

RightsEmpower

Law Firm & Consultancy

RightsEmpower Law Firm OVERVIEW



Quality - Solution - Impact

WHO WE ARE

RightsEmpower is a dynamic and experienced law firm, which has confirmed his footprint in several fields including the environment sector in general, and REDD+ in particular.

We offer a wide range of high quality legal services which are tailored-made to meet and suit the needs of national and international organizations in Africa and around the world. RightsEmpower works with qualified, experienced and passionate lawyers and experts who do achieve without ambiguity its vision.

Established in the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Africa, RightsEmpower works in partnership with development partners, parliaments, government institutions, other law firms, non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations around the world in order to support its clients to achieve their objectives, with technical and practical legal advice in different practice areas.

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We have set ourselves the objectives and missions of:

- promoting the environmental and natural resources legislation;
- defending the rights of local communities in the exploitation of natural resources field;
- ensuring the promotion, monitoring and evaluation of international environmental conventions by developing studies and analyzes of internal and external legal texts on environmental issues.
- fighting against illegal logging; popularizing environmental legislation (forest/REDD+ process, nature conservation, mining, land, etc.);
- carrying out lobbying and advocacy;
- building capacities of institutions and members of organizations in different fields, including the environmental sector.

OUR TEAM

OUR OBJECTIVES AND MISSIONS

Our team is made up with lawyers, experts, consultants and professionals with an extensive experience in the environmental law (forest/REDD+ process, climate change, land tenure, decentralization, nature conservation, etc.) providing technical and strategic advices to diverse range of national, regional and international companies, institutions as well as individuals. In this approach, we mobilize knowledge, methods and strategies to provide technical and creative solutions, adapted to each situation. We work in close collaboration with development partners in different projects in order to provide sustainable solutions to our communities and make positive impacts in the world.

PRACTICE AREAS

RightsEmpower provides a wide range of services. We do provide informed legal and non legal advices in several field activities, including:

- Forest
- REDD+/Climate Change
- Nature conservation
- Mining
- Land
- Governance and Decentralization

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS IN ENVIRONMENT



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

2020 - On going

Review of legal provision promoting Forest and Landscape Restoration and Land Tenure in the Province of South Kivu, Territories of Walungu and Kabare, in the Democratic Republic of Congo (project GCP/DRC/054/GEF)

According to this project, RightsEmpower has produced 5 legal texts on:

- Shifting slash-and-burn on agriculture
- Implementation of the customary land management system
- Model sharecropping contract
- Control of forest and bush fires in the province of South Kivu



2018 - 2018

Central Africa Forest Ecosystems Conservation (CAFEC) program/USAID-CAFEC No: AID-660-A-13-00009/LANDSCAPE 9-MLW-DRC

Main achievements:

- Capacity building of stakeholders in the management of Protected Areas
- Technical support to CoCosi (Site Coordinating Committee)
- Promotion of alternative sustainable livelihood activities
- Lobbying for wildlife Law enforcement
- Inventory of non-timber forest products, flora and fauna
- Production of management and land use plan



WORLD BANK

2015 - 2016

Production of a clarification note on legal nature of carbon credit Emissions according to the Congolese law - DRC

Main achievements:

- Legal basis analysis of selling carbon credit in the DRC
- Determination of the legal nature of carbon credit emissions
- Analysis of land rights of local communities affected by REDD+ projects
- Definition of the legal nature of REDD + projects manual procedure



2014 - 2015

Gender mainstreaming Water (Gaborone-Botswana)

Main achievements:

- Development of capacity building program for the training of trainers
- Identification of collaboration mechanisms of states members
- Definition of the roles and functions of Focal Points



2013 -2014

Legal and institutional framework for the REDD+ implementation in the DRC

Main achievements:

Function 1. Land tenure and natural resources:

- Clarification of land tenure
- Recognition of the land rights of indigenous populations
- Integrating issue of carbon status

Function 2. Land use planning

- Setting guidelines for the planning, allocation and control of use and/or occupation of spaces, along with national land use planning

Function 3. Institutional framework of REDD+

- Strengthening the representativeness and organization of national committee as well as interdepartmental committee
- Strengthening the provincial deployment of REDD +

Function 4. Institutional framework of REDD+

- Provide solid legal basis for REDD + mechanism and principle of participation in the decision-making process related to REDD +
- Define the modalities of participation (information, consultation,...)

Function 5. Revenues sharing from REDD+

- Arrange revenue sharing mechanisms based on the distinction between REDD + initiatives and REDD + projects
- Identify sources of funding for REDD + activities for the public interest of conservation and/or increasing carbon stocks.

Function 6. National social and environmental safeguards

- Analysis the position of DRC Gvt on institutionalization of safeguards



2012 -2013

Raise awareness of BUKAVU local communities on legal instruments related to Forest/REDD+, Nature conservation, Decentralization and Land use (DRC)

Main achievements:

- Elaboration of the training module on the topics above
- Elaboration of methodology approach
- Training of 8 local animators
- Supervision of the sensitization realized by the 8 local animators
- Evaluation and restitution of activities to political/administrative authorities



2012 -2013

Create awareness of KUTU local communities on Climate Change/REDD+ process and Biodiversity Conservation (R-PAN Project) - DRC

Main achievements:

- Sensitization of 120 participants (local communities, traditional and local leaders...)
- Identification of local NGOs



2010 -2011

Gap analysis and production of guidelines for REDD+ related to DRC Law

Main achievements:

- Levy of main provisions from the forest code and its regulatory texts incidental to REDD+
- Collection of the normative texts of Climate Change in DRC
- Analysis of the legal and institutional Climate Change framework in DRC
- Participation to workshops in Vietnam and Thailand

CONTACT

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