



**Verified Carbon  
Standard**

## BAULU PROJECT, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



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# 1 PROJECT DETAILS

## 1.1 Summary Description of the Project

Located in the center of the Democratic Republic of Congo, in the “Cuvette Centrale”, the Baulu Project is designed to protect 277,131 ha of native Congolese forests legally designated for selective logging. The Project is situated within Forest Concession 009/11 – Baulu, hereinafter referred to as the Baulu Concession. Since January 2018, this concession has been managed by the company Industrie Forestière du Congo (IFCO), which harvests volumes of commercial timber from it, following the terms of the Management Plan that was drawn up at the start of management. In 2023, as part of this project, IFCO has transferred the Baulu Concession to KNCC, with the objective of converting the logging concession into a protected forest.

In the context of the sustainable forest management (which constitutes the historical scenario and the baseline scenario), the Baulu Concession is divided into three Forest Management Series (for 1) forest production, 2) protection and 3) conservation) and a rural development area. The main activity of the Baulu Project is to set-aside areas of Logged-to-Protected Forests (LtPF), in the timber production series of 116,181 ha, to maintain and protect ecosystem services in forest production areas legally designated for selective logging. From the cessation of timber harvesting activities, which are present in the baseline scenario, the project aims to avoid emissions generated by logging, transport, processing of raw material as well as collateral damage to vegetation caused by the fall of cut trees on surrounding plants, decomposition of material left in the forest, construction of forest tracks for transport to the storage point and other infrastructure. A further advantage that the project will bring to the area is due to the cessation of the disturbance caused by logging activities to the fauna present in this area, which is very rich and varied, thanks also to the proximity of the Lomako-Yokokala Wildlife Reserve, which includes, among other species, bonobo, forest elephant, Congolese peacock or Bongo antelope. Community activities will also be developed in the rural development area, such as awareness raising on illegal logging and poaching activities, awareness raising and training on sustainable agricultural practices, etc.

By avoiding previously planned deforestation/degradation and implementing conservation activities, the forest will be able to store carbon through the growth and development of trees over the years, as well as eliminating GHG emissions from harvesting, processing and production, and contribute to the conservation of several globally threatened species.

The Project applies the VCS VM0010 methodology to quantify the emission reductions induced by the LtPF project activity. The project plans to generate carbon credits for the voluntary market under the VCS standard. The first accreditation period is 39 years. The avoided emissions of GHG are estimated at 28,226,970 tCO<sub>2</sub>-e, (i.e. 723,768 tCO<sub>2</sub>-e/an) of which a part will feed the buffer reserve of the AFOLU VCS account.

## 1.2 Audit History

This section is not applicable because the project is not in the process of being renewed or validated: the project is under development.

## 1.3 Sectoral Scope and Project Type

<b>Sectoral scope</b>	Sectoral scope 14 (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use)
<b>AFOLU project category<sup>1</sup></b>	Improved Forest Management (IFM)
<b>Project activity type</b>	Logged to Protected Forest (LtPF)

## 1.4 Project Eligibility

### 1.4.1 General eligibility

The project is eligible under the scope of the VCS Program (see details in Table 1 below).

**Table 1: Reason for the Project's eligibility for the VCS program – General eligibility**

CRITERION	FULFILLED? (YES/No)	JUSTIFICATION / EXPLANATION
The project should not be part of the ineligible project activities (see Table 1 in VCS Standard v4.5)	Yes	No Improve Forest Management (IFM) projects are included in this list of ineligible project activities.
The project meets requirements related to the pipeline listing deadline, the opening meeting with the validation/verification body, and the validation deadline.	Yes	AFO LU projects shall initiate the pipeline listing process within three years of the project start date: the project starting on 24 July 2023, it can initiate the pipeline listing process until 23 July 2026. Regarding the opening meeting with the validation/verification body: the project is under development and the validation process has not yet begun, so no opening meeting was held with the VVB. Regarding the validation deadline, all the Logged to Protected Forest (LtPF) projects shall complete validation within five years of the project start date: the project starting on 24 July 2023, it shall complete validation until 24 July 2028.

<sup>1</sup> See Appendix 1 of the VCS Standard v4.5

CRITERION	FULFILLED? (YES/No)	JUSTIFICATION / EXPLANATION
The applied methodology is eligible under the VCS Program.	Yes	<p>The methodology applied as part of this project is the VM0010 methodology, approved on April 28, 2016 by the VCS Program<sup>2</sup>.</p> <p>According to VCS Methodology Requirements v4.4 (section 2.7.1) there are currently six AFOLU project categories under the VCS Program, as further described in Appendix 1 Eligible AFOLU Project Categories. Proposed AFOLU methodologies shall fall within one or more of these AFOLU project categories: the VM0010 methodology falls into the IFM category.</p>

#### 1.4.2 AFOLU project eligibility

The project is eligible under the scope of the VCS Program (see details in Table 2 below).

**Table 2: Reason for the Project's eligibility for the VCS program – AFOLU project eligibility**

CRITERION	FULFILLED? (YES/No)	JUSTIFICATION / EXPLANATION
<p>According to the VCS Standard v4.5 and the VCS Methodology Requirements (Appendix 1 Eligible AFOLU Project Categories) eligible IFM activities are those that increase carbon sequestration and/or reduce GHG emissions on forest lands managed for wood products such as sawtimber, pulpwood and fuelwood by increasing biomass carbon stocks through improving forest management practices. The baseline and project scenarios for the project area shall qualify as forests remaining as forests, such as set out in the 2019 Refinement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National GHG Inventories, and the project area shall be designated, sanctioned or approved for wood product management by a</p>	Yes	<p>The project is eligible under the IFM category by virtue of the fact that it prevents emissions by improving forest management practices in the timber production Forest Management Series of the Baulu Concession (Forest Concession 009/11 – Baulu) who is an area designated, sanctioned or approved for wood production management by the Minister in charge of forests, i.e. the Minister of the Environment and Sustainable Development (national regulatory).</p>

<sup>2</sup> <https://verra.org/methodologies/vm0010-methodology-for-improved-forest-management-conversion-from-logged-to-protected-forest-v1-3/>

CRITERION	FULFILLED? (YES/No)	JUSTIFICATION / EXPLANATION
national or local regulatory body (e.g., as logging concessions or plantations).		
Native ecosystems have not been converted, cleared, drained, or degraded to generate GHG credits.	Yes	<p>Evidence shall be provided in the project description that any ARR, ALM, WRC or ACoGS project areas were not cleared of existing natural non-degraded ecosystems due to the project activity: there are no such zones in the project area as the project is exclusively an IFM project.</p> <p>In fact, the main activity of the project is to stop and replace logging activities in the timber production series of the Baulu Concession with forest conservation activities.</p> <p>None of the activities planned (mainly monitoring and sensitization) by the project will have an impact on the hydrological resources found in the timber production series. In addition, the swamp forests that are part of the Baulu Concession, but not part of the project area (only the timber production series is concerned and there are no swamp forests in this series), were already part of the protection series of the concession when IFCO carried out its activities there: these swamp forests will remain in this protection series and the project will ensure their conservation in the same way as the forests of the timber production series which will not be exploited.</p>

### 1.4.3 Transfer project eligibility

This section does not apply since the proposed project isn't a transfer project or a Component Project Activity (CPA).

## 1.5 Project Design

- Single location or installation
- Multiple locations or project activity instances (but not a grouped project)
- Grouped project

### 1.5.1 Grouped project design

This section does not apply since the proposed project isn't a grouped project.

## 1.6 Project Proponent

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## 1.7 Other Entities Involved in the Project

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Role in the project	Congolese registered company Technical operator Subsidiary of the FRM Group
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Organization name	FRM Ingénierie (FRMi)
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<b>Role in the project</b>	Consultant Technical Lead in Project Development
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## 1.8 Ownership

### Land ownership

According to the “Arrêté ministériel N°004/CAB/MINETAT/MIN-EDD/EBM/TSB/01/2023 du 24 juillet 2023 portant autorisation de cession d'une concession forestière” (available upon request) the Baulu forest concession, of 277,131 ha, became a conservation forest concession in favor of the KNCC company, in accordance with the request of the IFCO company.

Conservation forest concessions are, as much as timber exploitation concessions, regulated by Law No. 011/2002 of August 29, 2002 on the Forest Code<sup>3</sup> (art. 82 to 95 and art. 119) and its application measures (Decree No. 011/27 of May 20, 2011 setting the specific rules for the allocation of conservation forest concessions<sup>4</sup>). Based on these texts, the regulations in force have clearly provided for specific conditions to be met by any individual or legal entity wishing to enter into a forestry concession contract for timber exploitation or conservation as well as the procedure to be followed by the public administration for this purpose.

Forestry regulations offer the possibility for all natural or legal persons to acquire conservation forest concessions following a conversion of titles. This is done through the mechanism of transfer of forest concessions between two or more entities (the transferor, *i.e.* IFCO & the transferee, *i.e.* KNCC). To this end, current forestry regulations stipulate that any logging company wishing to transfer its forest concession must submit a request to the central forestry administration, in accordance with Article 4 of Ministerial Order n°083/CAB/MIN/ECN-T/11/BNME/2013 of September 30, 2013<sup>5</sup> modifying and completing Ministerial Order n°022/CAB/MIN/ECN-T/15/JEB/2008 of August 7, 2008 setting the procedure for authorizing the transfer, lease, exchange or donation of a concession<sup>6</sup>.

After thorough examination of the request on the basis of the provisions of Articles 6 and 7 of Ministerial Order No. 022, the forest administration is required to transmit to the Minister, *i.e.* the conceding authority, the complete file containing, in particular, a draft order authorizing the transfer of a forest concession. The Minister in charge of forests has 45 clear days from the date of receipt of the request to issue the transfer authorization order (Article 8 of Order n°022). The Minister notifies the applicant of

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.droit-afrigue.com/upload/doc/rdc/RDC-Code-2002-forestier.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/cng111044.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/Cng174242.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/Cng174241.pdf>

this Order and publishes it in the Official Gazette, and forwards a copy of this Order to the Forest Registry of the Ministry of the Environment. The beneficiary of the transfer, a company specializing in conservation issues, may then, as a legal entity, submit a request to the Minister, in his capacity as Forest Concession Authority, to apply for a conservation forest concession (art. 7 of Decree n°011/27). Once the matter has been referred to him, the Minister, *i.e.* the conceding authority, is required to transmit the file within 8 days from the date of receipt of the request to the central forestry administration via the Secretary General, who has 30 days to process it, in accordance with the procedure set out in Decree No. 011/27.

In addition, the Democratic Republic of Congo wishes to ensure that the activities implemented within the framework of the REDD+ mechanism develop in coherence with the international agreements and treaties ratified by the State and with the policies and measures in force, in accordance with the decisions of the XVI Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. In this perspective, any project intended to promote its reductions in greenhouse gas emissions linked to REDD+ on the carbon markets or with international institutional buyers, as the Baulu Project, must be subject to prior approval by the Democratic Republic of Congo<sup>7</sup>.

The national approval procedure contributes on the one hand to the concretization of the commitments made by the DRC within the framework of international agreements and conventions and on the other hand to the consistency of REDD+ projects with the existing national framework, in particular the policies and measures, law, eligibility criteria and social and environmental safeguards. The approval of a REDD+ project attests to the legitimacy of the promoter of this REDD+ project with regard to the Congolese State and constitutes a right to promote REDD+ performance on the carbon markets or with any buyer of REDD+ performance from a project located within the borders of the DRC.

As part of the approval, the land rights of KNCC in the project area, and the means of obtaining these rights, are verified. In fact, according to the article 10 of the « Arrêté Ministériel n°47/CAB/MIN/EDD/AAN/MML/05/2018 fixant la procédure d'homologation des investissements REDD+ en République Démocratique du Congo (J.O.RDC., 1er juillet 2018, n°13, col. 58)<sup>8</sup> » : in the event that the implementation of the REDD+ investment requires the occupation of any land whatsoever, whether forest land or not, the existence in the file of a deed of commitment by the bearer of the investment to obtain the prior agreement of the holder(s) of the pre-existing land rights, individual or collective, given in full knowledge of the facts and without moral or physical constraint; in this case, the deed of engagement conforms to the model set out in the manual.

## Project ownership

Carbon credits generated by the project will be shared between the State, local communities and the project proponent (*i.e.* FRM Commitment), in accordance with the sharing clause defined in the conservation concession contract.

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<sup>7</sup>

[https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/sites/fcp/files/2015/March/Annexe%20Manuel\\_Proc%C3%A9dure\\_Homologation\\_r%C3%A9vision\\_version\\_finale\\_24f%C3%A9vrier.pdf](https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/sites/fcp/files/2015/March/Annexe%20Manuel_Proc%C3%A9dure_Homologation_r%C3%A9vision_version_finale_24f%C3%A9vrier.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/Cng189387.pdf>

## 1.9 Project Start Date

<b>Project start date</b>	24-July-2023
<b>Justification</b>	This date corresponds to the date of authorisation of the Baulu concession transfer between IFCO and KNCC. According to the "Arrêté ministériel N°004/CAB/MINETAT/MIN-EDD/EBM/TSB/01/2023 du 24 juillet 2023 portant autorisation de cession d'une concession forestière" (available upon request) the Baulu forest concession, of 277,131 ha, became at this date a conservation forest concession in favor of the KNCC company, in accordance with the request of the IFCO company. In other words, this is the date on which the concession officially became a conservation concession in which logging activities, previously operationalized by IFCO, ceased to make way for forest protection activities. implemented by KNCC.

