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SOMBO**  
opens the First  
Congress on  
Congoese Studies in  
Mbuji-Mayi



**Marie-Thérèse  
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invited the Senate

**EBOLA**  
The government  
is launching a  
response plan

**NSC President**  
Visits Switzerland for a  
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Call for publication in the  
Congolese Review of Science and Technology  
ISSN (Online) : 2959-202X  
ISSN (Print) 2960-2629  
DOI prefix : 10.59228/rcst  
[www.csnrdc.net](http://www.csnrdc.net)

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# The Surge of Resilience



Professor  
**Pius MPIANA TSHIMANKINDA**  
NSC President

**W**hen faced with a major crisis, any system inevitably goes through a phase of critical vulnerability. Yet it is at the very heart of this disruption that a surge of resilience emerges—a rigorous mobilization of latent resources designed to reverse the trajectory of collapse and restore balance.

Today, with the resurgence of the 17th Ebola virus disease outbreak in the provinces of Ituri and North Kivu—attributed to Bundibugyo, a rare strain of the virus—the Democratic Republic of the Congo is once again facing one of its most formidable public health threats. Faced with this shock that is shaking our certainties, the national research sector is responding precisely with this systemic surge to halt the decline and set the stage for a recovery. An old adage teaches us that “a tree that weathered the storm must not only grow taller, but also sink its roots deeper.” At the institutional level, this strengthening of our roots is expressed first and foremost through the consolidation of our academic legal framework. It is precisely with this in mind that the Senate hearing of Her Excellency the Minister of ESURSI, Prof. Dr. Marie-Thérèse Sombo, is taking place, with a view to ratifying the UNESCO Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education. By shaping the future, this international framework lays the groundwork for a robust academic system capable of sustainably supporting research in the face of contemporary challenges. Alongside these fundamental reforms and in light of the urgency of the epidemic threat, the government promptly deployed its response plan on the ground, drawing on the strength of national scientific expertise embodied by the National Institute for Biomedical Research (INRB). This responsiveness reminds us that a people’s true sovereignty lies in its ability to draw upon its own intelligence to protect life. Moreover, this revival of the scientific spirit finds particularly fertile ground in the current renewal of our academic system. Recent

decisions by the overseeing authority—lifting the suspension of activities at the Official University of Mweka (UNIOMK) and establishing a new governance structure there—contribute to this momentum by encouraging a studious youth to unleash their creative genius. An inspiring example comes from students who have developed remarkable technological innovations, such as “BONI SAMINE RDC,” a facial recognition system for tracking workers, and “TERMINEO,” a tool for predicting the risk of landslides and flooding in the mining sector. Moreover, these monitoring and predictive technologies, although originally developed for the mining industry, hold the seeds of tomorrow’s potential: they can be adapted to map population flows and trace contacts during health crises.

But resilience cannot be limited to digital technologies alone: since all living things form an indivisible whole, protecting humanity requires that we also care for the earth that sustains us and the air we breathe, in accordance with the principle: “If you clean the stream upstream, the water will be pure downstream.” It is through this philosophy of foresight that the Center of Excellence for Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) has launched its campaign against hazardous chemical waste. By ridding our environment of these silent poisons, it prevents a toxic overload that would further weaken populations already at risk from Ebola. In the same vein, managing our technological risks calls for constant vigilance. However, this technical and environmental rigor would be blind if it did not speak the language of the heart and culture. In the face of mistrust and rumors that sometimes fuel epidemics, our researchers invite us to reflect deeply on the theme: “When Languages Protect Life.” Mother tongues are not merely tools of communication; they are the safes that hold our intergenerational ecological knowledge. This process of valuing such knowledge proves that, to bear solid fruit, the tree of science must be watered by the waters of our endogenous realities.

Alongside this cultural and health resilience, a people’s overall resilience is inextricably linked to their livelihood and physical well-being, for “a canoe cannot move forward if those steering it lack strength.” In this regard, mechanized maize production in Haut-Lomami and Grand Katanga stands as a pillar of our food independence and industrial sovereignty. Nevertheless, in the face of dangers that are becoming global in scope, isolation at the national level would remain an illusion. “A single finger cannot wash the face,” as African wisdom teaches us. It is in this spirit of universal solidarity that the president of the National Scientific Council (CSN) undertook an official mission to Switzerland. The strategic partnership outlined with the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) opens up significant opportunities for funding joint projects, strengthening our laboratories, and future research into therapeutic solutions tailored to our ecosystem.

Ultimately, this 57th edition of the Science and Technological Innovations Bulletin reveals that a surge in resilience has the power to transform extreme vulnerability into a genuine driver of progress. Far from being a passive return to the previous state, it propels our system toward a new, significantly more robust equilibrium. Scientifically and professionally, this phenomenon demonstrates that a crisis is merely a transition: our sustainability will depend on our collective ability to preserve strategic reserves and cultivate flexibility.

