1 MILLIARD D'ARBRES

POUR LE CLIMAT

2023

CO$_2$

CO$_2$e

1 Billion Trees
for Climate 2023

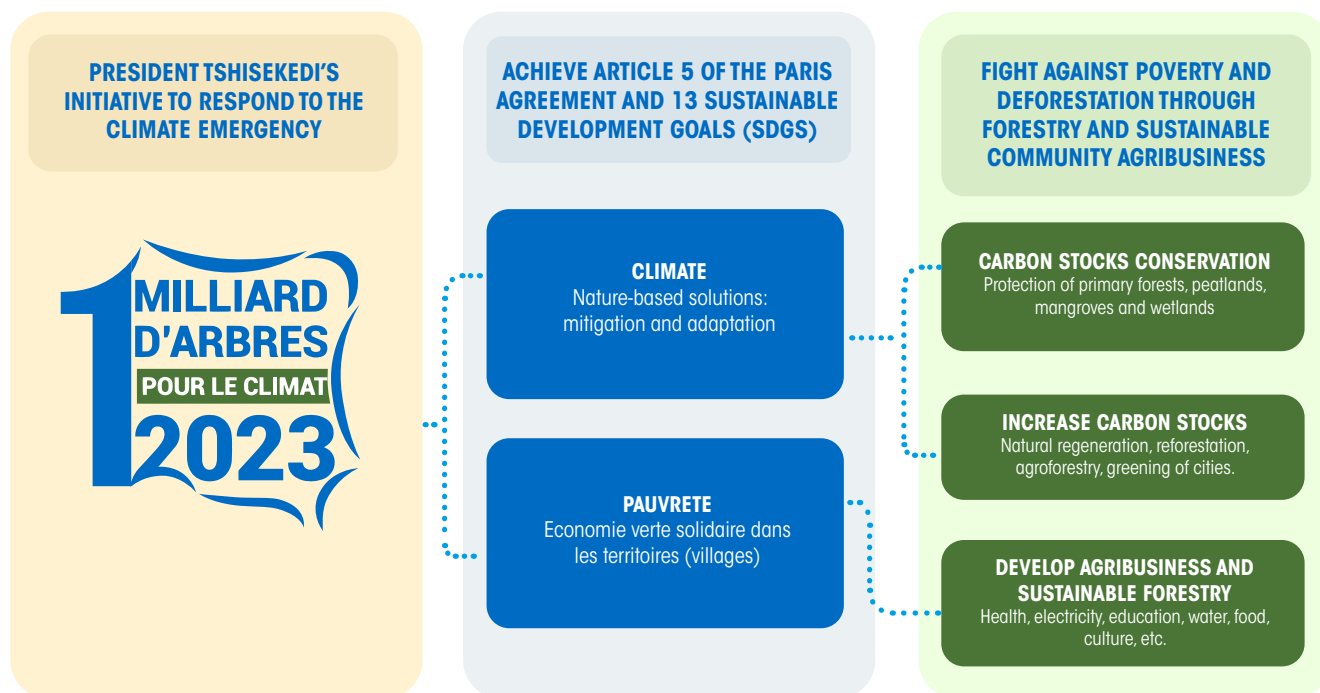Carbon Project to accelerate the SDGs

Carbon Project to accelerate the SDGs in rural areas

1 Billion Trees for Climate 2023 is an initiative of **President Félix Tshisekedi** to fight climate change and poverty through nature-based solutions. It consists of developing community-based micro enterprises in villages for forestry and sustainable agribusiness. The program covers 15 million hectares and aims to conserve and increase a carbon stock of 3150 $MTCo_2$, train 1 million young people in climate entrepreneurship, empower 2 million rural women and help 15,000 villages to achieve 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
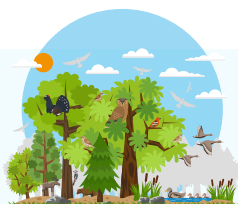
1MA2023 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

PRESIDENT TSHISEKEDI'S INITIATIVE TO RESPOND TO THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

ACHIEVE ARTICLE 5 OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND 13 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)

FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY AND DEFORESTATION THROUGH FORESTRY AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY AGRIBUSINESS

1 MILLIARD D'ARBRES POUR LE CLIMAT 2023

CLIMATE
Nature-based solutions: mitigation and adaptation

PAUVRETE
Economie verte solidaire dans les territoires (villages)

CARBON STOCKS CONSERVATION
Protection of primary forests, peatlands, mangroves and wetlands

INCREASE CARBON STOCKS
Natural regeneration, reforestation, agroforestry, greening of cities.

