



Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Conservation de la Nature et du Tourisme

Operational Priorities for Provincial REDD+ in the Democratic Republic of Congo

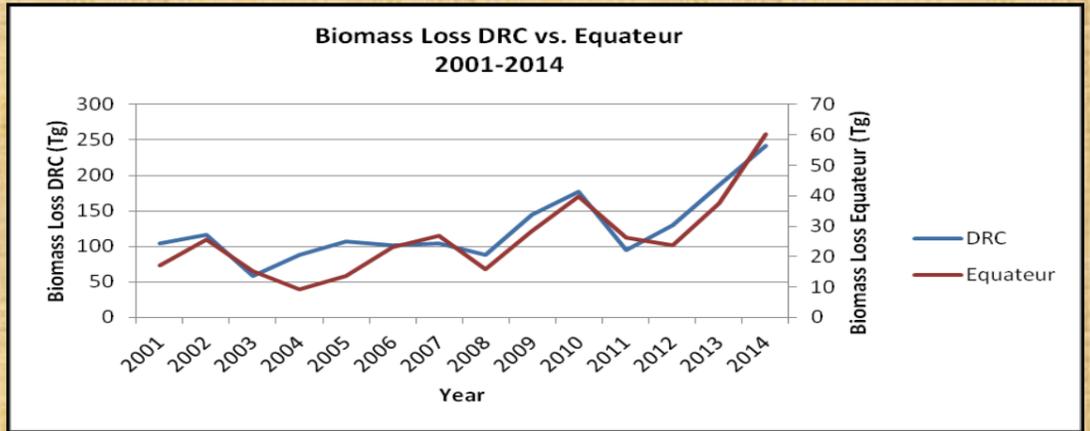
Pilot REDD+ Project in the Equateur Province Supporting the development of Provincial REDD+ in Equateur Province