## Government Activities

### EBOLA: Outbreak Resurfaces in the DRC; Government Launches Response Plan



In response to the health crisis caused by the resurgence of the Ebola virus since the second half of this month, the Congolese government launched a response plan on May 19, 2026.

According to the Director General of the National Institute for Biomedical Research (INRB), Professor Jean-Jacques MUYEMBE, to date, four health zones in Ituri have been affected by the new Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. These include Mungwalu, Bunia, Rwampara, and Nyakunde.

He also noted that the city of Butembo is affected, as is Goma, where one case had already been reported but was later found to be negative.

Professor Jean-Jacques MUYEMBE also revealed that, regarding the samples analyzed in laboratories—particularly at the INRB—nearly 32 positive cases were initially confirmed, a number that has now risen to more than 62 cases.

Regarding deaths, the head of the INRB stated that the figures reported by the authorities on deaths presumed to be linked to the virus should be viewed with caution, as several victims had died in the community before receiving any medical care.

"We are conducting active investigations in the communities to determine the circumstances of the deaths reported within families. All this information is being compiled to identify probable deaths linked to this disease. To date, we have recorded 136 probable Ebola-related deaths," explained Dr. MUYEMBE.

As for the number of patients, 69 are currently being treated at treatment centers, while approximately 543 probable cases have been identified in the community. The laboratory in Bunia has also been strengthened to enable

rapid diagnosis of suspected cases, he said.

For Ebola virus disease, two main strains were identified as early as 1976, during the first simultaneous epidemics recorded in Sudan and Yambuku, then part of Zaire.

The virus identified in Yambuku was named Ebola Zaire, while the one discovered in Sudan was named Ebola Sudan.

The Ebola-Zaire strain remains the most common. It is primarily found in countries in the Congo River basin, particularly in the DRC, Congo-Brazzaville, and Gabon, but also in some West African countries such as Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia.

The Sudan Ebola strain, meanwhile, is found primarily in countries in the Nile Basin, particularly in Sudan and Uganda.

After a long period of calm, a major urban outbreak was recorded in 1995. Since then, outbreaks caused by Ebola-Zaire have multiplied in several provinces of the country: Mweka, Kampungu, Mbandaka, Bikoro, and Boende, particularly in the Djera health zone.

Regarding the Bundibugyo virus, Dr. Muyembe noted that its discovery had taken scientists by surprise, as diagnosis had been delayed due to the practice of detecting only the Ebola-Zaire strain. Thanks to methods developed by the CDC in Atlanta, United States, this new strain was finally identified, he noted.

#### **Ebola Zaire and Ebola Bundibugyo: What Are the Differences?**

According to Dr. Jean-Jacques MUYEMBE, the Zaire strain of Ebola caused a severe illness with hemorrhagic symptoms in more than 50% of cases and a case fatality rate exceeding 80%. In contrast, the Bundibugyo strain, observed particularly in Isiro, presented (e) more moderate symptoms and a fatality rate of around 40%. It is therefore considered

less pathogenic than Ebola Zaire.

"Unfortunately, we have not yet conducted sufficient studies on the Bundibugyo strain, especially in our country. We have neither a vaccine nor a curative treatment. But in the coming days, we will certainly begin testing vaccine candidates and therapeutic compounds in an effort to find a solution to treat patients with Bundibugyo Ebola," Dr. Muyembe promised.

Authorities also point out that, of the 17 Ebola outbreaks recorded in the DRC, 15 were brought under control without the use of vaccines or specific drug treatments.

The response relies primarily on public health measures: breaking the chain of transmission, rapidly isolating patients, protecting healthcare workers with appropriate equipment, and using disinfectants. Safe burials also remain essential to limit the spread of the virus.

Finally, for patients with fever, headaches, or other symptoms, palliative care is provided.

Below is the summary report on the Ebola health crisis presented by Dr. Muyembe

J. Asuka/NSC



# RAPPORT DE SITUATION EBOLA

Province de l'Ituri & Nord-Kivu  
17ème épidémie en RDC depuis 1976

Situation au 20 mai 2026 | Publication du 21 mai 2026



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## Mesures préventives

Chaque citoyen a un rôle essentiel dans la prévention de la maladie à virus Ebola :

1. Se laver régulièrement les mains avec de l'eau et du savon ou une solution hydro-alcoolique.
2. Éviter tout contact avec le sang, les fluides corporels ou les objets contaminés d'une personne malade.
3. Ne pas toucher les corps des personnes décédées d'Ebola sans équipe spécialisée.
4. Éviter la consommation et la manipulation d'animaux sauvages morts ou malades (choues-souris, singes, antilopes, etc.).
5. Signaler rapidement tout symptôme suspect : fièvre, fatigue intense, vomissements, diarrhée, saignements.
6. Respecter l'isolement et le suivi médical en cas de contact avec un malade.