DEVELOP AGRIBUSINESS AND SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY
Health, electricity, education, water, food, culture, etc.

THE EXPECTED RESULTS OF THE 1MA2023 PROGRAM

3 million
ha of forests and degraded lands are restored, or 300 $MTCO_2$ stored

1 million
ha of primary forests saved, i.e. 350 $MTCO_2$ of avoided emissions

10 million
ha of forests and wetlands managed durably, i.e. 2500 $MTCO_2$ preserved

1 million
ha of sedentary family farming, profitable, sustainable and resilient experienced

1 million
schoolchildren engaged in climate effort and ecopreneuriat

2 million
women (households) empowered, or 2 million households out of poverty
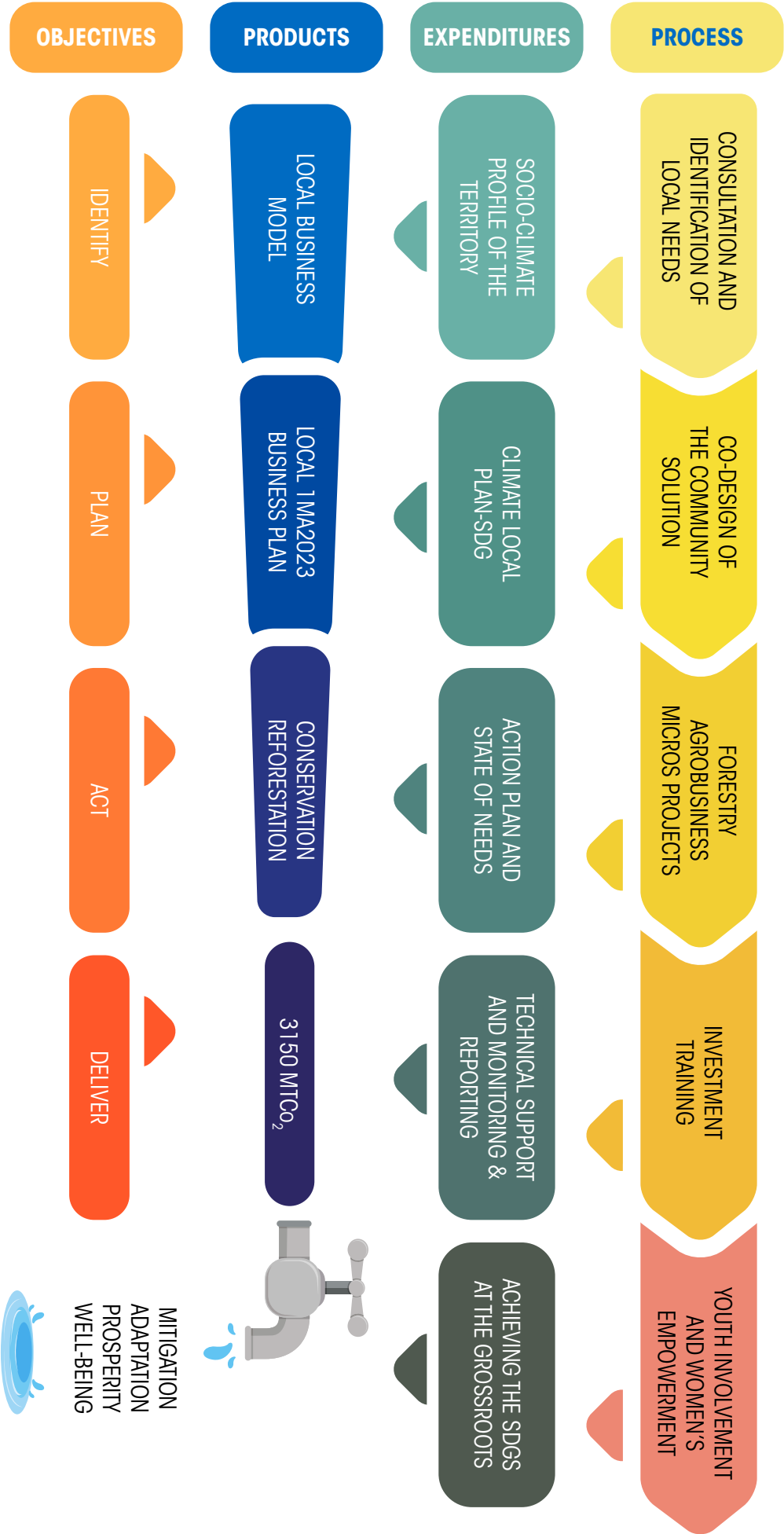
15.000 self-financed
local development plans and climate resilience

