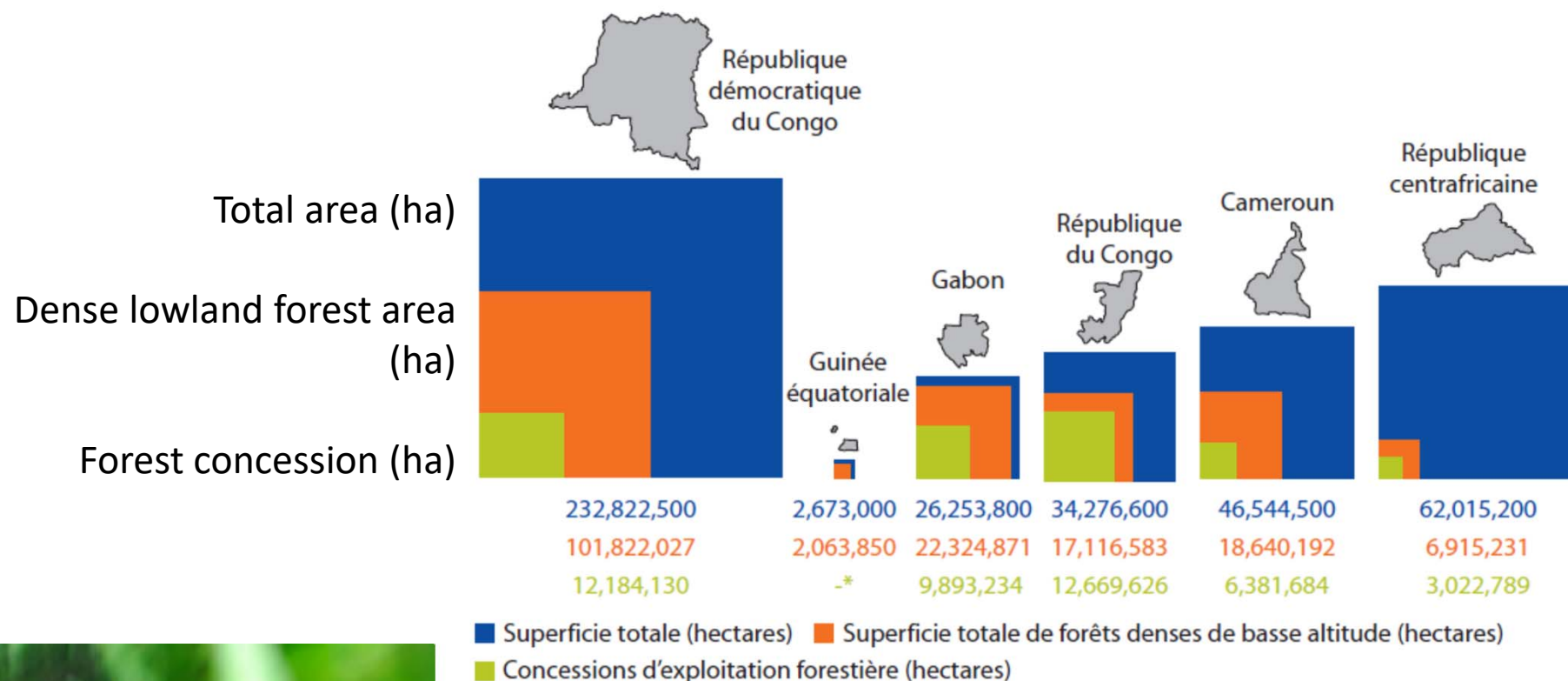


# Do FLEGT & REDD+ have an impact on SFM in DR Congo?

Pieter Moonen  
Bruno Verbist

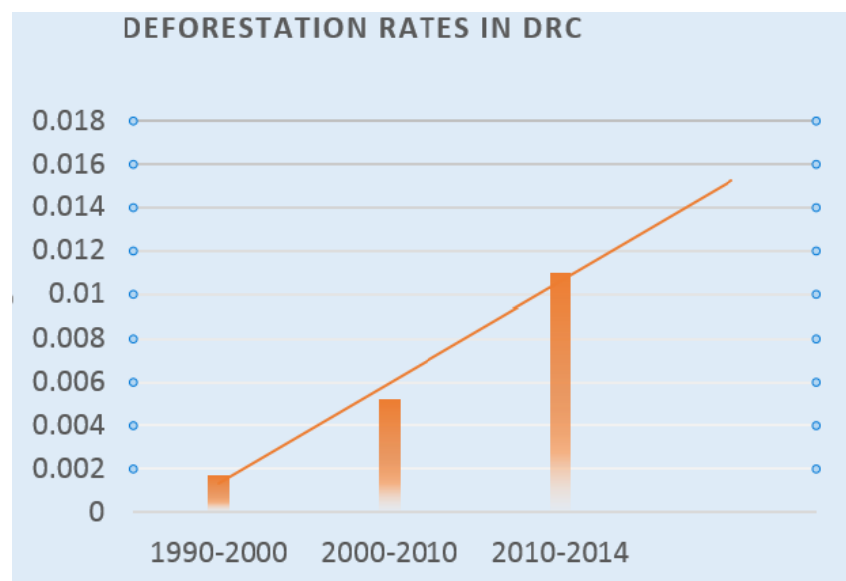


# Forest area & concessions in Central-Africa

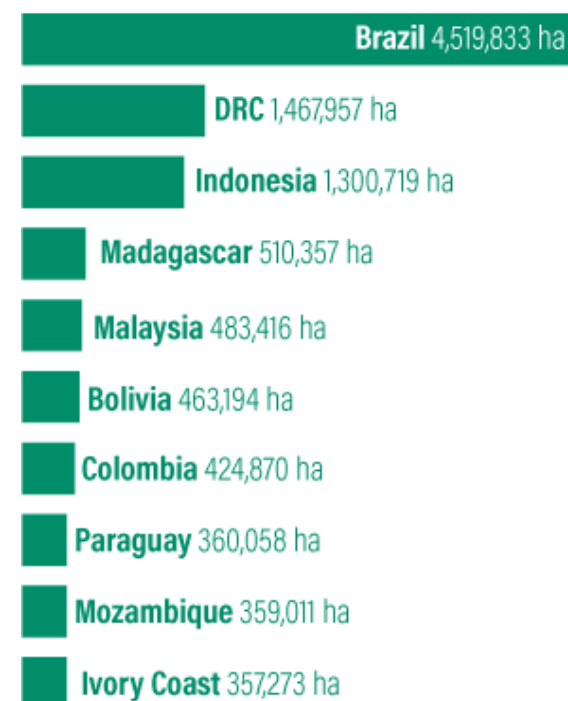


Source: Wasseige et al 2012

# Deforestation in DRC



Top 10 Tropical Countries for  
Tree Cover Loss in 2017



## DRC Agriculture

- One of the largest current and future driving factors of deforestation
- Up to now mainly Slash& Burn
- Up to now poorly connected to the world market



## Objectives

- Impact of FLEGT-VPA
- Impact of REDD+
  - Financing and high level commitment
  - Sectoral alignment
  - Benefit flows to lower level stakeholders





## Methods

- Interviews with national experts on REDD+/FLEGT in DRC August-December 2017
  - National level: n=25
  - Provincial level: n=22
  - Local level: 2 projects & 4 communities
- Triangulation of data & sources through literature review