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### SITUATION AU 20 MAI 2026

| Provinces touchées | Zones de santé touchées                        |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>Ituri</b>       | Mongwala, Rwampara, Bunia, Nyankunde et Bambu. |
| <b>Nord-Kivu</b>   | Goma, Katwa, Butembo.                          |

Date de rapportage : 20 mai 2026 - date de publication : 21 mai 2026.

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### INDICATEURS ÉPIDÉMIOLOGIQUES CLÉS

Cumul au 20 mai 2026

|     |  |       |   |     |  |
|-----|--|-------|---|-----|--|
| 64  | Décédés confirmés, dont 68 en Ituri et 2 au Nord-Kivu. | 160   | Décès suspects  | 160 | Substancés dans le rapport de situation de référence |
| 6   | Décès confirmés, dont 4 en Ituri et 2 au Nord-Kivu.    | 1 261 | Contactés dans le même district de rapportage par zone de santé |     |  |
| 671 | Des suspects cumulés                                   | 1 441 | Contactés à l'échelle provinciale de synthèse/rapport           |     |  |

#### Répartition par zones de santé (cumul)

| Province  | Zone de santé | Des suspects | Décès suspects | Décès confirmés | Décès |
|-----------|---------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------|-------|
| Ituri     | Mongwala      | 317          | 60             | 13              | 176   |
|           | Rwampara      | 179          | 44             | 24              | 621   |
|           | Bunia         | 620          | 21             | 11              | 200   |
|           | Nyankunde     | 28           | 6              | 0               | 128   |
| Nord-Kivu | Goma          | 2            | 0              | 1               | 128   |
|           | Katwa         | 8            | 0              | 1               | 60    |
| Nord-Kivu | Katwa         | 19           | 0              | 1               | 60    |
|           | Butembo       | 7            | 0              | 1               | 60    |
| TOTAL     |               | 671          | 149            | 43              | 1364  |

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### NOUVEAUX CHIFFRES

Du 20 mai 2026

- 13 nouveaux cas confirmés, 12 en Ituri et 1 au Nord-Kivu.
  - Districts : Bunia 5, Rwampara 3, Nyankunde 2, Bambu 1, Mongwala 0.
  - District Nord-Kivu : Katwa 1, Goma 0, Butembo 0.
- 0 nouveaux décès confirmés.
- 78 nouveaux cas suspects en Ituri.
- 414 nouveaux contacts listés, dont 286 à Rwampara et 128 à Bambu.

### LABORATOIRE

- 36 échantillons analysés le jour.
- 12 positifs à jour - Rwampara 3; Bunia 5; Nyankunde 3; Bambu 1.
- 13 négatifs à jour et 10 invalides à jour.
- 49 échantillons en report; 92 échantillons reçus; 141 au total à analyser.
- Cumul des échantillons reçus: 219; cumul des analyses: 134; cumul positifs: 64.
- 16 échantillons ont été reçus au laboratoire de Beni (une partie a déjà été transmise à Goma et d'autres restent en attente de transport).

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## Activities of the Minister of ESURSI



H.E. Marie-Thérèse SOMBO, Minister of ESURSI

### Marie-Thérèse SOMBO Lifts the Suspension of Academic Activities at UNIOMK and Appoints New Members to the Management Committee

The Minister of Higher Education, Universities, Scientific Research, and Innovation (MINESURSI), Marie-Thérèse SOMBO, lifted the suspension of academic activities at UNIOMK and appointed the new members of the Management Committee on May 2, 2026. Reprise officielle des activités à l'UNIOMK

By Ministerial Order No. 122/MINESURSI/CAB. MIN/SASM/MMK/2026 dated May 2, 2026, the Minister of ESURSI, Prof. Dr. SOMBO AYANNE SAFI MUKUNA Marie-Thérèse, lifted the suspension of academic and para-academic activities at the Official University of Mweka (UNIOMK).

This decision follows the findings and recommendations of the mission dispatched by the Ministry in response to reports regarding the toxic environment prevailing at the institution, which had led to a major disruption of its operations.

The Ministry emphasizes that oversight measures have been put in place to ensure the smooth functioning of the institution and to allow for the normal resumption of teaching and administrative activities.

#### Establishment of a New Management Committee

As part of the efforts to revitalize and stabilize UNIOMK, MINESURSI also signed Ministerial Decree No. 123/MINESURSI/CAB. MIN/SASM/MMK/2026 of May 22, 2026, designating and appointing the members of the Management Committee of the Official University of Mweka. The following individuals are hereby designated and appointed :

- Prof. MIEMA BONGO Alphonse : Rector,
- Prof. IMASHAMA BIKOKO Laurent : Academic Secretary General,
- Prof. MUZINGO ZOLAMESO Blaise : Secretary General for Research,
- C.T. BOPE MAMBA Crispin : Administrative Secretary-General and
- NTUMBA NGOLO Esther : Budget Administrator.

