

## Economics for ecology

*Yemba Lomango*  
*Congo*

The republic democratic of Congo have a vast potential of nature resources and mineral wealth, yet the economy of the DR-cong has decided drastically since the mid –1980s Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy, accounting for 57,9% GDP in 1997 etc..

Industry especially mining remains a great potential source of wealth for DR-Congo in 1997 industry accounted for 16,9% of GDP.

Despite the country's vast potential under the President Mobutu regime widespread corruption economic controls, and the diversion of the public resources for personal gain thwarted economic growth.

Rainforests in the central and Northern regions of the DR-Congo occupy more than half of the country's total area of nearly one million square miles. These rainforests represent 82% of the country original forest cover about 47% dense tropical forest and 6% of the planets forest are in the DRC . As a result of the long distances between CDRs forests and commercial harbors, as well as a political crisis and armed conflicts in the region during the 1990s ,most of the country forest remain relatively untouched. The DRC are also the long-term ecological effects of the strife in the DRC. The Virunga National Park is the world's largest habitat of mountain gorilla, an endangered species.

Recent refugee movements brought hundreds of families into the park where they burned down forest to allow their cattle to graze.

Rebuilding a country that has been steeped in conflict for such a protracted period is a daunting task indeed. When Belgium granted independence in 1960,by one account there were only 17 university graduates in the entire country. Most people had only a fourth grade education. There are literally hundreds of ethnic groups inhabiting the Congo's vast territory.