



# Strengthening partnerships for sustainable management of shared water resources of the Congo Basin

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# Presentation Outline

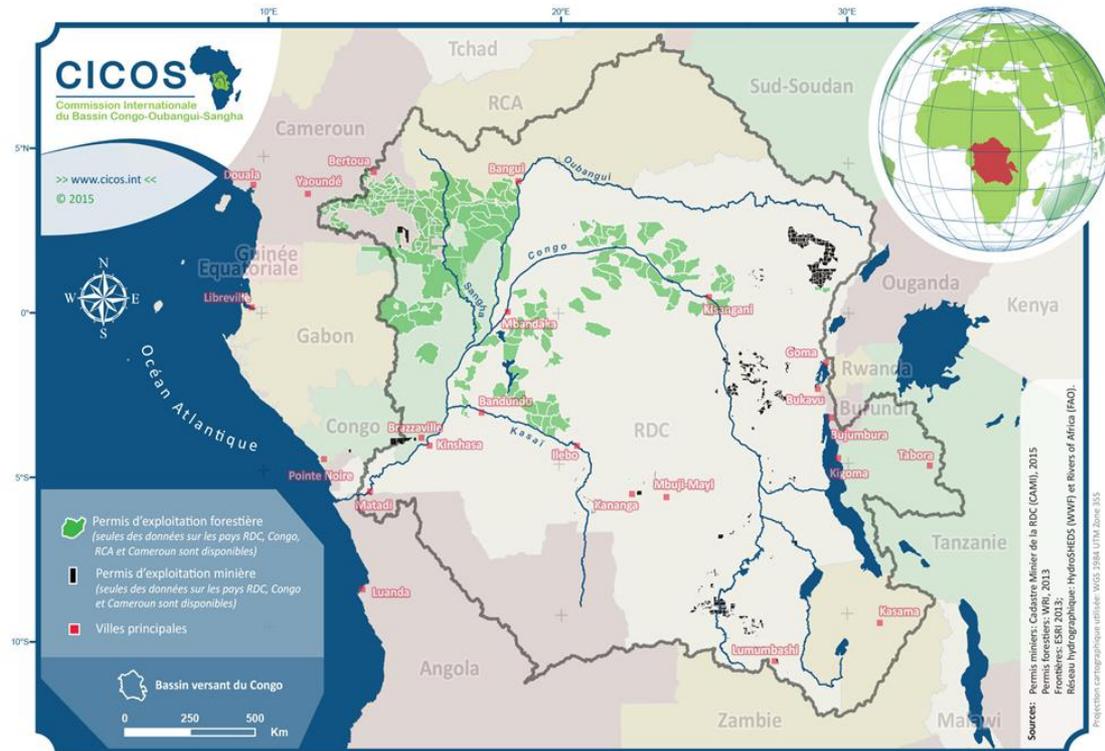
- Key characteristics of the Congo Basin
- CICOS: Governance Framework
- CICOS: Financing Mechanism
- Common Vision – 2035
- Basin Development Strategies
- Other Ongoing Projects
- Major Challenges
- Conclusion





## Key Basin Characteristics.

- The Basin covers an estimated area of 3,7 millions km<sup>2</sup>;
- Has an average annual discharge: of 41 000 m<sup>3</sup>/s;
- The basin straddles ten (10) countries: Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Rwanda, Tanzania and Zambia.



Les permis forestiers et miniers en exploitation dans le Bassin du Congo





# Key Basin Characteristics (cont'd).

- Six (6) countries are members of the Commission; i.e Angola, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Gabon;
- Thus, the Congo Basin is often referred to as “earth’s second lung” after the Amazon Basin
- Its water resources is a key driver for socio-economic development: - e.g. inland navigation, hydropower, eco-tourism, food production, etc.



Le relief du Bassin versant du Congo



# CICOS: Governance Framework

**CICOS** is an intergovernmental Organisation charged with the promotion of inland waterway navigation and the Integrated Management of Water Resources (IMWR) in the Congo basin.

**Legal Framework** : Accord (1999) and its Additif (2007)

## **Organs** :

- Ministerial Council (Decision making organ)
- Management Committee (Consultative body)
- General Secretariat : (Executing organ)

**Headquarters** : Democratic Republic of Congo (Kinshasa)



# CICOS : Financing Mechanism

## 2 Levels of financing

### a) CEMAC Funding

- CICOS is a Specialized Institution of the Economic and Monetary Commission of Central African States (CEMAC) ;
- The Heads of State of the CEMAC Region adopted the system of autonomous funding through the Community Integration Tax.

