

## STORY MAP

# Bili-Uélé: Linking Conservation to People's Well-Being

Securing the Democratic Republic of the Congo's Largest Protected Area Complex

In the Bili-Uélé landscape in the northeastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, rainforest gradually transforms into savanna. This remote landscape, the size of Belgium and the Netherlands combined, is a mosaic of conservation and hunting areas and community lands. It includes the largest protected area complex in the country, home to vital populations of chimpanzees and forest elephants.

Living in this landscape is challenging—it abuts some of the world's most dangerous conflict zones, access to electricity and internet is rare, and the nearest city is an arduous two-day trip away. The people are some of the poorest in the world, but the value of their natural resources is immense.

This is a story of the challenges of negotiating space for people and wildlife in a rapidly changing, biodiversity-rich landscape—and of the potential of both to thrive if conservation and development are effectively balanced together.



Explore this landscape through an immersive experience combining storytelling, interactive maps, photography, and video.

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