Yangambi Engagement Landscape

A science, conservation and development hub in the heart of the Congo Basin

Located in the heart of the Congo Basin, the Yangambi Engagement Landscape serves as a model for integrated approaches to sustainable forestry, agroforestry and biodiversity conservation. Led by the Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF) and partners, this landscape initiative aims to foster local development while preserving the rich natural heritage of the region.

Key facts

Location
Tshopo Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Area
Covers 16,000 square kilometres along the Congo River

Land uses
Includes biosphere and forest reserves, logging concessions and customary land for small-scale agriculture

Population
Over 220,000 people who depend on the landscape for their livelihoods

Strategic focus areas
Capacity improvement, livelihood enhancement, biodiversity conservation, research for development and awareness raising

Impacts of our work

Capacity improvement
Since 2007, through our partnership with the University of Kisangani, we have trained nearly 270 master's and PhD students in sustainable forest management, with 11 percent of those being women. Our graduates are now working in universities, research institutes, the private sector and government.

Scientific advancements
Supported by partners, the inauguration of the Congo Basin's first Eddy Covariance tower in 2020 enables crucial measurements of greenhouse gas exchanges in forests. The establishment of a Wood Anatomy Lab, and ongoing efforts to modernize Yangambi's herbarium contribute significantly to scientific research and collaboration..

Infrastructure development
Includes the construction of Kisangani's first green building, and supporting the renovation of facilities totalling approximately 5,500 m² at the University of Kisangani, and 3,000 m² at the National Agricultural Study and Research Institute (INERA) building in Yangambi.

Awareness and media engagement
Behaviour-change campaigns and environmental education programmes have reached over 12,000 people, including local populations and authorities. Environmental journalism training for over 50 journalists has helped raise awareness among the Congolese public about sustainable forest management.

Livelihood improvement and entrepreneurship
Since 2017, over 1,500 farmers and entrepreneurs, including women, have been supported through various associations across value chains including timber, charcoal and agriculture. We have created over 3,600 hectares of agroforestry plantations, generating thousands of jobs, and improving local entrepreneurs' access to capital from microfinance institutions.

Partnership and sustainable development
Establishment of a public-private partnership for the sustainable development of the Yangambi landscape, officially signed in June 2023 and validated by the Minister of Research and Technological Innovation in October 2023, is helping to foster collaboration and innovation among landscape stakeholders.

Environmental restoration and conservation
Close to 3,500 hectares of degraded land have been restored, with over three million trees planted. Initiatives include establishing community forests and implementing wildlife conservation programmes to protect endangered species like chimpanzees, forest buffalos and pangolins.

Our partners
The success of the Yangambi Engagement Landscape relies on long-term partnerships with the European Union, donors and international, national and local organizations. These collaborations drive forward the landscape's mission and vision for a sustainable future.

For more information, visit
www.cifor-icraf.org/yangambi-engagement-landscape/
www.yangambi.org

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