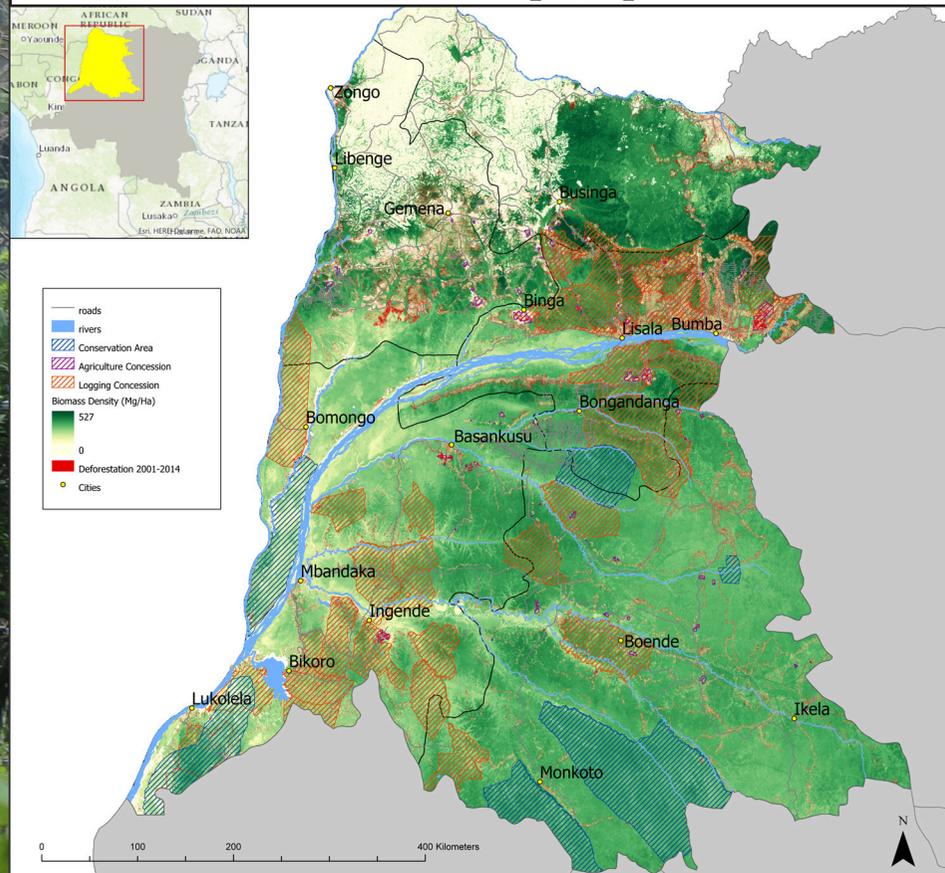


Project Overview

Projet Équateur is a DRC government pilot REDD+ project implemented by the Woods Hole Research Center [WHRC]. The project is based in the northwestern province of Équateur, which contains a quarter of the country's forests. The project's main objective is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation while alleviating poverty. Currently Project Équateur has four main components:

- Biophysical and socioeconomic research
- Capacity building
- Testing of field activities to reduce deforestation
- Initiating a jurisdictional REDD+ program

REDD+ Landscape Équateur



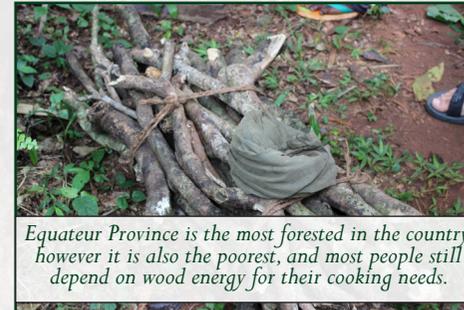
Maps can be great tools for helping people visualize the state of their forest resources. Project Équateur's maps are publically available for download online and have also been distributed to local and national government officials, civil society organizations, and private sector stakeholders. The map above shows biomass density and deforestation in the region of Équateur, as well as conservation areas, agricultural concessions and logging concessions.

Key Achievements and Results

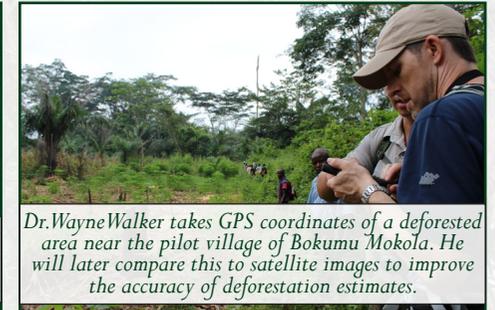
Since opening our office in the provincial capital of Mbandaka in 2013, the Projet Équateur team has pushed through bureaucratic and administrative challenges in order to continue to carry out research and implement test activities.

Biophysical and Socioeconomic Research

- Socioeconomic assessments of living conditions and forest resource dependency
- Political analyses of forest resource governance
- Development of Free Prior and Informed Consent [FPIC] methodology
- Participatory mapping
- Creation of deforestation maps



Équateur Province is the most forested in the country, however it is also the poorest, and most people still depend on wood energy for their cooking needs.



Dr. Wayne Walker takes GPS coordinates of a deforested area near the pilot village of Bokumu Mokola. He will later compare this to satellite images to improve the accuracy of deforestation estimates.

Capacity Building

- Virtual library installation at local university
- Information Technology Trainings
- Creation of communication, education and sensitization materials
- Carbon quantification training workshops
- Partnership with provincial REDD+ focal point

Testing of Field Activities to Reduce Deforestation

- Development of REDD+ community structuring of methodology
- Smallholder palm oil production systems
- System of Rice Intensification (SRI)
- Agroforestry plots
- Improved stoves & Cassava dryers
- Domestication of non-timber forest products (NTFP)
- Social infrastructure activities (schools and water points)



Project Manager Melaine Kermarc examines the SRI test plot in the pilot village of Buya 1. The plot yielded approximately 6.6 tons per hectare and was created on degraded swamp forest.



Agronomist Gode Lompoko (center, standing) listens as his focus group discusses agricultural priorities for a provincial REDD+ investment plan, such as land access and farmers' access to information and inputs.

Initiating a Jurisdictional REDD+ Program

- Provincial REDD+ investment plan development workshop

Next Steps

In the coming years, Projet Équateur hopes to use our experiences to finalize and implement a provincial REDD+ investment plan created with input from government ministries, civil society, and private sector stakeholders. We plan to develop an integrated program of emissions reductions for the province to encourage sustainable development initiatives and make green growth a reality.

All of our work will be based on the input and participation of local actors and we will continue to consult public and private sector stakeholders to identify capacity deficits and prioritize capacity building interventions.

Botanical Garden of Eala Director Mafoto Katerouse shows off a plot of newly planted local trees that attract various types of caterpillars, a high priced delicacy in the region.

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Growing a Green Economy

*Overview, results, and next steps for Projet Équateur,
a pilot REDD+ project in the
Democratic Republic of the Congo*



Ministère de l'Environnement,
Conservation de la Nature et du
Développement Durable