

FOCON (Fonds Okapi pour la Conservation de la Nature)

Okapi Fund for the Conservation of Nature

The Okapi Fund for the Conservation of Nature forms part of the DC programme “Environmental policy, Conservation and sustainable use of natural resources” which aims at improving the protection of biodiversity, the sustainable management of the tropical forest and the economic situation of the poor local population in selected areas. The FC measure, as part of the "Projet de Réhabilitation du Réseau des Parcs Nationaux, PREPAN" supported by the World Bank and the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), is to contribute to improving the management and sustainable financing of selected protected areas in the DRC and the nature conservation authority (ICCN) through the support of the environmental protection foundation FOCON. The target group is the population living in the vicinity of the affected protected areas as well as the global society due to the importance of preserving biodiversity. In the long term, FOCON should be able to finance the operating costs of the five World Natural Heritage Sites. This FC measure amounting to EUR 15 million comprises an initial contribution to the trust fund of the environmental protection foundation FOCON as well as its support in the establishment phase. In addition to setting up and equipping the FOCON, the operation in the World Natural Heritage National Parks Garamba and Kahuzi Biéga will be supported and their management improved.