulgated during this legislature of 2023.

Finally, the indigenous peoples made efforts to educate their children. They develop and enhance their traditional pharmacopoeia while campaigning for the recognition and promotion of their traditional knowledge for the conservation of ecosystems. They are sufficiently involved in community forestry to secure their forests. Across the country, several actions to identify and secure Indigenous and Community Areas and Heritage have been launched by Indigenous peoples with technical and financial support and technical support to their organizations by committed partners to the Indigenous cause such as the World Bank.

b. Good practices (documentation, capacity building, economic empowerment, etc.)

The availability of traditional rules of governance and sustainable management of ICCAs contributes to the conservation of forests and biodiversity. Example in the territory of Mweka in Kasai, Batwa Kadima grouping, chiefdom of Bakuba, the indigenous peoples conserve the caterpillar trees on the basis of their traditional knowledge and practices. The development of non-wood forest products contributes to the income from food. The development of income generating activities (IGAs) by indigenous women and the establishment of solidarity groups contribute to socioeconomic development facilitating the self-care of households in terms of food, education / schooling, health, housing through sheet metal construction, etc.

Indigenous peoples participate in several advocacy and strengthening activities at the national and international levels and this helps build their capacities in negotiations and advocacy. It is in this context that indigenous people's representatives participate in the scholarship program of the High Commission for Human Rights, and in programs developed by other international organizations.

vs. Partnerships established with United Nations agencies, etc. and others

At the national level, indigenous peoples' organizations collaborate with United Nations organizations and agencies such as the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office, MONUSCO Civil Affairs, UNDP, OCHA, etc. Other partnerships with financing agreement within the framework of the Small Grants Programs of GEF, the World Bank through the DGM / CAFI, WWF, and other international organizations for the conservation and defense of the rights of indigenous peoples in the DRC in particular WWF, FPP, RFN, FCF, etc.

At the international level, indigenous peoples collaborate with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, etc. Indigenous peoples of the DRC also collaborate with several international organizations defending the rights of pygmy indigenous peoples, in particular the DOCIP, UPR Info, with which they share various reports on the situation of the pygmy indigenous peoples in the DRC.

6. Main recommendations: addressed to the government, development actors, including the private sector, United Nations agencies

To the Congolese Government

- Promote legal recognition by adopting the organic law on fundamental principles for the promotion and defense of the rights of indigenous Pygmy peoples in the DRC;
- Adopt special measures to promote the well-being of indigenous Pygmy peoples on their lands and territories;
- Secure the lands and territories belonging to the indigenous Pygmy peoples;
- Ensure and guarantee respect for free, informed and prior consent through consultation mechanisms respecting the way of life of indigenous Pygmy peoples;
- Guarantee the recognition and enhancement of the traditional knowledge and practices of the Pygmy indigenous peoples in the DRC;
- Facilitate the establishment of sustainable and resilient infrastructure in pygmy environments in the Democratic Republic of Congo;
- Facilitate the participation and involvement of indigenous Pygmy peoples in governance and the management of public affairs by putting in place strategies for their co-optation in public institutions, notably parliament, at both the national and provincial levels;
- Establish environmentally management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with internationally agreed guidelines, and significantly reduce

their release to air, water and soil, to minimize their negative effects on health and the environment;

- Facilitate access to basic social infrastructure (schools, hospitals, markets, information, roads, etc.) for Pygmy indigenous peoples.

To the Pygmy Indigenous Peoples

- Facilitate the education / schooling of their children for their socioeconomic, civil and political development in the DRC;
- Ensure awareness of their situation in order to avoid advocacy based on victimization but contributing;
- Participate in studies, analysis and documentation of issues touching their lives, with a view to avoiding any mis formation and the confirmation of any prejudice towards them;
- Participate and take ownership of the various advocacy processes aimed at their legal recognition and their socioeconomic development;
- Mobilize financial resources from development actors and the private sector working in the DRC;
- Strengthen collaboration with embassies and diplomatic missions accredited in the DRC;

Development actors and the private sector:

- Support by providing technical and financial support to the initiatives of Pygmy indigenous peoples in the DRC;
- Strengthen the capacities of representatives and organizations of indigenous peoples through access to information, training and advocacy strategies;
- Promote the skills from indigenous Pygmy peoples for self-care and their involvement, effective and active participation in the various advocacy proceedings in the DRC;

To the UN agencies

- Develop partnerships with Pygmy indigenous peoples' organizations in the DRC;
- Build the capacity of Pygmy indigenous peoples' organizations to provide scholarships for higher studies like university;
- Improve through international assistance to indigenous Pygmy peoples, the mobilization of resources to strengthen national capacities for collecting taxes and other revenues