The Minister reaffirms her commitment to strengthening the governance of higher education and university institutions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, particularly in the provinces, in order to ensure a stable, high-performing academic environment that is conducive to the education of Congolese youth.

Communications Office/Minister/ESURSI

### ESURSI: Marie-Thérèse SOMBO Invited to the Senate

The Minister of Higher Education, Higher Education, Academic Affairs, Scientific Research, and Innovation, Her Excellency Prof. Dr. Marie-Thérèse Sombo, appeared before the Upper House of Parliament on Monday, May 25, 2026, as part of the process for the Democratic Republic of the Congo's ratification of the UNESCO Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education.

On this occasion, the Minister began by paying respectful tribute to the remarkable work accomplished by the honorable members of the National Assembly, who reviewed and adopted this bill on first reading before forwarding it to this prestigious assembly for consideration on second reading.

This initiative is part of the effort to provide the Democratic Republic of the Congo, through this ratification, with legal instruments tailored to strengthening the national higher education system. It also reflects the Government's commitment to supporting the Head of State's strategic vision of building an effective, inclusive, and equitable education system, with a view to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

Communications Office/Minister/ESURSI

## Activities of the Minister of ESURSI

# Marie-Thérèse SOMBO Opens the First Congress on Congolese Studies in Mbuji-Mayi



H.E. Marie-Thérèse SOMBO, Minister of ESURSI

**T**he Minister of Higher Education, Universities, Scientific Research, and Innovation (ESURSI), Professor Dr. Marie Sombo Ayanne Safi Mukuna, officially opened the very first Congress on Congolese Studies in Mbuji-Mayi on May 27, 2026. In a speech marked by an ambitious vision for the country's future, she called for a renewed approach to knowledge governance, a university system more focused on national development, and a reevaluation of how to adapt the Congolese legal framework to the challenges of the third millennium.

Under the theme "The Congo of the Third Millennium: Historical Consciousness, Governance of Knowledge, and the Nation's Future," this academic conference brings together researchers, academics, public policymakers, and students to discuss key issues related to the future of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

In her speech, the Minister praised the initiative led by the Congolese Academy of Sciences, Congolese universities, the Congolese Institute for Advanced Studies, and the Society

of Congolese Historians. According to her, the chosen theme invites participants to look beyond immediate concerns and reflect on the role of knowledge, collective memory, and institutions in building the Congo of tomorrow.

### Two Major Advances for Higher Education

The head of ESURSI highlighted two events that she considers crucial for the future of higher education and research in the DRC.

The first concerns the Senate's adoption of the bill ratifying the UNESCO Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education. This step forward, she emphasized, will lead to greater international recognition of Congolese degrees and promote academic mobility for students, faculty, and researchers.

The second is the strategic agreement signed between the DRC and the United States on December 4, 2025. According to the Minister, this agreement opens up concrete opportunities for scientific cooperation, particularly through the creation of joint laboratories, academic exchanges, scholarship programs, and dual degree

programs.

### A Call to Rethink the Constitutional Framework

One of the highlights of her speech was her call for a discussion on revising the Constitution to better incorporate issues related to science, research, and higher education.

The Minister noted that the current Constitution does not explicitly recognize the strategic role of knowledge in national development to a sufficient degree. She thus highlighted the need to enshrine in the Constitution principles such as academic freedom, academic mobility, the responsible autonomy of institutions, and sustainable research funding.

In her view, such an approach would not represent a break with the country's history, but rather an adaptation of its institutions to the demands of the Congo in the third millennium.

### A University Dedicated to National Transformation

Addressing the challenges facing the sector,

the Minister outlined a vision centered on three priorities: a more effective university system tailored to national needs, scientific research that directly contributes to the country's development, and modernized university governance.

She emphasized the need to develop skills that meet the needs of strategic sectors such as mining, agriculture, health, and digital technology. In the same vein, she called for research that is better funded, valued, and aligned with national priorities.

The Minister also called for greater transparency and openness in the management of higher education institutions, through enhanced dialogue with students, the private sector, and institutional partners.

#### Align ESURSI with the Head of State's vision

During her speech, Marie Sombo Ayanne Safi Mukuna noted that the reform of ESURSI is one of the key pillars of the vision of the President of the Republic, Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, Grand Chancellor of Universities and Institutions of Higher Education. She cited the promotion of scientific research, the digitization of institutions, the improvement of educational quality, and the strengthening of international scientific cooperation as among the government's priorities.

The Minister also reaffirmed her commitment, under the supervision of Prime Minister Judith Suminwa Tuluka, to translate these guidelines into concrete actions for the benefit of the Congolese higher education system.

#### Making Congress a think tank for the future

Addressing researchers, professors, and students, the Minister urged them to make this first Congress on Congolese Studies a forum for concrete proposals capable of supporting the country's transformation.

In particular, she called on participants to draw upon their expertise, scientific rigor, and patriotism to help foster a strong university system, a sovereign scientific community, and a competitive youth.

