



# 1 million trees (and growing) to electrify Yangambi

Since 2018, CIFOR-ICRAF and its partners are promoting forest landscape restoration in Yangambi. Their goal is to bring degraded land back to productivity to create green jobs, reactivate the local economy, enrich soils, and increase energy supply.

## Our impact



**1,000+**  
hectares of degraded land have been restored.

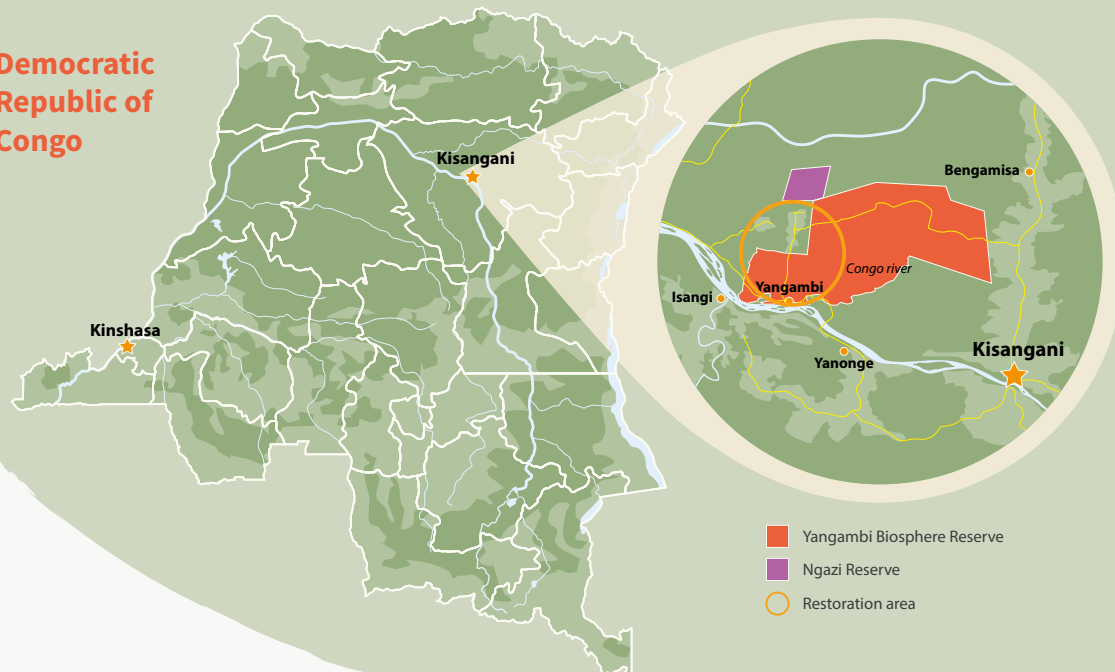


**1 million+**  
trees have been planted in Yangambi since 2019.



**1,800**  
direct jobs have been created.

Democratic  
Republic of  
Congo



## How are we doing it?

### PLANTATION TEAM

#### SEED SOURCING

Seeds of fast-growing species *Acacia auriculiformis* are purchased locally. Seeds of indigenous species are collected in the Yangambi Biosphere Reserve. Fruit trees are grown from selected varieties.



#### NURSERY

An average of **1,200,000 seeds** are planted each season in two nurseries. The staff of the Congolese Institute for the Study and Agronomic Research (INERA) is responsible for taking care of the seedlings. The seedlings spend **12 weeks** in the nursery.



### PLANTATION

During **two seasons of five weeks** each, the nursery teams pack all the seedlings in **2500** locally made baskets. These seedlings are then transported by tractor to the different plantation sites. Planters are organized in teams, which allows to plant **12,500 plants** per day. Community mobilizers follow daily activities and collect grievances, which are then discussed and settled with the relevant people involved.

### COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION TEAM

#### PLANNING

Fields to be restored and cultivated with agroforestry schemes are selected and mapped together with local partners.



#### SENSITIZING

Community mobilizers visit the relevant populations to explain forthcoming activities, identify individual land users, seek their consent, and bring them on board in restoration and agroforestry activities.



#### PREPARATION

Field access is prepared by local communities. Fields are cleared and holes prepared with minimal damage to existing crops. Work health and safety mechanisms are put in place.



### MAINTAINANCE

Local guards look after bush fires. Teams are organized to ensure regular curing of fields through agroforestry.



### BIOMASS PRODUCTION

Seven years after their plantation, trees are ready to be used for biomass. A combined heat and power plant is currently under construction.



### REACTIVATION OF THE LOCAL ECONOMY

Heat and electricity production supports local businesses, increases value addition, and attracts new investments.



Electricity facilitates scientific activities and the reactivation of the research center.

### REINFORCEMENT

Community mobilizers work with local networks (youth, local authorities, religious leaders and elders) to deepen explanations and understanding of plantation activities.



## Why do we focus on energy?



**99%**  
of rural households in the DRC do not have access to electricity.



**20%**  
expected increase in energy demand in Yangambi by 2025.



**230,000 m³**  
of woodfuel are consumed each year in Yangambi.

## Supporting the DRC's policies



Under the AFR100 initiative, the DRC has pledged to restore **8 million** hectares of land by 2030.



The national government aims to plant **1 billion** trees by 2023.



The Presidency has pledged to make electrification his **number 1** economic priority.

## Contribution to the SDGs



### ABOUT

This initiative mainly funded through the projects *Formation, Recherche et Environnement dans la Tshopo* (FORETS) and *Nouveaux Paysages du Congo* (NPC), financed by the European Union and implemented by the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) with over a dozen Congolese and international partners.

The projects FORETS and NPC support CIFOR-ICRAF's Yangambi Engagement Landscape, a long-term vision for economic development, conservation and applied research activities aimed at transforming the Yangambi landscape (an area of about 8,000 square kilometers) into a forestry hub where natural resources are sustainably managed to create opportunities for the local population.

### OUR PARTNERS



### LEARN MORE

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