



**Marie-Thérèse
SOMBO**

encourages teachers
to work diligently and
pursue reform

ATSRC

is organizing a workshop on
building a home-scale
biogas digester

WIPO Seminars

The NSC President
presents a scientific
paper

Obituary

NSC President
pays tribute to the
late Prof. **IRUMU
AGOZIA KARIO
Julien**
CEO of RCALC



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information for submission

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The Triptych of Science



Professor
Plus MPIANA TSHIMANKINDA
NSC President

As the saying goes, “Science without conscience is but the ruin of the soul”; wisdom reminds us that knowledge has value only if it is guided by ethics. However, to be complete, this conscience must be accompanied by actions such as innovation and outreach, to make science useful. Indeed, without innovation, science sinks into inertia, and without outreach, it remains a dead letter. It is from this conviction that the triad of conscience, innovation, and outreach emerges, structuring scientific excellence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This paradigm, emerging at the intersection of rigor and ambition, goes beyond the mere management of knowledge to define the researcher’s new responsibility toward our community

At a time when national research is affirming its commitment to addressing the challenges of the century, the imperative of “awareness” is reflected first and foremost in the protection of our achievements. It is precisely this bulwark of rigor and integrity that Her Excellency Marie-Thérèse SOMBO, Minister of ESURSI, sought to erect by urging stakeholders in the sector to strive for diligence and excellence. For her, as for us, these reforms are the sine qua non for Congolese scientists to finally act as guardians of factual truth, aligned with international standards. This awareness, however, would remain merely a laudable intention if it were not accompanied by concrete safeguards for our intellectual property. This is where the protection of intellectual property takes on its full meaning. The active involvement of the National Scientific Council at the 67th extraordinary session of WIPO perfectly illustrates this commitment: the goal is to protect Congolese creative genius to make it a true engine of economic growth. This preservation effort extends, moreover, to our biodiversity, where the participatory management of our forests with indigenous communities remains the cornerstone of our natural heritage. Once awareness is firmly established and our achievements are protected, innovation can then become the engine

of our survival. Innovation is not simply about creating something new; it is about providing a relevant solution to a complex problem. Innovation is thus the driving force that transforms theory into tangible progress on the ground. This 56th issue powerfully demonstrates this by highlighting the pragmatism of our researchers: whether it involves the development of household biogas digesters or advances in clinical psychology for the diagnosis of depression, science in the DRC is now striving to meet the vital needs of the population. This vitality is evident even in our space ambitions, with the entry of the company OKAPI into the satellite sector, paving the way for true digital sovereignty. Finally, this cycle finds its full justification only in outreach, for science that is not disseminated is science that dies out. In this context, outreach means translating complexity to inform policy decisions and public opinion. It means ensuring that laboratory results transcend institutional walls to impact society, both nationally and internationally. The prestige of our institutions now rests on this ability to export our discoveries, for, as a principle dear to our community emphasizes, “knowledge is the only capital that grows when shared.”

Ultimately, this three-part framework forms a virtuous cycle in which integrity ensures credibility, innovation ensures relevance, and impact validates utility. No one can claim excellence by neglecting any of these pillars. They demonstrate that to truly serve humanity, our science must be rooted in sound ethics, bold in its solutions, and generous in its sharing, so as to illuminate the future of our nation and of all humanity.

Activities of the Minister of ESURSI



Group photo of the participants with Her Excellency Minister SOMBO

Marie-Thérèse Sombo outlines strategies for eliminating the radioactive threat

We must save lives by taking appropriate measures in the artisanal sector in response to the radioactive threat in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). This is precisely what Professor Marie-Thérèse SOMBO AYANNE SAFI MUKUNA has just done by proposing effective strategies for improved nuclear safety policy. This took place during a workshop held on Monday, May 4, 2026, dedicated to developing a baseline threat assessment for nuclear safety.

The Minister of Higher Education, Universities, Scientific Research, and Innovation officially launched this workshop at the Marriott Hotel in Kinshasa to strengthen collaboration among the relevant stakeholders. This initiative is part of the ongoing efforts launched on March 23 in Kolwezi, where the Minister had declared a radiological emergency following the artisanal mining of the T-17 radioactive tailings. In her capacity as the regulatory authority for nuclear matters, she is continuing her efforts to ensure strict compliance with safety and security standards in the management of radioactive substances, in collaboration with regulatory bodies, notably the National Committee for Protection against Ionizing Radiation (NCPIR). Organized in partnership with the United States Government, through its Department of Energy, this workshop demonstrates the strength of bilateral cooperation in a field that is both sensitive and strategic. In her remarks, Minister SOMBO praised this collaboration, emphasizing that it serves as an essential lever for strengthening national

capabilities in nuclear security

She noted that the Democratic Republic of the Congo, under the leadership of the President of the Republic and Head of State, His Excellency Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, has embarked on a process to modernize and secure its strategic infrastructure. Although the nuclear sector is geared toward peaceful civilian uses, particularly in the fields of health, industry, and research, it entails risks that must be anticipated and managed, she emphasized.

In an international and regional security context marked by growing threats, specifically nuclear terrorism and the diversion of radioactive sources, the development of a Design Basis Threat (DBT) emerges as a fundamental tool recommended by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). This allows for the definition of potential threat scenarios based on which protection systems must be adapted.