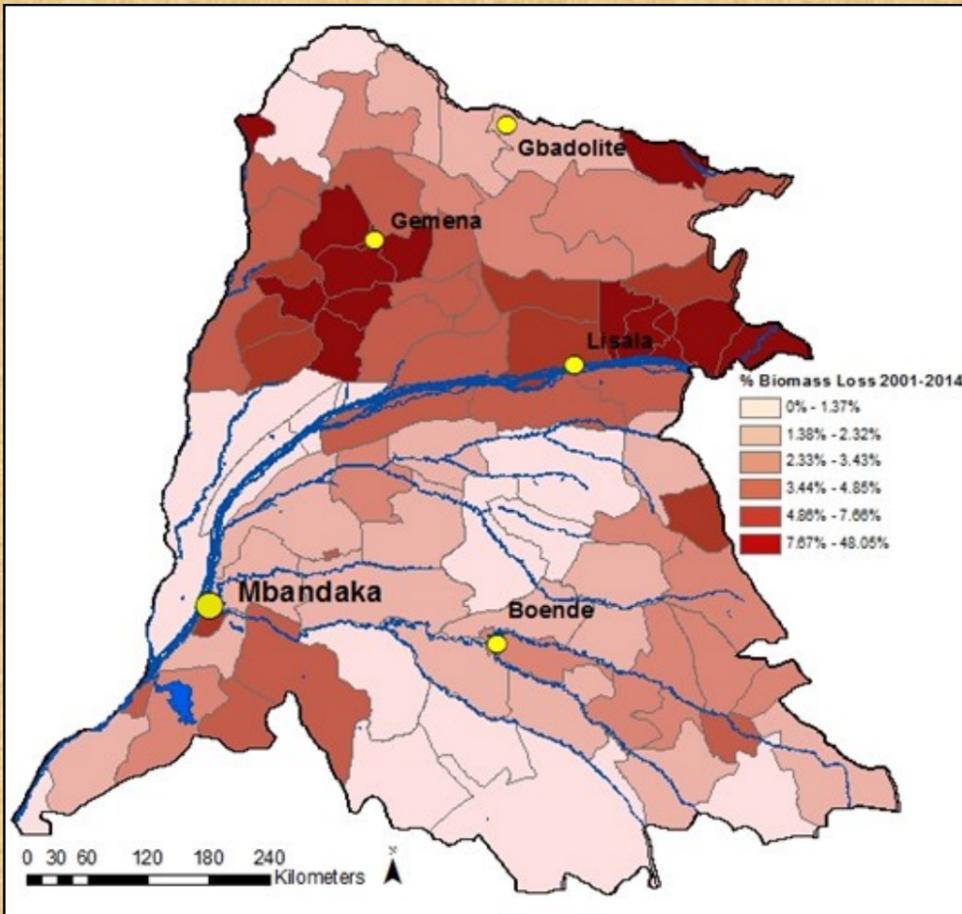
Background

The Woods Hole Research Center (WHRC) in Partnership with the DRC Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD) is implementing a pilot REDD+ project in the Equateur Province. The project is increasing the capacity of local stakeholders for the development of REDD+ strategies, preparation for the management of carbon funds through designing and implement community based REDD+ pilot projects with potential for continued carbon financing.

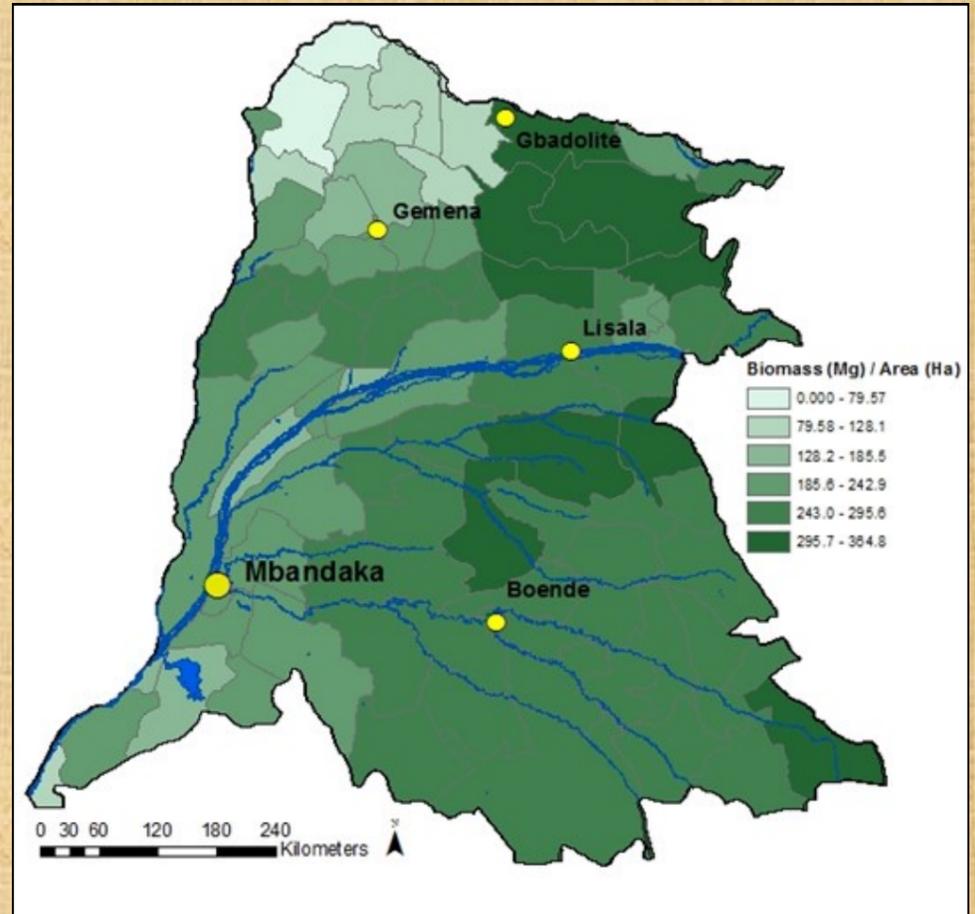
The WHRC is also assisting the REDD+ focal point of the Equateur Province in the development REDD+ at the provincial level. Using remote sensing and satellite imagery, WHRC has produced biomass losses between 2001 to 2014 in DRC and the Equateur province. This data highlights the sharp increase in deforestation since 2011, which is likely to continue without any policy intervention.



