



CORAP

“COALITION REFORMES ACTION PUBLIQUE”

Coalition des Organisations de la Société Civile pour le Suivi des Réformes et de l'Action Publique
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Open letter to His Excellency Félix Antoine Tshilombo Tshisekedi, President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Regarding: Inga 3, a very risky project for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and its people.

We, the organizations that form the *Coalition des Organisation de la Société Civile pour le Suivi des Réformes et de l'Action Publique*, or CORAP by its initials, which is a platform containing a large number of Congolese Civil Society organizations that have been involved in monitoring the Inga 3 project for years, are hereby submitting our concerns about the implementation of this project.

Your Excellency, our organizations applaud your commitment to develop the electricity sector, with a goal of achieving at least 30% access by 2023. This vision has been expressed in various venues, such as the 1st Electrical Power Forum, held in Matadi from November 20 to 22, 2019.

With respect to the Inga 3 project, Your Excellency, CORAP's member Organizations have noted that much time has passed and the context of the Inga 3 project has changed much. In spite of this fact, the authorities in charge of the project have not shown any positive intentions of taking into account the legitimate grievances of the Congolese people in generally, and specifically those in the local communities that the project would affect, namely Inga, Luwozi, Matadi, and Boma.

Earlier, CORAP had made its support for the project contingent on addressing the concerns of Civil Society with respect to:

1. The population's access to information:

It should be noted that there is no official mechanism for accessing information about the Inga 3 project, which is being implemented by the project management entity. As a result, most leaders of the country's institutions, members of Parliament, and certain government officials have not been informed about the project and its developments, and broad swaths of the population even less so. This has raised the question: *Why is the contract for the world's largest hydropower site being negotiated behind closed doors¹ and who is it benefiting?*

2. The actual involvement of Civil Society and local communities throughout the process:

Civil Society and local communities are stakeholders in the project, but they keep finding themselves left out of the process, because they are absent from all places where the issue of the Inga 3 project is being handled. Previously they had been members of the Inga 3 project's Facilitation Committee, but now they are being completely excluded by those in charge of that process. This practice violates the safeguards policy of the African Development Bank and other provisions of Congolese law.²

¹ http://www.congoenergie.org/images/bibliotheque/GEC_Resource-Matters_Inga-III_FR_final_2-3%20fran.pdf

² Decree #14/019 of August 2, 2014 setting rules for the operation of procedural mechanisms for environmental protection, required of the Agence Congolaise de l'Environnement

3. The carrying out of environmental and social impact studies:

With the support of the African Development Bank, known by its initials AfDB, pre-feasibility studies were conducted and presented to various players in Kinshasa in 2013. However, we currently note that there have been no environmental or social impact studies, even though the law on fundamental environmental principles establishes that the carrying out of environmental and social impact studies is a prerequisite, which involves consulting communities before any agreement is signed with developers to fulfill the project.

4. The compensation of the victims of Inga I and II:

The erection of the Inga I and II dams caused the loss of land by Inga communities, some partially and others totally. The Makuku Futila Clan is one community that lost all of its land and became completely landless. One of the recommendations of the World Commission on Dams states that for dam construction projects in phases, the problems of the previous phase must be resolved before committing to the next one. However, this was not done for the Inga 3 project, because the Congolese government has had trouble implementing a relocation and resettlement plan for over 37.000 people who will be displaced by the construction of this initial phase of Grand Inga.

An inventory of the assets of the communities of five villages at the Inga site was conducted by an NGO called Action pour les Droits, l'Environnement et la Vie (ADEV), which concluded that the impact of the Inga 3 project on the population will be very large, and that it will not provide any solutions for improving the communities' living conditions.

5. The revision of the actual share of energy to be assigned to the Congolese people

Less than 8% of the Congolese people have access to electricity. At the same time, nearly 75% of the energy that the Inga 3 project will produce will be sold to South Africa and to the Katanga mines. Therefore, this project will not significantly increase the population's energy access rate. Another weakness is that it will take nearly 8 to 10 years to consume its first megawatt, during which time the immediate domestic need will continue to increase. Besides the above arguments, Angola has asked for 5000 MW. This background leads us to believe that the population might not be given any piece of the pie being shared between clients considered solvent.

