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**Lessons and good practice in management of community forests in the DRC**

This report is drawn from the final results of the study on the current state of community forestry in the DRC, which was covered under the partnership agreement concluded on 28 August 2003 between the DRC and the National Forestry Programme Facility. It is a summary of both reports and investigations on the field produced by three organisations from Congolese civil society selected for this purpose: the Réseau pour la Conservation et la Réhabilitation des Écosystèmes forestiers du Nord-Kivu (CREF, Network for the Conservation and Rehabilitation of the Forest Ecosystems of North Kivu), the Organisation concertée des Écologistes et Amis de la Nature (OCEAN, Cooperative Organisation of Ecologists and Friends of Nature) and Action Massive Rural (AMAR, Rural Mass Action).

This study showed that community forestry is a new concept, not widely known or well assimilated in Congolese society. However, the literature review and the analysis of data from the field highlighted the existence of village-based forms of land and forest management of a communal nature, which are today being analysed as signposts for community forestry in this country.

At the level of the Forestry Code mechanisms are organised, drawn from Articles 22, 36 *OK et seqq.*, 89, 111, 112, 113 and 120 and 121, which may be used to develop management of community forests. In any case, the inventory of the village-based modes of access to land and to the forest resource, of their exploitation and management, of local beliefs and practices relating to forestry, and also of the conflicts arising from the use of forests, reveals elements which bring the country closer to the experience of community forestry.