Biomass loss in Equateur between 2001 and 2014



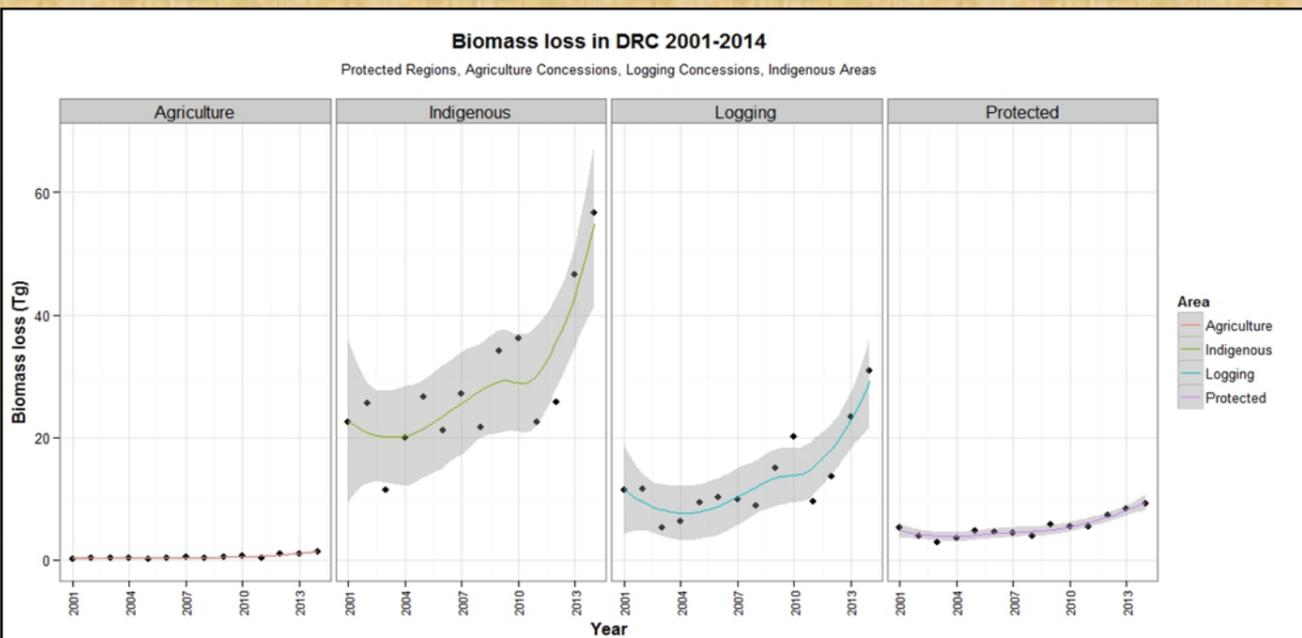
Biomass stocks per hectare in Equateur



Strategic planning for REDD+ activities

By looking at biomass stocks (on the right) and biomass losses (on the left) at territorial level, policy makers can prioritize actions on jurisdictional areas most impacted by deforestation or holding the largest carbon stocks. The map can also help controlling for potential leakages in surrounding territories.

Rates of biomass losses are also useful in developing reference levels, while historical rates gives us an idea of how deforestation rates are increasing in DRC, as the country develops. The geographical information can also give some insights to understand potential drivers of deforestation, such as roads, population density or agricultural programs, which targets specific territories. To obtain a more complete picture of the carbon sequestered in the Congolese forest, additional research will have to be carried to explore the carbon withheld in different soil types in the DRC.



Community Forest Management

The graphic on the left explores biomass losses with different land use: in agricultural and logging concessions, in indigenous territories and protected areas. The steep curves of biomass losses in land under customary claims calls for interventions which targets forest communities.

Based on the results from the consultation part of the first steps of the Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) in Equateur Project's sites, the primary drivers of deforestation identified were land clearing for agriculture and charcoal production, as a source of income for households. The demographic explosion appears to be an aggravating factor accentuating the pressure on forest resources.

The WHRC is testing different approaches to support community forest management. Through the structuration of the communities, training in agroforestry and soil management, land use planning and other development intervention, we hope to tackle specific drivers of deforestation. The monitoring, evaluation and detail cost analysis will help identify the most effective approaches.