Furthermore, we must take note once again that the Agence pour le Développement et Promotion d'Inga (ADPI-RDC) is yet another agency!

The organizations that belong to CORAP believe that the agency ADPI-RDC assigned to the Presidency of the Republic is contributing to the poor governance of the Inga 3 project. This results from its founding text, Ordinance #18-004 adding new provisions regarding the status, organization, and operation of the *Agence pour le développement et la promotion du projet Grand Inga*, known by its initials ADPI-RDC. That text does not expressly name a body to serve as a forum between stakeholders, as required by that agency's remit.

For your information as President of the Republic, Your Excellency, article indicates that the Chief Executive Officer of ADPI-RDC can consult a certain number of stakeholders³. We note that the stakeholders cited in the ordinance do not include local communities, national elected officials, or other members of the government. This violates the Cotonou Agreement with respect to consulting and involving local communities and Civil Society for a project on such a large scale.

³ Ordinance #18-004 adding new provisions regarding the status, organization, and operation of the *Agence pour le développement et la promotion du projet Grand Inga*,

In reality, we feel that this agency is a tool put in place to maintain opacity surrounding the Inga 3 project, because it is structured in a way that discourages transparency and accountability, as it does not lay out a multi-party framework that collects opinions from each party.

Additionally, it does not seem to us to be up to the tasks assigned to it, because one of its most important missions is the carrying out of environmental and social impact studies beforehand, which has not been done to date. This situation is justified by the fact that the country is still not ready to develop such a large project like Grand Inga starting with Inga 3.

Furthermore, Your Excellency, we have questions about the purpose of the Inga 3 project and its size: 4800 or 11050!

Central to the debate in various venues, including the recent 2019 Africa Investment Forum held in South Africa, in the presence of representatives of the Congolese government, led by the Cabinet Director of the Head of State, representatives of companies which are members of the consortium, representatives of the AfDB, and certain other experts⁴. CORAP's member organizations lament the fact that the Congolese government only discusses the Inga 3 project in places outside the country and is not interested in organizing a public debate for an audience of Congolese actors, particularly local communities, Civil Society, scientists, and other Congolese elites.

To do so, CORAP's member organizations believe that the Inga project is not right at this time, and that the project's problem is not related to its size, but rather to various aspects that give no assurances and are driving Civil Society to request that it urgently be shut down.

The evidence in support of this conclusion, Mr. President, is as follows:

- The lack of environmental and social impact studies;
- The lack of a relocation and resettlement plan for more than 37,000 members of communities who will be displaced from the Inga site;
- The debt, because the Public-Private Partnership in BOT mode does not ensure that the country will save money;
- The opacity surrounding the project (No access to information, no documents in circulation)
- The violation of communities' rights, particularly electricity access as guaranteed by article 48 of the Constitution. Inga will only be able to serve the rest of the world, and the country needs to develop its extended hydropower potential across the country, through micro-dams.

Mr. President, Your Excellency, in light of the foregoing, CORAP's member organizations are hereby asking you **to stop development of the Inga 3 project**, because it poses tremendous risks, namely: To the communities via the displacement of more than 37,000 households and the loss of assets and cultural values; To the country's economy through debt and corruption; To the environment by altering the riverbed, causing the disappearance of some species; To the climate, by producing CO₂ through the breakdown of vegetation flooded by the dams, as well as the stagnation of water in the reservoirs⁵; etc.

On top of that, it is also a poorly planned project. **At the very same time, there are multiple opportunities to boost the development of the electricity sector in the DRC through micro-dams, as the Atlas of renewable energy has shown. Such a**

⁴ <https://congosynthese.com/vital-kamerhe-soumet-les-projets-inga-iii-et-port-en-eaux-profondes-au-forum-investissements-en-afrique/>

⁵ <https://www.partagedeseaux.info/Les-barrages-hydroelectriques-source-de-gaz-a-effet-de-serre>

strategy would benefit the country, because it will support ground-level development and discourage the rural exodus.