## 1.10 Project Crediting Period

<b>Crediting period</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Seven years, twice renewable <input type="checkbox"/> Ten years, fixed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other
<b>Start and end date of first or fixed crediting period</b>	24-July-2023 to 23-July-2062, i.e. 39 years. This crediting period conforms with the VCS Program requirements as the initial project crediting period for an AFOLU project shall be a minimum of 20 years up to a maximum of 100 years.

## 1.11 Project Scale and Estimated GHG Emission Reductions or Removals

The estimated annual GHG emission reductions/removals (ERRs) of the project are:

- < 300,000 tCO2e/year (project)
- ≥ 300,000 tCO2e/year (large project)

The calculation of the emission reductions for Logged-to-protected activities follows the VCS Standard v4.5 and the VM0010 Methodology. The estimated GHG emission reductions and removals are outlined

below for the entire project crediting period in the table below. These estimates do not take the buffer into account.

Calendar year of crediting period	Estimated GHG emission reductions or removals (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)
24-July-2023 to 31-December-2023	182,745
01-January-2024 to 31-December-2024	266,642
01-January-2025 to 31-December-2025	350,539
01-January-2026 to 31-December-2026	434,436
01-January-2027 to 31-December-2027	518,333
01-January-2028 to 31-December-2028	601,754
01-January-2029 to 31-December-2029	685,032
01-January-2030 to 31-December-2030	768,310
01-January-2031 to 31-December-2031	851,589
01-January-2032 to 31-December-2032	934,867
01-January-2033 to 31-December-2033	964,222
01-January-2034 to 31-December-2034	975,786
01-January-2035 to 31-December-2035	987,350
01-January-2036 to 31-December-2036	998,914
01-January-2037 to 31-December-2037	1,010,478
01-January-2038 to 31-December-2038	1,016,991
01-January-2039 to 31-December-2039	1,029,683

01-January-2040 to 31-December-2040	1,042,376
01-January-2041 to 31-December-2041	1,055,068
01-January-2042 to 31-December-2042	1,067,760
01-January-2043 to 31-December-2043	1,045,871
01-January-2044 to 31-December-2044	1,032,637
01-January-2045 to 31-December-2045	1,019,404
01-January-2046 to 31-December-2046	1,006,170
01-January-2047 to 31-December-2047	992,937
01-January-2048 to 31-December-2048	865,079
01-January-2049 to 31-December-2049	801,272
01-January-2050 to 31-December-2050	737,466
01-January-2051 to 31-December-2051	673,659
01-January-2052 to 31-December-2052	609,852
01-January-2053 to 31-December-2053	547,626
01-January-2054 to 31-December-2054	489,269
01-January-2055 to 31-December-2055	430,911
01-January-2056 to 31-December-2056	372,554
01-January-2057 to 31-December-2057	314,196
01-January-2058 to 31-December-2058	313,963
01-January-2059 to 31-December-2059	311,500

01-January-2060 to 31-December-2060	309,038
01-January-2061 to 31-December-2061	306,575
01-January-2062 to 23-July-2062	304,113
<b>Total estimated ERRs during the first or fixed crediting period</b>	<b>28,226,970</b>
<b>Total number of years</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Average annual ERRs</b>	<b>723,768</b>

## 1.12 Description of the Project Activity

The project area is entirely located into the Baulu Concession (277,131 ha), in the center of the Democratic Republic of Congo. In the context of the sustainable forest management (which constitutes the historical scenario and the baseline scenario), the Baulu Concession is divided into three Forest Management Series (for 1) forest production, 2) protection, 3) conservation) and a rural development area (see § 1.13 for more details).

The main objective of the Baulu Project is the conversion of a Logged Forest to Protected Forest (LtPF). LtPF activities will establish, maintain and protect areas inside the timber production series (116,181 ha) legally designated for selective logging.

Community activities will also be developed in the rural development area but these activities, and their impact, will not be taken into account in the accounting for emission reductions, given that these activities occur outside of the project area (*i.e.* the timber production series). The emission reductions accounted for correspond only to activities related to the cessation of logging in the timber production series.

This project is not located in a jurisdiction covered by a REDD+ jurisdictional program.

### Project development and beginning

2022 and the beginning of 2023 were devoted to the technical and socio-environmental feasibility studies of the Project and the studies of opportunity and economic feasibility.

It was in 2023 that the project became operational with:

- The cessation of the operating activities of the company IFCO in the Baulu Concession from January 1, 2023;
- The authorisation of the Baulu concession transfer between IFCO and KNCC. According to the “Arrêté ministériel N°004/CAB/MINETAT/MIN-EDD/EBM/TSB/01/2023 du 24 juillet 2023 portant autorisation de cession d'une concession forestière” (available upon request) the Baulu forest concession, of 277,131 ha, became at this date a conservation forest concession in favor

of the KNCC company, in accordance with the request of the IFCO company (see § 1.8 for more details on the procedure).

### **LtPF activities**

This project aims to prevent the logging GHG emission avoiding any kind of commercial harvest and other linked to logging activities.

In the timber production series of 116,181 ha, from the cessation of timber harvesting activities, which is present in the baseline scenario, the project aims to avoid emissions generated by logging, transport, processing of raw material as well as collateral damage to vegetation caused by the fall of cut trees on surrounding plants, decomposition of material left in the forest, construction of forest tracks for transport to the storage point and other infrastructure.

In addition to conserving a large stock of forest carbon, a further advantage that the project will bring to the area is due to the cessation of the disturbance caused by logging activities to the fauna present in this area, which is very rich and varied, thanks to the proximity of the Lomako-Yokokala Wildlife Reserve, which includes, among other species, bonobo, forest elephant, Congolese peacock or Bongo antelope. The lack of infrastructure will also act as a deterrent to illegal logging and poaching activities, as the absence of an extensive, secure road network that goes deep into the forest will make these activities more difficult to carry out.

Because of the intrinsic conservation nature of this IFM project, there are no specific technologies, services or products involved in its implementation. The activities of the LtPF focus on the supervision and monitoring of the concession forests. In order to monitor any disturbances that may affect the whole forest, a permanent control team that monitors the state of the forest with regard to hunting, fires etc.

### **Other activities**

In addition to the cessation of logging activities in the timber production series - in order to conserve the forests - the project will contribute to maintaining and improving local development, environmental and social services for workers, local communities and indigenous peoples located throughout the Baulu Concession.

The project will also ensure the protection and conservation of forests in the other forest management series (*i.e.* the protection and conservation series). In fact, the project area includes areas of High Conservation Value (HCV), including swamp forests in connection with some of the largest peatland complexes in the world, the "Cuvette Centrale" and the Congo Basin peatland areas. These peatlands are essential for carbon storage, as peatlands store more carbon than any other natural terrestrial system.

The desired outcome will be to provide opportunities for the people to have ways to earn income in manners that are not destructive to the rain forest as they have traditionally done. To this end, several activities will be developed in close collaboration with local communities (through their Free, Prior and Informed Consent; see §2.1.3). The implementation of these activities and their impact on emission reductions will not be accounted for in this carbon project. However, part of the revenues from the sale of carbon credits generated by the LtPF project will directly benefit the development and sustainability of these activities.

These activities are, for example:

- Monitoring of illegal activities (logging, poaching) in the whole concession (*i.e.* not only in the area where logging stops) and in case of flagrante delicto, working with the local authorities in order to carry out conciliation missions to deter criminal behavior. The objective is not to repress and punish but to get in touch with people engaged in illegal activities in order to be able to raise their awareness as a priority on the consequences of their actions and to offer them priority alternative income-generating activities and non-destructive of the environment;
- Sensitization of local populations about the impact of deforestation and the importance of preserving forests;
- Sensitization of local populations about the impact of poaching and the importance of preserving animal biodiversity in partnership with the Lomako-Yokokala Wildlife Reserve. The region of the world the rain forest we are protecting is located in is rich with wild life that is not seen in any other parts of the world. This is particularly true for endangered species such as the Bonobo, for example. We plan to both carefully protect their natural habitats and to work with the local wildlife protection groups;
- Sensitization of local populations to the limits of the rural development zone, the objective being to make them understand that their activities must be confined to this zone which is dedicated to them and that they must not extend into the conservation zones. This sensitization will be accompanied by a reflection, in consultation with the local populations, on the means to optimize and sustain their food and income generating activities in this rural development zone (see the activities that will be proposed below);
- Development of sustainable agriculture with three main objectives: food security, local income generation and sedentarization/stabilization of slash-and-burn agriculture. Several activities will then be possible:
  - Sensitization and training in sustainable agricultural practices with agronomists;
  - Agroforestry: combining the usual food crops of local populations (cassava, peanuts, etc.) with tree plantations, such as Acacia trees, which will fertilize the soil (because they are nitrogen fixers), and thus increase yields, and which can also be used to produce charcoal, as a substitute of the firewood supply in natural forests;
  - Planting of oil palms and/or cash crops in order to develop new income-generating sectors. These activities will be accompanied by the installation of processing units (*e.g.*, oil mills), packaging and transport;
  - Provision of improved seeds to local populations;
  - NTFPs gathering, such as honey (installation of beehives in Acacia agroforestry plantations) or caterpillars;
  - Livestock: support for local populations in terms of veterinary services and marketing of animal products to the capital.

For the realization of some of these activities, and to guarantee their success, KNCC will request the technical support of the NGO Action Massive Rurale (AMAR) which is an environmental civil society

organization that supports community development and sustainable management of natural resources. If necessary, other technical partnerships could be set up to oversee and support the planned community activities.

In addition to the specific items mentioned above, we are continuously searching - in close collaboration with local communities - for new, innovative, more efficient, environmentally friendly methods to achieve our goal of maximizing the improvement of living conditions for the population in the DRC while having long lasting positive effects on the economy of the region.

## 1.13 Project Location

The Baulu Concession is located in the center of the Democratic Republic of Congo, in the "Cuvette centrale". It is located between the Maringa River to the west, the Lokomo River to the south, the Lomako River to the north and the Loilaka River to the east. This forest massif extends between latitudes 40,000 and 100,000 North and longitudes 460,000 and 560,000 East (see Figure 1).

Administratively, the Baulu Concession is entirely located in:

- The Province: Tshuapa;
- The Territory: Befale;
- The Sector: Lomako;
- The Boyela, Loma and Nsongo-Mboyo Groups.

According to the conservation concession contract the Baulu Concession covers a total area of 277,131 ha. In order to provide rural populations with a land reserve allowing their future agricultural activities, an area allocated to rural development including the clearings already present as well as part of the forests on terra firma was determined during the development (in 2013) of the Management Plan of the Baulu Concession: this area (25.897 ha) is to be excluded from the limits of the Baulu Concession (277.131 ha) to constitute the Area Under Management (251.234 ha).

The **Area Under Management (AUM)** represents a total area of 251,234 ha and has been divided into three Forest Management Series, responding to different objectives:

- A **timber production series** of 116,181 ha, corresponding to the zones intended for industrial forest production;
- A **protection series** of 120,997 ha: protection corridors for waterways (protection of banks), wetlands, soils sensitive to erosion, etc.;
- A **conservation series** of 14,056 ha which guarantees the protection of areas of particular ecological interest;

The project area of this carbon project corresponds only to the timber production series (116,181 ha). No VCUs will be issued from the rest of the concession.

Figure 2 presents the spatial organization of the Baulu Concession, including the boundaries of the AUM of Baulu, and Table 3Table 3 summarizes the areas of each of these management series on the AUM.