Continuing her remarks, the Minister urged participants to demonstrate rigor and commitment throughout the proceedings. She emphasized the need to leverage multisectoral expertise, drawn primarily from technical organizations, regulatory authorities, and security and intelligence services, in order to ensure concrete results.

At the conclusion of this workshop, several objectives were expected, including :

- measures to strengthen the national regulatory framework for nuclear safety

and security;

- recommendations to enhance border security against illicit trafficking in



radioactive materials;

- concrete measures to improve coordination among law enforcement agencies, security and intelligence services, and the relevant authorities.

Finally, the Minister urged participants to engage in frank, constructive, and thorough discussions, emphasizing that the protection of facilities, people, and the environment against malicious acts involving radioactive materials will depend on the level of commitment from each of the stakeholders involved.

Unit of communication/ESURSI

Activities of the Minister of ESURSI

Marie-Thérèse SOMBO encourages teachers to remain dedicated to their work and to the reform process

As the head of the Higher Education, University, and Scientific Research sector, Professor Marie-Thérèse SOMBO did not overlook April 30, 2026, a day dedicated to teachers of all kinds. On this occasion, she delivered a powerful message aimed at encouraging teachers to remain committed to their noble mission of educating, learning, and preparing the future of a given generation. She stated that she remains deeply impressed by the dedication of teachers who continue to work in areas marked by insecurity, particularly in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Her message marks the launch of a program through which the government is committed to implementing meaningful reforms. Indeed, the Ministry of Higher Education, Universities, Scientific Research, and Innovation (ESURSI) has been engaged for several months in a series of structural reforms aimed at making the education system a true driver of development, she noted.

"On this memorable day dedicated to celebrating education in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, I would like to pay tribute to the dedication of those who, tirelessly and since time immemorial, continue to carry the torch of educational endeavor for the sake of our youth. Just as a candle gives light as it burns, the Congolese teacher spares no effort to ensure that our Republic trains a youth capable of rising to the challenge of its destiny. To this end, I pay a heartfelt tribute to the President of the Republic, Head of State, His Excellency Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, Grand Chancellor of the Universities and Higher Education Institutions of the DRC, whose enlightened vision places the improvement of our educational system at the center of his political agenda.

"In line with this vision, under the leadership of the Prime Minister and Head of Government, Her Excellency Judith Suminwa Tuluka, our Ministry has embarked on a series of structural reforms aimed at making our education system a true driver of development," stated Professor Dr. Marie-Thérèse Sombo, Minister of ESURSI.

"These include, in particular: the continuation



H.E.M SOMBO AYANNE SAFI MUKUNA

and consolidation of the Bachelor's-Master's-Doctorate (LMD) system, culminating in the creation and organization of doctoral schools; the launch of the Digital Portal; the revitalization of the National Digital Library; and the establishment of a unique identifier for every Congolese student, to name just a few (...)," she added.

Continuing, the Minister of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation stated that on this day of tribute to education, her deepest thoughts of solidarity also go out to the sisters, brothers, and children, as well as to all educational communities, including the brave teachers in the eastern regions of the country who are suffering the torments of insecurity and violence caused by the Rwandan army and its AFC/M23 militias.

"Despite this situation, teachers in the occupied areas continue to keep alive the flame of knowledge transmission at the risk of their lives," she said, emphasizing that "We send them a message of support, hope, and solidarity. It goes without saying that education is a weapon of peace, a bulwark against ignorance, and a path to freedom," she added.

Well-deserved tributes from the Minister to certain distinguished professors and to the administrative, technical, and support staff

In addition, Professor Dr. Sombo paid a

well-deserved tribute to certain university professors during this celebration of National Teachers' Day in the DRC, saying: "This is an opportunity to pay a well-deserved tribute to some of our eminent mentors, elders, and colleagues who have passed away. I would like to mention in particular: Professors Malembe Tamandiaka Paul, Abata Diabar Bata Matthieu, Mazinga Mashini Charles, Kandoni Nguway, Mutombo Kiamakosa, Lenge Mushiya, Ediba Yengeme Alphonse, Kalenga Jeanne, Nzomvuama Alphonse, Kanga Kalemba Jean, and Manuana Nseka Jean-Pierre. May their souls find eternal rest. Our tributes also go to: the administrative, technical, and support staff, for their participation and dedication to the education of our student body; to the students, who carry the hopes and ambitions of tomorrow for a Congo more beautiful than before; to the parents, educational partners, and authorities, whose constant support is indispensable to our collective mission."

Jacques Asuka/NSC

Activities of the Minister of ESURSI

ESURSI : The DRC is embarking on major reforms in collaboration with UNESCO, UNICEF, and the ITU



As part of the reforms underway in the sectors of higher education, university education, scientific research, and innovation, the DRC is strengthening its capabilities through high-level exchanges with UNESCO, UNICEF, and the ITU. This collaboration is of paramount importance to the head of this sector, who aims to drive the fields of research and innovation toward a more productive transformation.

It should be noted that this initiative follows the Democratic Republic of the Congo's accession to the Gateways initiative in February 2026, during which an ESURSI delegation took part in the international study visit co-organized in Helsinki, Finland, from April 15 to 17, 2026.

