



COP30 FOREST PAVILION:

A Shared Commitment to Our Planet

2025 UN Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP30)

10-21 November 2025, Belém, Brazil

Solutions Country: Protecting forests and securing the just transition in the DRC through community and Indigenous-led approaches

18 November 2025, 14:00-14:55

Rainforest Foundation UK with CORAP, Notre Terre Sans Pétrole, APEM and Earth Insight

In-person only or Hybrid (TBC)

ID75

Concept Note

I. Background

With its vast forests, peatlands, renewable energy potential, and deposits of critical minerals, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) positions itself as a “solutions country” to the climate and biodiversity crises. The government has also taken bold steps in this direction through the recent creation of the Couloir Vert Kivu-Kinshasa (CVKK), the world’s largest terrestrial protected area, development of community forestry and Indigenous Peoples Law and via several commitments on community tenure made at COP30. However, its simultaneous pursuit of extractive industry development in its forests and peatlands reveals certain inconsistencies that must be reconciled.

Drawing on the experiences and mobilization of *Notre Terre Sans Pétrole*—a citizen-led campaign opposing fossil fuel exploitation - and forthcoming research on a just transition in the country, this event will explore the key challenges and pathways to turning rhetoric into reality. It aims to amplify the voices of ordinary Congolese citizens and forest-dependent communities, highlight the actions needed by the government to protect forests and unlock the country’s full potential and demonstrate how a just ecological transition can realign international engagement with the rights, needs, and aspirations of the Congolese people.

II. Objectives

- Highlight the main threats to DRC's forests and local and Indigenous communities who live in them
- Provide policy recommendations that outline pathways for a sustainable and equitable transition away from extractive models
- Highlight key pathways for DRC to meet its international engagements on land tenure and forest protection

III. Programme/Schedules of Events/Speakers

The event will combine two presentations from civil society leaders with a fire side chat style segment with specific questions for the panellists and other key stakeholders.

- Pascal Mirindi - Notre Terre Sans Petrole
- Emmanuel Musuyu - CORAP, Reseau-EDH
- Joe Eisen – Rainforest Foundation UK
- Representatives of the UK and DRC governments (TBC)

IV. Expected main messages

- There are proven scalable models available for DRC to realise its ambition of being a 'solutions country'
- The international community must be ready and willing to support DRC in this realisation

V. Focal Point/Contact

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