



Kinshasa, 14 October 2025

Final declaration by participants in the national civil society workshop on the Kivu-Kinshasa Green Corridor (CVKK)

We, the participants in the national civil society workshop on the Kivu-Kinshasa Green Corridor (CVKK), held from 7 to 9 October 2025 in the conference room of the Cercle Elais in Kinshasa (Gombe commune), hereby express our comments and impressions, followed by our recommendations for the attention of all stakeholders interested in the CVKK process.

This workshop, opened by Her Excellency the Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development and the New Climate Economy, was organised by the Network for Environment and Human Rights (R-EDH), in partnership with the Virunga Foundation and the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN).

It brought together nearly a hundred participants representing: civil society organisations; delegates from local communities and indigenous peoples from several provinces; researchers and scientific experts; technical and financial partners; members of the diplomatic corps and cooperation agencies; representatives of the Virunga Foundation and the ICCN Directorate General; a representative of the Senior Adviser to the Head of State in charge of the Environment, Urban Planning and Mobility; as well as parliamentarians, ministries and sectoral administrations (land use planning, environment, land tenure, etc.).

During the three days of discussions, after reviewing key information about the Kivu-Kinshasa Green Corridor, participants welcomed the government's decision to launch this project. They recognised the corridor's potential as a lever for rights-based conservation, economic growth and stability, fully in line with the current global debate on the decolonisation of conservation models.

All agreed on one major challenge: laying the foundations for truly inclusive governance of the Kivu-Kinshasa Green Corridor, ensuring that the communities concerned are fully involved in the decisions and implementation of this national strategic vision.

Five (5) major challenges were identified to facilitate the establishment of the green corridor, including:

1. The issue of improvements and adjustments needed to make the legal framework of the CVKK more coherent and clear;
2. Clarification of the role of the various stakeholders in the implementation of the CVKK;
3. Identifying key elements for the Civil Society roadmap to be put in place
;
4. Clarification of eligibility criteria and conditions for activities in the CVKK;
5. Mechanisms and approaches to ensure inclusivity and accountability in CVKK governance.

At the end of the proceedings, environmental civil society organisations recommended the following to overcome these challenges:

To the Government (Prime Minister's Office, MEDD-NEC, ICCN, PPP):

- a. Establish a formal multi-stakeholder framework for ongoing and transparent dialogue between stakeholders for participatory governance of the CVKK, particularly civil society, local communities and indigenous Pygmy peoples;
- b. Establish a multi-stakeholder governance structure at the national, provincial and local levels, ensuring the representation of all social groups (women, young people, indigenous Pygmies and traditional authorities) through a quota system;
- c. Develop a roadmap with clear milestones and stakeholder responsibilities
;
- d. Promote collaborative and inclusive management of the CVKK based on rights, green economic growth
green economic growth and stability;
- e. Capitalise on interministerial synergy in actions on the CVKK (Environment, Sustainable Development/New Climate Economy, Planning, Energy, Hydraulics, Infrastructure, Finance, Land, Agriculture, Vocational Training, etc.);
- f. Advance other enabling reforms such as land use planning, land tenure, agriculture and indigenous peoples to create conditions conducive to good governance of the CVKK;
- g. Map stakeholders and institutions in the CVKK and support them in the green economy;
- h. Ensure and encourage accountability of governance structures at all levels (local, provincial, national);
- i. Require the effective application of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) for all investment project in accordance with Article 5 of the decree establishing the CVKK;
- j. Establish a profit-sharing plan that fairly considers the contribution and efforts of local entities and local communities and indigenous Pygmy peoples;
- k. Require the establishment of a functional and contextualised complaint management mechanism for any project or investment to be implemented in the CVKK;
- l. Highlight and capitalise on the potential of Local Community Forest Concessions (CFCL) and Indigenous and Local Community Areas and Heritage (APAC), community reserves and Other Conservation Measures (AMEC) that exist and are planned for the future;
- m. Demand recognition and integration of traditional knowledge in CVKK approaches and plans;
- n. Ensure protection and safety for climate defenders and activists
- o. Accelerate the process of developing spatial planning tools within the CVKK framework;
- p. Clarify the status of the CVKK as either public or private property of the State in a clear and unequivocal manner;
- q. Improve the legal framework of the CVKK in consultation with civil society, indigenous peoples and local communities;
- r. Facilitate the granting of CFCL titles in the CVKK to capitalise on the methods, management plans and governance bodies put in place by the latter;
- s. Accelerate, by involving stakeholders, the production of regulatory texts by sector for the effective implementation of the CVKK.

To civil society organisations:

- a. Develop a roadmap with a clear vision and a coherent plan with a timetable for current and future activities on the CVKK;
- b. Take ownership of the CVKK initiative and mobilise around actions to implement and monitor the CVKK;
- c. Communicate and disseminate the legal and technical tools established by the decree creating the CVKK to ensure its good governance and thus prevent misinterpretations and conflicts surrounding the CVKK;
- d. Strengthen the capacities of local actors and structures in terms of the sound governance of the CVKK;
- e. Encourage and strengthen initiatives by local communities and indigenous Pygmy peoples to promote their empowerment;
- f. Follow up on the recommendations from this workshop.

To local communities and indigenous peoples:

- a. Take ownership of and mobilise around the CVKK's initiatives as a protected area intended for use as a community reserve;
- b. Require traditional knowledge to be taken into account in the implementation of the CVKK;
- c. Facilitate studies and consultations planned within the framework of the CVKK
- d. Regulate access to and use of endogenous knowledge

To Technical and Financial Partners (TFPs) and cooperation agencies:

- a. Guarantee support for the various projects included in the CVKK vision;
- b. Facilitate project financing within the framework of the green economy;
- c. Require compliance with socio-environmental safeguards for any project or investment implemented in the CVKK
- d. Support the participation of civil society, local communities and indigenous peoples in the development of the CVKK and in multi-stakeholder processes.

To the media:

- a. Take ownership of the CVKK process and all its objectives of conservation, opening up access and sustainable development in the context of the fight against climate change;
- b. Faithfully convey the various messages of the CVKK further afield, especially in the interior of the Congo
;
- c. Be involved in the entire CVKK implementation process.

Participants