**Table 3: Spatial organization of the Baulu Concession**

MANAGEMENT SERIES	TOTAL AREA		INCLUDED IN THIS CARBON PROJECT ? (YES/NO)
	(HA)	(%)	
Timber production series	116,181	42 %	YES
Protection series	120,997	44 %	NO
Conservation series	14,056	5 %	NO
<b>TOTAL AUM</b>	<b>251,234</b>	<b>91 %</b>	-
Rural Development Area	25,897	9 %	NO
<b>TOTAL Concession Area</b>	<b>277,131</b>	<b>100 %</b>	-

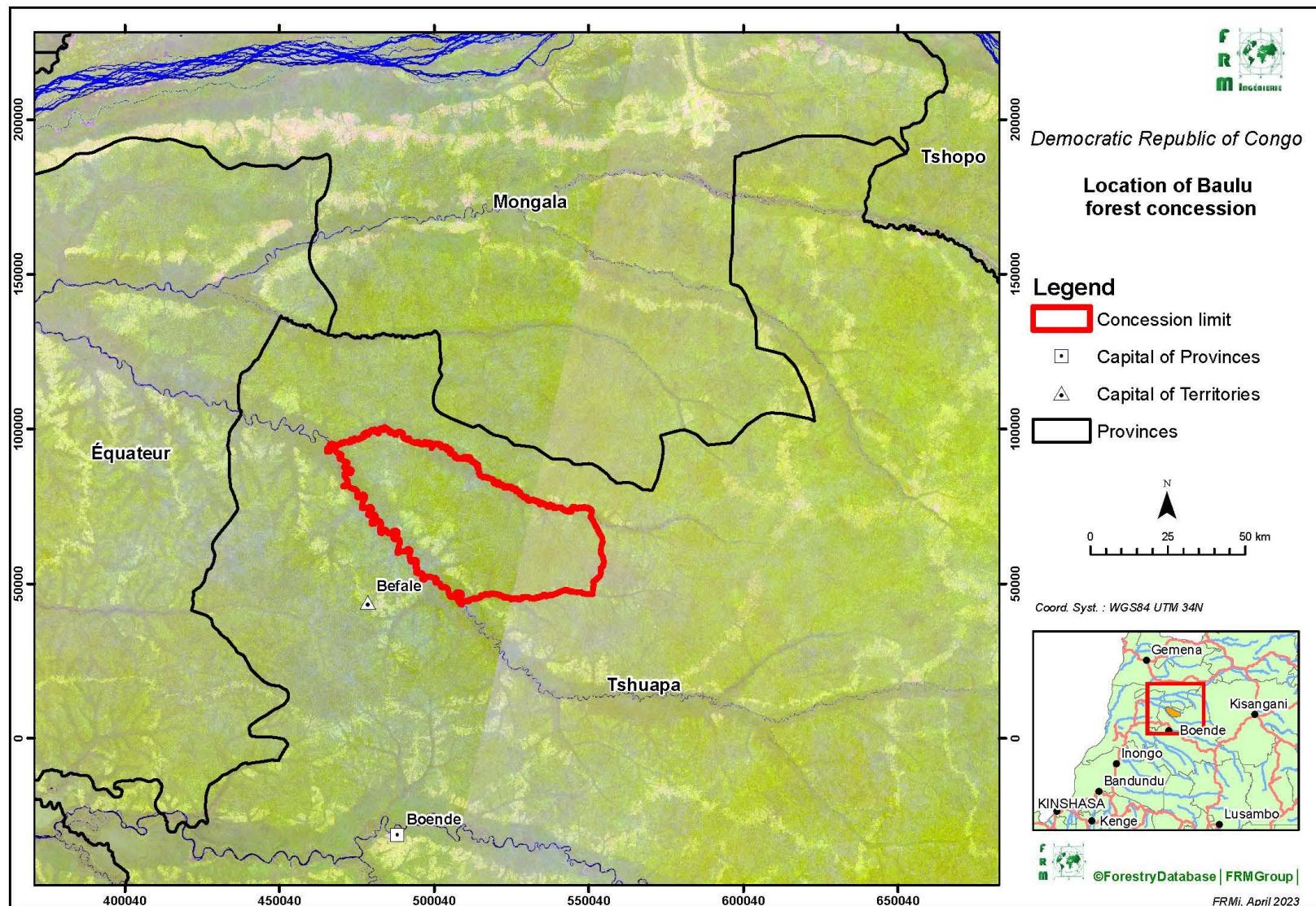


Figure 1: Location of the Baulu Concession

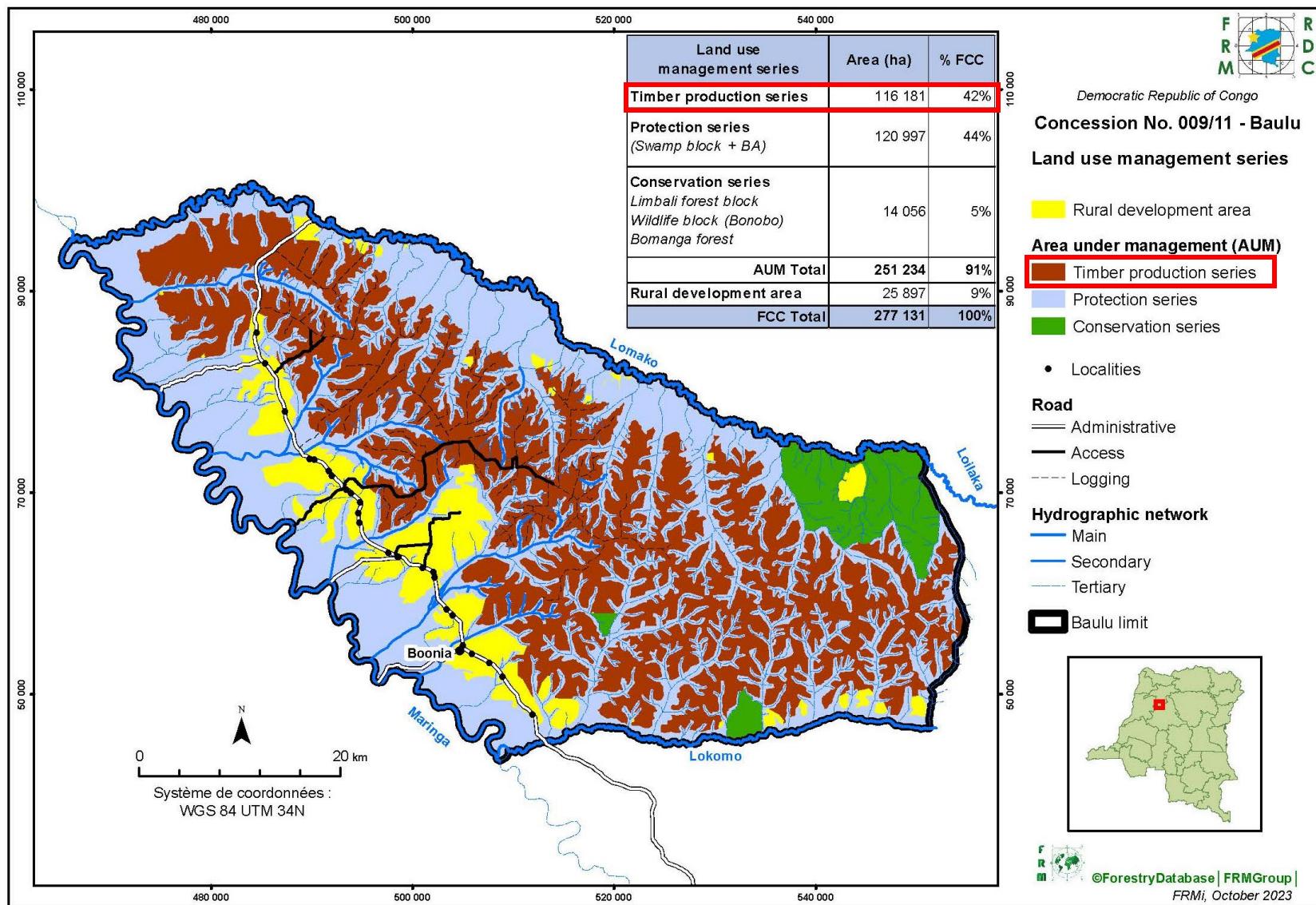


Figure 2: Spatial organization of the Baulu Concession with, boxed in red, the timber production series constituting the project area of the Baulu Project

## 1.14 Conditions Prior to Project Initiation

The conditions existing prior to project initiation are the same as the baseline scenario (*i.e.* logging of the Baulu Concession according to the current Management Plan), please refer to § 3.4.

### Climate

The Baulu Concession is located in the center of the Democratic Republic of Congo, in the "Cuvette centrale", which is one of the wettest areas in the region.

In the absence of a meteorological service in the concession and of data available for recent years, the data presented correspond to those between 1980 and 1990 for the stations:

- Boende located approximately 95 km south of the concession;
- Befale located 25 km south of the concession.

All of these data (Figure 3) show that the concession benefits from a climate marked by the absence of a real dry season, with periods of heavy rainfall ("peaks") being concentrated in March and October-November. Total average annual rainfall is high, around 2,100 mm/year.

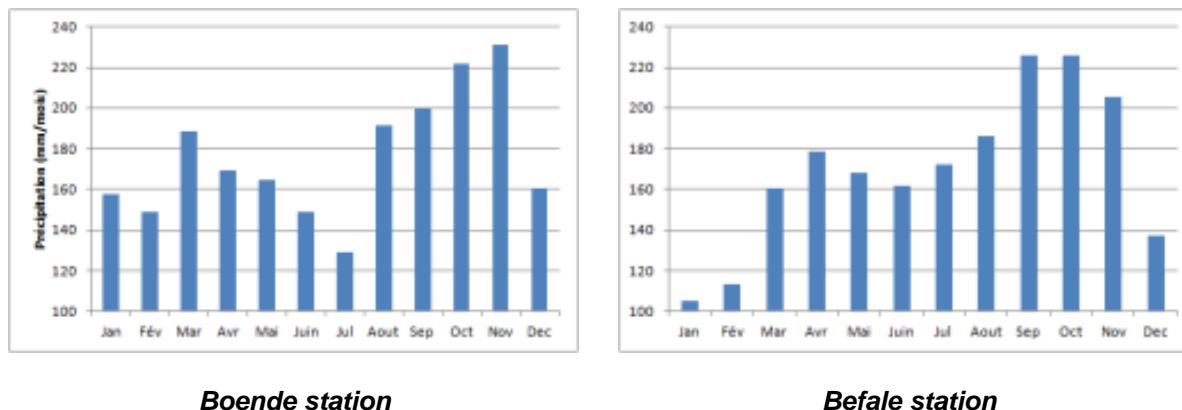


Figure 3: Rainfall curve on different sites along the concession

### Hydrology

The Baulu Concession is bordered by major watercourses ensuring its delimitation, including the Maringa River to the west, the Lokomo River to the south, the Lomako River to the north and the Loilaka River (a tributary of the Lomako River) to the east. These rivers give the area a strongly marshy context, in particular due to the vast expanses of forest on hydromorphic soils that border them (see Figure 4). The concession is characterized by a dense hydrographic network which drains it:

- From north to south via waterways connected to the Lokomo River;
- From northeast to southwest via waterways connected to the Maringa River;

- From south to north via waterways connected to the Lomako River.

### Topography

The relief is on the whole very little marked on the whole of the concession, the variations in altitude are weak and spread out between 340 and 450 m (see Figure 4). The greatest elevation changes are observed in the eastern part of the Concession. The slopes are quite low on the concession (very rarely above 30%).

### Geology and Pedology

The Concession is located in the center of the Congolese “Cuvette”. The geological bedrock of this region is mostly occupied by post-Kalahari terrains of the Holocene, Pleistocene and Upper Pliocene eras.

The soils are a mixture of recent hydromorphic soils on alluvium and hygro-kaolisols of the ferralsol type from the lower plateau of the Congolese “Cuvette”.

