COMMUNITIES CAN NOW MANAGE UP TO 50,000 HECTARES OF FORESTS ACCORDING TO THEIR OWN CUSTOMS AND NEEDS, IN PERPETUITY.

OF FOREST COULD BE AVAILABLE TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES. THAT’S THREE TIMES THE SIZE OF THE UK.

RFUK HAS PROMOTED COMMUNITY FORESTRY IN DRC FOR YEARS AND SINCE 2016 HAS LED A CONSORTIUM PROJECT THAT HAS PUSHED THE ISSUE TO THE FOREFRONT OF FOREST MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES.

IN 2014, THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC) PASSED COMMUNITY FOREST LEGISLATION IN WHAT IS ARGUABLY THE MOST GROUND-BREAKING LEGAL DEVELOPMENT RELATED TO CONGO BASIN RAINFORESTS IN RECENT YEARS.

STRENGTHENING FOREST COMMUNITIES’ RIGHTS AND ENABLING THEM TO MANAGE THEIR TRADITIONAL LANDS IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS OF BOTH PROTECTING RAINFORESTS AND FIGHTING POVERTY.
OUR APPROACH

FIELD WORK

POLICY/ADVOCACY WORK

LOCAL

PROVINCIAL

NATIONAL

CAPACITY BUILDING OF ALL STAKEHOLDERS
**SECURING COMMUNITY LANDS**

- **ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY** - including women, indigenous people and marginalised groups - are actively involved in our work, which is based on customary tenure arrangements

- **8 communities have developed LAND USE PLANS** to ensure they manage their forests equitably and sustainably

**EMPOWERING KEY ACTORS**

- **14 PROVINCES** now have local authorities that understand the community forests law and are able to process applications and support communities

**PRODUCING AND SHARING KNOWLEDGE**

- **WE HAVE DEVELOPED AN EXTENSIVE REPOSITORY OF RESOURCES** for different audiences, including research studies, training guides, briefings and multimedia outputs

**OUR IMPACT**

- **6 COMMUNITY FOREST CONCESSIONS** granted and 4 more applied for in Equateur and North Kivu, benefitting OVER **25,000 PEOPLE** & PROTECTING **100,000 HECTARES**

**STEERING INCLUSIVE POLICY MAKING**

- **WE CREATED AND FACILITATE THE MULTI STAKEHOLDER ROUNDTABLE** for Community Forests in DRC, building consensus around the strategic direction and core principles underpinning community forestry

Developed by the Roundtable, **THE NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR COMMUNITY FORESTS IN DRC** was adopted by the government in 2018 sustaining the vision of learning by doing, a gradual approach, based on community rights and traditional management practices

National authorities have skills and technology to monitor the community forestry process and to manage information in a **NATIONAL DATABASE**
WHERE WE WORK

Hundreds of people from all provinces of DRC have taken part in our training, workshops, and provincial and national roundtables.

“**I AM HAPPY TO SEE THAT COMMUNITY FORESTS ARE NOW A REALITY. VERY SOON, THE MANAGEMENT PHASE OF THESE FORESTS WILL BEGIN.**”

– Fifi Likunde, Head of Community Forestry Division, Ministry of Environment, DRC

“**THE APPROACH WE PUT IN PLACE TO SUPPORT THESE COMMUNITIES WAS EFFECTIVE BECAUSE IT PUT COMMUNITIES THEMSELVES AT THE CENTRE. IF COMMUNITY FORESTRY IN DRC IS TO SUCCEED, IT MUST BE DONE BY AND FOR COMMUNITIES THEMSELVES.**”

– Julien Mathe, Director, GASHE

MAP KEY

**1ST PROVINCIAL ROUNDTABLE**

**2ND PROVINCIAL ROUNDTABLE**

**3RD PROVINCIAL ROUNDTABLE**

**4TH PROVINCIAL ROUNDTABLE**

**5TH PROVINCIAL ROUNDTABLE**

**WORKSHOPS AND TRAININGS**

LOOKING FORWARD

- Supporting the National Community Forests Strategy experimental phase and pave the way for national scaling-up of community forests in 2023
- Continuing to develop and test the legal and policy framework
- Providing continued training and tools to DRC government at national and local levels
- Maintaining and strengthening civil society monitoring and advocacy
- Supporting more communities to obtain their community forests
- Preparing for the management phase:
  - Strengthening community governance to ensure equity and inclusion
  - Testing models to improve livelihoods and attract private investment into community forests
  - Designing management plans that prevent deforestation and protect biodiversity

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– Julien Mathe, Director, GASHE
“By working together united as a community we can hopefully achieve a better development. Our forest has lots of natural resources which we would like to manage better.”

– Florence, community member, Irebu