



Isangi Forest Conservation Democratic Republic of Congo

Protecting the rainforest ecosystems
of the Congo Basin and enriching
local communities



At the confluence of the Congo and Lomami Rivers towards the north of the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Isangi project protects over 187,000 hectares of one of Earth's most biodiverse rainforests from deforestation. As carbon sinks, forests play an important role in climate change mitigation, deforestation, however, releases the carbon stored and damages ecosystem biodiversity. The project helps to alleviate local poverty by promoting sustainable economic opportunities and developing educational initiatives to bring a brighter future to remote communities.

The Context

The Democratic Republic of Congo is home to vast swathes of Africa's tropical rainforests. Covering almost half the country, the incredibly diverse forest is one of the few in Africa to have survived the ice age. With its population growing at over 3 % a year, the threat of deforestation from industrial and agricultural expansion looms large.

The Project

The Isangi conservation project operates across 187,571 hectares of rainforest, preventing its conversion into subsistence agriculture and conserving the immensely biodiverse area around the Congo Basin. The project also improves the livelihood of forest-dependent local communities, simultaneously addressing a major driver of deforestation in the area through developing sustainable income streams, such as tilapia farming and agroforestry. The project also runs a number of initiatives including sustainably intensifying existing agricultural practices and implementing land-use planning.

The Benefits

By stopping the conversion of rainforest into land for agriculture, the Isangi project reduces deforestation rates by 30-100%. Not only does this mitigate 324,534 tonnes of CO₂ on average annually, it conserves the habitat of diverse local species thereby preserving ecosystem biodiversity. The project also has a range of local community benefits; it alleviates poverty by promoting sustainable economic development, improves public health, funds new local education programs, and helps maintain traditional cultural and spiritual identities while promoting understanding of biodiversity in the project zone and the wider Congo Basin.

Access to primary education has been a top priority. The project built 3 schools, funded 10 teachers, enrolled hundreds of students and provided school supplies



Improved food security

35 Tilapia ponds established and crops planted including cacao and pineapple



USD 14,000+

spent on medicine over 8 years, providing access to basic healthcare, clean water and antibiotics



24+ workshops

on basic sanitation, education, waste management, biodiversity restoration, beekeeping, and 416 hours of educational radio



397+ jobs

created, across a variety of roles, including 10 teachers, 40 in forestry, 1 nurse & 12 in microfinance



3 schools & 3 small bridges

built in the project area



324,000 tCO₂e

mitigated on average annually



187,571 ha

of land protected by the project



Habitat preservation

14 different primates, 11% of world's bird species and 700 distinct native tree species

For more information on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, please visit: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

Official name: Isangi REDD+ Project | **Markit link:** https://mer.markit.com/br-reg/public/project.jsp?project_id=103000000007689 | **Markit ID:** 103000000007689

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