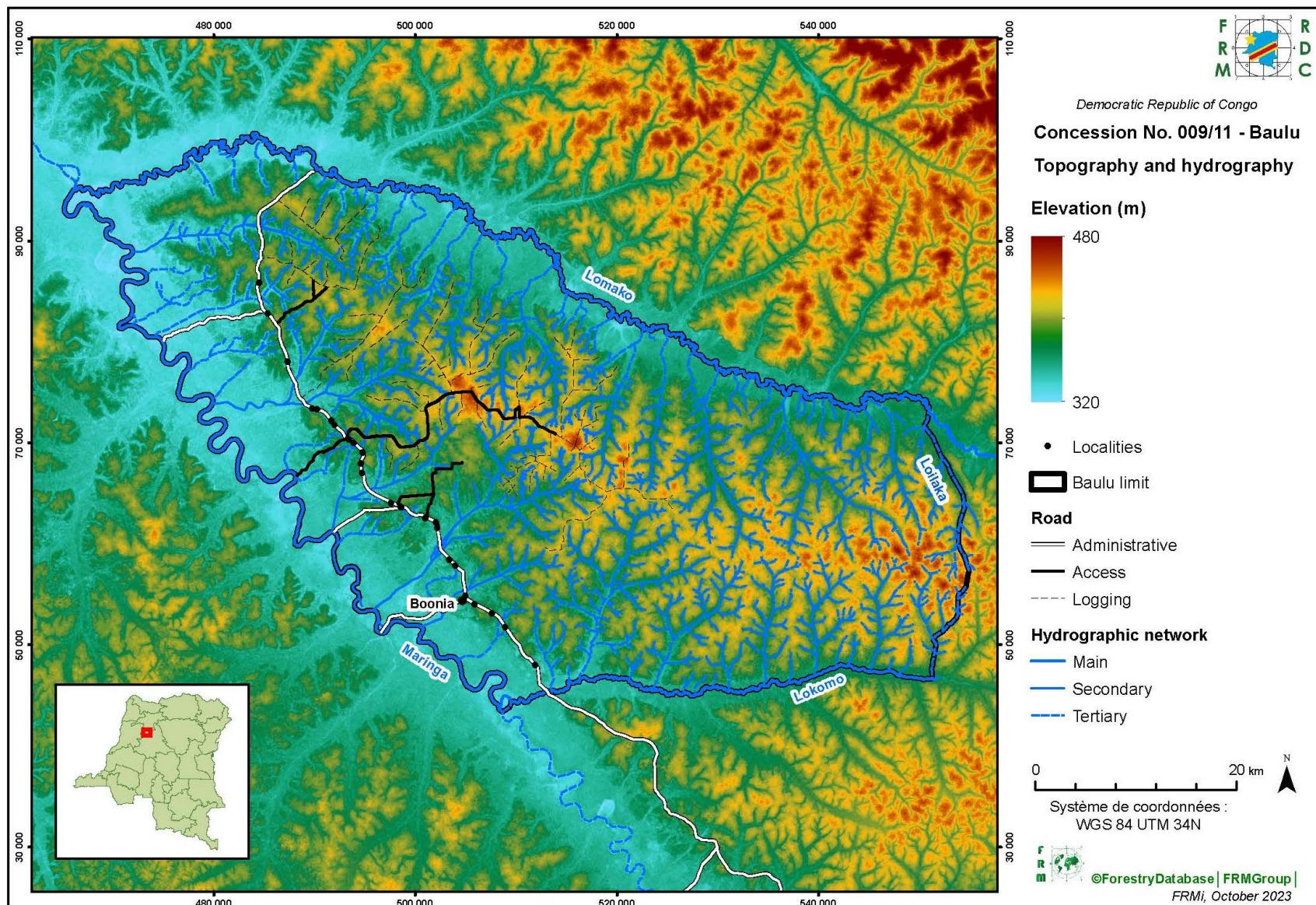


Figure 4: Topography and hydrography of the Baulu Concession

## Ecosystems and vegetation

### Flora and land use

The Baulu Concession is characterized by several types of forest (see Table 4 and Figure 5) which, in combination with the topographic characteristics of the area, form different landscapes. The terra firma formations show two main types of forest (*i.e.* secondary formations and dense forests) among which we can distinguish:

- Adult Secondary Forests: forests resulting from the progressive evolution of young secondary forests. Adult secondary forests are transitional types that are part of the evolutionary series leading to so-called "primary" or "mature" forests. They are characterized by a procession of heliophilous species accompanied by sciaphilous species of the dense humid forest. This formation is represented by species with average diameters generally not exceeding 70 cm. The lower level is generally very crowded (significant regeneration) and often in association with liana vegetation which offers a very closed environment. The crowding of the undergrowth can also be caused by a total occupation of Marantaceae. This formation has a large canopy opening (20 to 60%) which allows good light penetration and the establishment of dense undergrowth.;
- Dense Evergreen Forests: forests characterized by species that do not lose their leaves during the dry season. These formations are found on terra firma but are generally favored when approaching the hydrographic network. Given the density of the hydrographic network, this is the main type of forest found on terra firma. The closure of the canopy is generally strong and prevents the good penetration of light, thus limiting the clutter of the undergrowth. These formations are often made up of species with a gregarious behavior that give rise to certain alliances such as dense evergreen forests with *Gilbertiodendron dewevrei* (Limbali), for example. The growing importance of deciduous species leads to the appearance of dense humid forests serving as a "transition" with dense humid semi-deciduous forests.;
- Dense Semi-Deciduous Forests: forests characterized by species losing their leaves during the dry season in association with species of the dense evergreen forest or the secondary forest. This formation is composed of emergent trees with relatively large diameters (greater than 70 cm). These formations are characterized by great heterogeneity in their floristic composition. These "deciduous" formations allow good penetration of light which leads to good development of the lower levels as well as a strong congestion of the undergrowth (regeneration, lianas, Marantaceae, etc.).;

The forest landscape of the Concession is influenced by various disturbances of anthropic origin, including:

- Logging: around 1/3 of the forests on terra firma have been traversed by logging. The disturbances generated by this activity are at the origin of a modification in the floristic composition as well as in the distribution by diameter classes of the different species. Generally, these disturbances promote the development of secondary forests and the intrusion of heliophilous species into dense forests;
- Agricultural activities and human occupations: 7.2% of the area of the Concession is occupied by agriculture (industrial, *i.e.* oil palm plantation, or slash-and-burn agriculture) or human

infrastructure. Changes to the forest landscape caused by human activities result in the appearance of degraded forests, young forests, forest regrowth, etc.

In addition to the terra firma forests, the concession consists of swamp forests which occupy large areas (44.5% of the Concession), particularly on the margins of large rivers including the Lomako, Maringa and Lokomo rivers. They are generally characterized by sparse stands with a wide-open canopy, small trees and specific species adapted to water conditions. The density of the undergrowth is variable but it is generally cluttered by the invasion of lianas. These formations include:

- Periodically flooded swamp forests which are characterized by formations that are more or less flooded depending on the season (rainy or low-water periods), microreliefs and proximity to the hydrographic network;
- Permanently flooded swamp forests which are formations constantly invaded by water that are found along watercourses and at the level of poorly drained lowlands.

Table 4 and Figure 5 summarize these different plant formations as well as their areas measured within the limits of the Baulu Concession. The areas provided take into account the evolution of land clearing (mainly linked to the practice of slash-and-burn agriculture) between 1987 and June 2023.

**Table 4: Distribution of area by plant formation on the Baulu Concession**

	Strata	Surface (ha)	%
<b>Forest formations on terra firma that can be exploited</b>	<b>Secondary Forest</b>	<b>49,747</b>	<b>18.0%</b>
	<b>Dense Forest</b>	<b>83,996</b>	<b>30.3%</b>
	of which Dense Evergreen Forest	55,254	19.9%
	of which Bomanga Dense Evergreen Forest	1,250	0.5%
	of which Limbali Dense Evergreen Forest	22,597	8.2%
	of which Limbali and Alumbi Dense Evergreen Forest	1,292	0.5%
	of which Dense Semi-Deciduous Forests	3,604	1.3%
	<b>Total forest formations on terra firma that can be exploited</b>	<b>133,743</b>	<b>48.3%</b>
<b>Non exploitable forest formations</b>	<b>Crop and housing complex</b>	<b>20,065</b>	<b>7.2%</b>
	of which village area and crops in 1987	8,318	3.0%
	of which extension of village areas and crops between 1987 and 2001	803	0.3%
	of which extension of village areas and crops between 2001 and 2011	3,019	1.1%
	of which extension of village areas and crops between 2011 and June 2023	6,002	2.2%
	of which oil palm plantation	972	0.3%
	of which old oil palm plantation	952	0.3%
	<b>Swamp forest</b>	<b>123,323</b>	<b>44.5%</b>
	<b>Non exploitable formations</b>	<b>143,389</b>	<b>51.7%</b>
<b>TOTAL BAULU CONCESSION</b>		<b>277,131</b>	<b>100%</b>

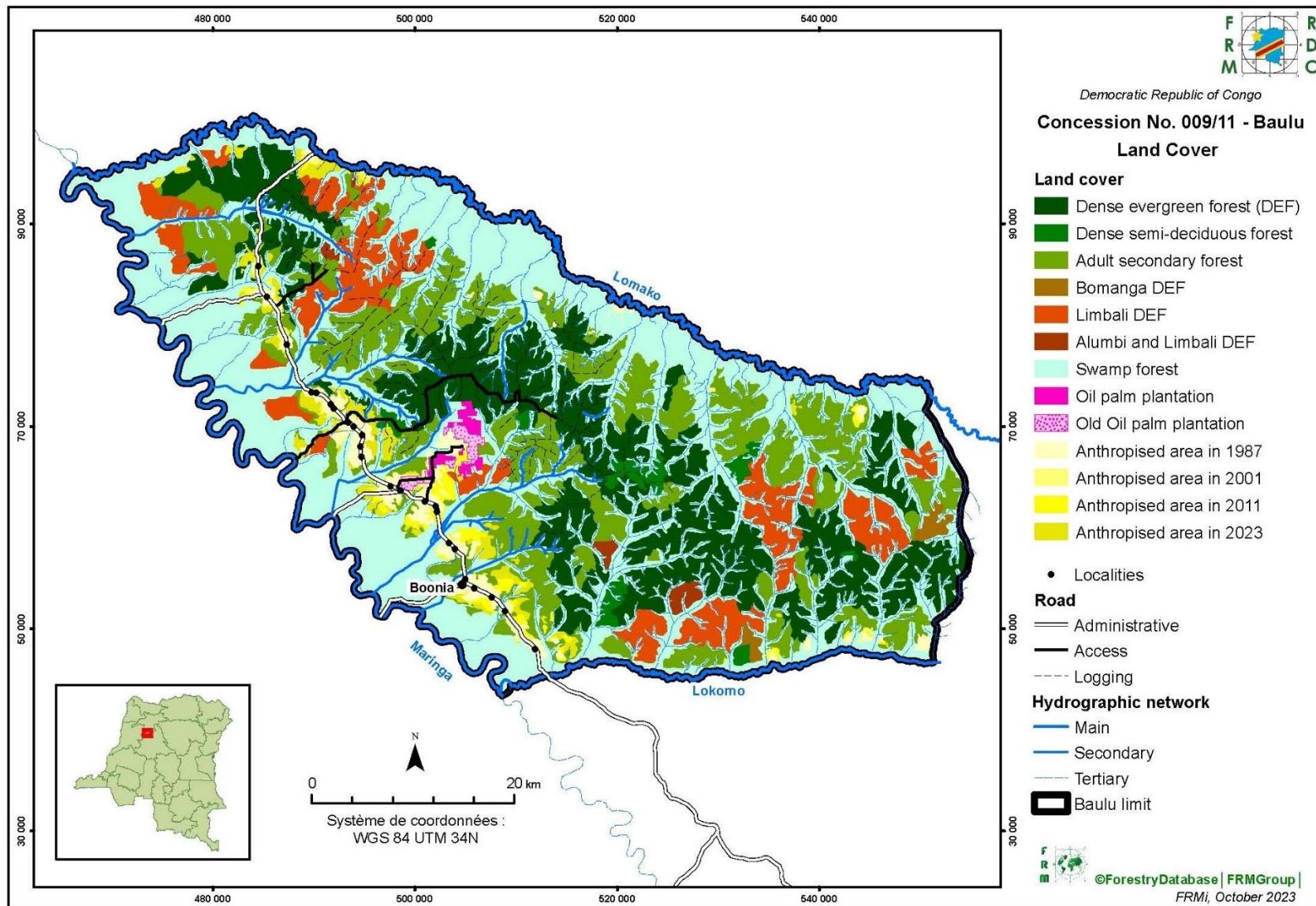


Figure 5: Land cover of the Baulu Concession

## Fauna

The Baulu Concession borders the Lomako Yokolaka Wildlife Reserve (see Figure 6). This reserve was created in June 2006, by Ministerial Order n° 024/CAB/MIN/ECN-EF/2006 of the Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation, Water and Forests. It is an integral reserve under the mandate of the Institut Congolais de Conservation de la Nature (ICCN), in partnership with the American NGO African Wildlife Foundation (AWF). AWF's offices are located in the village of Ligunda, which is situated in the Baulu Concession. The Lomako Forest is part of the non-degraded equatorial rainforest, and is home to large populations of Bonobos (*Pan paniscus*) and Congo Peacock (*Afropavo congensis*), as well as other key and threatened species. Ministerial Order No. 24 does not provide for the establishment of a buffer zone around the Reserve. However, Article 5 of the Order states that the Reserve should be "managed in such a way as to contribute to the socio-economic development of the local population". This is why the Reserve's managers are seeking to put in place concerted modes of sustainable management for various resources, including wildlife, within the Baulu Concession. Negotiations had already taken place with the people of the Baulu Concession before the start of IFCO activities and the two main decisions that came out of these negotiations were the banning of hunting along the Lokomo River and around the village of Ligunda, and the setting up of fish farming projects and training in alternative practices to hunting. These initiatives have come to a halt due to lack of funding.

A fauna inventory was also carried out as part of the development of the Management Plan and a list of species was drawn up (see Table 2 page 32 of the Management Plan). The list includes protected species whose hunting is formally prohibited in the Democratic Republic of Congo. IFCO, through its certification and forest management departments, has developed internal procedures to combat poaching and the consumption of bushmeat. The project leader will continue these anti-poaching actions (see section 1.12).

