

U.S. FOREST SERVICE CENTRAL AFRICA PROGRAM



AT A GLANCE:

- ✦ Technical trainings on forest inventory, soil and data analysis, estimation of biomass carbon, and forest and land cover change in **three Central African countries**
- ✦ **Over 75** professors, government officials, and technical partners trained in terrestrial carbon accounting methods in the region

FOREST INVENTORY & MONITORING

OUR WORK

Central African countries harbor the second largest tropical forest in the world. Understanding of the existing forest resources, including changes in forest and land cover, is essential in making informed land use planning decisions which encompasses planning for climate change mitigation and adaptation. The U.S. Forest Service, in partnership with governments, universities, and non-governmental organizations, is supporting Central African countries to better measure these important resources for decision making and international reporting processes. Since 2014, the U.S. Forest Service has provided targeted technical assistance to governments in Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the Republic of the Congo to help them better measure, monitor, and manage forests and their carbon stocks.

CAMEROON

The U.S. Forest Service has been assisting the Cameroonian government through technical entities such as the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) Steering Committee, the Department of Forest Inventory and Management in the Ministry of Forests and Fauna, and the National Office of Climate Change. These partnerships are supporting the design and implementation of a robust National Forest Monitoring System including the assessment of forest cover and land use across the entire country. The U.S. Forest Service is also working to provide technical support to community organizations to develop skills and expertise to more sustainably manage their forests.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

The U.S. Forest Service has been providing technical assistance to the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development on forest inventory and monitoring since 2010. Currently, the U.S. Forest Service is supporting the implementation of the National Forest Monitoring System in collaboration with other technical partners. As a member of the national technical working group, the U.S. Forest Service has provided technical input on inventory sampling and analysis methodologies and organized several trainings for government technicians on forest inventory field methods for peatland forests, analysis of forest inventory data and forest cover change analysis.

REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

To date, the U.S. Forest Service has been working with the Republic of the Congo's National Forest Inventory Agency (CNIAF) to finalize their National Forest Inventory by making difficult-to-access wetland forest areas easier to measure. The U.S. Forest Service has also provided satellite data and related technical assistance to CNIAF to advance their capacity to analyze and monitor the country's forest and land resources.

In addition, the U.S. Forest Service has placed an embedded technical advisor in the Ministry of Forest Economy who is helping to develop a national measurement, reporting, and verification system while also supporting the implementation of the National Forest Monitoring System, more generally.

REGIONAL

Regional programming also includes training aimed to increase countries' capacity in carbon accounting so they are able to make more informed resource management decisions which facilitate climate change mitigation and adaptation. The U.S. Forest Service, in collaboration with The Carbon Institute, has trained university professors, ministry officials and technical experts to better measure, monitor, and report on carbon emissions related to land use change. To date, more than 75 professors, officials, and experts have been trained through this program.

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