The meeting, bringing together 18 countries and several partner institutions, was part of the momentum of the UNESCO-UNICEF-ITU Charter on Digital Learning Platforms, aimed at promoting education as a human right and a public good.

On the agenda: sharing of experiences, innovative Finnish models, and challenges and prospects related to the integration of digital technologies into public education.



The proceedings were opened by Mr. Anders Adlercreutz, Finnish Minister of Education and Culture.

This initiative confirms the progress of reforms spearheaded under the leadership of Her Excellency Minister Prof. Dr. Marie-Thérèse Sombo to fulfill the vision of the Head of State, His Excellency Felix

Antoine Felix TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO, who supports a higher education system that is highly competitive on the global stage. Minister Marie-Thérèse SOMBO is determined to ensure the success of the reform program. A shining example to the head of ESURSI.

Jacques Asuka/NSC

Activities of the Minister of ESURSI

Marie-Thérèse SOMBO is attending the 67th Session of WIPO



The Minister of Higher Education, Universities, Scientific Research, and Innovation (ESURSI) represented the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) at the 67th session of the Extraordinary General Assembly of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) on April 21, 2026.

Indeed, "Continuing her working visit to Geneva, Switzerland, as part of scientific diplomacy, the Minister of Higher Education, Universities, Scientific Research, and Innovation (ESURSI), Professor Marie-Thérèse Sombo, attended the 67th session of the Extraordinary General Assembly of the World Intellectual Property Organization. This session, convened on an extraordinary basis, was entirely devoted to the presentation to Member States of the Director General elected by the Coordination Committee, Mr. Daren Tang," read the statement from the Office of the Minister of ESURSI.

"In her address on behalf of the Government of the Republic, Professor Sombo conveyed the DRC's congratulations to the new Director General and wished him a successful term. She also emphasized that intellectual property is not merely a legal framework but a strategic lever for transformation, an essential tool for stimulating creativity, promoting local knowledge, protecting genetic resources, and fostering technology transfer," the source added.

According to the source, the Minister also highlighted the signing of the memorandum between the DRC and WIPO, which demonstrates a clear commitment to enhanced technical support. This is precisely the role of the National Scientific Council within the DRC, an organization that also supports many researchers in innovating and achieving their goals.

"This act symbolizes our shared

commitment to making intellectual property a true driver of economic development, innovation, and competitiveness," said Ms. Sombo.

It should be noted that a meeting—the first since she took office as Minister in charge of Scientific Research and Innovation—took place on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, with the Director General, during which the two officials discussed, in particular, the implementation of the memorandum of understanding in accordance with the Republic's needs. It was a very fruitful visit in terms of partners in the field of research.

Jacques Asuka/NSC

NSC Activity

WIPO Seminars: The President of the NSC Delivers a Scientific Presentation



Professor Pius Mpiana Tshimankinda, President of the NSC

The President of the National Scientific Council (NSC), Professor Pius MPIANA TSHIMANKINDA, presented a scientific paper titled: "Dynamics of the Reform of the National Scientific Research and Innovation System," during the seminars organized by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) on April 28–29, 2026, in Kinshasa.

This presentation covered five points, including: an introduction, a historical overview of scientific research in the DRC, the national science policy document, the promotion of Congolese scientific talent, and a conclusion. In this issue, the BSIT briefly reviews this presentation.

From the Introduction

The President of the NSC presented several concepts used in scientific research, as well as the NSC as one of

the bodies of the Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation (mission, composition, activities, etc.).

From the Historical Overview of Scientific Research in the DRC

The speaker outlined the major periods in the history of scientific research in the country, in chronological order :

- The colonial period, during which research was more focused on colonial interests. The fields of study included agronomy, mining, and medicine, and the era was characterized by a lack of scientific autonomy. In 1900, research was conducted by Belgian academic institutions, which used the botanical gardens of Kisantu and Eala as acclimatization and testing centers. In 1926, the Belgian Plantation Authority took charge

of research and the industrial cultivation of certain crops such as cotton, oil palm, etc. Around 1933, the first true research institution (INEAC) was established in Yangambi (Tshopo), conducting research on cocoa, palm oil, coffee, etc. Other institutions followed, such as the Institute of National Parks of the Congo (IPNC) in 1938; the Geological Service of the Belgian Congo in 1939; the Institute for Scientific Research in Central Africa (IRSAC) in 1947; the Geographical Institute of the Congo (CGI) in 1949; Lovanium University (now Unikin) in 1954, marking the beginning of university-level research; the Official University of the Congo in Lubumbashi in 1956; and the Nuclear Services Commission in 1960, with the DRC becoming the first African country to have a nuclear reactor for research.

NSC Activity



- Postcolonial period: This period spans from 1960 to 1982, during which universities began to emerge, research gradually took shape, and coordination among institutions remained limited. The Free University of Congo in Kisangani was founded in 1963; the Center for Industrial Research in Central Africa (CRIAC) in Lubumbashi in 1963; the General Commission for Atomic Energy (AEC) in 1965; and the National Office for Research and Development (ONRD) in 1967, which was attached to the Office of the President of the Republic pursuant to Ordinance No. 67/311 of August 10, 1967. Currently, the Institute of Scientific Research brings together several research centers and institutes (ONRD, IRSAC, CRIAC, INS), similar to UNAZA for higher and university education. The creation of the Ministry of Scientific Research was established by Ordinance-Law No. 082/040 on the organization of scientific research in the DRC. Several

reforms have been implemented, such as the institutionalization of research coordination, the creation of the NSC, the need to establish the Research Support Fund, the fragmentation of the IRS, the placement of the RIHS, AEC/CREN-K, CGI, and NIASR under supervision, and the creation of other centers at a later date.

