

A photograph of a lush green forest with a small stream flowing through it. The water is clear and reflects the surrounding foliage. The trees are dense and vibrant green, creating a serene natural setting.

DIGITALIZATION, SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS

WHO WE ARE

- ▶ We are a campaigning Group seeking to highlight the realities of life in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), so closely affected by the current mineral mining boom linked to the Global North and South's desire for electric batteries and digital components.
- ▶ We also seek to highlight the impunity with which perpetrators of murder, rape, environmental degradation and violence continue to cause immense suffering for the civilian population in DRC, and what we can collectively do about it.
- ▶ We work in partnership with civil societies and social movements in DRC and in the Diaspora to respond to the humanitarian and development needs of Congolese and internally displaced refugee populations, especially those who have long been victims of repeated wars and natural disasters.
- ▶ Justice Congo Group is the only organization in the UK campaigning specifically on DRC issues.

KEY FACTS

- ▶ Approximately 200million acres of cultivatable land.
- ▶ An estimated number of natural resources, including 3.2 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, large reserves of iron ore, palatium, diamonds, gold, copper, cobalt, zinc, coltan and uranium, which is used in mobile phones and other electronics.
- ▶ The Congo Basin rainforest is the world's largest carbon sink, with 500 million acres of rainforest capturing more carbon annually than the Amazon. It plays an important role in purifying the atmosphere.
- ▶ Over a quarter of the basin is at risk of disappearing by 2050, according to a report from the Observatory for Central Africa Forests (OFAC), mainly due to forest fires, logging , mining and illegal exploitation of DRC's natural resources.



CURRENT TRENDS

- Well-established smuggling route for minerals to be taken across the border and sold as DRC's neighbours' produce - Source: 2021 report of the UN Group of Experts on the DRC.
- Increase in number of foreign armed groups as a result of unregulated pillaging of DRC's rich resources.
- Forced displacement of vulnerable Congolese men, women and children due to illegal mining activities carried out by multinational corporations and ongoing conflict.
 - In March 2024, the UN reported that the number of internally displaced people in DRC had reached 7.2 million – one of the largest in the world. The humanitarian disaster resulting from cyclical, violent conflict in Congo, which has killed millions over the past three decades, continues to deepen.

ONGOING INTERVENTIONS

- Justice Congo Group and its partners have put in place several support and assistance projects aimed at:
 - a) providing a self-sufficient way of life for children, women and men affected, and still giving them hope for life, irrespective of the financial hardship;
 - b) delivering environmental sustainability training awareness, including courses about the consequences of Artisanal logging, slashing and burning of forests to transform forest land into agricultural land, and the negative impact of the collection of wood for fuel and charcoal in affected areas;
 - c) connecting the non-digital channels with the digital marketing campaign community;

CHALLENGES

- Lack of adequate funding for projects run by Justice for Congo Group and its partners either in the UK, South Africa or in the Democratic Rep of Congo .
- Limited internet connectivity due to poor telecommunication and broadband and infrastructure in Poor and inefficient forest governance practices in South Kivu, North Kivu
- Lack of investment towards poverty alleviation, skills training and formal education for displaced Congolese men, women and children.
- Illegitimacy of the current Congolese government and its inadequacy to support its people.
- Corruption within government establishments and departments suppressing development and growth.
- Human right abuses.

SOME OF OUR ACTION PLAN

- Advocate, promote, educate, informing the public about human rights, environmental rights infringements and multiple horrors happening in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- Promoting awareness on conflict minerals, climate change and deforestation in DRC
- Promote alternative energy solutions.
- Promote the awareness of pillage of minerals for technological solutions.

