



Dynamique des Jeunes Leaders pour la Paix et le Respect des Droits Humains

DYJEPREDHU asbl

Dynamics of Young Leaders for Peace and Respect for Humans Rights

CHANGEMENT TRANSFORMATION IMPACT

Planter of 500,000 trees in DRC damaged forests

May 2026

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PROJECT TECHNICAL PROPOSALS

I. Project Summary

1. Title of the project: Planter of 500,000 trees in DRC damaged forests

2. Contact details:

• Name of the organization: Dynamic of Young Leaders for Peace and Respect for Human Rights, “DYJEPREDHU asbl” in acronym

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3. Organization Mission Statement

"To restore the ecological integrity of the Democratic Republic of the Congo's degraded landscapes through **community-driven reforestation**, fostering a sustainable future where resilient ecosystems and empowered local populations thrive in harmony."

Key Pillars of our Mission:

- **Restoration:** Reversing deforestation to protect the Congo Basin's biodiversity.
- **Empowerment:** Placing local communities at the center of environmental action and resource management.
- **Sustainability:** Creating long-term economic and ecological value through responsible forestry practices.

Project Beneficiaries

The project is designed to deliver tangible benefits to a wide range of stakeholders, from local families to the global community.

1. Direct Beneficiaries

- **Local Smallholder Farmers:** Approximately **2,000 households** in the Masisi territory who gain direct access to sustainable timber and agroforestry resources.
- **Project Workers (Cash-for-Work):** Over **500 local residents**, including youth and women, who receive direct income through nursery management, site preparation, and planting activities.
- **Community Leaders:** Local authorities who receive training in sustainable land management and forest governance.

2. Indirect Beneficiaries

- **Local Communities (General Population):** Thousands of residents who benefit from **increased safety** due to stabilized hillsides (reduced landslide risk) and improved water quality from restored watersheds.
- **Women and Children:** As the primary collectors of fuel-wood, they benefit from the creation of nearby sustainable woodlots, which reduces the time and physical effort required for energy collection.
- **Agricultural Producers:** Farmers located downstream who benefit from regulated water cycles and the prevention of fertile topsoil being washed away by erosion.

3. Global Beneficiaries

- **The Global Community:** Everyone benefits from the **sequestration of carbon dioxide (CO₂)**, which helps mitigate global climate change.
- **Conservation Organizations:** Partners working to protect endangered wildlife in the Congo Basin, as this project creates vital habitat buffers.

Total cost of the project: US \$ 75,000

- **Bank account: Dynamique des Jeunes Leaders pour la Paix et le Respect des Droits Humains, DYJEPREDHU asbl**

Trust Merchant Bank S.A. (TMB)

Goma Agency -DRC

No. 1272-28000-23526760001-87

Following code: TRMSCD3L

Context and Justification of the Project

The project is rooted in the urgent need to protect the **Congo Basin**, the world's second-largest tropical rainforest, which currently faces unprecedented threats.

- 1. Environmental Context: The "Second Lung" at Risk**
The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) holds over 60% of the Congo Basin's forests. However, these forests are being cleared at an alarming rate losing roughly **500,000 hectares annually**. In regions like North Kivu (Masisi), the situation is critical due to mountainous terrain where the loss of forest cover leads to immediate environmental disasters.
- 2. Socio-Political Context: Legacy of Conflict**
The Masisi territory has been deeply affected by decades of instability. Displacement of populations and the presence of armed groups led to **anarchic exploitation** of forest resources. Forests were cleared for survival, charcoal production, and temporary settlements, leaving behind a scarred and unproductive landscape.

3. Justification: Why this project is essential

- **Preventing Natural Disasters:** Without trees to act as a barrier, the steep hills of Masisi are prone to **deadly landslides** and soil washing. Reforestation is the only natural solution to stabilize the ground and protect human lives.
- **Addressing Energy Poverty:** Since 90% of the population relies on wood-fuel (charcoal) for cooking, the project is justified by the need to create **sustainable woodlots**. This prevents the total disappearance of primary forests by providing a managed alternative for energy.
- **Biodiversity Protection:** The area is a vital buffer zone for unique wildlife. Restoring these 500,000 trees is justified as a strategy to recreate **biological corridors**, ensuring that the DRC remains a global stronghold for biodiversity.
- **Climate Responsibility:** As a global carbon sink, the DRC's forest health impacts the world. This project justifies local action as a contribution to

international climate goals, turning degraded lands back into active "carbon sponges."