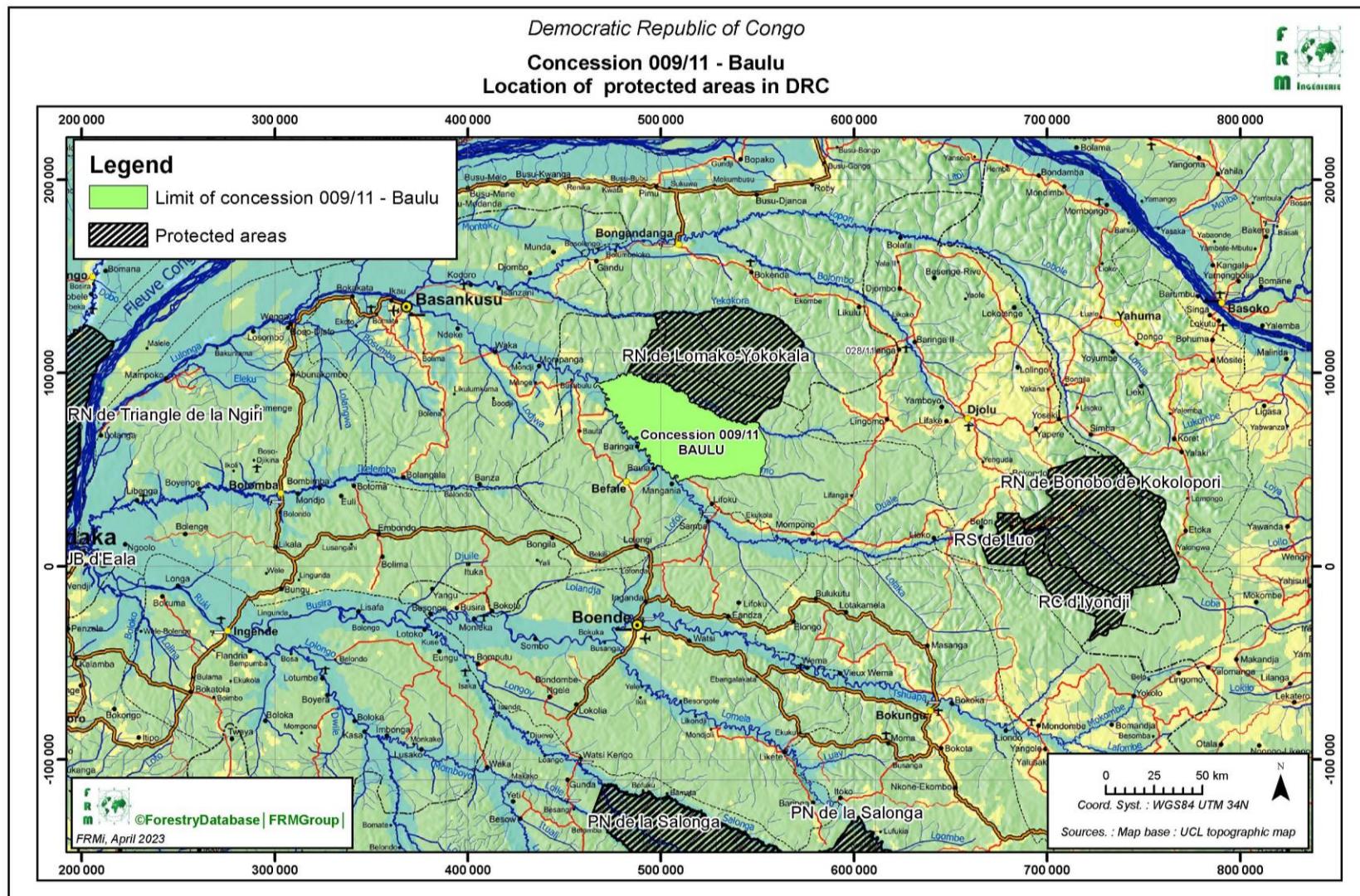


Figure 6: Location of protected areas near the Baulu Concession

## Relevant historic conditions

### Logging history of the concession

COTREFOR (COMPAGNIE de TRANSPORT et d'EXPLOITATION FORESTIERE S.P.R.L.) has been awarded, in particular, the Guarantee of Supply 34/05-Baulu which was the subject of agreement N°034/CAB/MIN/ECN-EF/05 of July 12, 2005, granting a wood supply guarantee. COTREFOR's activities began in 2005, with a break of 17 months between 2009 and mid-2010.

This Wood Supply Guarantee was declared convertible following notification n°215/SG/ECN/2010 of 12/04/2010, which was the subject of an amendment dated 04 August 2011 for the conversion into a Forest Concession 09/11 - Baulu contract<sup>9</sup>. In order to define the management modalities of the Concession during the preparation period of the Management Plan, a provisional Management Plan covering the period 2011-2014 was elaborated and submitted to the Forest Administration as an annex to the Terms of Reference of the Forest Concession contract. This provisional Management Plan determined the first 4 AACs (in French "Assiettes Annuelles de Coupe") open to exploitation during its period of validity.

The Forest Management Plan for the Baulu Concession was submitted on 16 April 2013 to the Provincial Coordination of the Environment (ex-Equator Province) and technically approved by the DIAF (Forest Inventory and Management Department) on 31 December 2013. The analysis of this document by the Forestry Administration services led to the submission of an amended version, integrating the additional information requested, to the DIAF on 30 May 2014. This amended version of the Management Plan was validated on 9 February 2016 by the Forest Management Plan Validation Committee and was approved by Provincial Order N°230/02/CAB/PROGOU/TSH/PMM/2019 of 15 February 2019.

This Management Plan covers the period 2013-2037. The 2011 and 2012 ACCs were operated in accordance with the provisional Management Plan, while the 2013 and 2014 ACCs have been integrated into the first FEM (Five-Year Management Block; BAQ in French).

In January 2018, the company IFCO became the beneficiary of concession 009/11-Baulu by Ministerial Order N°002/CAB/MIN/EDD/AAN/KTT/05/2017 of 18 January 2018 authorizing the transfer of two forest concessions from the company COTREFOR to the company Industrie Forestière du Congo<sup>10</sup>. In its article 3, the Order specifies that the transfer is made with the full transfer of rights and obligations attached to it. To this end, IFCO was subrogated to all the rights and obligations of the transferring company and continued to implement the management documents in force on the Baulu Concession. On 23 March 2018, an amendment to notification n°215/SG/ECN/2010 of 12/04/2010 updated the Forest Concession Contract, particularly with regard to the boundaries and surface area.

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.openlandcontracts.org/contract/ocds-591adf-3960427923/download/pdf>

<sup>10</sup> See pages 81 and 82 of this document: <http://www.leganet.cd/Legislation/JO/2018/JO.15.03.2018.pdf>

## Anthropogenic activities and evolution of forest cover

The DRC is the second largest tropical forest country in the world with 152 million hectares of forest. Nearly 70% of the land area of the country is covered by forests, which represents 60% of the forest area of the Congo Basin. In 2018, the national forest cover was 61.5%, with a deforestation rate of 0.17%<sup>11</sup>. The main drivers of deforestation and forest degradation are slash-and-burn agriculture, logging and charcoal production<sup>12</sup>. This situation is further exacerbated by the combined effect of strong population growth<sup>13</sup> and the deterioration of the population's living conditions. As a result, the demand for charcoal, energy wood and timber, and the area of cultivable land required for traditional agricultural practices (slash-and-burn agriculture), continues to grow in the country and forests are under extreme pressure, leading to their gradual disappearance.

In the Baulu Concession, while some illegal logging activities have been noted, these are quite limited. This is mainly due to the remoteness of the marketing areas and the presence of many forests that are more accessible than the study area. The main purpose of illegal logging is the production of pirogues, even if there is also an evacuation of logs to Kinshasa.

On the other hand, clearing linked to slash-and-burn agriculture is very present in the concession. The diachronic analysis of the satellite images covering the Concession makes it possible to follow the evolution of the forest cover (see Table 4). This development is reflected in a reduction in the areas of terra firma forest linked to their conversion into fields through the practice of slash-and-burn agriculture.

Most of the clearing that took place between 1987 and 2023 is located along the Ligunda – Lofima road of national interest (see Figure 2), because the majority of the villages are on this road. The strong increase in anthropized area between 1987-2001 and 2001-2011 (see Table 4) can be explained through the recent history of the country. Indeed, the period of conflict experienced by the country in the 1990s was probably accompanied by a slowdown in agricultural activities, hence the presence of a low rate of anthropization between 1987 and 2001. Completion of the period of unrest resulted in a strong resumption of agricultural activities, amplified by the return to stability in the country. Then, between 2000 and 2023, the strong expansion of anthropized areas could be explained by the expansion of slash-and-burn agriculture (people are moving further and further away from villages to be able to access new forest plots to clear) coupled with a significant increase in population (agricultural plots are larger or more numerous to meet the needs of this growing population) in the region<sup>14</sup>.

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.un-redd.org/post/la-republique-democratique-du-congo-franchit-une-nouvelle-etape-vers-la-finalisation-de-son#:~:text=En%202018%20le%20couvert%20forestier,production%20de%20charbon%20de%20bois>

<sup>12</sup> In the DRC, nearly 95% of the population uses firewood, charcoal or wood waste to prepare meals: [Utilisation des makala \(du charbon de bois\) – Faune et Flore en RDC \(wordpress.com\)](#)

<sup>13</sup> Between 1960 and 2021, the number of inhabitants in the DRC increased from 15.25 million to 92.38 million: an increase of 505.8% in 61 years: [Croissance de la population en République démocratique du Congo \(donneesmondiales.com\)](#)

<sup>14</sup> <https://fr.city-facts.com/tshuapa/population>

## 1.15 Compliance with Laws, Statutes and Other Regulatory Frameworks

According to the “Arrêté ministériel N°004/CAB/MINETAT/MIN-EDD/EBM/TSB/01/2023 du 24 juillet 2023 portant autorisation de cession d'une concession forestière” (available upon request) the Baulu forest concession, of 277,131 ha, became a conservation forest concession in favor of the KNCC company, in accordance with the request of the IFCO company.

The project proponent, KNCC, is a private company under Congolese law. The registration documents are available on request. This entity will comply with all applicable local, regional and national laws, regulations and standards. Within the project area, none of the proposed Project Activities violate any laws or regulations. The development of the Project is based on guidelines included in environmental regulations and laws in force in the country.

Conservation forest concessions are, as much as timber exploitation concessions, regulated by Law No. 011/2002 of August 29, 2002 on the Forest Code<sup>15</sup> (art. 82 to 95 and art. 119) and its application measures (Decree No. 011/27 of May 20, 2011 setting the specific rules for the allocation of conservation forest concessions<sup>16</sup>). Based on these texts, the regulations in force have clearly provided for specific conditions to be met by any individual or legal entity wishing to enter into a forestry concession contract for timber exploitation or conservation as well as the procedure to be followed by the public administration for this purpose.

Forestry regulations offer the possibility for all natural or legal persons to acquire conservation forest concessions following a conversion of titles. This is done through the mechanism of transfer of forest concessions between two or more entities (the transferor, *i.e.* IFCO & the transferee, *i.e.* KNCC). To this end, current forestry regulations stipulate that any logging company wishing to transfer its forest concession must submit a request to the central forestry administration, in accordance with Article 4 of Ministerial Order n°083/CAB/MIN/ECN-T/11/BNME/2013 of September 30, 2013<sup>17</sup> modifying and completing Ministerial Order n°022/CAB/MIN/ECN-T/15/JEB/2008 of August 7, 2008 setting the procedure for authorizing the transfer, lease, exchange or donation of a concession<sup>18</sup>.

During the examination of the request, it is required of the forestry administration to proceed to the verification of the respect by the beneficiary of the transfer (*i.e.* KNCC) of the respect of certain conditions in particular the respect of the forestry legislation as well as the non-condemnation for certain offenses in the DRC or elsewhere (art. 5 of Order no. 083).

After thorough examination of the request on the basis of the provisions of Articles 6 and 7 of Ministerial Order No. 022, the forest administration is required to transmit to the Minister, *i.e.* the conceding authority, the complete file containing, in particular, a draft order authorizing the transfer of a forest concession. The Minister in charge of forests has 45 clear days from the date of receipt of the request to issue the transfer authorization order (Article 8 of Order n°022). The Minister notifies the applicant of this Order and publishes it in the Official Gazette, and forwards a copy of this Order to the Forest Registry

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.droit-afrigue.com/upload/doc/rdc/RDC-Code-2002-forestier.pdf>

<sup>16</sup> <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/cng111044.pdf>

<sup>17</sup> <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/Cng174242.pdf>

<sup>18</sup> <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/Cng174241.pdf>

of the Ministry of the Environment. The beneficiary of the transfer, a company specializing in conservation issues, may then, as a legal entity, submit a request to the Minister, in his capacity as Forest Concession Authority, to apply for a conservation forest concession (art. 7 of Decree n°011/27). Once the matter has been referred to him, the Minister, *i.e.* the conceding authority, is required to transmit the file within 8 days from the date of receipt of the request to the central forestry administration via the Secretary General, who has 30 days to process it, in accordance with the procedure set out in Decree No. 011/27.

In addition, the Democratic Republic of Congo wishes to ensure that the activities implemented within the framework of the REDD+ mechanism develop in coherence with the international agreements and treaties ratified by the State and with the policies and measures in force, in accordance with the decisions of the XVI Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. In this perspective, any project intended to promote its reductions in greenhouse gas emissions linked to REDD+ on the carbon markets or with international institutional buyers, as the Baulu Project, must be subject to prior approval by the Democratic Republic of Congo<sup>19</sup>.

