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Ibi Batéké carbon sink. Outline of a long-term vision for sustainable development

The project is situated in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in the Kinshasa province, on the plateau of the Batéké. The Ibi area, in which the project will be carried out, covers an area of 20,000 ha and is situated 140km east of Kinshasa. It is bordered on the south by the national highway from Kinshasa to Kikwit, near the village of Mbankana.

It is an afforestation project over a total area of 8,000ha, using rapid-growing forest species (eucalyptus, pines and acacias) and trialling local species. The products expected of these plantations are: firewood that can be used directly, but mostly converted into charcoal to supply Kinshasa; small wood and industrial timber that can be used locally; CO₂ sequestration by the growing trees. Through job creation and improving the living conditions of the local populations, it will give a significant impetus to local development, which is currently very weak. Managed sustainably, the forest thus created will become part of the landscape, on the environmental as well as the economic level.

Besides, as the environmental conditions in the project zone are the same all over the Batéké plateaux, which extend from Angola through both Congos to Gabon, it will be possible to easily reproduce the project either in the same way or adapted to the various socio-economic conditions.