**Region: Congo Basin**

Countries included: Cameroon, Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and the Republic of the Congo

**Color Key:**

No data or not enough to justify Grey;

Adverse or hostile conditions for IPLCs in the country Red;

Limited/conflicting progress in achieving IPLC recognition, rights, and supporting legal frameworks Yellow;

Strong legal frameworks, recognition, and willingness to support IPLC rights Green.

**Legal Framework, Scale of Recognition, & Government Willingness**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Legal Framework** | **Scale of Recognition vs actual IPLC governance** | **Government willingness** |
| Cameroon | Cameroon’s legal framework allows for limited recognition of IPLC control of forest resources - rights which can be renewed every 5 years based on compliance with the management agreement.  (Source: RRI. 2020. Opportunity Framework.) | ~ 4.6 Mha of forests have been recognized by the government as under IPLC control, representing 9 percent of the country’s total land area.  (Source: RRI. 2015. Who Owns the World’s Lands?)  According to [Landmark](http://www.landmarkmap.org/map/#x=-102.46&y=13.47&l=3&a=community_FormalDoc%2Ccommunity_NoDoc%2Ccommunity_FormalClaim%2Ccommunity_Occupied%2Cindigenous_FormalDoc%2Cindigenous_NoDoc%2Cindigenous_FormalClaim%2Cindigenous_Occupied), 74 % of customarily-administered lands have yet to be recognized. | While the conditions are in place to implement the laws and relevant reforms, the slow progress on this seems to suggest a reluctance to confer meaningful control to IPLCs by the administration.  (Source: RRI. 2020. Opportunity Framework. |
| Central African Republic | The Central African Republic’s legal framework allows for the recognition of IPLC control of forest resources.  (Source: RRI. 2020. Opportunity Framework.) | The legal regimes recognizing IPLC control have not yet been implemented on the ground.  (Source: RRI. 2015. Who Owns the World’s Lands?)  According to [Landmark](http://www.landmarkmap.org/map/#x=-102.46&y=13.47&l=3&a=community_FormalDoc%2Ccommunity_NoDoc%2Ccommunity_FormalClaim%2Ccommunity_Occupied%2Cindigenous_FormalDoc%2Cindigenous_NoDoc%2Cindigenous_FormalClaim%2Cindigenous_Occupied), 82 % of customarily-administered lands have yet to be recognized. | There appears to be high levels of political will at the national and sub-national levels to support interventions to strengthen IPLC governance of lands and resources, but capacity is very weak. |
| DR Congo | The DR Congo’s legal framework provides very limited grounds for the recognition of IPLC control over forests (community protected areas and concessions).  While there is no basis for IPLC ownership of lands or other resources, a long-awaited reform may address this. Some sub-national initiatives are also advancing toward the recognition and formalization of customary land rights.  (Source: RRI. 2020. Opportunity Framework.) | ~1.2 MHa of lands (forests) have been recognized as under IPLC control, representing less than 1 % of the country’s total land area.  (Source: RRI. 2020. Opportunity Framework.)  Recognition has most likely taken place in Equateur, Tshuapa, Tshopo, North Kivu, Maniema, Kongo Central, Ituri, and Haut-Katanga provinces.  According to [Landmark](http://www.landmarkmap.org/map/#x=-102.46&y=13.47&l=3&a=community_FormalDoc%2Ccommunity_NoDoc%2Ccommunity_FormalClaim%2Ccommunity_Occupied%2Cindigenous_FormalDoc%2Cindigenous_NoDoc%2Cindigenous_FormalClaim%2Cindigenous_Occupied), 86 % of customarily-administered lands have yet to be recognized. | There appears to be some willingness in the administration to advance the recognition of IPLC control over forests. The national government has set a target of putting 2.4 Mha of forests under community management by 2023. As of 2020, it had reached half of its target.  At the sub-national level, several provincial-level authorities have also expressed an interest in supporting the recognition of IPLC control over forest - especially in the provinces of : Equateur, Tshuapa, North Kivu, Maniema, Kongo Central, Ituri, and Haut-Katanga  (Source: RRI. 2020. Opportunity Framework; Unpublished consultancy report to the Tenure Facility. 2018) |
| Equatorial Guinea | No data-refer to EOI. | No data on if any areas are recognized - refer to EOI  According to [Landmark](http://www.landmarkmap.org/map/#x=-102.46&y=13.47&l=3&a=community_FormalDoc%2Ccommunity_NoDoc%2Ccommunity_FormalClaim%2Ccommunity_Occupied%2Cindigenous_FormalDoc%2Cindigenous_NoDoc%2Cindigenous_FormalClaim%2Cindigenous_Occupied), 71 % of customarily-administered lands have yet to be recognized. | No data-refer to EOI |
| Gabon | Gabon’s legal framework maintains government ownership over virtually all lands. Its forest code however, allows for the recognition of IPLC control over forest resources through community forests and community protected areas.  (Source: RRI. 2020. Opportunity Framework.) | ~ 0.01 MHa of forests have been recognized as under IPLC control, representing less than 0.1% of the country’s total land area.  (Source. RRI. 2015. Who Owns the World’s Lands)  According to [Landmark](http://www.landmarkmap.org/map/#x=-102.46&y=13.47&l=3&a=community_FormalDoc%2Ccommunity_NoDoc%2Ccommunity_FormalClaim%2Ccommunity_Occupied%2Cindigenous_FormalDoc%2Cindigenous_NoDoc%2Cindigenous_FormalClaim%2Cindigenous_Occupied), 83 % of customarily-administered lands have yet to be recognized. | There appears to be little interest from national authorities in the recognition of IPLC control over forests. Decisions over resource governance are highly centralized, so sub-national willingness is irrelevant.  (Source: RRI. 2020. Opportunity Framework.) |
| Rep. of Congo | The Republic of Congo’s legal framework provides for the recognition of IPLC control over lands and forests.  While the instruments are in place for this,most of these regimes have not been implemented in practice.  (Source: RRI. 2015. Who Owns the World’s Lands?) | ~ 0.44 MHa have been recognized by the government as controlled by IPLCs, representing 1.3 % of the country’s total land area, while virtually the entire country’s land remains under customary governance (outside of cities).  Recognition appears limited to : La Réserve Communautaire du Lac Télé/Likouala-aux-Herbes.  (Source: RRI. 2015. Who Owns the World’s Lands?)  According to [Landmark](http://www.landmarkmap.org/map/#x=-102.46&y=13.47&l=3&a=community_FormalDoc%2Ccommunity_NoDoc%2Ccommunity_FormalClaim%2Ccommunity_Occupied%2Cindigenous_FormalDoc%2Cindigenous_NoDoc%2Cindigenous_FormalClaim%2Cindigenous_Occupied), 86 % of customarily-administered lands have yet to be recognized. | No data-refer to EOI. |