On the Science Policy Document

This document, published in 2021 with the support of UNESCO, provides an overview of the departments within the Ministry of Scientific Research. However, it should be supplemented with a section on "innovation," include sufficient practical applications, and define a policy for the commercialization and protection of research results and innovations.

On the Commercialization of Congolese Scientific Innovation

The speaker briefly outlined the Conclave of Congolese Scientific

Ingenuity and the 2024 and 2025 editions of the Forums of Congolese Scientific Ingenuity (research results, inventions, and innovations; awards, medals, patents, etc.). He demonstrated that there can be no sustainable development for a country without the promotion of national creative ingenuity.

Conclusion

Prof. Pius MPIANA emphasized that a country's development does not rely solely on its natural resources, but above all on its ability to transform those resources through the exact and applied sciences. Today, developed countries are choosing to invest in science, research, and innovation. This is a prerequisite for economic survival, sovereignty, and national dignity.

BELESI GASEGA and MAZONO Christian/NSC

Echoes of Research Institutions

Science Week Retrospective: Raïssa Malu Brings New Momentum to Science in the DRC

Science Week has come to a close. It was an event that captured the attention of every scientist. Many research centers and universities were in attendance, as were educational institutions. The atmosphere was distinctly scientific at both the event venues in Kinshasa and Lubumbashi. This event, which has become a tradition, is the brainchild of Raïssa MALU, the Minister of State for National Education and New Citizenship. She is a patron of science and, in that capacity, is launching numerous initiatives to provide scientists with opportunities to engage in constructive dialogue.

To this end, Minister MALU personally inaugurated the Science Village as part of the 13th edition of Science and Technology Week held in Kinshasa. Given the immense significance of this Science Week (SST13), this retrospective takes us back to the event's highlights.

Under the theme "At the Heart of Technical Skill," this edition highlighted students' expertise, creativity, and ingenuity.

Some fifty science and technology booths were set up, attracting thousands of students from different parts of the capital.

The event, organized by the Ministry of National Education and New Citizenship, was attended by several members of the government as well as the city's educational authorities.

Through this initiative, the government reaffirms its commitment to promoting scientific culture, nurturing students' talents, and preparing a youth capable of meeting the technological challenges of tomorrow. Ms. Raïssa MALU was clearly right. Her initiative remains encouraging. To be continued

Jacques Asuka/NSC



SEM Raïssa MALU



A student shares her thoughts with Their Excellencies



Discussions and debates during this activity

Echoes of Research Institutions

CRSAT is organizing a workshop on building a household biogas digester

The Center for Applied and Technological Sciences Research (ATSRC) organized a scientific seminar through its Department of Renewable Energy (DER) and its Biomass Energy Section (SBE), on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, in the conference room of the Geological and Mining Research Center located at 44 la Démocratie Street in Gombe township, with the theme: "The Construction of a Domestic Biogas Digester Suited to Conditions in the DRC." This workshop was led by Research Associate MUTOMBO NSHIMBA, department head, and Research Technician DIKOMBE EKASINGI, both from the Department of Renewable Energy (DER).

This seminar was held as part of a series of activities planned by the ATSRC Management Committee, with a view to adhering to the scientific framework and maintaining the institution's momentum.

The department head began the presentation by defining the digester as a machine that converts organic matter (waste, etc.) into biogas (methane) through a fermentation process.

He stated that the motivation behind this departmental project is to help provide the people of the DRC with access to green energy, specifically cooking fuel and biogas.

The researcher provided a brief overview of the DRC's energy consumption, which is dominated by 95% wood energy, 3% electricity, and 2% other forms of energy (Atlas of Renewable Energy in the DRC).

Given the abundance and diversity of plant biomass in the DRC, well-mastered biomethanation technology can make it possible to manufacture biogas digesters suited to our country's conditions, and thus introduce the use of biomethane as a fuel in our rural and semi-urban areas for cooking needs and even for the production of mechanical and electrical energy, he stated.

The second speaker, Research Technician DIKOMBE EKASINGI, outlined the specific conditions for anaerobic digestion of plant biomass, which depend on identifying the biomass to be digested (household organic waste) and analyzing the parameters of anaerobic fermentation.

The research technician described the design of the biogas digester based on :

- the selection of the pilot biogas digester,
- the sizing of the pilot biogas digester,



- the list of components for the pilot biogas digester,
- the selection of the experimental site (MPASA).
- He emphasized that the process will follow certain implementation steps:
- The chemical and physical characteristics of household organic waste,
- Identification of methanogenic bacteria present in organic waste from households in Kinshasa,
- Study of feeding and inoculation conditions for the laboratory biogas digester,
- Measurement of parameters related to the biogas produced.