# Selected REDD+ pilot projects

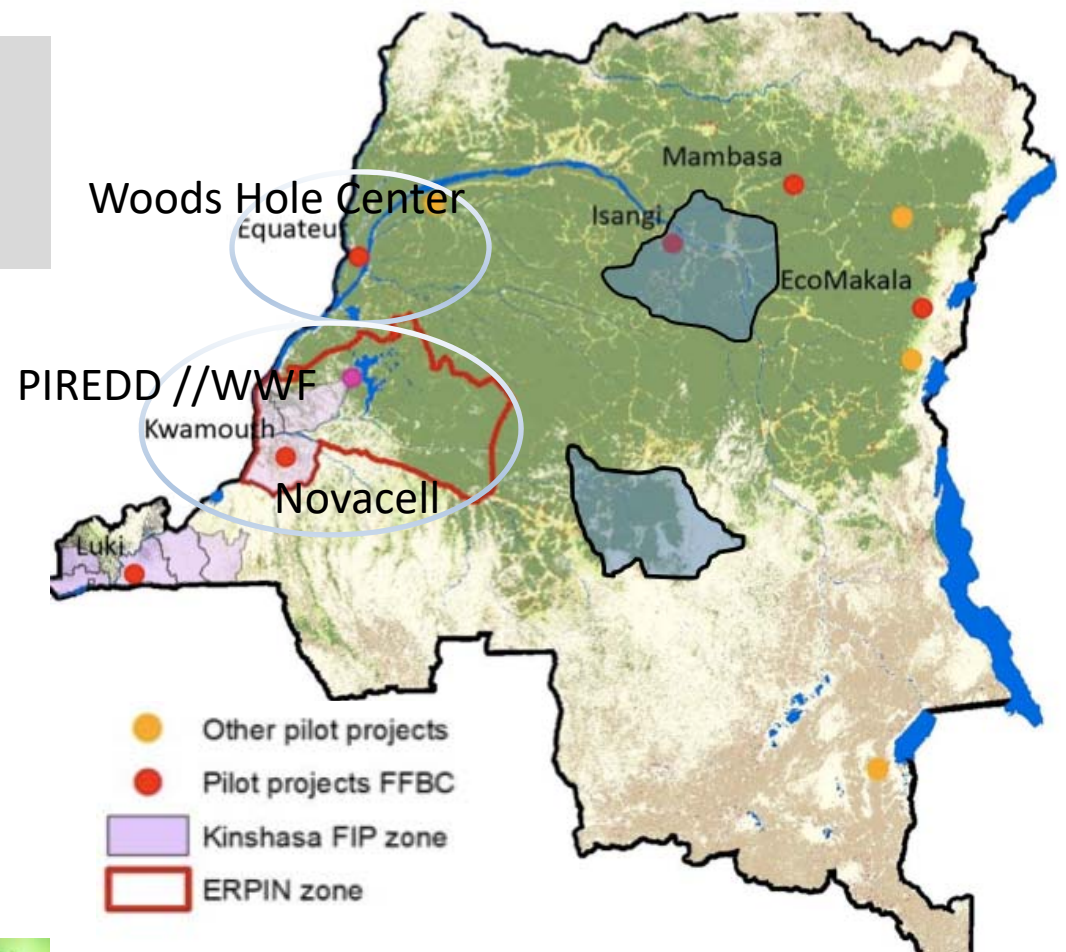
- Selection based on :
  - ecological zones
  - succes & implementation stage
  - practical reasons

Province of Mai Ndombe

- PIREDD // WWF

Province of Equator

- Woods Hole Center



# **Key findings on outputs in forest regime**





## DRC: logging sector

- Focus on limited species and large diameters (indication of abundance of resources)
- Artisanal logging is important
  - Production 13x higher than the formal logging sector
  - 85% of it feeds domestic demand
  - Legal artisanal logging permits (but low compliance)



## State of FLEGT-VPA

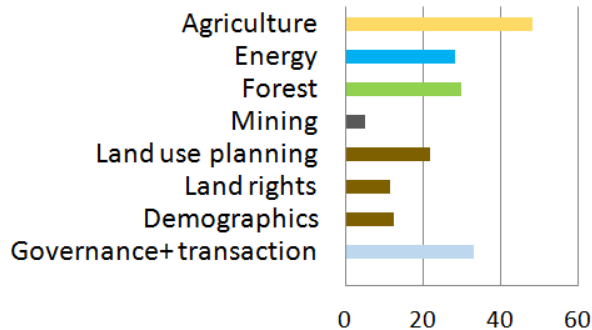
- Start negotiations: 2010
- Outputs so far:
  - A technical committee
  - The design of a legality matrix was started ...
- Perceived as needed by most interviewees!
- Large gap between rhetoric and practice\*
- Shrinking base: 57 logging permits; 25 active in 2015; 18 in 2016
- Reduced exports to EU (30%)
- 90% of logging harvest is through artisanal logging (... And still outside scope of FLEGT-VPA !)
- Impact?

\* e.g. at presentation at EU conference "Tackling Deforestation and illegal logging"; Brussels, 21-23 June 2017