The national approval procedure contributes on the one hand to the concretization of the commitments made by the DRC within the framework of international agreements and conventions and on the other hand to the consistency of REDD+ projects with the existing national framework, in particular the policies and measures, law, eligibility criteria and social and environmental safeguards. The approval of a REDD+ project attests to the legitimacy of the promoter of this REDD+ project with regard to the Congolese State and constitutes a right to promote REDD+ performance on the carbon markets or with any buyer of REDD+ performance from a project located within the borders of the DRC.

Within the framework of the approval, the compliance of the project proponent and the project with a certain number of legal and regulatory requirements are checked, such as for example the regularity of the documents relating to the quality of the project proponent and its partners, the regularity of payment of tax obligations, the land rights of the project promoter in the project area and the means of obtaining these rights, the presence of an environmental certificate issued by the Congolese Environment Agency according to the mechanisms, etc<sup>20</sup>.

In fact, the Baulu Project complies with:

- The « Loi n°11/009 du 09 juillet 2011 portant principes fondamentaux relatifs à la protection de l'environnement »<sup>21</sup> which in its article 21 "subjects any development, infrastructure or exploitation project of any industrial, commercial, agricultural, forestry, mining, telecommunications or other activity likely to have an impact on the environment to a prior

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<sup>19</sup>

[https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/sites/fcp/files/2015/March/Annexe%20I%20Manuel\\_Proc%C3%A9dure\\_Homologation\\_r%C3%A9vision\\_version\\_finale\\_24f%C3%A9vrier.pdf](https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/sites/fcp/files/2015/March/Annexe%20I%20Manuel_Proc%C3%A9dure_Homologation_r%C3%A9vision_version_finale_24f%C3%A9vrier.pdf)

<sup>20</sup> See the article 10 of the « Arrêté Ministériel n°47/CAB/MIN/EDD/AAN/MML// fixant la procédure d'homologation des investissements REDD+ en République démocratique du Congo (J.O.RDC., 1er juillet 2018, n°13, col. 58) : <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/Cng189387.pdf>

<sup>21</sup> [https://dgrad.gouv.cd/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Loi-011-009-du-09-juillet-2011\\_principe-fondamentaux-protection-environnement.pdf](https://dgrad.gouv.cd/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Loi-011-009-du-09-juillet-2011_principe-fondamentaux-protection-environnement.pdf)

environmental and social impact assessment, together with its management plan, duly approved".

- The « Décret n°13/015 du 29 mai 2013 portant réglementation des installations classées »<sup>22</sup> which in its article 11, paragraph 2, conditions the issue of any license to operate a classified installation on the prior completion of an environmental and social impact study in accordance with article 21 of the « Loi n°11/009 du 09 juillet 2011 portant principes fondamentaux relatifs à la protection de l'environnement ».
- The « Décret n°14/019 du 02 août 2014 fixant les règles de fonctionnement des mécanismes procéduraux de la protection de l'environnement »<sup>23</sup> stipulating in Article 18 that "is obligatorily and previously submitted to an environmental and social impact assessment, together with its management plan, any project for the development, infrastructure or operation of any industrial, commercial, agricultural, forestry, mining, hydrocarbons, cement, telecommunications or other likely to have an impact on the environment".

With this in mind, an update of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the Baulu logging concession was commissioned by KNCC to be adapted to the present conservation concession project and to comply with the regulations in force. This study also made it possible to establish the list of local, regional and national laws, statutes and regulatory frameworks to which the project complies.

The DRC has signed and ratified or acceded to several international and regional legal instruments aimed at environmental protection and sustainable management of forest and wildlife resources. This signature not only confers benefits, but also obligations and the duty to internalize them. Among these instruments, those applicable to the Baulu Project activities are listed in the Table 5 below.

**Table 5: International and regional conventions ratified by the DRC applicable to the Baulu project activities**

CONVENTION	COUNTRY/CITY AND DATE OF ADOPTION	RATIFICATION DATE
Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage	Paris, France 15 November 1972	23 September 1974 <sup>24</sup>
Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES)	Washington, USA 3 March 1973	18 October 1976 <sup>25</sup>

<sup>22</sup> [https://www.droitcongolais.info/files/72.05.13-Decret-du-29-mai-2013\\_Installations-classees.pdf](https://www.droitcongolais.info/files/72.05.13-Decret-du-29-mai-2013_Installations-classees.pdf)

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.leganet.cd/Legislation/Droit%20administratif/Environnement/D.19.019.02.08.214.htm>

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.wipo.int/wipolex/fr/treaties/members/profile/CD>

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.leganet.cd/Legislation/Droit%20administratif/Environnement/A.056.28.03.2000.htm>

African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources	Algiers, Algeria 15 September 1968	29 May 1976 <sup>26</sup>
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species Wildlife (Bonn Convention)	Bonn, Germany 23 June 1979	1 <sup>st</sup> September 1990 <sup>27</sup>
Vienna Convention on the Protection of the Ozone Layer	Vienna, Austria 22 March 1985	30 November 1994 <sup>24</sup>
Convention on Biological Diversity	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 5 June 1992	3 December 1994 <sup>24</sup>
United Nations Convention on Climate Change	New-York, USA 9 May 1992	9 January 1995 <sup>24</sup>
Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar)	Ramsar, Iran 2 February 1971	18 January 1996 <sup>28</sup>
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa	Paris, France 16 June 1994	12 September 1997 <sup>24</sup>
Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	Kyoto, Japan 10 December 1997	23 March 2005 <sup>24</sup>
Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade	Rotterdam, Netherlands 10 September 1998	23 March 2005 <sup>29</sup>
Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	Stockholm, Sweden 22 May 2001	23 March 2005 <sup>30</sup>
Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity	Nagoya, Japan 28 October 2010	4 February 2015 <sup>24</sup>
International Plant Protection Convention	Rome, Italy 5 December 1951	4 May 2015 <sup>24</sup>

<sup>26</sup> <https://au.int/en/treaties/african-convention-conservation-nature-and-natural-resources>

<sup>27</sup> [https://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/Inf\\_12\\_17\\_NationalReport\\_DRO\\_Congo\\_F\\_0.pdf](https://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/Inf_12_17_NationalReport_DRO_Congo_F_0.pdf)

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.unesco.org/fr/countries/cd/conventions>

<sup>29</sup> [https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg\\_no=XXVII-14&chapter=27&clang\\_=fr](https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=XXVII-14&chapter=27&clang_=fr)

<sup>30</sup> [https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg\\_no=XXVII-15&chapter=27&clang\\_=fr](https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=XXVII-15&chapter=27&clang_=fr)

Paris Agreement	Paris, France 11 December 2015	13 December 2017 <sup>24</sup>
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Since 2011, the DRC has had an improved legal and regulatory arsenal for the environment and the sustainable management of forest and wildlife resources. The last decade (2010-2020) has been marked by an evolution of the legislative and regulatory framework for environmental management and nature conservation. These legal documents, which constitute the legal basis for sustainable environmental management, include:

- Legal texts:
  - o « Loi n°11/022 du 24 décembre 2011 portant principes fondamentaux relatifs à l'agriculture » ;
  - o « Loi n°011/2002 du 29 août 2002 portant Code forestier » ;
  - o « Loi n°82/002 du 28 mai 1982 portant réglementation de la chasse » ;
  - o « Loi n°11/009 du 09 juillet 2011 portant principes fondamentaux relatifs à la protection de l'environnement telle que modifiée et complétée ce jour par l'Ordonnance-Loi n°23/007 du 03 mars 2023 » ;
  - o « Loi n°14/003 du 11 février 2014 relative à la Conservation de la Nature » ;
  - o « Loi n°15/026 du 31 décembre 2015 relative à l'eau » ;
- Regulatory texts:
  - o « Décret n°14/030 du 18 novembre 2014 fixant les règles de fonctionnement des mécanismes procéduraux de la protection de l'environnement ».

Finally, the Baulu Project is also required to comply with the following legal/regulatory texts:

- « Loi n°16/010 du 15 juillet 2016 modifiant et complétant la Loi n°015-2002 portant Code du travail » ;
- « Loi n°14/011 du 17 juin 2014 qui régit le secteur de l'électricité en RDC » ;
- « Décret-loi 081 du 02 juillet 1998 portant organisation territoriale et administrative de la République Démocratique du Congo » ;
- « Décret n°13/015 du 29 mai 2013 portant réglementation des installations classées ».

## 1.16 Double Counting and Participation under Other GHG Programs

### 1.16.1 No Double Issuance

Is the project receiving or seeking credit for reductions and removals from a project activity under another GHG program?

 Yes

 No

### 1.16.2 Registration in Other GHG Programs

Is the project registered or seeking registration under any other GHG programs?

Yes       No

### 1.16.3 Projects Rejected by Other GHG Programs

Has the project been rejected by any other GHG programs?

Yes       No

## 1.17 Double Claiming, Other Forms of Credit, and Scope 3 Emissions

### 1.17.1 No Double Claiming with Emissions Trading Programs or Binding Emission Limits

Are project reductions and removals or project activities also included in an emissions trading program or binding emission limit? See the *VCS Program Definitions* for definitions of emissions trading program and binding emission limit.

Yes       No

### 1.17.2 No Double Claiming with Other Forms of Environmental Credit

Has the project activity sought, received, or is planning to receive credit from another GHG-related environmental credit system? See the *VCS Program Definitions* for definition of GHG-related environmental credit system.

Yes       No

### 1.17.3 Supply Chain (Scope 3) Emissions

Do the project activities specified in Section 1.12 affect the emissions footprint of any product(s) (goods or services) that are part of a supply chain?

Yes       No

Is the project proponent(s) or authorized representative a buyer or seller of the product(s) (goods or services) that are part of a supply chain?

Yes       No

Has the project proponent(s) or authorized representative posted a public statement on their website saying, “Carbon credits may be issued through Verified Carbon Standard project [project ID] for the greenhouse gas emission reductions or removals associated with [project proponent or authorized

representative organization name(s)] [name of product(s) whose emissions footprint is changed by the project activities]."

Yes       No

## 1.18 Sustainable Development Contributions

Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, several stakeholders have mobilized in DRC around this ambitious program and the 17 SDGs (see Figure 7) on which it is based.

On the social front, reforms have been carried out to, among other things, expand coverage of social protection. Budgetary resources allocated to the health sector have increased and steps are being taken to put in place coverage universal health care. In addition, the Government has taken a new strategic direction to effectively combat hunger and malnutrition. Notwithstanding an offer access to water is a challenge, as is access to electricity. The offer energy is very loss-making, despite the enormous potential. Additional efforts are being made to reduce the level of extreme poverty and inequality. In order to give priority to access to education for all, the Government has made effective the free of charge for basic education. A quality assurance scheme has also been set up and the teacher recruitment system reformed. Gender equality is one of the most DRC's priorities. Reforms to the legal framework on women's rights have been leading in particular to the revision of the Family Code.

On the environmental front, several mitigation and adaptation projects climate change has been initiated, but this requires more sectoral synergies. Moreover, several conservation and protection of biodiversity, including parks and nature reserves, are regularly undertaken.

The project contributes to the achievement of the sustainable development priorities stated at the national level in several ways:

- SDG 13 & 15: the project will contribute directly to climate change mitigation through the conservation of a large forest carbon stock that was destined for harvesting;
- SDG 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 10, 12: by creating jobs (employment of supervisory staff, awareness-raising staff) and establishment of sustainable income-generating agricultural activities, the Project will help fighting rural exodus and bring about a significant, lasting and much-anticipated change for local people. In addition, the jobs created and the income-generating agricultural activities will be accessible to all, without gender inequality or discrimination. The salaries paid to all of these employees and income from the sale of agricultural products will be a very effective means of poverty reduction for all the beneficiary communities and will act as a driving force for local development;
- SDG 14 & 15: the project conserves and enhances biodiversity by:
  - o Stopping legal logging: given the importance of this type of forest, its protection through the implementation of the project will make a major contribution to the preservation of the extremely rich biodiversity (fauna and flora) in this region of the DRC;
  - o Protecting the entire Baulu Concession from destructive and illegal anthropogenic activities such as recurrent and uncontrolled burning (for slash-and-burn agriculture) or the anarchic collection of wood (energy or timber);

- The introduction of awareness-raising and training programmes for sustainable and environmentally friendly activities in order to change the habits (often harmful to forests and biodiversity) of local communities.



Figure 7: SDGs in Democratic Republic of Congo<sup>31</sup>

The climate, environmental and community benefits provided by the project all contribute to the achievement of global and national sustainable development goals. These contributory services will be monitored as part of the approval procedure for REDD+ investments in the DRC. During the implementation of a REDD+ investment, the proponent is required to send a report every 12 months to the regulator (*i.e.* the CN-REDD<sup>32</sup>) to report on the progress of the implementation of its REDD+ investment. The CN-REDD will also be responsible for carrying out control audits in the field<sup>33</sup>.

## 1.19 Additional Information Relevant to the Project

### 1.19.1 Leakage Management

This section has been omitted in accordance with the Pipeline Listing Process defined in section 3.1.3 of VERRA's Registration and Issuance Process guidance (v4.4, 4 October 2023).

