



# 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. Not only does this mitigate 324,534 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> 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



**2 ZERO HUNGER**  
Improved food security

thanks to the improved production programme, 39kg of Tilapia from each pond (35 ponds) every year and many trees have been planted for crops

**3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**  
Basic healthcare services

including access to clean water and antibiotics, a nurse and \$150 per month spent for 8 years

**4 QUALITY EDUCATION**  
24+ workshops

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

**8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**  
397+ jobs

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

**9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE**  
3 schools & 3 small bridges

built in the project area

**13 CLIMATE ACTION**  
324,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e

mitigated on average annually

**15 LIFE ON LAND**  
187,571 ha

of land protected by the project

**15 LIFE ON LAND**  
14 species protected

of endangered or vulnerable flora and fauna, 4,800 hours spent on biodiversity preservation & 10 cameras installed to document wildlife

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](https://mer.markit.com/br-reg/public/project.jsp?project_id=103000000007689) | Markit ID: 103000000007689

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