



ENGAGING CONGOLESE YOUTH

AWF works to create a network of dynamic young leaders who can influence and shape local, national, and global decisions for conservation, and we facilitate youth access to forums with key decision-makers. We provide financial support for organization of youth activities as well as technical support to inform youth about environmental issues and advocacy training.

According to a recent U-Report survey, 83% of Congolese youth consider environmental degradation and climate change to be important issues. Despite this awareness, Congolese youth lack a sufficient platform at the national and international levels to influence policymakers. They need opportunities to express themselves as well as resources to launch and implement their initiatives.

Adding to these challenges, the country's armed conflict poses a challenge to young people hoping to engage with each other, while disparities in technology access further weaken networking potential. Only those who live in large cities have access to important information and can participate in large meetings; those who are isolated in remote locations are shut out.



AWF ACTIVITIES

Youth Networking

AWF collaborates with the Congolese Youth Biodiversity Network (CBYN), the national branch of the Global Youth Biodiversity Network, which is an international network of youth organizations and individuals whose common goal is to prevent biodiversity loss. Within this structure, AWF brings together young people who share a drive for environmental conservation and/or entrepreneurship.

To overcome the problem of isolation and remoteness, AWF connects youth from across the country and in ways that are adapted to each locality's context. AWF provides financial and technical support so youth can organize activities such as consultancies, which strengthens the youth network and contributes to planning toward common goals.

Youth Capacity-Building

AWF works in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment to organize capacity-building workshops for youth on various topics related to conservation. As a result, the youth networks become more dynamic and inclusive, which facilitates their participation in major events such as the Convention on Biological Diversity COP15 and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change COP27. Armed with greater knowledge and skills, young people can in turn empower others in their communities.



Mass Awareness

Together with the CYBN Youth Nuclei and the Ministry of Environment, AWF sensitizes university and school students through conferences, caravans, clean-ups, and open days to give young people an opportunity to meet with AWF staff, ask questions, and receive guidance. After sensitizations at universities, students express a greater interest in conservation and organize conferences more frequently to reach more people.

Environmental Education

In the Maringa-Lopori-Wamba landscape's Ilima village, AWF built the Ilima Primary School in the Likunduamba grouping, where environmental basics are taught through a textbook designed for environmental education.

More than 500 children attend this school of six classes free of charge. They receive the teachings of the national program adapted to an environmental ethic through recitations, songs, theaters, films, sketches, and organized walks in nature. Since its inception, in addition to the training, the school has benefited from textbooks and school supplies donated by AWF.

The training that the students are receiving is attracting more and more villages. At the request of the group leaders and the provincial ministers of environment, AWF plans to bring its environmental education concepts to several other schools in the Maringa-Lopori-Wamba landscape.



*Building a Future for Africa Where
People and Wildlife Thrive*

COUNTRY COORDINATOR: Antoine Tabu

**AWF, DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF CONGO**
Avenue Simbi, n.02
Quartier Basoko
Commune de Ngaliema
Kinshasa, DRC
+243 812 632 020

Field offices
Bili-Uele Protected Area
Complex
Maringa-Lopori-Wamba
Landscape

African Wildlife Foundation
Headquarters
AWF Conservation Centre
Ngong Road, Karen
P.O. Box 310, 00502
Nairobi, Kenya
+254 711063000

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✉ [awf.org/x](https://www.awf.org/x)

africanwildlife@awf.org
www.awf.org