Speaking again, Department Head MUTOMBO NSHIMBA presented a schematic diagram to explain how a digester works.

He went on to demonstrate the economic impacts, particularly regarding the reduction in household spending on cooking fuel once the biogas digester is in use.

He also outlined the environmental impact, particularly regarding the anaerobic digestion of organic waste, which will help clean up various human living environments while benefiting agricultural crops through the substrate used as fertilizer.

The technician noted that the scientific impact, particularly regarding mastery of this technology, could become a new area of technical training.

He concluded by stating that although biomethanation technology is already well-established in other parts of Africa and widely used to benefit less affluent populations, to his knowledge in the DRC, the work being done in this sector is not sufficiently publicized. Despite this reality, our country is in great need of innovative technologies in the field of renewable energy to fill this energy gap.

The scientist added that, so far, these research technologies have not yet garnered much support from policymakers and other partners, which highlights the paradox between the persistence of the energy crisis and energy poverty.

The speakers expressed a desire to obtain concrete material and financial support from partners across various sectors in order to complete their scientific work, which could provide relief to a portion of the population.

Atitungu Sangol Dieudonné/ATSRC

Echoes of Research Institutions

The CRAA is participating in Science Week in Lubumbashi

Science Week was not limited to Kinshasa; it was also celebrated in Lubumbashi, the copper-mining capital of Haut-Katanga. The AFRC also opened its doors to the public as part of these efforts to promote science and technology for the benefit of Congolese and foreign scientists.

On April 13, 2026, the Lubumbashi Agri-Food Research Center (AFRC) launched its Open House events in accordance with Circular No. 009.

These events, designed to promote and raise the profile of Congolese research, highlight technological advances and local production.

The event was attended by the President of the Haut-Katanga Provincial Assembly, accompanied by a delegation of provincial deputies and members of his staff, whose visit lent a sense of solemnity to this scientific gathering.

The parliamentary delegation's visit to the center's facilities

provided an opportunity to showcase local expertise. Impressed by the technical sophistication of the laboratories, the quality of the innovations presented, and the center's production capacity, the President of the legislative body, the Honorable Michel KABWE MWAMBA, took the opportunity to commend the diligent work of the current management committee and affirmed the support of the Haut-Katanga Provincial Assembly for various activities, promising the Assembly's firm commitment to restoring the integrity of the AFRC's assets. He strongly condemned the plundering of numerous sites and assets belonging to the AFRC by third parties, forcefully reiterating that: these assets belong to the Congolese state and must not, under any circumstances, be misappropriated for private purposes.

In his opening remarks, Professor Olivier EANGA BOMOLO, Director General of the AFRC, called for the support of the authorities in

raising funds. He also provided a brief overview of the services offered by the center through its eight departments, namely:

1. Pilot Workshop
2. Quality Control Department
3. Department of Agriculture and Livestock
4. Department of Food Industry and Biotechnology
5. Department of Food Science
6. Technical and Economic Department
7. Department of Information, Documentation, and Publications
8. Department of Functional Foods

The day offered guests a comprehensive look at the center's achievements. Attendees were able to explore the many facets of AFRC's production, which today serves as a vital link in the province's food security and technological development.

The event concluded on a



hopeful note with a tour of the laboratories and the AFRC's fruit production facilities, as provincial authorities acknowledged the management committee's concerns, confirming the strategic importance of protecting and supporting scientific research institutions that serve the nation.

Sé/CELCOM/AFRC

RCALC wraps up Women's History Month

The women of the Center for Research on African Languages and Cultures (RCALC) concluded Women's Month activities on Saturday, April 18, 2026.

The event was a significant part of the center's commitment to gender equality in research. Backed by a strong academic team, the women of the RCALC took the opportunity to engage in a meaningful exchange on research issues.

These activities took place in the presence of the institution's leadership.

On this occasion, they used the final day to establish a women's steering committee for the Center for Research on African Languages and Cultures. This committee is headed by Assistant Esther Nyota Bafofo.

Taking the floor, the committee chair stated:

"We created this structure to ensure the visibility of women researchers and administrators externally. We know that with this initiative, the women of the Research Center will be represented in meetings of local women's associations. We also wish to build connections with women from other



institutions. That is why, for our event, we invited two women, one of whom works at the IBTP and the other at the NIASR."

The committee's structure is as follows:

- President: Assistant Esther Nyota Bafofo
- Vice President: Research Associate Nadine Desi
- Secretariat: Irène and Mireille Mongolo
- Treasurer: Sisca Lisungi
- Public Relations: Research Associate Judith

Basubi

The women were not alone; they were accompanied by men who are sensitive to gender issues, including Professor David Kopa wa Kopa, the Director of Finance, and the Chief of Staff.

Sé/Judith Basub/RCALC

Echoes of Research Institutions

Overview of World Forest Day at the CRMN/Gemena

World Forest Day did not go unnoticed at CRMN/Gemena. Deep in the Congo, environmental activists and forestry researchers organized a major event addressing the needs and challenges they face. Under the avocado tree, the speakers at the event highlighted the role and importance of forests in the DRC's economic development and job creation. Below are the highlights of the day:

Schedule for the Day

The scientific session dedicated to World Forest Day was held on April 23, 2026, in Gemena, chaired by Qualified Research Technician (TRQ) Levis LENGA.