17 achieved
1/3 of the Bonn Challenge

PHOTOGRAPHY OF THE 2023 1 BILLION TREES PROGRAM

OBJECTIVES

- IDENTIFY
- PLAN
- ACT
- DELIVER

PRODUCTS

- LOCAL BUSINESS MODEL
- LOCAL 1MA2023 BUSINESS PLAN
- CONSERVATION REFORESTATION
- 3150 MTCo$_2$

EXPENDITURES

- SOCIO-CLIMATE PROFILE OF THE TERRITORY
- CLIMATE LOCAL PLAN-SDG
- ACTION PLAN AND STATE OF NEEDS
- TECHNICAL SUPPORT AND MONITORING & REPORTING
- ACHIEVING THE SDGS AT THE GROSSROOTS

PROCESS

- CONSULTATION AND IDENTIFICATION OF LOCAL NEEDS
- CO-DESIGN OF THE COMMUNITY SOLUTION
- FORESTRY AGROBUSINESS MICROS PROJECTS
- INVESTMENT TRAINING
- YOUTH INVOLVEMENT AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

MITIGATION
ADAPTATION
PROSPERITY
WELL-BEING

Synoptic Sheet of the 1MA2023 program

CLIMATE OBJECTIVE

Conserve 2,500 MtCO$_2$
Forest areas less threatened by deforestation and bush fires

Sequester 300 MTCO$_2$
Degraded or deforested forest areas, mining fields, savannahs, degraded land, towns, etc.

Mitigate 350 MTCO$_2$
Critical zone of deforestation and high entropic pressure

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE

Preserve 10 M ha
of primary forest, mangroves, peatlands and various wetlands under sustainable community management

Reforest 3 M ha of tropical forests

Saving 1 millions d'ha of primary forest, i.e. reducing annual deforestation in DRC by 1/3?

KEY ECONOMIC SOLUTIONS

Sustainable extraction and development of viable supply chains of NTFPs, creation of special forest economic zones for the processing of NTFPs, development of an international fair market for NTFPs, valorization of endogenous knowledge of the forest, specifically the pygmy pharmacopoeia, development of local eco-tourism, etc.

Natural regeneration of forests and fight against bush fires, development of agriculture, fishing and sustainable livestock, planting of coffee, cocoa, rubber trees, fruit trees, creation (afforestation) of woodlots.

Sustainable agriculture, improved carbonization, local processing of timber, promotion of local entrepreneurship outside the forest sector, sustainability of micro-subsistence activities.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- **3 150 MTCO$_2$** of contribution to the global carbon budget (the equivalent of EU emissions)
- **14 millions ha** of forest carbon stock are conserved and increased
- **2 millions de femmes (ménages), 1 million young people and 15,000 villages** improve their income and participation in the national climate effort. 10 million people benefit indirectly from the economic benefits.

