

# Defending Forests for Future Generations

## Community-Led Forest Protection at Alphome Community Farms

Alphome Community Farms (ACF) protects Congo's forests by empowering local communities to monitor, manage, and defend their natural resources. Our forestry program combines **satellite technology, community forest monitoring, and sustainable livelihoods** to stop deforestation driven by artisanal mining, charcoal production, and illegal logging in Haut-Uele and South-Kivu.

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### Why Forests Matter in Haut-Uele

Haut-Uele is home to some of the Democratic Republic of Congo's most important forest landscapes, providing food, water, medicine, and climate regulation for millions of people. Yet these forests are rapidly disappearing due to:

- Artisanal and small-scale mining
- Charcoal production and fuelwood harvesting
- Agricultural expansion into forest areas
- Illegal logging and land grabbing

Protecting forests is not only an environmental priority — it is a **livelihood and climate survival strategy** for our communities.

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### What We Do

#### 1. Community Forest Monitoring (AgriGuard360)

We train and equip local Forest Watchers to detect and respond to deforestation using Global Forest Watch tools: - Satellite-based deforestation alerts (GLAD, RADD) - Forest Watcher mobile application for field verification - Community patrols and data collection - Evidence-based advocacy with authorities and communities

#### 2. Advocacy Against Mining and Charcoal-Driven Deforestation

We work with communities and authorities to address the root causes of forest loss: - Community dialogues on mining and charcoal impacts - Reporting illegal forest activities - Engagement with local government and customary leaders - Youth-led environmental campaigns

#### 3. Forest Restoration & Tree Planting

We restore degraded forest and farmland through community action: - Native tree planting and enrichment - Community nurseries - Riparian and watershed restoration - Agroforestry buffer zones

#### **4. Sustainable Alternatives for Forest-Dependent Communities**

We reduce pressure on forests by creating better livelihoods: - Climate-smart farming and agroforestry - Clean cooking and alternative energy solutions - Green jobs for youth and women - Market access for sustainable products

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### **Our Impact**

- Thousands of hectares monitored using satellite and community data
- Forest Watcher networks established in Watsa and Faradje
- Deforestation alerts verified and reported to authorities
- Communities mobilized to defend their forests
- Forest loss reduced through sustainable livelihood alternatives

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### **How Forestry Links to Farming**

Forestry and farming are inseparable. When farmers succeed, forests are protected. When forests are protected, farms thrive.

Our integrated model links **forest protection with climate-smart agriculture**, ensuring communities can feed their families without destroying their forests.

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### **Join the Forest Protection Movement**

Protecting forests is a collective responsibility.

**Together, we are feeding people and defending forests.**

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### **Contact**

#### **Alphome Community Farms**

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