Concluding her remarks, she congratulated the Official University of Mbuji-Mayi for hosting this national-scale scientific event and for its efforts to improve its infrastructure.



Professor Pitus Mpiana Tshimankinda, Chairman of the NSC

For the Minister of ESURSI, the challenge is now clear: to transform historical awareness into action, to effectively organize knowledge, and to make science a major driver of development in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

#### Communications Unit/ESURSI

## NSC Activities

### NSC President Visits Switzerland to Establish a Scientific Partnership



From left to right: Professor Pius Mpiana, Professor POTE John, and the Chair of the Department of Environmental Sciences at the University of Geneva

The President of the National Scientific Council (NSC), Professor MPIANA TSHIMANKINDA, made an official visit to Switzerland from May 17 to 25, 2026, as part of efforts to strengthen scientific and academic cooperation between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF).

This mission is part of a broader vision to promote scientific research, innovation, and the development of academic expertise in the DRC. During his visit, Professor MPIANA TSHIMANKINDA met with several SNSF officials to discuss opportunities for partnership in the areas of research, researcher training, funding for scientific projects, and academic exchanges. Discussions focused in particular on the establishment of joint research programs, support for young Congolese scientists, and the development of research laboratories and infrastructure in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The head of the NSC emphasized the importance of this international cooperation for the country's scientific progress. According to him, this partnership will strengthen the capacities of Congolese researchers and further open the NSC and the DRC to international scientific networks. For their part, representatives of the Swiss National Science Foundation expressed their willingness to support scientific initiatives aimed at sustainable development, health, the environment, education, and new technologies.

Discussions focused in particular on the establishment of joint research programs, support for young Congolese scientists, and the development of research laboratories and infrastructure in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

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Professor Pius Mpiana and the delegation from the University of Geneva

scientific progress. According to him, this partnership will strengthen the capacities of Congolese researchers and further open the NSC and the DRC to international scientific networks.

For their part, representatives of the Swiss National Science Foundation expressed their commitment to supporting scientific initiatives focused on sustainable development, health, the environment, education, and new technologies.

This visit marks an important milestone in scientific diplomacy between the CSN, the DRC, and Switzerland and paves the way for lasting collaboration that will benefit research and innovation.

It should be noted that the SNSF's mission is to promote research across all scientific disciplines. Its primary task is to evaluate grant proposals. In close collaboration with universities and other partners, the SNSF is committed to ensuring that scientific research develops and maintains its network on the international stage under the best possible conditions.

Christian MAZONO and Consort BELESI /NSC

### The President of the NSC Attends the First Congress on Congolese Studies in Mbuji-Mayi



The President of the National Scientific Council (NSC), Professor MPIANA TSHIMANKINDA Puis, participated in the very first Congress on Congolese Studies on May 26, 2026, in MBUJ-IMAYI, which was opened by the Minister of Higher Education, Academic Affairs, Scientific Research, and Innovation (ESURSI), Professor Dr. Marie Sombo Ayanne Safi Mukuna.

In his presentation titled "Promoting Congolese Scientific Excellence and Innovation: A Strategic Lever for the DRC's Economic Rise," the head of the NSC called, among other things, for the application of scientific knowledge, investment in science, and research funding. The editorial staff will provide further details in the next issue.

Christian MAZONO and Consort BELESI /NSC

## Echoes of Research Institutions

# The CoE-CBRN Launches a Campaign Against Hazardous Chemical Waste in the DRC

In the face of the alarming rise in environmental pollution in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Center of Excellence for Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Matters (CoE-CBRN) is gradually establishing itself as a key player in the national response. Through Regional Project 111, dedicated to the management of hazardous chemical waste, the institution is launching a structured initiative aimed at strengthening the country's capacity in this critical area.

On April 16 and 17, 2026, in Kinshasa, the CoE-CBRN DRC, with support from the European Union, officially launched an assessment mission aimed at better understanding the national realities regarding chemical waste management, coordinated by Professor Tangou Tabou Thierry, Coordinator and National Focal Point of the Center, and international experts Mr. Taboada Pablo and Mr. Hennebert Pierre. This initiative marks an important step toward more rigorous and secure management of hazardous waste.

Stakeholders united around a shared assessment



Prof. TANGOU, Coordinator of the Coe/CBRN

needs and concerns of field personnel facing major technical, regulatory, and operational challenges.

