

Africa

Constellation: AF Central C5.1

Democratic Republic of Congo



NEEDS

Constellation: **AF Central C5.1**

Country: **DRC**

Cry of the Earth

- poaching threatens wildlife populations
- water pollution
- deforestation (forests endangered by fires set to clean the land for agricultural purposes; forests also used as a source of fuel)
- soil erosion
- mining (diamonds, gold, coltan - a mineral used in creating capacitors for electronic devices) causing environmental damage

Cry of the Poor

- high infant and maternal mortality rates
 - frequent and early fertility
- malnutrition
- poor vaccination coverage
- lack of access to improved water sources and sanitation.
- Ongoing conflict, mismanagement of resources, and a lack of investment have resulted in food insecurity
 - almost 30 percent of children under the age of 5 are malnourished
- The overall coverage of basic public services – education, health, sanitation, and potable water – is very limited and piecemeal, with substantial regional and rural/urban disparities
- government crackdown against the political opposition, media, and civil society groups continues
 - little to no accountability for past abuses
- Violent conflicts have intensified across the country, as numerous armed groups, and in some cases government security forces, attacked civilians
- Forced labor and sex trafficking

Commitments

Constellation 5.1 Democratic Republic of Congo
(27 Congregations present)

- Sensitive and conscious of the call of the Holy Father Pope Francis, the Constellation is committed:

- 1) To safeguard the creation of our common home by fighting against:
 - a) Insalubrity
 - b) Deforestation
 - c) The abusive exploitation of the soil and subsoil, by making pleas to our government
- 2) (b) To protect minors and vulnerable adults from multiple abuses and violations of human dignity (displaced persons, refugees, victims of sexual violence, etc.).

We also take this opportunity to thank all the Congregations who have generously accepted to welcome all the sisters of the PRC into their communities.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ the majority of this trafficking is internal, and much of it is perpetrated by armed groups and rogue government forces outside official control in the country's unstable eastern provinces○ Congolese adults are subjected to forced labor, including debt bondage, in unlicensed mines, and women may be forced into prostitution○ Congolese women and girls are subjected to forced marriages where they are vulnerable to domestic servitude or sex trafficking○ children are forced to work in agriculture, mining, mineral smuggling, vending, portering, and begging;○ indigenous and foreign armed groups, including the Lord's Resistance Army, abduct and forcibly recruit Congolese adults and children to serve as laborers, porters, domestics, combatants, and sex slaves | |
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