The keynote presentation was to be delivered by ATR Benjamin MANDELO BANDA, but his presentation was postponed because he was called away for other scientific work outside the city and was unable to attend the event. Despite this setback, the event took place in a friendly and studious atmosphere.

Participants in the meeting included members of the management committee, researchers and research technicians, technical and support staff, as well as interns from local secondary schools. A question-and-answer session livened up the event, allowing participants to discuss forest management issues and share their experiences.

Background of the Celebration

World Forest Day is celebrated annually on March 21. In 2026, the global theme selected by the UN and the FAO was "Forests and Economies," highlighting the role of forests in sustainable development and job creation. In



the DRC, the national theme was adapted to: "Forests at the Heart of a Sustainable Economy," emphasizing the strategic importance of forest resources for ecological balance, the protection of local communities, and economic growth.

Key points of the presentation

- Ecological dimension: climate regulation, CO₂ absorption, soil and water protection, exceptional biodiversity.
- Economic dimension: source of income (timber, honey, medicinal plants), creation of sustainable jobs (ecotourism, agroforestry), contribution to rural GDP.
- Social and cultural dimension: livelihoods of local communities, traditions and beliefs linked to the forest, educational and scientific role.
- Strategic dimension: food security, pharmaceutical potential, world heritage (Congo Basin = the planet's second green lung)

Challenges and perspectives

- Challenges: population pressure, urbanization, illegal logging, and low value placed on non-timber forest products.

- Initiatives: national sustainable development policies, awareness campaigns by NGOs, academic research on agroforestry, community reforestation projects.
- Outlook: develop a forest-centered green economy, encourage sustainable investments, strengthen international cooperation, and further engage young people and local communities.

Key Message

Forests are as much an economic and social asset as they are a natural heritage. Protecting forests means investing in the future: this was the central message of this scientific conference, which highlighted the strategic role of the Congolese forests in sustainable economic development and the fight against climate change.

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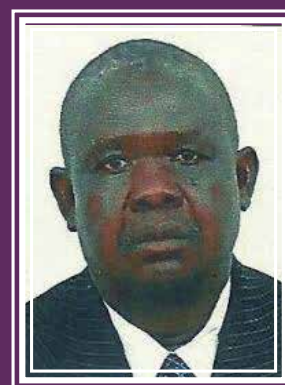
The Chairman of the NSC honors the memory of Professor IRUMU AGOZIA KARIO Julien

The National Scientific Council (NSC) has lost one of its members, Professor Irumu Agozia Kario Julien, who served as Director General of the Center for Research on African Languages and Cultures (RCALC). This is a dark day that has cast a shadow over the Congolese scientific community.

At his funeral on Friday, May 8, 2026, the President of the National Scientific Council (NSC) signed the memorial in honor of the distinguished deceased. He shares in the grief of the bereaved family. For he was a companion in research and science whom the Lord has called to the afterlife.
Rest In Peace



Professor
Plus MPIANA TSHIMANKINDA
NSC President



Professor
IRUMU AGOZIA KARIO Julien
CEO of RCALC

Read for you



Pygmies participating in a workshop on participatory forest management

The environment and biodiversity are among the top priorities at several research centers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). For this reason, advocacy efforts have been made with the government to ensure the involvement of Pygmy indigenous peoples in public policies on sustainable forest management. This took place in late April 2026 in Kinshasa, during the closing session of the national workshop on the evaluation of forestry policies.

"We are asking the government to take our appeals into account, particularly regarding the involvement of indigenous peoples in public policies on sustainable forest management and their representation in decision-making bodies, in order to address challenges and prevent inter-community conflicts, as well as the instances of violence that occur from time to time," said Eugénie Eyenga, advisor to the governor of Mayi-Ndombé Province, in charge of issues related to the development of Pygmy peoples.

The two-day meeting created a framework for dialogue and advocacy on behalf of Indigenous peoples to strengthen their involvement in the process of revising the Forest Code and evaluating the national strategy on community forestry.

Several recommendations were made, including consultations to provide broad information on the Kivu-Kinshasa Green Corridor, the dissemination of Law No. 22/030 of July 15, 2022, on the protection and promotion of the rights of indigenous Pygmy

peoples, and the education of Pygmy children.

IT/ Call for Awareness of the Rights and Obligations of Indigenous Peoples

Joseph Itongwa, National Executive Director of the National Alliance for the Support and Promotion of Indigenous and Community Heritage Areas and Territories (ANAPAC-DRC), called on Indigenous peoples to become aware of and understand their rights and obligations in order to protect them, before commending them for their willingness and commitment to participate in this work.

"Responsibilities are shared between the government and you. You must avoid feeling inferior and playing the victim. Take concrete action on the ground and familiarize yourselves with your rights and obligations in order to protect them," he said.

Mr. Itongwa promised them that an action plan would be developed in the coming days to organize a dialogue on the rights, obligations, and involvement of Pygmy indigenous peoples in public policies for sustainable forest management at the provincial, territorial, and sectoral levels.

In addition, the Community Forestry Division reiterated its commitment to conducting a study in collaboration with organizations and associations representing Pygmy indigenous peoples, with a view to better contributing to the process of revising the Forest Code through the "GTT8."

