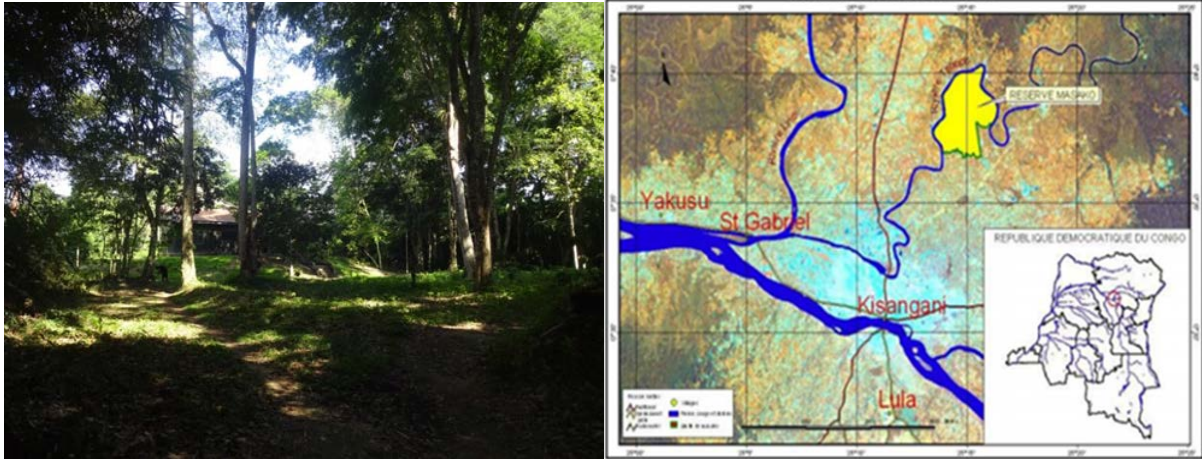


## Project Update: November 2019

We sampled amphibians in the Masako Forest Reserve in April, May and June 2019. It should be recalled that this reserve is currently in the process of being destroyed at a very advanced stage.



Masako Forest Reserve

For this research, the material consisted of amphibian specimens that were captured by the minimally invasive method.

Study area:

The preliminary results of this research showed that 20 amphibian species were sampled in the Masako Forest Reserve after its destruction.

Kazadi (2004) had worked in the same reserve, but before its destruction, had caught 37 species of amphibians. Another recent study between 2008 and 2010 in the same reserve, also before its destruction, indicated 25 amphibian species.

We bitterly note that the specific gap is enormous in 15 years.

We noticed the colonization of anthropophilic and ubiquitous species such as *Hyperolius ocellatus*, *Hyperolius tuberculatus*, *Hyperolius cinnamomeiventris*, *Cryptothylax greshoffii*, *Afixalus quadrivittatus*, *Afixalus osorioi*, *Ptychadena mascareniensis*, *Ptychadena aequiplicata*, *Ptychadena christyi*, *Sclerophrys regularis*, *Sclerophrys maculata*, *Sclerophrys* sp.

In contrast, we noted the absence of some strictly aquatic and essentially forested species such as those belonging to the Pipidae and Arthroleptidae families. This is justified by the lack of trees and the drying up of watercourses in the Masako Reserve.

This research has highlighted the destruction and very advanced degradation of the Masako Forest Reserve. Currently, this reserve has lost almost all of its natural potential, including forest species, carbon dioxide sequestration capacity and biological diversity, particularly amphibians.

The environmental loss in the Masako Forest Reserve is enormous. This is why this reserve is in urgent need of rehabilitation through several means, in particular reforestation, the dissemination of good practices of the surrounding population for its good management, and the training of the local population in the development of revenue-generating activities (RGA).

The Masako Forest Reserve, a biological laboratory near the city of Kisangani and a climate regulator in the city of Kisangani is not to be lost.



From left to right: Remains of a house in the Masako Forest Reserve & Corn and cassava cultivation in the Reserve