### 1.19.2 Commercially Sensitive Information

<sup>31</sup> <https://drcongo.un.org/fr/sdgs>

<sup>32</sup> <https://medd.gouv.cd/coordination-nationale-redd-cn-redd/>

<sup>33</sup> See the articles 23 and 27 of the « Arrêté Ministériel n°47/CAB/MIN/EDD/AAN/MML// fixant la procédure d'homologation des investissements REDD+ en République démocratique du Congo (J.O.RDC., 1er juillet 2018, n°13, col. 58) » <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/Cng189387.pdf>

No commercially sensitive information has been excluded from the public version of the project description.

### 1.19.3 Further Information

The Baulu Project is part of an integrated development strategy and aim to promote social and environmental practices.

## 2 SAFEGUARDS AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

### 2.1 Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation

#### 2.1.1 Stakeholder Identification

This section has been omitted in accordance with the Pipeline Listing Process defined in section 3.1.3 of VERRA's Registration and Issuance Process guidance (v4.4, 4 October 2023).

#### 2.1.2 Stakeholder Consultation and Ongoing Communication

This section has been omitted in accordance with the Pipeline Listing Process defined in section 3.1.3 of VERRA's Registration and Issuance Process guidance (v4.4, 4 October 2023).

#### 2.1.3 Free Prior and Informed Consent

This section has been omitted in accordance with the Pipeline Listing Process defined in section 3.1.3 of VERRA's Registration and Issuance Process guidance (v4.4, 4 October 2023).

#### 2.1.4 Grievance Redress Procedure

This section has been omitted in accordance with the Pipeline Listing Process defined in section 3.1.3 of VERRA's Registration and Issuance Process guidance (v4.4, 4 October 2023).

#### 2.1.5 Public Comments

This section has been omitted in accordance with the Pipeline Listing Process defined in section 3.1.3 of VERRA's Registration and Issuance Process guidance (v4.4, 4 October 2023).

### 2.2 Risks to Stakeholders and the Environment

This section has been omitted in accordance with the Pipeline Listing Process defined in section 3.1.3 of VERRA's Registration and Issuance Process guidance (v4.4, 4 October 2023).

### 2.3 Respect for Human Rights and Equity

### 2.3.1 Labor and Work

This section has been omitted in accordance with the Pipeline Listing Process defined in section 3.1.3 of VERRA's Registration and Issuance Process guidance (v4.4, 4 October 2023).

### 2.3.2 Human Rights

This section has been omitted in accordance with the Pipeline Listing Process defined in section 3.1.3 of VERRA's Registration and Issuance Process guidance (v4.4, 4 October 2023).

### 2.3.3 Indigenous Peoples and Cultural Heritage

This section has been omitted in accordance with the Pipeline Listing Process defined in section 3.1.3 of VERRA's Registration and Issuance Process guidance (v4.4, 4 October 2023).

### 2.3.4 Property Rights

This section has been omitted in accordance with the Pipeline Listing Process defined in section 3.1.3 of VERRA's Registration and Issuance Process guidance (v4.4, 4 October 2023).

### 2.3.5 Benefit Sharing

This section has been omitted in accordance with the Pipeline Listing Process defined in section 3.1.3 of VERRA's Registration and Issuance Process guidance (v4.4, 4 October 2023).

## 2.4 Ecosystem Health

This section has been omitted in accordance with the Pipeline Listing Process defined in section 3.1.3 of VERRA's Registration and Issuance Process guidance (v4.4, 4 October 2023).

### 2.4.1 Rare, Threatened, and Endangered species

This section has been omitted in accordance with the Pipeline Listing Process defined in section 3.1.3 of VERRA's Registration and Issuance Process guidance (v4.4, 4 October 2023).

### 2.4.2 Introduction of species

This section has been omitted in accordance with the Pipeline Listing Process defined in section 3.1.3 of VERRA's Registration and Issuance Process guidance (v4.4, 4 October 2023).

### 2.4.3 Ecosystem conversion

This section has been omitted in accordance with the Pipeline Listing Process defined in section 3.1.3 of VERRA's Registration and Issuance Process guidance (v4.4, 4 October 2023).

# 3 APPLICATION OF METHODOLOGY

## 3.1 Title and Reference of Methodology

Type (methodology, tool or module).	Reference ID, if applicable	Title	Version
Methodology	VM0010	Methodology for Improved Forest Management: Conversion from Logged to Protected Forest	1.3 <sup>34</sup>
Tool	VT0001	Tool for the Demonstration and Assessment of Additionality in VCS Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) Project Activities	3.0 <sup>35</sup>
Methodology	-	VCS Program Guide	4.4 <sup>36</sup>
Methodology	-	VCS Standard	4.5 <sup>37</sup>
Methodology	-	VCS Methodology Requirements	4.4 <sup>38</sup>
Tool	-	AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Tool	4.2 <sup>39</sup>

## 3.2 Applicability of Methodology

The VCS VM0010 methodology “Methodology for Improved Forest Management: Conversion from Logged to Protected Forest” (Version 1.3) is applicable under the following conditions.

Methodology ID	Applicability condition	Justification of compliance
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<sup>34</sup> [https://verra.org/wp-content/uploads/imported/methodologies/VM0010-Methodology-for-IMF-LtPF-v1.3\\_0.pdf](https://verra.org/wp-content/uploads/imported/methodologies/VM0010-Methodology-for-IMF-LtPF-v1.3_0.pdf)

<sup>35</sup> <https://verra.org/wp-content/uploads/imported/methodologies/VT0001v3.0.pdf>

<sup>36</sup> <https://verra.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/VCS-Program-Guide-v4.4.pdf>

<sup>37</sup> <https://verra.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/VCS-Standard-v4.5-updated-4-Oct-2023.pdf>

<sup>38</sup> <https://verra.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/VCS-Methodology-Requirements-v4.4-updated-4-Oct-2023.pdf>

<sup>39</sup> <https://verra.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/AFOLU-Non-Permanence-Risk-Tool-v4.2-FINAL.pdf>

VM0010	Projects must fall within the VCS AFOLU project category “IFM: Logged to Protected Forest” as defined in the most recent version of the VCS AFOLU Requirements document.	According to the VCS Standard (v4.5), “ <i>this category includes practices that reduce net GHG emissions by converting logged forests to protected forests</i> ” which is clearly the case for the Baulu Project.
VM0010	Forest management in the baseline scenario must be planned timber harvest	The Baulu Forest Conservation Concession Project was previously a designated forestry concession dedicated to timber harvesting (CCF 09/11) with an approved forest Management Plan and a history of timber harvesting.
VM0010	Under the project scenario, forest use must be limited to activities that do not result in commercial timber harvest or forest degradation	The Baulu Forest Conservation Concession Project will result in a total stop of commercial timber harvesting and protection of the forest estate.
VM0010	Planned timber harvest must be estimated using forest inventory methods that determine allowable off take as volume of timber ( $m^3/ha^{-1}$ )	Planned timber harvest is based on a thorough and detailed forest inventory carried out in 2011 and 2012 (see §4.1 for more details about this forest inventory).
VM0010	The boundaries of the forest land must be clearly defined and documented	The boundaries of the forest land have been geolocated and digitized for the purpose of producing the forest Management Plan and are available in geodata format.
VM0010	The baseline scenario cannot include conversion to managed plantations	The baseline scenario does only include planned timber harvest of naturally regenerating forests and no conversion to forestry or agricultural plantations is allowed or planned.
VM0010	The baseline scenario, project scenario and project case cannot include wetland or peatland	Neither scenario contains wetlands or peatlands. Note that the concession does contain significant areas of wetland forests, but these are outside of the VCS project area as they are either protected by legal requirements or they are non-harvestable for technical or financial reasons. However, within the framework of its activities throughout the Baulu Concession ( <i>i.e.</i> beyond the limits of the project area which is only located in the timber production series) the project will ensure the protection and the conservation of these

		wetlands and peatlands (see section 1.12 page 16 for more details on these activities).
VM0010	All applicability conditions of VCS and CDM tools used in conjunction with this methodology must be met	All applicability conditions of VT0001 “Tool for the Demonstration and Assessment of Additionality in VCS Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) Project Activities” are met (see below). All applicability conditions of VCS are met (see §1.4)
VM0010	The legal right to harvest must pre-exist the implementation of the project.	In January 2018, the IFCO company became the beneficiary of concession 009/11-Baulu by Ministerial Order authorizing the transfer <sup>40</sup> . In its article 3, this Ministerial Order specifies that the assignment is made with full transfer of the rights and obligations attached to it. To this end, IFCO has taken over all the rights and obligations of the transferor company and has continued to implement the management documents in force on the Baulu Concession (forest management plan available upon request).
VM0010	The project proponent must demonstrate intent to harvest prior to the date of all evidence in pursuit of carbon finance/consideration of IFM.	KNCC holds a valid and verifiable government-approved five-year management plan (available upon request) for harvesting the project area. The Five-Year Management Plan N°3 of Forest Concession 009/11 – Baulu was drafted in March 2022 as part of its management process, in accordance with Arrêté N°28/CAB/MIN/ECT/27/JEB/08 du 11 août 2008 fixing the models of concession contracts for the exploitation of forest products and the related specifications (available upon request).  This Five-Year Management Plan, which covers the period from 2023 to 2027, was developed in accordance with the Operational Guide on the annotated outline of the Five-Year Management Plan (revised version, June 2017).
VT0001	AFOLU activities the same or similar to the proposed project activity on the land within the proposed project boundary	The Baulu Project does not violate any laws as demonstrated in section 1.15

<sup>40</sup> Arrêté Ministériel N°002/CAB/MIN/EDD/AAN/KTT/05/2017 du 18 janvier 2018 portant autorisation de cession de deux (2) concessions forestières de la société COTREFOR en faveur de la société Industrie Forestière du Congo. See pages 81 and 82 of this document: <http://www.leganet.cd/Legislation/JO/2018/JO.15.03.2018.pdf>

	performed with or without being registered as the VCS AFOLU project shall not lead to violation of any applicable law even if the law is not enforced	
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### 3.3 Project Boundary

#### Geographical boundaries

Figure 1 in §1.13 shows the location of concession 09/11 - Baulu, the concession in which the project area is located. The Baulu Concession is located in the Democratic Republic of Congo, in the Tshuapa Province and has a total area of 277 131 ha.

Figure 2, also in §1.13, shows the different management series of the Baulu Concession from the forest Management Plan, prior to its conversion to a protected forest. The timber production series constitutes the area that would have been subject to harvesting in the baseline scenario and corresponds to the project area. The project area (*i.e.* the timber production series) is 116,181 ha (see Figure 8 below).

The geographical boundaries of the project activity are fixed and thus will not change over the project lifetime.

The project boundaries for leakage from market effects are those of the country in which the project area is located, *i.e.* the Democratic Republic of Congo.

#### Temporal boundaries

The temporal boundaries are defined by the project start date and length of the project crediting period. The project activity directly leading to the sequestration of CO<sub>2</sub> started on 23 July 2023 with the authorization of transfer of the Baulu concession between IFCO and KNCC (see §1.8 for more details). The length of the project crediting period is 39 years.

Figure 9 below shows the Five-year Management Blocks (FMB; BAQ in French) from the forest management plan. The table in the top right corner of this Figure provides the project area for each Five-year Management Block. Please note that the project crediting period and baseline scenario start with FMB 3 in 2023 and subsequently moves through FMB 4 and 5, before moving on with FMB 1 to FMB 5 (again). FMB 1 and 2 have been harvested prior to the project start date and would have been subject to a second rotation period under the baseline scenario, as would FMB 3 to FMB 5 later on.