The beneficiaries commended the efforts of associations such as ANAPAC and the PIDP (Integrated Program for the Development of the Pygmy People), which, in their view, contribute to

community development and the promotion of the cultural identity of indigenous Pygmy peoples.

Representatives from sectoral ministries, notably those of the Environment, the Interior, Human Rights, and Land Use Planning, who participated in the workshop, highlighted significant institutional progress on the issue of indigenous peoples' development and the defense of their rights.

The workshop, which was jointly organized by ANAPAC-DRC and the PIDP, with support from the Tenure Facility, also brought together focal points for Pygmy indigenous peoples from all provinces to evaluate forestry policy. The project's mid-term results were reviewed to document activities carried out on the ground with local communities and to recognize the contribution of indigenous peoples to biodiversity conservation.

Jacques Asuka/NSC

PUBLIC-SECTOR RESEARCH CENTERS AND INSTITUTES IN THE D.R. CONGO

RIHS (Research Institute in Health Science)

Objective: To improve the state of health of the population through research in the following fields: pharmaceutical, medical, anthropological, psychological or socio-cultural.

Address: 9, Av. Lukusa C/Gombe; E-mail: dnyembo@gmail.com; Tel: 0824580211

ATSRC (Applied and Technologic Sciences Research Center)

Objectif: Mettre au point des matériaux, des appareils, des méthodes ou procédés
Objective: To develop materials, equipment, methods or processes with a view to finding solutions to the population's urgent problems in various fields: housing, rural development and the modernization of the society.

Address: 106, Blvd du 30 Juin, C/Gombe; E-mail: Jeannoel.mputu@gmail.com; Tel: 0821138261

RCHS (Research Center in Human Sciences)

Objective: To ensure the human development of the Congolese people through the study of its social, economic and political dimensions with a view to identifying the factors that have a positive or negative influence on its development.

Address: 33, Av. comité urbain C/ Gombe; E-mail: mingashang@yahoo.fr; Tel: 0819377821

RCMT (Research Center in Mathematics Teaching)

Objective: To carry out research in the field of mathematics teaching with a view to improving quality.

Address: 84, Av. des Ambassadeurs C/ Gombe; E-mail: mabelamatendorostin@gmail.com; Tel: 0815031877

GRC (Geophysical Research Center)

Objective: To provide the country with a national geophysical observation network, for the global study of the internal behavior of the earth in the DRC.

Address: 44, Av. de la démocratie, C/ Gombe (within GMRC); E-mail: tondozi@gmail.com; Tel: 0854426228

AIPS (African Institute of Prospective Studies)

Objective: To carry out forward-looking studies in order to propose solutions to crises and problems linked to the evolution of African societies.

Address: Av. Cardinal Malula, C/ Lemba; E-mail: mgrtarcarbangu@yahoo.fr; Tel: 0996658741

MDRC (Multidisciplinary Development Research Center/Matadi)

Objective: To carry out operational research in central Congo in the field of applied linguistics of African cultures and applied sciences

Address: Hôtel de la porte Matadi; E-mail: Mwanzanicolas5@gmail.com; Tel: 0815037949

NCPIR (National Committee for the Protection of ionizing Radiation)

Objective: - Regulatory authority for protection against the dangers of ionizing radiation in the DRC management of radioactive sources of radioactive materials such as uranium.

Address: 4675, Av. Colonel Ebeya, Immeuble Quitus 2ème niveau; Email: Flory1963@gmail.com; Tel: 0816684665

AEC (French Atomic Energy Commission)

Objective: To carry out, promote and coordinate scientific and technical research in various fields of science and industry, concerning the use of atomic energy and space research.

Address: UNIKIN building; E-mail: Steve.muanza.kamunga@gmail.com; Tel: 0808643248

CGI (Congo Geographic Institute)

Objective: Production of the base map of the DRC at a scale of 1/50,000 and its derivatives.

Address: 106, Blvd du 30 Juin, C/Gombe; E-mail: Fidele.balibuno@unikin.ac.cd; Tel: 0974449240

GMRC (Geologic and Mining Research Center)

Objective: To carry out studies and analyses to improve knowledge of the soil and subsoil of the national territory.

Address: 44, Av. de la démocratie, C/ Gombe; E-mail: rolandkakule@gmail.com; Tel: 0851506161

NIASR (National Institute for Agronomic Study and Research)

Objective: To promote the development of agriculture in the Congo. To maintain varieties, multi-local trials, and its farmers, management and conservation of germplasm.

Set up a program to monitor and evaluate research activities.

To disseminate new varieties. Give the emerging technical department its reason for being, with a view to producing basic and pre-basic seed.

Resume publication of the agricultural magazine to disseminate research results.
Address: 13, Av. des Cliniques, BP :2037 KINSHASA, C/Gombe; E-mail: domikan-konde@yahoo.fr; Tel: 0818248620

RCALC (Research Center into African Language and Culture)

Objective: To coordinate and carry out all research projects concerning African languages and cultures.

Address: 53 C, Av. Makiso, blvd du 30 juin, Kisangani/ Tshopo. Tel: 0851934320

AFRC (Agro-Food Research Centre/Lubumbashi)

Objective: To identify processes for processing and preserving basic local agricultural products.