Project Objectives

The project is designed around four primary objectives aimed at ecological restoration and community resilience:

1. Environmental Restoration and Soil Stabilization

- To plant **500,000 trees** on degraded hillsides to act as a natural defense against soil erosion.
- To prevent landslides and floods by restoring the protective forest canopy in the high-altitude areas of Masisi.

2. Protection of Primary Forests and Biodiversity

- To reduce human pressure on protected areas (like the Virunga National Park buffer zones) by establishing **community-managed woodlots**.
- To restore natural habitats and biological corridors for local wildlife.

3. Sustainable Energy and Resource Management

- To provide a reliable and **sustainable source of firewood and charcoal** (makala) for local households, ensuring energy security without destroying ancient forests.
- To produce sustainable timber for local construction needs.

4. Socio-Economic Empowerment

- To create **green jobs** and income-generating activities through the management of tree nurseries and reforestation sites.
- To strengthen the technical capacity of local communities in agroforestry and sustainable land-use techniques.

Project Mission

The mission of this project is to restore the degraded landscapes of the DRC through **community-led reforestation**. By planting 500,000 trees, we aim to bridge the gap between environmental conservation and the urgent socio-economic needs of local populations. We strive to transform scarred hillsides into resilient ecosystems that provide both climate protection and sustainable resources for future generations.

Core Values

These four values guide every action taken within the project:

1. **Environmental Stewardship:** We believe in our responsibility to protect the Congo Basin as a vital global resource and a local heritage.
2. **Community Empowerment:** We place local people at the heart of the project. Restoration only works when the community owns, manages, and benefits from the forest.
3. **Sustainability:** Our approach ensures that the use of forest resources today does not compromise the ability of the next generation to meet their own needs.
4. **Resilience:** We are committed to building landscapes and communities that can withstand the growing challenges of climate change and economic instability.

Project Activity Timeline (3-Year Plan)

Phase 1: Preparation & Community Mobilization (Months 1 – 6)

- **Site Identification:** Mapping degraded areas and hillsides most at risk of erosion.
- **Community Sensitization:** Organizing workshops with local leaders and villagers to explain project benefits.
- **Nursery Establishment:** Building central and satellite nurseries; sourcing high-quality native and agroforestry seeds.
- **Training:** Training local teams in nursery management and seedling care.

Phase 2: Intensive Planting Operations (Months 7 – 18)

- **Seedling Production:** Growing 500,000 seedlings in nurseries until they are ready for transplanting.
- **Land Preparation:** Clearing invasive brush and preparing "pitting" (digging holes) on the hillsides.
- **First Major Planting Season:** Distributing and planting the first batch of trees (approx. 250,000) during the rainy season.
- **Second Major Planting Season:** Completion of the planting goal (remaining 250,000 trees).

Phase 3: Monitoring, Maintenance & Protection (Months 19 – 36)

- **Beating Up (Replacing Failures):** Identifying and replacing seedlings that did not survive the first dry season.
- **Weeding and Mulching:** Protecting young trees from being choked by weeds and ensuring soil moisture.
- **Fire Protection:** Creating "firebreaks" around the new forest plots to prevent damage during the dry season.
- **Impact Assessment:** Final evaluation of survival rates and carbon sequestration estimates.

Project Budget Breakdown

Category	Description	Amount (USD)	% of Total
1. Seedling Production	Procurement of seeds, nursery bags, organic fertilizer, and nursery construction (water systems, shading).	\$22,500	30%
2. Field Operations	Site clearing, hole digging (pitting), transportation of seedlings to hillsides, and planting labor.	\$26,250	35%
3. Tools & Equipment	Hoes, shovels, boots, wheelbarrows, and specialized pruning/maintenance tools.	\$7,500	10%
4. Training & Mobilization	Community workshops, technical training for local farmers, and awareness campaigns.	\$6,000	8%
5. Monitoring & Protection	Field supervision, firebreak creation, and survival rate assessments (GIS/GPS mapping).	\$5,250	7%
6. Administration	Project coordination, local logistics, and reporting costs.	\$4,500	6%
7. Contingency Fund	Emergency reserve for weather-related issues or logistical price fluctuations.	\$3,000	4%
TOTAL		\$75,000	100%

Budget Notes:

- **Cost Efficiency:** By using **community nurseries** and local seed collection, the project significantly reduces the cost per seedling.
- **Labor:** A large portion of the budget is injected directly into the local economy through "cash-for-work" for planting activities.
- **Seasonality:** The budget is optimized to be spent heavily during the two main **rainy seasons** in the DRC to ensure maximum tree survival.

Done in Goma, May 3, 2026

For DYJEPREDHU asbl


Christian AHADI BEN MASONGA

EXECUTIF DIRECTOR, HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTI