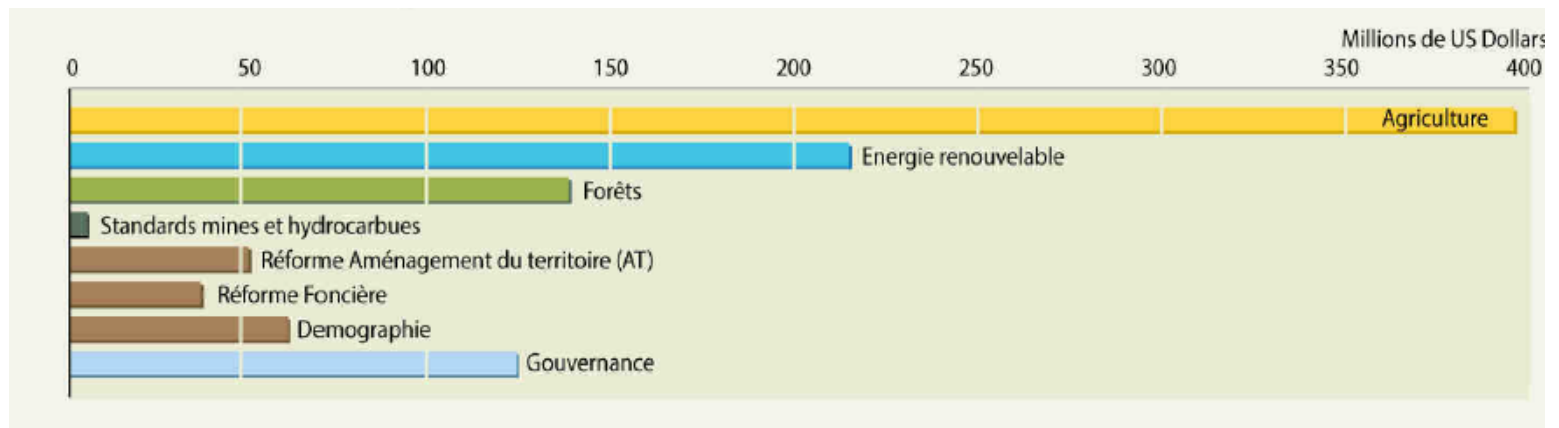
## REDD+ is the largest forest program in DRC



### 190 M USD CAFI

includes a focus on other sectors incl. largest drivers of deforestation

### Versus Investment plan needs (1000 M USD)



Sources: DRC investment plan, 2015;  
CAFI letter of intent

## REDD+ in DRC

- After preparatory phases since 2009: Key texts and tools still lacking for integrated REDD+ programs
- Links to local level difficult / remaining gaps
  - Limited mobilisation **for land tenure/land use planning**
  - **Feedback mechanisms** not in place
  - **Benefit sharing** mechanism
- Large changes in 2017
  - close down of National REDD+ committee January 2017
  - Shift in lead from Min. of Environment to Min. of Finance
  - Increasing role of CAFI and international agencies



## Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI)

- Established in 2015
- CAFI is as a collaborative partnership that gathers:
  - Central African partner countries: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Republic Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon
  - A coalition of donors: the European Union, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, South Korea and the United Kingdom
  - Brazil as South-South partner
- 2015-2020 DRC REDD+ Investment plan
- Increasing coordination among donors, but also partner countries in the South
- Donor coordination is a “verb”





## REDD+ since 2017

- More international implementing partners (World Bank, FAO, UNDP, ...)
- In 2018 the 2004 moratorium on forest logging was breached (2 cases)
- CAFI warns for the risks for REDD+ and its associated funding ...
- Min. of Environment responds that they will hand out even more concessions