To improve the quality of imported or locally produced foodstuffs by applying approved standards and quality control.

Help the technological development of the existing agro-industry by providing them with technical assistance wherever possible.

Address: 1, Av. Président ILEO, Q/CRAA, C/Lubumbashi; E-mail: Julesnkulu@gmail.com; Tel: 0997131002

SSRC (Social Science Research Center / Bandunduville)

Objective: to carry out practical scientific research into major socio-economic and cultural issues.

To promote sustainable aquatic development.

Address: 29, Av. de la mission, Q/Salongo, C/Basoko. BANDUNDUVILLE, BP. 223; E-mail: akuzituka@gmail.com; Tel: 0815898971

FERC (Forest Ecology Research Center /Mabali)

Objective: Scientific research on plants, aquatic species and animal species.

Address: D.S/MBANDAKA D.S/MBANDAKA/PROVINCE OF ECUADOR; E-mail: bosomboependi2@gmail.com; Tel: 0825241704

NDRC (Nutritional Diseases Research Center/Gemena)

Objective: Research into diseases linked to malnutrition, such as related diseases by isolating certain molecules, such as SYZYSIUM GUINESIE to combat amoebic yeasts and diarrhea in South Ubangi.

Address: Mobutu n° 220/A. GEMENA/ SOUTH UBANGI PROVINCE; E-mail: cherusan-gi@yahoo.fr; 0992416091

NSRC (Natural Sciences Research Center /Lwiro)

Objective: To carry out, promote and coordinate research in the fields of science, technology and industry throughout the DRC.

Address: LWIRO LWIRO, TERRITORY OF KABARE/SUD KIVU; E-mail: robert.kasisi@umontreal.com; Tel: 0996806699.

MDRC (Multidisciplinary Development Research Center /Bunia)

Objective: To carry out operational research in the north-east of the DRC in the fields of applied linguistics, African cultures and applied sciences.
Study of nature, fauna, flora and protection of endangered species.

Address: BUNIA/ITURI; E-mail: Kermwathomas@gmail.com; Tel: 0997717070

HRC (Hydrobiology Research Center in Uvira)

Objective: To program, coordinate and monitor research activities in hydrobiology, limnology and hydrology.
hydrobiology, limnology and fisheries in all ecosystems.

Address: 115, Av. du Congo, Q/Kimanga, C/Kalundu, UVIRA / SUD KIVU; E-mail: bida-kamuhoza@gmail.com; Tel: 0997716307.

CBRNEC (Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Excellence Center)

Objective: To contribute to the mitigation of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear risks.

Address: 106, Blvd du 30 Juin, C/Gombe; E-mail: coe.cbrn.rdc@gmail.com; Tel: 0817742543.

GVO (Goma Volcanological Observatory)

Objective: Prevention of volcanic risks by monitoring volcanoes and Lake Kivu. Kivu; Management of natural risks; scientific research.

Address: 142, Avenue Du Rond Point ; Quartier Les Volcans ; Commune de Goma ; Ville Goma; North-Kivu; E-mail: mavotulu@gmail.com; Tel: 0998584734

WERC (Water and Environment Research Center)

Objective: To serve as a training and research center focusing on water and environmental management.

To propose solutions to problems that could arise around water. Create a national network of Congolese scientists and researchers to analyze and disseminate information on the impact of climate change in the DRC. Promote education and the right to the environment.

Address: 44, Comité Urbain C/ GOMBE; E-mail: ngelipatience@gmail.com; Tel: 0818105625.

RCSARP (Research Center for the Selection and Adaptation of Ruminants and Pigs)

Objective: To carry out studies and research in the field of ruminant and pig breeding

Address: 45, Av. Lumumba, Q/de la gare, LUPUTA/ KASAI-ORIENTAL; E-mail: tshamal-agabriel@gmail.com; Tel: 0851817370

NCRS (National Center for Remote Sensing)

Objective: Research in remote sensing.

Address: PLACE ROYAL IMMEUBLE PLACE ROYAL IMMEUBLE KASAI; E-mail: davidng-indub@gmail.com; Tel: 0815103502.

NCROS (National Center for Research in Oral Science)

Objective: To carry out studies and research in the field of oral health.

Address: 13, 10ème Rue, Industriel Quarter, C/Limete; E-mail: Cnrsbd.rdc@gmail.com; Tel: 0822244152; 0811835159; 0840922982

CAS (Congolese Academy of Sciences)

Objective: Promotion and dissemination of science, technology, arts and letters. Support for inventive initiatives.

Address: Sciences Faculty/ UNIKIN local 28; E-mail: jjmuyembet@gmail.com; Tel: 0813330242

MIPRC (Matadi Interdisciplinary Pedagogical Research Center)

Objective: -Information science.

Address: The buildings of the Matadi Higher Pedagogical Institute; Tel: 0896501462

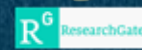


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2. to deliberate on the allocation of resources from the State budget to scientific and technological activities;
3. supervising the financial management of research centers and institutes
4. approving the budgets of the Research Institutes and Centers and submitting them to the Minister for Scientific Research for approval
5. approving the organic regulations of the Research Institutes and Centers;
6. proposing to the Minister for Scientific Research the appointment and promotion of scientific and administrative personnel.

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