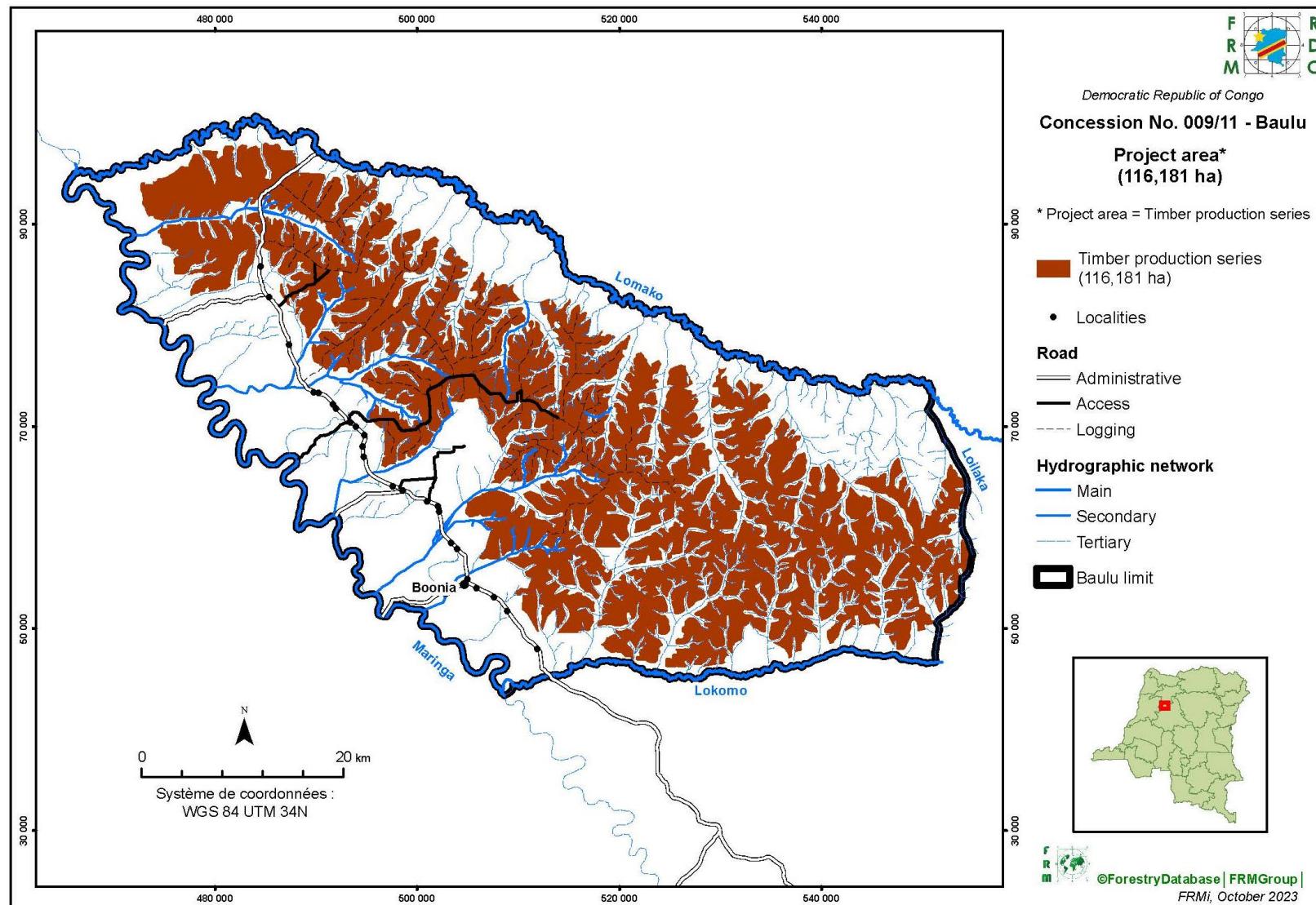


Figure 8: Geographical boundaries of the Baulu project area

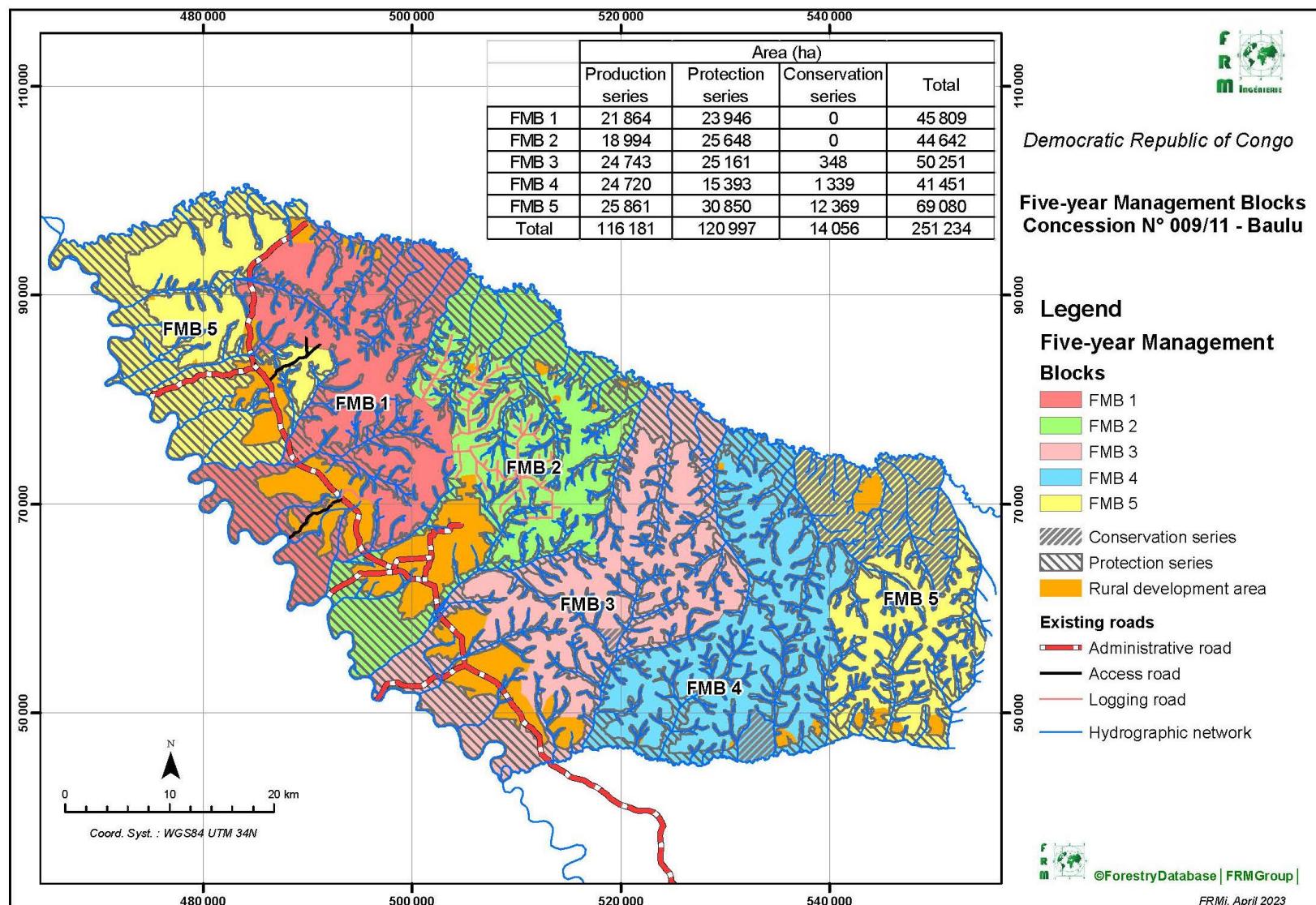


Figure 9: Five-year Management Blocks of the Baulu Concession

## Carbon pools

The carbon pools included or excluded from the project boundary are shown in the table below.

Carbon pools	Included?	Justification/Explanation of choice
Aboveground trees	Included	The stock change in the above ground tree biomass must be estimated.
Above ground non-tree	Excluded	Exclusion is always conservative when forests remains as forest.
Belowground	Excluded	Unlikely to change significantly in forests remaining as forests and is difficult to measure-omission is conservative.
Deadwood (logging slash)	Included in the baseline	The dead wood (logging slash) carbon pool is expected to be larger in the baseline than in the project scenario, and therefore this pool must be included.
Dead wood (naturally accumulated)	Excluded	Following IPCC guidelines, it is assumed that carbon stocks in the naturally occurring dead wood (both standing and lying) are equivalent in both the project and baseline scenario, and therefore this pool is conservatively excluded. It is not conservative to account for this pool in the baseline scenario only.
Harvested wood products	Included	Will be greater in baseline than project scenario and significant.
Litter	Excluded	Insignificant and exclusion is conservative.
Soil organic carbon	Excluded	Exclusion is always conservative when forests remain as forests.

## Greenhouse Gases

The emission sources included in or excluded from the project boundary are shown in the table below.

Source	Gas	Included?	Justification/Explanation
Baseline	CO <sub>2</sub>	No	Only included if tested as significant. Otherwise excluded, which is deemed conservative, as emissions will be greater in the baseline scenario than in the project scenario. The project proponent has chosen to exclude to account for GHG emissions related to the combustion of fossil fuels, which is conservative.
	CH <sub>4</sub>	No	
	N <sub>2</sub> O	No	
	Other	No	

Source		Gas	Included?	Justification/Explanation
Project	Burning biomass	CO <sub>2</sub>	No	
		CH <sub>4</sub>	Yes	CH <sub>4</sub> emissions included as CO <sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions
		N <sub>2</sub> O	No	N <sub>2</sub> O potential emissions are negligible
		Other	No	
	Removal of herbaceous vegetation	CO <sub>2</sub>	No	
		CH <sub>4</sub>	No	Based on CDM Executive Board decision reflected in paragraph 11 of the report of: <a href="http://cdm.unfccc.int/Panels/ar/023/ar_023_rep.pdf">cdm.unfccc.int/Panels/ar/023/ar_023_rep.pdf</a>
		N <sub>2</sub> O	No	
		Other	No	
	Nitrogen based fertilizer	CO <sub>2</sub>	No	Potential emissions are negligible.
		CH <sub>4</sub>	No	Following the VCS update to the Tool for AFOLU Methodological Issues and Guidance for AFOLU Projects, emissions through the use of fertilizer are considered insignificant and are not considered here.
		N <sub>2</sub> O	No	
		Other	No	
Project	Combustion of fossil fuels (in vehicles, machinery and equipment)	CO <sub>2</sub>	No	Only included if tested as significant. Otherwise excluded, which is deemed conservative, as emissions will be greater in the baseline scenario than in the project scenario.
		CH <sub>4</sub>	No	
		N <sub>2</sub> O	No	
		Other	No	Not applicable in the project scenario.
	Burning biomass	CO <sub>2</sub>	No	
		CH <sub>4</sub>	Yes	CH <sub>4</sub> emissions included as CO <sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions
		N <sub>2</sub> O	No	N <sub>2</sub> O potential emissions are negligible
		Other	No	
	Removal of herbaceous vegetation	CO <sub>2</sub>	No	
		CH <sub>4</sub>	No	Based on CDM Executive Board decision reflected in paragraph 11 of the report of: <a href="http://cdm.unfccc.int/Panels/ar/023/ar_023_rep.pdf">cdm.unfccc.int/Panels/ar/023/ar_023_rep.pdf</a>
		N <sub>2</sub> O	No	
		Other	No	

Source	Gas	Included?	Justification/Explanation
Nitrogen based fertilizer	CO <sub>2</sub>	No	Potential emissions are negligible.
	CH <sub>4</sub>	No	Following the VCS update to the Tool for AFOLU Methodological Issues and Guidance for AFOLU Projects, emissions through the use of fertilizer are considered insignificant and are not considered here.
	N <sub>2</sub> O	No	
	Other	No	

## 3.4 Baseline Scenario

This section has been omitted in accordance with the Pipeline Listing Process defined in section 3.1.3 of VERRA's Registration and Issuance Process guidance (v4.4, 4 October 2023).

## 3.5 Additionality

This section has been omitted in accordance with the Pipeline Listing Process defined in section 3.1.3 of VERRA's Registration and Issuance Process guidance (v4.4, 4 October 2023).

### 3.5.1 Regulatory Surplus

This section has been omitted in accordance with the Pipeline Listing Process defined in section 3.1.3 of VERRA's Registration and Issuance Process guidance (v4.4, 4 October 2023).

### 3.5.2 Additionality Methods

This section has been omitted in accordance with the Pipeline Listing Process defined in section 3.1.3 of VERRA's Registration and Issuance Process guidance (v4.4, 4 October 2023).

## 3.6 Methodology Deviations

This section has been omitted in accordance with the Pipeline Listing Process defined in section 3.1.3 of VERRA's Registration and Issuance Process guidance (v4.4, 4 October 2023).

# 4 QUANTIFICATION OF ESTIMATED GHG EMISSION REDUCTIONS AND REMOVALS

## 4.1 Baseline Emissions

This section has been omitted in accordance with the Pipeline Listing Process defined in section 3.1.3 of VERRA's Registration and Issuance Process guidance (v4.4, 4 October 2023).

## 4.2 Project Emissions

This section has been omitted in accordance with the Pipeline Listing Process defined in section 3.1.3 of VERRA's Registration and Issuance Process guidance (v4.4, 4 October 2023).

## 4.3 Leakage Emissions

This section has been omitted in accordance with the Pipeline Listing Process defined in section 3.1.3 of VERRA's Registration and Issuance Process guidance (v4.4, 4 October 2023).

## 4.4 Estimated GHG Emission Reductions and Carbon Dioxide Removals

This section has been omitted in accordance with the Pipeline Listing Process defined in section 3.1.3 of VERRA's Registration and Issuance Process guidance (v4.4, 4 October 2023).

## 5 MONITORING

### 5.1 Data and Parameters Available at Validation

This section has been omitted in accordance with the Pipeline Listing Process defined in section 3.1.3 of VERRA's Registration and Issuance Process guidance (v4.4, 4 October 2023).

### 5.2 Data and Parameters Monitored

This section has been omitted in accordance with the Pipeline Listing Process defined in section 3.1.3 of VERRA's Registration and Issuance Process guidance (v4.4, 4 October 2023).

### 5.3 Monitoring Plan

This section has been omitted in accordance with the Pipeline Listing Process defined in section 3.1.3 of VERRA's Registration and Issuance Process guidance (v4.4, 4 October 2023).