

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AT RISK IN DRC AFTER RIO+ 20 (ACCESS TO WATER IN THE DRC: A UTOPIA)

In DRC, the situation is less dramatic: In 1995, 48.4% of households in cities in the DRC had sanitary latrines or defined as such (Toilets evacuation in the urban network, in septic tanks and toilets improved ventilation called traditional covered). But in 2001, they were only 27.2. In rural areas the situation is even worse with only 0.5% of households were equipped (to 0.4% in 1995).

These figures also do not account for the deteriorating quality of public infrastructure consolidation. In most cases, these were not regularly maintained, are outdated, unsuited to current living conditions and insufficient. When population pressure was not due to existing infrastructure they are often simply not adapted to current conditions. This is reflected by the unhealthiness which is the newspaper of the majority of the Congolese population.

Access to safe water and sanitation represent a significant economic progress, a gain that can be evaluated between 3 to \$ 34. Every dollar invested in a direct effect between 2 and 4% of GDP.



The combination of these problems related to access to water associated with poor hygiene is responsible for most deaths in children under 5 years (2.2 million dead including 1.5 deaths only for problems of dysentery).

The DRC is little affected by air pollution, with an emission rate of carbon dioxide (CO2) of only 0.05 tons per person in 2002, and a downward trend instead. However the situation could rapidly evolve and take on the appearance of a disaster if nothing is done.

It is also important to note that if the presence of gas from Lake Kivu is a hope of raising the standard of living for local residents, it is a terrible short-term threat. Indeed, in addition to methane, the lake contains carbon dioxide in the deep

strata. Significant pressure maintains these two dissolved gases. But these gases accumulating by the action of fermentation, they will one day soon to saturation. Bubbles will form and then ascend to the surface. In doing so they will cause a mixing of deep waters and other appearances of bubbles of carbon dioxide and methane, and this is the beginning of a chain reaction like that occurring at the opening of a bottle of champagne. Huge quantities of gas ascend to the surface. Methane is lighter than air, will be lost into the atmosphere without other direct damage. Carbon dioxide, however, heavier than air will then flow around the lake, suffocating the surrounding populations. This phenomenon occurred in Cameroon on the night of August 21, 1986 around Lake Nyos

asphyxiating over 1800 people, not including the livestock, over a 30km radius. When you know that Lake Kivu contains over a thousand times more carbon dioxide than Lake Nyos, we realize the magnitude of the disaster that threatens the towns of Goma, Gisenyi, Bukavu, Cyangugu, even Bujumbura. The consequences would be cataclysmic.



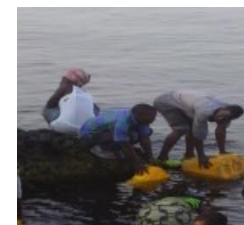
Gomatracian Population, spirit to draw water from Lake Kivu, the product without chlorine

For all these reasons, it is high time that economic actors are in favor of rural ways of living peacefully around the Great Lakes while providing an important part of our independence in energy by the use of methane resources of Lake Kivu.

thus, Through this study, want to involve all stakeholders in sustainable development (public, private, associative ...) of the country and abroad to pool our efforts with a view to effectively accomplish the objectives of millennium in the DRC for the prevention of Congolese ecosystem in peril, by 2015.



Girls, children going daily to draw water from the lake, as impossible to be procured in the tap



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