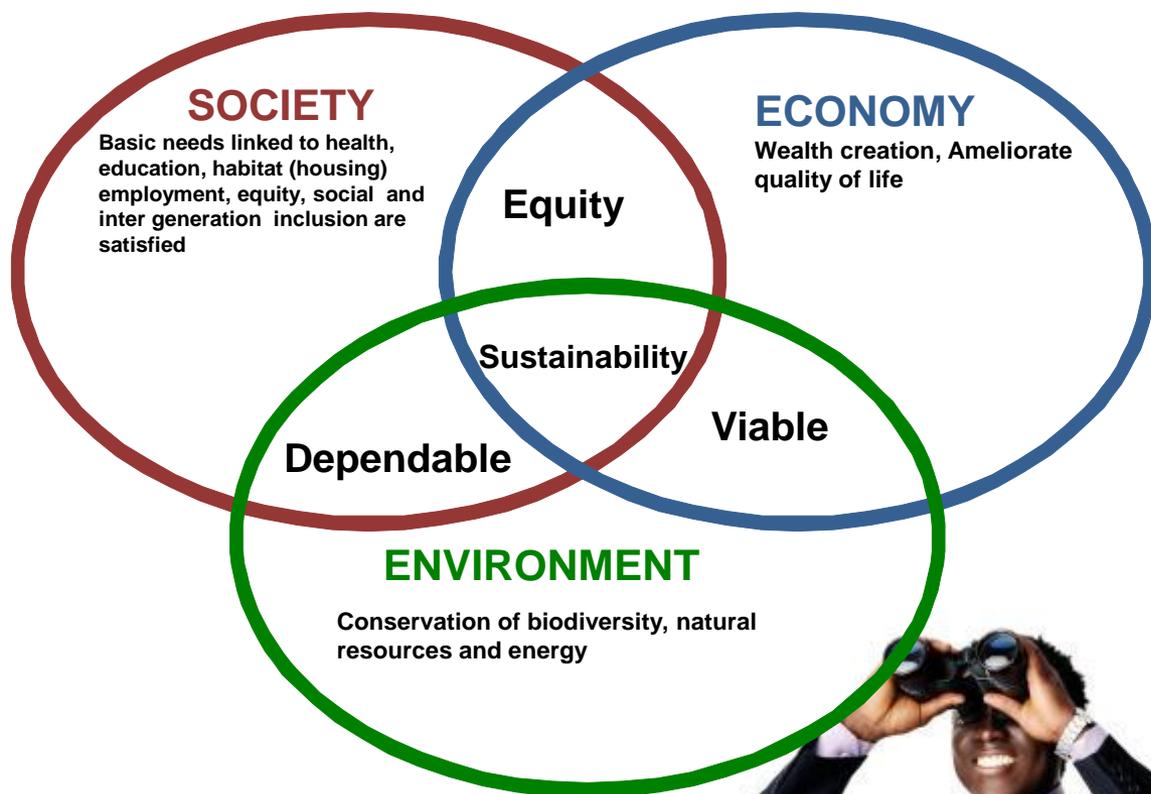
### b) Direct Funding

- By the DRC and Angola - Contribute directly to CICOS through State Treasury



# Common Vision: 2035

## Pillars of SUSTAINABILITY



By 2035, the Congo basin will be an example of regional **integration**, where **united** and emergent nations develop their capacities in order to make water a key driver for economic **growth** and a source of **wellbeing**, while preserving the quality of ecosystems as well as **adapting** its uses to climate change and encouraging **cost and benefit sharing**.



## Basin Development Strategies – GIZ Programme (GETRACO)

- GIZ has supported CICOS in reforming its strategy through the formulation of a Water Master Plan (SDAGE) for the basin.
- Participatory approach - involving multi-level stakeholders was used in the formulation of the SDAGE.
- The participatory approach has set the impulse for collaboration and building of trust for the management of the shared resources of the basin.



## Basin Development Strategies (cont'd ) MESA

- EU through AU is supporting CICOS to access Earth Observation (EO) data and technologies under the Monitoring for Environment and Security in Africa (MESA) programme.
- CICOS is using MESA to deepen the mechanism for information sharing with riparian Governments Institutions, industry (shipowners) – by providing real-time EO information on water depth to aid navigation; water balance to enhance decision making in water allocation and climate risk assessment.
- The improvement in information sharing has provided platform for sustainable transboundary waters management



## Main Ongoing Projects

- AFD through the International Water Organization (l'OIEau), is supporting CICOS to strengthen hydrological monitoring for IWRM in the basin, taking into account climate change adaptation;
- Creating the Regional Observatory on inland waterway navigation mal practice (Financed by the European Union);
- Organization of a Donor's Round Table.



## Major Challenges

- Limited harmonization of legal frameworks for the management of water and other natural resources of the basin;
- Population growth;
- Deforestation;
- Vulnerability to Climate Change;
- Paucity of data for planning;
- Low involvement of stakeholders;
- Inadequate finances for project realization.



## Conclusion

Through these projects, CICOS is on the path to :

- Promote better synergy among the various users of water resources in the Congo basin (i.e. inland waterway navigation, hydroelectricity provision, agriculture, fisheries, eco-tourism, etc.);
- Guarantee the preservation of the natural heritage found within the basin;
- Prevent and forestall potential conflicts which may arise from the use of transboundary water resources and from climate change;
- Be an effective tool for water diplomacy in the Sub Region.

# CICOS



Commission Internationale  
du Bassin Congo-Oubangui-Sangha

Thank you for your kind attention

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