The climate emergency

The DRC is ranked among the 10 poorest countries in the world that and most vulnerable to climate change. The impacts of climate change are experienced on a daily basis in virtually every region of the country, ranging from coastal arrests, floods, droughts and the threat of desertification. A study found that vulnerability to climate change in the DRC remains low in terms of physical factors but high due to the socio-economic vulnerability of households and communities. Among the aggravating factors are poverty, demography, poor farming practices, poor governance and conflicts in various regions. And women are the social layer most exposed to climate risks, due to their greater dependence on climate-related resources. There is an urgent need for an innovative approach to address climate challenges that simultaneously mitigates national emissions from 94% of UCTAF sectors, addresses poverty and community vulnerability, empowers and strengthens women's socio-economic resilience, and improves governance.

A vital forest in danger

Article 5 of the Paris Climate Agreement encourages countries to take action *to conserve and, where appropriate, strengthen sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases, including forests.* **A recent study** estimates that avoided deforestation and reforestation in the tropics remain the main sources of climate mitigation that can contribute up to 71% of the total global mitigation needed to stay on the healthy course of 1.5 ° C maximum rise temperatures, while current policies would lead to increases of over 3 ° C. Unfortunately the Congo's tropical forests, a major contributor to global climate balance, are being destroyed at an exponential rate. **Global Forest Wach's 2020 report** reports an annual loss of nearly 500,000 ha and **FAO's Forest Resources Assessment 2020** shows total deforestation of over 11 million ha in 10 years. The loss of Congolese tropical forests is a real disaster for the climate, biodiversity and the survival of the population. They are real carbon safes storing between 350 and 3000 TCo2e per hectare, sheltering the greatest diversity of plant and animal species in Africa and providing various environmental services and resources contributing to 70% of the GDP of the DRC.

The Presidential 1 Billion Tree Initiative

"We must mobilize our efforts in sectors with high added value and job creation for the youth of our country, particularly environmental protection," said President of the Republic HEM Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo at his inauguration, which made environmental action a pillar of its strategy to fight poverty. To materialize his political will, the President of the Republic endorsed the **1 billion trees by 2023 program**, adopted by the Council of Ministers and repeatedly presented by the Head of State at the international and national levels, as the government's priority climate action for the next five years.

An innovative REDD-Business approach

1 Billion Trees 2023 is a program to fight climate change and poverty through nature-based solutions, placing local communities at the heart of a climate-inclusive economy, focused on sustainable forestry and family-based agribusiness. More than 70% of the DRC's GDP and 94% of its emissions come from community-based livelihood activities. The 1MA2023 program aims to invest leveraged capital to sustain and green small-scale livelihood activities related to forests, land and water in order to conserve and increase forest carbon stocks. The 2023 target is to restore 3 million ha of degraded forests and land, save 1 million ha of natural forests and conserve (0 deforestation) of 10 million ha of carbon sinks (primary forests, mangroves, peatlands, various wetlands). The goal is to contribute to the global carbon budget up to 3150 MtCo2e in sequestration and avoidance of deforestation (equivalent to the annual pollution of the European Union).

These objectives will be achieved through the implementation of 15,000 community economic micro-projects, focused on the sustainable and fair production, processing and marketing of forest and agricultural products, including: harvesting products, pharmacopoeia, timber, perennial crops (coffee, cocoa, fruit trees), wood energy, food and vegetable farming, fishing and ecological livestock, etc. The project's approach will effectively address climate issues while promoting inclusive green growth in the poorest and most neglected areas.

A SDGs grassroots accelerator program

Wrought by a participative governance system based on SDGs, 1MA2023 should enable communities to self-create endogenous wealth in a decentralized but interlinked manner through inclusive and supportive supply chains. The populations will thus be able to recycle and perpetuate the initial financing to self-finance their local development plans. This will enable local communities to be part of a self-sustaining endogenous cycle of poverty reduction, improved community well-being and the creation of millions of green jobs for young people, while conserving and increasing forest carbon stocks. Thus the 1 Billion Tree Program will be a real driver of the SDGs at the grassroots level and will address all the 17 sustainable development goals.

On the social level

1MA2023 will address SDG 1 to 6: poverty, food, health, education, empowerment of women and drinking water.

