

# Why It Matters

## Why Food Security, Forest Protection, and Climate Action Are Urgent in Congo

Across rural Democratic Republic of Congo, smallholder farmers face food insecurity, youth unemployment, and the rapid loss of forests due to unsustainable practices. These challenges are deeply connected — and without integrated solutions, communities and ecosystems will continue to suffer.

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### The Challenge

#### Food Insecurity

Millions of rural families depend on smallholder farming, yet low productivity, poor soils, and limited access to quality seeds and markets leave households trapped in hunger and poverty.

- Low crop yields and climate shocks threaten livelihoods
- Women farmers lack access to resources and training
- Youth see farming as a last resort rather than a dignified future

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#### Forest Loss and Climate Risk

Congo Basin forests are among the world's most important climate and biodiversity assets — yet they are disappearing rapidly.

- Artisanal mining, charcoal production, and agricultural expansion drive deforestation
- Forest loss accelerates climate change and water insecurity
- Communities lose the natural safety net that forests provide

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#### Youth Unemployment and Fragile Livelihoods

With limited economic opportunities, young people are pushed toward destructive activities such as illegal mining and charcoal production.

- Unemployment fuels environmental degradation
- Lack of green jobs weakens community resilience
- Migration and conflict risks increase

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## Why Our Work Matters

Alphome Community Farms addresses these challenges together — not separately — through an integrated, community-led model.

- Climate-smart agriculture increases food production and income
- Community forest monitoring protects forests and biodiversity
- Green jobs empower youth and women
- Sustainable livelihoods reduce pressure on forests

This is how we build climate resilience where it matters most.

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## The Opportunity for Impact

Investing in community-led solutions delivers measurable returns for people, forests, and the climate:

- Food-secure communities with higher incomes
- Protected forests and restored landscapes
- Youth-led green enterprises and leadership
- Long-term climate and biodiversity protection

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**Why it matters:** because feeding communities and defending forests is the most powerful climate solution in Congo.

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## Contact

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