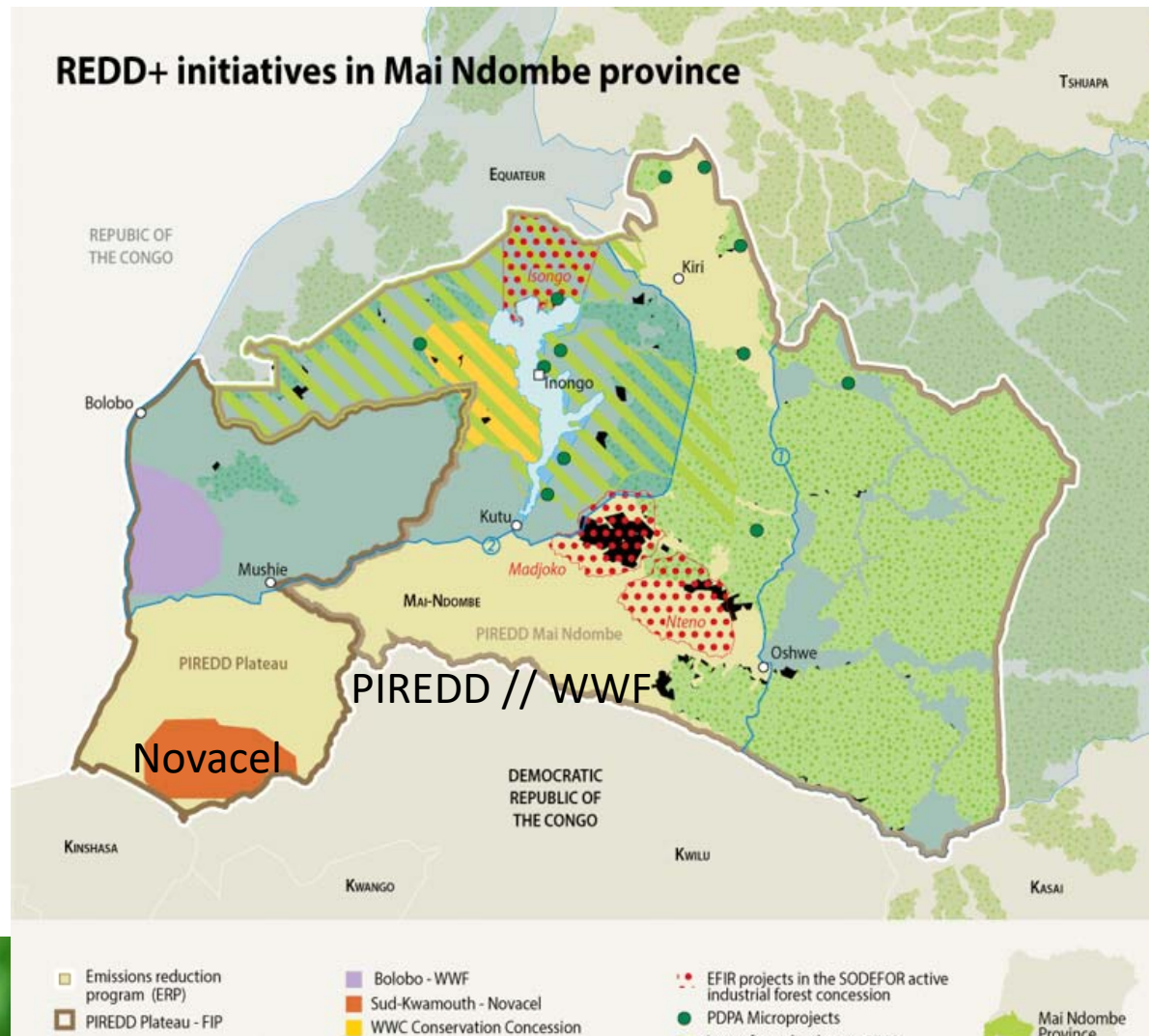
CAFI donor countries remain so far relatively united.

Ongoing power struggle ... but also indication of growing doubts if REDD+ will be able to mobilise the expected funding





# Outputs at the provincial level



Source: RRI



# Outputs at the provincial level

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## Mai Ndombe province (ER program)

- Designed to absorb the future marketbased funding
- Provincial piloting committee: **not operational, but important tasks:**
  - Assuring information flow to local stakeholders
  - Monitoring of programs
  - Validating all tools (safeguard, benefit sharing, complaint mechanism etc.)
- Capacity building limited to a few workshops, information very limited
- Conflicts between national and provincial ministries
- Lack of trust between different actors



## Hindrances and opportunities at the provincial level

- **Underresourced** national and especially provincial government institutions
- **Decentralisation** process aggravating this situation

-> REDD+ can help in building this capacity

- Poor understanding of sustainable development amongst leadership
- Weak technical and managerial capacities of civil society actors, thus often replaced by international agencies, but limited local accountability, sustainability and trust
- A few **local champions**: NOVACELL, ... that started in the early days ... options for scaling out?







# Dilemma's at REDD+ project level

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Numbers of trees planted



OR

Local ownership? Local development plans?



- Long term profitability? Or clean air for people in Europe ?
- Short project duration, administrative rigor, deadlines on spending lead to suboptimal investments
- Clear issue of sustainability





## **Lessons learnt implementing FLEGT-VPA & REDD+**

- FLEGT-VPA little potential in the nearby future: weak interest from DRC, Need to include artisanal logging
- REDD+ Centralised, top-down approach hasn't worked, needs more attention for local perspectives



## Recommendations

- **Continue donor-alignment** with CAFI
- Go more **cross-sectoral**: Make development programs & projects from other sectors (agriculture) REDD+ proof
- Support and scale out work from **local champions** that have both development potential and forest protection potential
- Capacity building of **decentralised entities**, they are accountable







**Thank you !**

