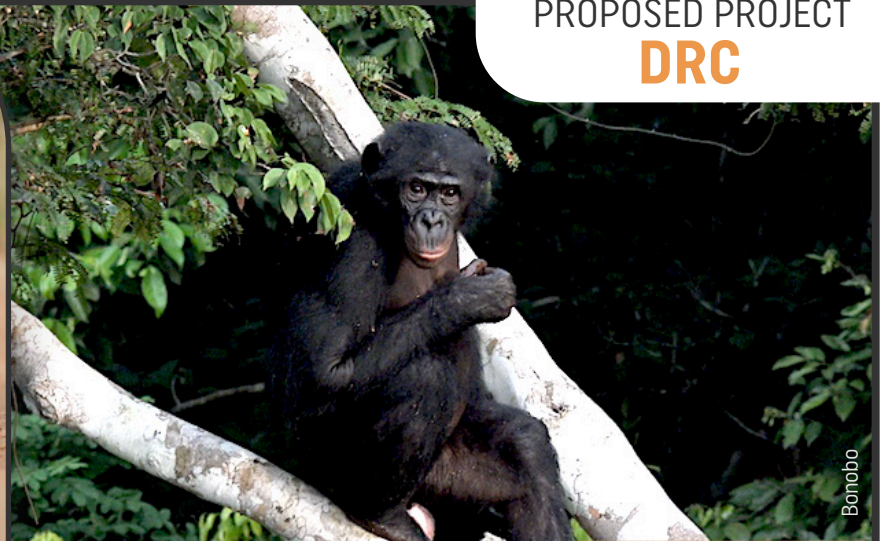


Giant Ground Pangolin / Oregon State



Bonobo

Save a carbon rich swamp forest for Bonobos

PROJECT AT A GLANCE

Endangered Bonobos are only found in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), home to Africa's largest expanse of tropical rainforest. But approximately 14% of DRC's land is under formal protection, and conservation efforts have been stifled for decades by civil unrest. The country is richly biodiverse, having the highest number of species in all of Africa for almost all groups of organisms. That leaves millions of acres of vulnerable rainforest and resident species under intense pressure from poaching, habitat degradation and loss, and industrial extraction of the region's wealth of resources.

Rainforest Trust and our partner, Les Amis de Bonobos du Congo (ABC), are on the front lines in the effort to save great apes and other imperiled species in DRC. The 117,412-acre Ekolo ya Bonobo Community Reserve we established in 2018 provides long-term protection for wild Bonobos, and also serves as a safe place where orphaned and rehabilitated Bonobos are released back to their natural habitat. Other resident species include Giant Ground Pangolin (EN), White-bellied Pangolin (EN), Grey Parrot (EN), Leopard (VU) and two of the DRC's four crocodile species.

We now have the opportunity to secure an additional 80,000 acres of strategically located swamp forest habitat for the Bonobos directly adjacent to the first reserve. We seek \$1,151,319 to expand the size of the entire reserve to 197,412 acres, equal in size to New York City.

SAVE SWAMP FORESTS AND PEAT LANDS FOR THREATENED SPECIES

The Ekolo ya Bonobo Community Reserve lies at the northwestern edge of Central Africa's largest expanse of forest and wetlands, the Cuvette Centrale, bounded by the arc of the Congo River. The diversity of flora includes at least 209 plant species from 61 families, including several tree species with high carbon-sequestration properties. It is a rare and unique ecosystem that includes swamp forests and peatlands that harbour a wealth of species—and it is one of the most carbon-rich ecosystems on Earth.



80,000
ACRES

\$1,151,319
PROJECT COST

\$14.39
COST PER ACRE

35,656,543 mT
CO₂ EQUIVALENTS
STORED

KEY SPECIES:

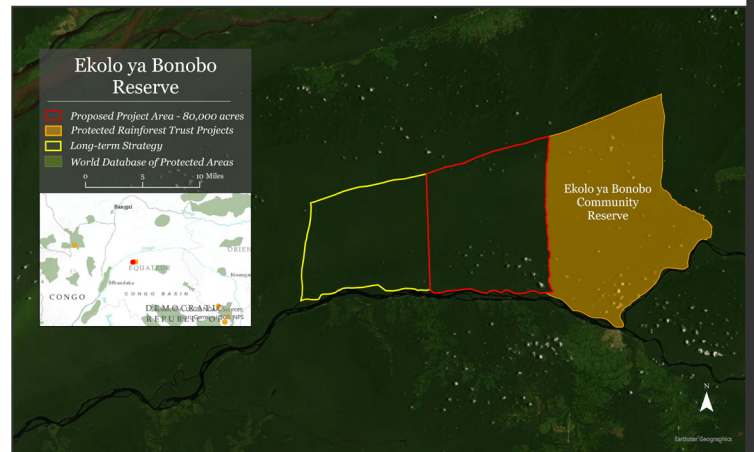
Bonobo (EN)
African Forest Elephant (CR),
Slender Snouted Crocodile (CR),
White-bellied Pangolin (EN),
Grey Parrot (EN)



African Grey Parrot,
Heinrich Damke / Shutterstock

PROTECT OUR ANIMAL RELATIVES FROM ILLEGAL BUSHMEAT HUNTING

While indigenous people continue to rightfully access the forests for traditional uses, in and around the reserve the most significant threat to wildlife is unsustainable bushmeat hunting. Local taboos and education about Bonobo protection/reintroduction have shifted local behaviors over the past decade. But protected species are often caught in snares intended for other wildlife, even when they have not been directly targeted. Illegal wildlife tracking is also a major threat to Bonobos. But because the area is 75 percent swampy, remote, and difficult to access, human activities impact only 3-4 percent of the forest, it is a prime target for conservation.



HELP LOCAL PEOPLE PROTECT AND MANAGE ENDANGERED SPECIES

This expansion will leverage decades of progress working with local communities to manage the original Ekolo ya Bonobo Community Reserve for endangered species while building strong, formalized relationships that have community self-governance at their core.

Anti-poaching patrols, recruited from neighboring communities, will be expanded, trained, equipped, and granted the legal right to prosecute poachers. Together, community teams and our partner will develop sustainable income streams from ecotourism, educating visitors about the challenges facing protected Bonobos and the other species living in this unique swamp forest and riverine habitat at the heart of the Congo, and making them part of the solution.



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