



CORAP

Coalition of Civil Society Organisations for Monitoring Reforms and Public Action

Debt, Forests and Communities: What Grand Inga and the Carbon Market Reveal

How the IMF's budget support weighs on the DRC's debt, forests and communities

Presented by Emmanuel Musuyu, Executive Director of CORAP

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One mechanism, two concrete illustrations

How IMF budget support translates, on the ground, into pressure on forests and populations.

01

The mechanism

Debt, fiscal adjustment and pressure on natural resources: what independent research shows.

02

Example — Grand Inga

A debt-financed megaproject, launched without a prior impact study or real community consultation.

03

Example — Carbon market

An ordinance-law promulgated in a rush, in response to the reform timeline required by the IMF.

Two examples, one lesson: when climate reforms are driven first by a financing timeline, local communities are often the last informed and the first affected.

CORAP and its spokesperson



Emmanuel Musuyu

Executive Director of CORAP

- Expert in renewable energy and natural resource management.
- A voice for Congolese civil society in climate and biodiversity negotiations (COP26, COP27, COP16, COP30).
- Leads CORAP's advocacy on energy access, electricity-sector taxation and the integrity of the carbon market.
- A regular interlocutor for authorities (the Presidency, ARE, ministries) and international partners.

CORAP at a glance

50+

member organisations

2014

year founded

5

areas of work

Founded on 14 May 2014 by CENADEP and the PRODDDES network, CORAP monitors public reforms (energy, environment, governance) to ensure local communities' interests are taken into account.

“Placing civil society at the heart of every reform, as an unavoidable interlocutor.”

How IMF budget support weighs on forests

Independent research (Recourse, 2026) on IMF programmes in the DRC, Ecuador, Egypt, Tanzania and Pakistan establishes a link between fiscal adjustment, extractive dependence and deforestation.



“When debt service absorbs public revenue, governments are incentivised to expand concessions, relax environmental safeguards, or offer favourable terms to investors — rather than reduce extractive dependence.”

Source: “The IMF’s climate turn” (Recourse, 2026); Forster, Bhandary & Gallagher, One Earth (2026).



Grand Inga: debt, infrastructure and communities

The coalition's founding fight

“One of the coalition's first fights was the citizen monitoring of the Grand Inga project, at a time when local communities were entirely excluded from the process.”

— Emmanuel Musuyu, Executive Secretary of CORAP

The Congo River holds one of the world's largest hydropower potentials. As the Recourse report shows, this kind of infrastructure fits a broader pattern of debt-based financing and resource-linked partnerships — a pattern that often escapes systematic scrutiny.

Inga 3 today: the same risks resurface

≈ \$1 bn

financing announced by the World Bank for the Inga 3 preparation phase — an amount that adds to the country's debt.

Impact study

missing upfront, despite the requirements of the Congolese Forest Code.

Populations

at risk of displacement, land dispossession and degradation of flood-prone areas.

Electricity is among the sectors the IMF tracks under the RSF — but reforms there focus on tariffs and utility governance, not on the social and environmental safeguards of large dams.



Timeline of a reform under strain



Ordinance-Law n°26/016 creates a National Carbon Registry and governs the full project cycle (validation, authorisation, international transfer of mitigation outcomes — ITMOs).



A reform “forced” by the IMF's timeline

The carbon-market ordinance-law corresponds to structural benchmarks the DRC must meet under its ECF/RSF programme — carbon governance, geospatial data, amendment of the forest law. This review calendar helps explain the rush.

WHAT CIVIL SOCIETY ASKED FOR

- Suspend signature of the ordinance-law.
- Refer the text to Parliament for thorough review.
- Hold a transparent, public debate.
- Guarantee national sovereignty and the rights of local communities and Indigenous peoples.

WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED

- The text was promulgated without referral to Parliament.
- Signature came within the same window as civil society's declaration (11 September 2026).
- 13 organisations, including CENADEP, AFREWATCH, APEM and CORAP, had signed that joint declaration.
- The tight timeline coincides with the IMF's ECF/RSF programme reviews.

Six conditions for a just, sovereign transition

1

Parliamentary debate

Submit structural texts (carbon, energy) to genuine parliamentary review before promulgation.

2

Community rights

Guarantee free, prior and informed consent for affected populations and Indigenous peoples.

3

Revenue transparency

Fully disclose carbon revenue-sharing and contracts tied to natural resources.

4

Prior impact study

Require an independent environmental and social assessment before any financing for Inga 3.

5

Sovereignty over the calendar

Align climate reforms with the national interest, not only with IMF review cycles.

6

Debt transparency

Make public the ECF/RSF structural benchmarks that drive climate reforms, and their social impacts.



“Placing civil society at the heart of every reform, as an unavoidable interlocutor whose positions contribute to the social well-being of the Congolese people.”

— CORAP's vision

Thank you

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