



# 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. However, when forests are cut down the stored carbon is released into the atmosphere and the ecosystem biodiversity is lost or damaged. 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 324,000 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 35 new productive Tilapia ponds and increased production of pineapple and rice

**3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**  
  
**USD 14,000+**  
 spent on medicine over 8 years. As well as increased access to clean water and antibiotics

**4 QUALITY EDUCATION**  
  
**24+ workshops**  
 on sanitation, education, waste management, biodiversity restoration, beekeeping, and 416 hours of educational radio

**8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**  
  
**397+ jobs**  
 created, including 10 teachers, 40 in forestry, 1 nurse & 12 in micro-finance

**9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE**  
  
**3 schools & 3 small bridges**  
 built in the project area

**13 CLIMATE ACTION**  
  
**324,534 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**  
  
**Habitat preservation**  
 14 different primates, 11% of the world's bird species and 700 distinct native tree species recorded in the project area

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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