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# Which strategies to conserve and restore metallophytes threatened by intensive mining activities in southeastern D.R. Congo?

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## ► Context

Integration of economic activities with environmental integrity: case of mining activities in southeastern Democratic Republic of Congo (Fig. 1).

While pristine habitats are threatened by mining activities, plant communities include numerous endemic species (Fig. 2).

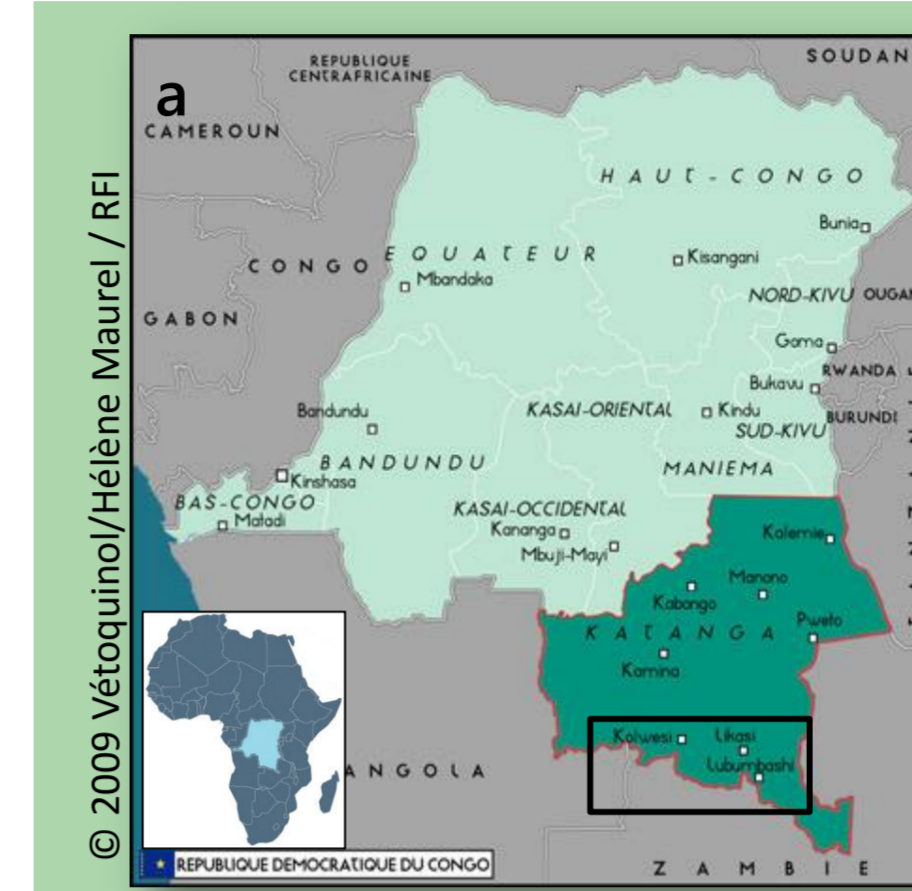


[Cu] 10,000 mg kg<sup>-1</sup>  
[Co] 1,000 mg kg<sup>-1</sup>

Unique plant communities on copper outcrops in South Katanga (D.R.C.)

56 endemic species

**Fig 2.** Due to high available copper and cobalt concentrations in soils, Cu-Co hills present original plant communities with over 600 metallophytes including 56 endemics,



**Fig. 1.** The copperbelt, located in the southeastern D.R. Congo (a), represents one of the largest ore bodies of copper (Cu) and cobalt (Co) in the world. Most Cu-Co outcrops have now been allocated to mining companies and expected to be impacted in the coming years and decades (b).



## ► How do we conserve and restore Cu-Co communities ?

**A** gain information on ecology of plant communities & experience on the restoration of copper vegetation

**B** temporarily store and conserve native copper plant diversity for future re-establishment on post-mining sites

Complementarity of implemented actions :



- Developing of partnership between universities and mining companies
- Improving restoration programs using native plant material
- Delivering appropriate know-how to mining companies



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