Field Experience: Between Innovation and Challenges

On the second day, a field visit allowed the delegation to observe existing practices firsthand. Among the organizations visited were Congo Salubrité and Benelux Afro Center. The former is engaged in the collection, processing, and recycling of plastic

Toward More Effective Chemical Waste Management

Beyond the assessment, Project 111 aims to develop a sustainable response. It calls for the implementation of seven areas of action (raising awareness of management and transport, institutional coordination and operational procedures, strengthening technical capacity, strengthening the legal framework for the sustainable management and transport of chemical waste, mitigating risks during the transport of dangerous goods, enhancing traceability, detection and inspection capabilities for hazardous waste streams, and a regional tabletop exercise on the illicit trafficking of hazardous chemical waste), organized into several specialized training modules to strengthen the skills of the relevant stakeholders. The approach adopted by the CoE-CBRN is designed to be inclusive and multidisciplinary, incorporating not only technical aspects but also legal, economic, and communication dimensions. It engages the whole of society, including public institutions, private companies, researchers, and local communities

With the launch of Project 111, the CoE-CBRN is laying the groundwork for a coherent and effective management of hazardous chemical waste in the DRC. This first phase of the project will be followed by the operational implementation of capacity-building activities and training programs.

CoE-CBRN Communications Unit



Group photo of the Coe/CBRN staff

The first day, held in the José Mpanza Room at the Center for Research in the Humanities, brought together several stakeholders: experts from the CoE-CBRN National Team and representatives from companies specializing in waste management. This meeting provided an opportunity to present the project's objectives and to gather the

waste into construction materials, while the latter specializes in the management of waste electrical and electronic equipment. These promising initiatives highlight an urgent need for technical guidance and training, particularly to ensure the safety of workers exposed to potentially hazardous substances.

## Echoes of Research Institutions

# Nuclear Safety in the DRC: The NCPIR Leads a High-Level Training Session in Kinshasa

The National Committee for Protection against Ionizing Radiation (NCPIR) organized a workshop on the baseline threat to the physical protection of nuclear facilities, held May 4–7, 2026, at the Protea Hotel in Kinshasa.

The event concluded on Friday, May 8, with a guided tour of the General Commission for Atomic Energy (AEC), located on the campus of the University of Kinshasa (UNIKIN), which is considered a leading nuclear center in Central Africa. This training was organized with the support of the U.S. Department of Nuclear Security, under the initiative and primary coordination of the National Committee for Protection against Ionizing Radiation (NCPIR). The main objective was to strengthen national capacity in threat assessment, the definition of the baseline threat, and the physical protection of sensitive facilities. Several strategic institutions and agencies participated, including the Congolese National Police, the ANR, the DGM, the FARDC, the National Security Council, as well as delegates from the Ministry of ESU, the AEC, the CEEC, and other relevant organizations. The workshop concluded with the presentation of certificates of participation and a technical visit that helped identify several challenges to be addressed in the area of nuclear security. The NCPIR, led by Full Professor Florimond NYAMOGA KABANDA, expressed its willingness to support the necessary efforts, noting that this initiative represents a significant step forward for nuclear security in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The meeting also saw the involvement of all members of the NCPIR Management Committee, including Vice Chair Professor Odette KABENA NGANDU and Executive Secretary Alfred NGANGURA AMISI.

Théodore Lumu/AIPS



Group photo of the members of the NCPIR Management Committee and the participants

## Professor Florimond NYAMOGA: Rigor and Modernization in the Service of Nuclear Safety in the DRC

Professor Florimond NYAMOGA currently serves as Chair of the National Committee for Protection against Ionizing Radiation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, holding dual doctorates in forensic science and nuclear safety.

As head of this institution, he coordinated several administrative and structural modernization projects, including the construction of the Funa complex, which is directly part of the effort to bring national infrastructure up to standard in accordance with the safety requirements in this field. In terms of internal management, his efforts have focused primarily on strengthening staff skills by organizing specialized training courses abroad for personnel in conjunction with existing technical cooperation programs, as well as on implementing salary adjustment and social support measures



President of the NCPIR, Prof. Florimond NYAMOGA

designed to stabilize the work environment.

The technical expertise and experience he has acquired in governance and the implementation of safety protocols now position him as a sought-after professional capable of addressing the challenges facing the nuclear sector both nationally and across the African continent; his knowledge of the issues and scientific diplomacy is an asset for monitoring and consolidating nuclear safety projects in the region.

Théodore Lumu/AIPS

## Reflections of Our Researchers

# Resurgence of the Bundibugyo strain of Ebola virus disease in the DRC: A continental public health emergency



The Response Team is disinfecting the site

In early May 2026, a new outbreak of Ebola virus disease (EVD) was detected in the provinces of Ituri and North Kivu, in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Given the rate of transmission, the African Union Health Agency (Africa CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) issued an alert regarding the rapid spread of the pathogen, leading to the classification of the situation as a "public health emergency of continental and international concern." To date, preliminary epidemiological data report more than 500 suspected cases and about 100 deaths. The apparent case fatality rate is estimated at approximately 50%, a historically high figure for this specific variant, which complicates modeling efforts to contain the virus.