In terms of priorities for the development of the electricity sector, CORAP's member organizations believe that:

- The President of the Republic must ensure that a national energy policy and energy plan is drafted;
- The President of the Republic must encourage and motivate the government to finance the development of other forms of renewable energy, such as solar energy, micro-dams, and others, to support the energy mix.
- The President of the Republic must ensure that all initiatives are integrated into an interconnection strategy, in terms of energy pools.

Finally, Mr. President, Your Excellency, we suggest that you organize, at the request of the local Inga communities with the guidance of the NGO ADEV, a meeting with Civil Society organizations involved in the monitoring of the Inga 3 project and the local Inga communities that will be affected by the project, to discuss opinions and considerations.

Thank you, Mr. President, for hearing our appeals.

Kinshasa, November 25, 2019

SIGNATORY ORGANIZATIONS

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1	Danny SINGOMA	Centre National d'Appui au Développement et à la Participation Populaire	CENADEP
2	Raphael OKONDA	Etudes d'Impacts et Normes Environnementales	EIENE
3	Emmanuel MUSUYU	Défense de l'Environnement et Développement Durable	DEDDUR
4	Aimé BAKILA	Cadre pour la Mobilisation Social	CMS
5	Claude EFONGO	Action pour le Développement Intégré du Congo	ADICO
6	Osée MUSAU	Association Communautaire pour le Développement Durable	ACDD
7	Olivier MBANGISA	MRJ/Environnement	MRJ/Env
8	Six BUNGU	CANACU	CANACU
9	Isabelle KAPINGA	Beaux Rêves	BR
10	Madeleine ANDEKA	Action Communautaire pour le Développement Intégral	ACDIC
11	Marie PHOBA	SOS Family SoS Family	
12	André MOLIRO	Hope Land Congo	HLC
13	Chance KYUNGU	Syndicat National des Réformateurs	SYNAR
14	Anne MARIE	La Solidarité Belgique Congo	SOLIDARCO
15	Dani NDOMBELE	Service d'Action au Développement Communautaire	SADEC
16	MASUDI WAKILONGO	Réseau pour la Promotion de la Démocratie et de Droits Economiques et Sociaux	PRODDDES
17	Thomas LELO	Maison de Laïcité de Kinshasa	MLK

18	Nadine KANGAFU	Plateforme des Femmes des Quartiers Populaires	POFEQ
19	Jojo BAKILA	Jeunes Associés pour le Développement Intégral	JADI
20	Jérôme MANSWEKI	Conseil Régional des Organisations Non Gouvernementales de Développement Kinshasa	CRONGD/KIN
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22	Jacques BIBANGA	Coalition Dette Extérieure de la RDC	CDE
23	Maguy MONANA	Joli Parc Attraction	JPA
24	George CHOMACHOMA	Association des Jeunes pour l'Avenir Radieux du Congo	AJARC
25	Jean KEBA	Association Africaine de Défense de Droits de l'Homme	ASADHO
26	Florence MBWITI	Réveil et Dynamique des Femmes à la Base	RDF/Base
27	Ferdinand MAFOLO	Le Centre pour la Promotion Sociale et Communication	CEPROSOC
28	Baudouin SCHOMBE	Centre Africain d'Echanges Culturels	CAFEC
29	Taty MANIANIA	Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement-RDC	JVE
30	Augustin MPOYI	Association Congolaise pour l'Environnement	ACE
31	Crispin KOBOLONGO	Action Contre les Violations des Droits des Personnes Vulnérables	ACVDP
32	Gabrielle PERO	Forum des Jeunes sur les Ressources Naturelle	FJRN
33	Andre MWANGA	Nouvelles Alternatives pour le Développement-UNIKIN	NAD-UNIKIN
34	JR BOWELA	IGED	IGED
35	Apollinaire NSOKA	Initiative pour le Développement Local	IDEL
36	Salome ELOLO	Femmes Solidaire	FESO
37	Kass MUTABA	Organisation Concertée des Écologistes et Amis de la Nature	OCEAN
38	Raymond LUNEKO	Forum Des Jeunes pour les Ressources Naturelle	FJRN
39	Gabrielle PERO	Forum Des Femmes pour la Gouvernance des Ressources Naturelles	FFGRN
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