Economically

SDGs 7 to 12 will address: energy, inclusive growth and jobs, sustainable inclusive industry, reducing urban-rural inequalities, sustainable production and consumption, green and resilient villages and cities.

Environmentally

SDGs 13 to 15 will address: climate action, sustainable water resource management and wildlife conservation (SDGs 13 to 15).

The program also implements SDGs 16 and 17 (peace and partnership) in terms of good governance in management, social and economic justice, community and climate conflict reduction and prevention, as well as global partnership for development through North-South carbon quota exchanges, technology transfer and development cooperation.

The expected impacts of the 1MA2023 program

1. The development of local micro-economies through the virtuous production and processing of timber and non-timber forest products and agricultural products;

2. The diversification and viability of the economic sectors of local products and the creation of local, national and international fair trade markets;

3. The payment of the contribution of Congolese communities to the global climate effort, through innovative financing of basic social services;

4. The development of a sustainable wood energy industry capitalizing on various energy efficiency and ecological solutions (bamboo, improved carbonization, improved stoves, etc.);

5. Strengthening local governance, resilience and self-development capacities;

6. The experimentation of an innovative model of climate economics, based on local communities and realizing a true sustainable endogenous transformative development.

Botton up Participatory governance

LOCAL COMMUNITIES
Elaboration and participatory implementation of local development plans based on silviculture and sustainable agrobusiness

LOCAL ACTORS
Technical support to villages in the development and implementation of community projects

COORDINATION
Mobilization and allocation of resources, strategic orientations

NATIONAL CLIMATE COALITION
Federations of actors engaged in the climate effort 1MA2023

HEAD OF STATE
Vison

The intervention strategy

1. Conservation (sustainable management) of carbon sinks: natural forests, mangroves, peatlands and various forest wetlands: **The priority is to protect existing carbon stocks and reservoirs through the development of economic activities promoting the sustainable use of forests or alternatives to deforestation.**

2. Natural restoration of tropical forest areas (fallow land and bush fire control) and natural or assisted reforestation in savannahs and degraded lands: **80% of restoration efforts will be devoted to the natural regeneration of tropical forests through traditional fallow and bushfire control practices.**

3. Planting perennial crops (coffee, cocoa, rubber), timber, fuelwood and fruit trees depending on economic opportunities, and urban greening for embellishment or the fight against heat, air pollution and erosion: **20% of trees will be planted, mainly in cities, in mining fields, on polluted or degraded soils and in agroforestry (perennial crops, fuelwood and fruit trees).**

4. Each project must have a participatory governance structure, contribute to conserving or increasing the carbon stock, be economically profitable and inclusive in its production chain, involve youth and benefit women, and contribute to local development priorities.

Crédit Photo - Alain HUART

Approach and Methodology

- Consult with communities and co-define their local development priorities and solutions that promote a strong commitment to sustainable community forestry ;
- Elaborate economic micro-projects based on forestry and agriculture;
- Provide resources (financial and technical) in addition to their own means and accompany them in the implementation of endogenous solutions initiated;
- To mobilize schools to participate in climate action, to inculcate in schoolchildren climate issues and to train them in sustainable forestry and agribusiness;
- Place customarily managed primary forests or private forest concessions under a sustainable management regime and develop sustainable inclusive silviculture based on NTFPs ;
- Create community-based natural carbon sinks through the protection of forest fallows and the planting of trees with economic value and ensure their sustainability through business;
- Co-define local management and security frameworks adapted to the socio-cultural realities of each intervention zone and empower local managers for implementation;
- Put in place a program governance architecture that ensures transparency, relevant, efficient and effective management of resources, and equitable access to the carbon market.

Photo gallery

CREATION OF AN URBAN CARBON SINK IN KINSHASA

COMMITMENT OF DECISION-MAKERS AND LEADERS TO THE 1 BILLION TREES 2023 INITIATIVE

Putting rural communities at the heart of climate action and supporting local sustainable development.

1 MILLIARD D'ARBRES
POUR LE CLIMAT
2023

1 Billion Trees
for Climate 2023

www.1milliardarbres.com
contact@1milliardarbres.com | +243 856 450 000