This health crisis is compounded by a complex and chronic humanitarian situation. North Kivu and Ituri are the scenes of ongoing armed conflicts, leading to massive population displacements and the disruption of public health infrastructure. Recent budget cuts in international humanitarian aid have weakened syndromic and community-based surveillance networks, delaying the reporting of the first cases by several weeks. Furthermore, severe food insecurity affects approximately 25% of the local population, exacerbating communities' immune

and nutritional vulnerability to infection. WHO molecular analyses confirm that this outbreak is caused by the Bundibugyo ebolavirus (BDBV). Unlike the Zaire strain (EBOV), for which the vaccines ERVEBO® and Zabdeno/Mvabea® are licensed, there is currently no validated vaccine or specific antiviral treatment (monoclonal antibodies) for the Bundibugyo strain. This lack of standardized medical countermeasures limits the response to supportive care, strict isolation of cases, and the protocol-based use of vaccine candidates currently in clinical development (Phase I/II trials). The DRC Ministry of Health, supported by the WHO and international partners, has deployed rapid response teams for contact tracing, thermal screening, and molecular diagnostic testing (RT-PCR), and the establishment of Ebola treatment units (ETUs). However, the effectiveness of the response faces structural and anthropological obstacles

- Logistical shortfall: shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE) and cold chains for reagents in isolated areas.

Anthropological factors: the persistence of funeral rites involving direct contact with the bodily fluids of the deceased (which are highly infectious) and community resistance fueled by misinformation.

Risk of cross-border spread: The proximity of trade routes and migration flows poses a high risk of the disease spreading to major urban centers and neighboring countries (Uganda, South Sudan, Rwanda).

Health authorities are reminding the public of the importance of adhering to preventive measures: avoid contact with sick individuals, wash hands regularly, promptly report suspected cases, and follow the instructions of medical teams deployed in the field. Controlling the epidemic relies on intensifying cross-border surveillance, urgently funding clinical research on multivalent or BDBV-specific vaccines, and fostering inclusive community engagement grounded in behavioral science to adapt safe and dignified burial practices.

Dr Jean Luc BALOGIJE SELENJE/CRMD/Bunia  
and Christian MAZONO/NSC

## Reflections of Our Researchers

### When Languages Protect Life: Words, Knowledge, and Biodiversity

**B**iodiversity conservation is not solely the domain of the natural sciences; it also involves the humanities and social sciences, particularly linguistics. Indeed, languages serve as repositories of ecological knowledge accumulated over generations. They encode knowledge about plants, animals, seasonal cycles, agricultural techniques, hunting and fishing practices, as well as systems for the sustainable management of resources.

Local languages convey precise folk taxonomies that make it possible to identify, classify, and interpret living species according to ecological, morphological, or behavioral criteria. These classifications are not merely vernacular equivalents of scientific nomenclatures; they reflect a nuanced understanding of ecosystems. In many African societies, for example, the lexical distinctions between different species of trees or fish correspond to specific medicinal, dietary, or ritual uses. The disappearance of a language therefore leads to the loss of this integrated ecological knowledge. Intergenerational transmission plays a central role in this process. Environmental knowledge is passed down through folktales, proverbs,

songs, initiation stories, and daily practices. This transmission occurs primarily in the mother tongue, which allows for a nuanced and contextualized understanding. When local languages are marginalized in educational systems or in the public sphere, the chain of transmission becomes fragile. A linguistic rupture can thus lead to an ecological rupture by weakening traditional mechanisms for sustainable resource management.

Incorporating local languages into conservation policies offers several advantages. First, it promotes community participation, as people feel a greater sense of ownership of projects when they are presented in their own language. Second, it helps document and highlight indigenous knowledge, which is often overlooked by technocratic approaches. Finally, the use of local languages in environmental awareness campaigns enhances the effectiveness of messages related to the protection of forests, rivers, and wildlife.

In the African context, and particularly in regions with high biodiversity such as the Congo Basin, conservation cannot be separated from linguistic realities. Promoting local languages in education, research, and



Acting Director General of the RCALC, Prof. Nicolas MOMBAYA

public policy indirectly contributes to the preservation of ecosystems.

The protection of biodiversity and that of languages must therefore be viewed as complementary goals. Safeguarding a language also means preserving a unique way of living in and understanding the natural world.

Nicolas MOMBAYA LIWILA/UNIKIS

## At the Time of Innovation

### Technological Innovation in the Mining Sector Presented by Students

**W**ith regard to innovation and technology in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, students from various institutions presented several projects on the theme "Mine Tech: Improving Safety, Traceability, and Management of Mining Activities" during the annual DemoTech competition organized by the Higher Institute of Computer Science, Programming, and Analysis (ISIPA) in the city-province of Kinshasa on May 22, 2026.

Divided into teams, they presented their projects in a clear and simple manner. Frances KALALA, a sophomore at the Protestant University of Congo and a member of the "code breaker03" group, presented the "BONI SAMINE RDC" project, which tracks the movement of minerals in real time from mining sites to export points, while ensuring the safety of workers through a facial recognition system.



