



## **Analysis note on the working context of environmental rights defenders and appropriate solutions**

Environmental rights defenders in the Democratic Republic of Congo in Central Africa play an important role which, unfortunately, exposes them to several risks and threats. Between 2005 and 2024, we recorded approximately 59 civil society actors in the environmental protection theme, victims including at least 4 cases of assassinations, more than 18 cases of arbitrary arrests and unjust convictions as well as others forced to live in hiding and in exile, not to mention the cases of repeated burglaries of offices and homes. Curiously, the perpetrators of threats against environmental defenders enjoy total impunity. The majority of cases of threats against the latter are caused by their taking a stand against the illicit exploitation and plundering of natural resources (minerals, wood, etc.), the exploitation of oil in protected areas, the dispossession and grabbing of the ancestral lands of indigenous Pygmy peoples and other vulnerable groups by extractive companies and authorities who abuse power to plot against nature, our habitat and mother.

Threats against civil society actors working for the protection of the environment discourage young people from getting involved in this field which they find very complex for fear of losing their lives. At the same time, a void is observed within Congolese civil society while the country faces several governance problems that require citizen mobilization.

Faced with this thorny situation, FDAPID is considering the following suitable and innovative solutions :

1. Mobilization and training of a new generation of environmental human rights defenders in the DRC; - Organization of retreats to share experiences on risk management and well-being (capacitar for psychological comfort) taking into account environmental defenders who are victims of war, women defenders and indigenous pygmy leaders ;
2. Popularize the mechanisms for the protection of HRDs and complaints, including the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH), the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), etc.;
3. Revitalize the Human Rights Liaison Entities to serve as a framework for interactive dialogue and exchange on solutions to serious violations and threats against civil society actors by involving security service agents, actors in the judicial system, members of the government, parliamentarians, managers of national parks, delegates of international and national organizations as well as diplomatic missions, the media, and extractive companies.

4. Mobilization of civil society actors to monitor the implementation of the recommendations received by the DRC at the 47th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council on the 4th cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) held in Geneva on November 5, 2024.

5. Popularize the mechanisms for the protection of HRDs and complaints, including the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH), the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), etc.;

6. Revitalize the Human Rights Liaison Entities to serve as a framework for interactive dialogue and exchange on solutions to serious violations and threats against civil society actors by involving security service agents, actors in the judicial system, members of the government, parliamentarians, managers of national parks, delegates of international and national organizations as well as diplomatic missions, the media, and extractive companies. - Mobilization of civil society actors to monitor the implementation of the recommendations received by the DRC at the 47th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council on the 4th cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) held in Geneva on November 5, 2024.

7. Popularization and documentation of the effects of laws:

- No. 23/027 of June 15, 2023 relating to the protection and responsibility of the human rights defender in the Democratic Republic of Congo ;
- No. 22/030 of July 15, 2022 on the protection and promotion of the rights of indigenous Pygmy peoples ;
- No. 23/028 of June 15, 2023 determining the fundamental principles relating to the prison regime;
- National Justice Reform Policy 2017-2026 and the resolutions of the States General of Justice of November 2024.

These solutions aim to promote preventive protection in addition to the reactive protection long practiced by several partners but which is considered by FDAPID as a bandage while we need sustainable solutions based on the root causes of the threats that overwhelm human rights defenders in the DRC.

Done in Goma, November 5, 2024

**BATUNDI HANGI Vicar, Ph.D.**  
**National Coordinator.**  
**Tulip Award for Human Rights 2022.**

Adresse du bureau : 139, Avenue Présidentielle, rue Couronne de Himbi au Quartier Himbi, Commune de Goma, Province du Nord-Kivu, République Démocratique du Congo.

Tél: +243 (0) 810127090, 829040581, 998401598 ; E-mail : [fdapidrdc@gmail.com](mailto:fdapidrdc@gmail.com), [coordination@fdapid-hopeip.org](mailto:coordination@fdapid-hopeip.org),

Site web : [www.fdapid-hopeip.org](http://www.fdapid-hopeip.org)

F.92/20.768 ; n° Impôt A2180766N ; affiliation ONEM 0404/NK ; CNSS 1311987300 et INPP 14573.61.