THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

CLIMATE CHANGE FACT SHEET

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is characterized by significant social vulnerability, political instability, food insecurity, and high rates of poverty. Projected increases in temperature, more extreme weather events, and changes in total precipitation and rainfall variability are likely to exacerbate these challenges, particularly since agriculture, the majority of which is rainfed, is a central engine of the DRC’s economy and the primary source of livelihood for most Congolese.

Land-use change and forestry are the primary contributors to the DRC’s greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (80.1 percent), followed by agriculture (9.0 percent), and energy (5.5 percent). Deforestation rates range between 0.2 percent and 0.3 percent (2015), and are increasing. In 2006, the DRC designed and validated its National Program for Adaptation to Climate Change, revealing high vulnerability to climate change in the areas of food security and health.

GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO CLIMATE PRIORITIES

The DRC ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1997, the Kyoto Protocol in 2005, and the Paris Agreement in 2015. The DRC’s Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) is a commitment to a 17 percent reduction in emissions from 2021 to 2030, conditioned on external financing estimated at $21.6 billion. Priority areas under the DRC’s NDC include:

• Putting in place the NDC and climate change coordination mechanisms.
• Developing the NDC gender plan of action.
• Conducting a cost analysis of the NDC measures.
• Strengthening the Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system design.
• Analyzing private investment opportunities and identifying potential barriers to investment.

There is an ongoing process to review and increase the feasibility of the DRC’s NDC and to increase donor and private sector engagement in its implementation.
USAID’s Climate Change Program: Objectives and Results

USAID supports the Government of the DRC’s development and climate priorities through a series of programs and partnerships across the renewable energy and natural climate solutions sectors.

Renewable Energy

USAID is working to engage reform-minded leaders and host regular discussions on sectoral planning, improved business-friendly policies, and ambitious initiatives to increase electricity access. Through partnerships with private sector actors, USAID supports household access to renewable energy from hydropower in an effort to shift communities away from the use of fossil fuels.

Key Results

Key results from USAID’s support to the DRC Government to improve access to renewable energy include:

● Established two new energy regulatory agencies, which provide essential oversight to the sector.
● Supported the government to implement a 2014 electricity law by drafting over two dozen decrees, orders, and regulations, of which 14 have already been adopted.
● Provided 1,434 households and 44 businesses access to electricity in FY 2020 from a run-of-river hydropower plant.
● Leveraged $3.1 million of private sector funding to provide reliable, affordable energy to the city of Goma.
● Enabled the establishment of 15,612 new grid and off-grid direct connections to date (10,386 in FY 2020).
● $2.25 million investment mobilized for clean energy projects in the DRC, which will continue to demonstrate the opportunities in the DRC for off-grid companies.

Natural Climate Solutions

USAID’s Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE), SilvaCarbon, and Sustainable Wetlands Adaptation and Mitigation Program (SWAMP) programs support sustainable land use practices in the DRC by improving management of primary and secondary forests, establishing sustainable financing models for community forest concessions through private sector partnerships, and developing and promoting alternatives to charcoal. Additionally, USAID provides technical assistance and capacity building to government agencies for improved data and analytical tools, MRV systems, and implementation of best practices and new approaches for effective policy development and data-driven decision-making.

Key Results

Key results from USAID’s support to the DRC Government to reduce land-based emissions include:

● Reduced, sequestered, or avoided the emission of 48.8 million tons of GHG over the previous five years.
● Improved management of over 17.1 million hectares of biologically sensitive forests.
● Supported the establishment of 1,267,228 hectares of community forest concessions dedicated to improved forest management led by local communities.
• Produced and distributed 13,891 improved stationary and mobile stoves, which reduce household energy consumption by 60 percent and generate an estimated savings of approximately $30 per household per month.

• Built the capacity of 19,595 individuals from state institutions and non-governmental organizations, including through training on climate change mitigation or natural climate solutions issues.