



The Congo River

Maringa Lopori Wamba
(MLW)

Democratic
Republic of the Congo
(DRC)

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00:00:00,010 --> 00:00:04,160

Narrator: The second-largest country in Africa lies

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00:00:04,180 --> 00:00:08,340

in the heart of the continent. Known as the DRC, the Democratic Republic

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00:00:08,360 --> 00:00:12,530

of the Congo suffered civil war between 1997 and 2003.

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00:00:12,550 --> 00:00:16,700

Perhaps the only good thing to come of the civil wars are

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00:00:16,720 --> 00:00:20,870

the country's vast, untouched forests, which weren't logged because war was

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00:00:20,890 --> 00:00:25,040

bad for business. But what will happen to this vital resource

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00:00:25,060 --> 00:00:29,170

now that stability is returning to the DRC? And how can local communities

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00:00:29,190 --> 00:00:33,290

take ownership of this, their home, and secure a better future?

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00:00:33,310 --> 00:00:37,430

[Music]

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00:00:37,450 --> 00:00:41,530

The DRC

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00:00:41,550 --> 00:00:45,600

has not had any formal system of land tenure. I've been working

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00:00:45,620 --> 00:00:49,660

with the African Wildlife Foundation. And we've been working with them to lend

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00:00:49,680 --> 00:00:53,690

our spatial data expertise, remote sensing

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00:00:53,710 --> 00:00:57,710

capabilities, analysis of satellite imagery to help them with

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00:00:57,730 --> 00:01:01,900

their on-the-ground zoning activities, which they're

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00:01:01,920 --> 00:01:06,080

formalizing with the government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for

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00:01:06,100 --> 00:01:10,250

land rights and for land-use planning with local communities.

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00:01:10,270 --> 00:01:14,430

Narrator: Spatial data expertise, remote sensing capabilities.

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00:01:14,450 --> 00:01:18,600

What do these words mean exactly? For over 10 years this

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00:01:18,620 --> 00:01:22,780

satellite has been orbiting the Earth. It's called Landsat 7.

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00:01:22,800 --> 00:01:26,960

And with every loop it takes around our planet it collects information about the Earth's surface,

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00:01:26,980 --> 00:01:31,130

which people like Janet can then interpret. So we can feed

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00:01:31,150 --> 00:01:35,290

information derived from Landsat imagery into a variety of models

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00:01:35,310 --> 00:01:39,430

for land-use planning in this landscape. And one thing, one way

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00:01:39,450 --> 00:01:43,570

we've been using it is to identify the areas of highest conservation priority.

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00:01:43,590 --> 00:01:47,680

[Music]

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00:01:47,700 --> 00:01:51,780

So we've been working in Moringa Lopori Wamba landscape, which I sometimes call

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00:01:51,800 --> 00:01:55,850

MLW. It's in northern DRC; it's a bit--

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00:01:55,870 --> 00:01:59,890

about the size of South Carolina, and it's

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00:01:59,910 --> 00:02:03,910

full of tropical moist forest. They're using Landsat imagery.

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00:02:03,930 --> 00:02:08,090

We are able to zoom in on this particular forested area connecting

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00:02:08,110 --> 00:02:12,270

two protected area in the east central part of MLW landscape.

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00:02:12,290 --> 00:02:16,450

And it's an important corridor for the migration of Bonobos between the protected

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00:02:16,470 --> 00:02:20,620

areas, as well as other terrestrial species. Narrator: Once the

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00:02:20,640 --> 00:02:24,800

AWF identified this critical area for conservation it began working with

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00:02:24,820 --> 00:02:28,980

the government and local communities on mapping the region.

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00:02:29,000 --> 00:02:33,150

The mapping process has a dual benefit of preserving biodiversity

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00:02:33,170 --> 00:02:37,310

and helping local villagers to secure their own land-use rights.

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00:03:35,040 --> 00:03:39,140

Narrator: During the DRC war, humans

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00:03:39,160 --> 00:03:43,240

hid in the forest to escape violent conflict. It was their refuge.

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00:03:43,260 --> 00:03:47,360

And still now the forest provides them with food, air and shelter.

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00:03:47,380 --> 00:03:51,440

With the help of Landsat imagery this vital resource can be