"Our technology makes it possible to authenticate all workers present at a mining site. When an intruder not registered in the database is detected, it is immediately flagged," she explained, adding that this innovation could contribute to the mineral transport chain.

In a similar vein, Divina MOKULAYANGA, a sophomore in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at the Faculty of Science and Technology of the University of

Kinshasa (UNIKIN), presented—along with her team—the "TERMINEO" project, a smart platform for monitoring and predicting risks at a mining site. This system is capable of detecting soil moisture to predict and prevent the risks of flooding, rockfalls, erosion, or landslides at a mining site.

She asserts that this innovation could help reduce economic losses as well as loss of life in mining areas prone to natural disasters, despite certain limitations—notably the

internet connection required for the current prototype to function.

Following the teams' presentations, the projects led by "The Seekers" from the University of Kolwezi and the "Dream Team" from ISIPA were singled out by the jury as among the best, covering the following three areas :

- Traceability solutions: digital tools to ensure rigorous tracking of mining operations;
- Operational safety: technologies designed to secure mining sites and optimize field operations ;
- Management and optimization: digital platforms aimed at improving mining

operations' efficiency and supporting the youth entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Maria NANITUMA/NSC

## Read for you

### Corn Production: A Strategic Pillar for Agricultural Industrialization in the DRC



**C**orn plays a central role in the agricultural economy of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It is one of the country's main staple foods and is essential to achieving national food self-sufficiency. Several provinces in the country play a key role in its production, making corn a strategic commodity for economic development.

**Major corn-producing regions in the DRC: Haut-Lomami, the country's agricultural hub**

Haut-Lomami, particularly the Kaniama Kasese center managed by the National Service, has become a veritable public corn granary. Thanks to thousands of hectares cultivated using machinery, the province supplies several regions of the country, notably Kasai and Kinshasa, helping to stabilize prices.

**Greater Katanga: Industrial and Semi-Industrial Production**

- Haut-Katanga: With approximately 39,000 hectares under cultivation and subsidies for producers, the province is a major player in corn production, which is processed locally into flour.
- Lualaba: Rural areas benefit from corporate social responsibility projects carried out by mining companies, which boost agricultural production around

mining basins.

**Central Kongo: The Breadbasket of the West**

Thanks to its fertile soil and favorable climate, Central Kongo provides a significant supply of food to the city of Kinshasa, with high and consistent agricultural yields.

**Greater Kasai: A Growing Production Area**

Kasai, East Kasai, and Central Kasai remain important agricultural regions despite strong local demand. The National Agricultural Development Program (PNDA), supported by the World Bank, is helping to boost smallholder production.

**Kwilu and South Ubangi: Dynamic Agricultural Basins**

- Kwilu: A major agricultural province in the west that plays a key role in supplying Kinshasa.
- South Ubangi: A region with a strong focus on agriculture and livestock farming, where corn plays a dominant role.

**Why Industrialize the Corn Industry?**

The development of the corn industry should not be limited to raw production. It is essential to establish processing industries in the producing provinces in order to create added value locally. These industries would make it

possible to: process corn into flour, semolina, and other food products; reduce post-harvest losses; increase producers' incomes; and create direct and indirect jobs.

**Organization of Storage and Distribution**

It is also necessary to develop: modern storage facilities in various provinces, efficient logistics networks to transport products to urban centers, and transportation infrastructure (roads and agricultural corridors).

This system would ensure a steady supply of corn in major cities such as Kinshasa, as well as in smaller towns, at stable and affordable prices.

**The Role of the Government in Market Regulation**

The government must play a strategic role by setting corn prices, regulating the market, supporting producers and manufacturers, and ensuring a balance between production and consumption. This would help strengthen the country's food self-sufficiency and prevent shortages or price spikes.

**Impact on Employment and Development**

A well-structured corn sector can generate thousands of agricultural jobs, jobs in industrial processing, jobs in transportation and logistics, and economic revitalization in rural areas.

Ultimately, corn represents much more than just a food crop in the DRC: it is a strategic driver for industrialization, food security, and job creation. By combining agricultural production, industrialization, modern storage, road infrastructure, and government regulation, the DRC can build a true agro-industrial system capable of feeding its population and supporting its economic development

ASUKA/NSC from "KINSHASA 24"

## CENTRES ET INSTITUTS DE RECHERCHE DU SECTEUR PUBLIC EN R.D.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: mgrtaricibangu@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: bosom-boependi2@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: 0851817320

### 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

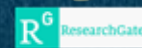


## CONGOLESE REVIEW OF SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGIES

Published by the National Scientific  
Council, Ministry of Scientific Research  
and Technological Innovation  
Democratic Republic of Congo

ISSN (Online): 2959-202X ISSN Print) :2960-2629 DOI: 10.59228/rcst  
[www.csnrdc.net](http://www.csnrdc.net)

Our review is indexed in the following platforms::



### Subscription conditions

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Printed on May 29th 2026



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