

## Advancing resilience and sustainability in fragile and conflict-affected settings.

### GCCED Fragile States Portfolio 2026

#### **Democratic Republic of the Congo — Sustainable Natural Wealth Governance**

**Snapshot:** Population ~109 million | GDP per capita ~US\$649

**Fragility context:** Fragile and conflict-affected state

**Region:** Central Africa

#### **Integrated Context**

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is home to some of the most globally significant natural assets, including vast tropical forests, exceptional biodiversity, major freshwater systems, and critical mineral reserves. The Congo Basin, in particular, represents one of the world's largest carbon sinks and plays a vital role in global climate regulation.

Despite this ecological importance, environmental governance in the DRC remains deeply constrained by persistent conflict, limited state presence in remote regions, and growing pressure from extractive industries. Illegal logging, unregulated mining, insecure land tenure, and weak enforcement mechanisms continue to drive deforestation, ecosystem degradation, and unequal distribution of resource benefits.

In the eastern regions, where conflict and displacement are ongoing, environmental management is closely intertwined with insecurity and informal resource extraction. In these contexts, natural resources are not only economic assets but also drivers of local instability and vulnerability.

The central challenge for the DRC is not simply to balance conservation and development, but to establish governance systems capable of managing forests, minerals, and land in a way that safeguards ecosystems while generating equitable economic opportunities. This requires integrated approaches that link conservation, resource governance, territorial planning, and community-based livelihoods.

#### **Key Climate and Environmental Challenges**

- Deforestation and degradation of forest ecosystems
- Environmental and social impacts of mining activities
- Weak land tenure systems and forest governance structures
- Conflict-driven pressure on natural resources

#### **GCCED Engagement Priorities**

- Strengthening forest governance and community stewardship
- Promoting responsible and sustainable mining practices
- Advancing nature-based climate solutions and carbon protection
- Enhancing biodiversity monitoring and land-use data systems

#### **Strategic Note**

Climate resilience in the DRC will depend on protecting globally significant ecosystems while strengthening governance, improving accountability, and expanding sustainable livelihood opportunities in resource-rich and conflict-affected areas.

#### **SDG Alignment**

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