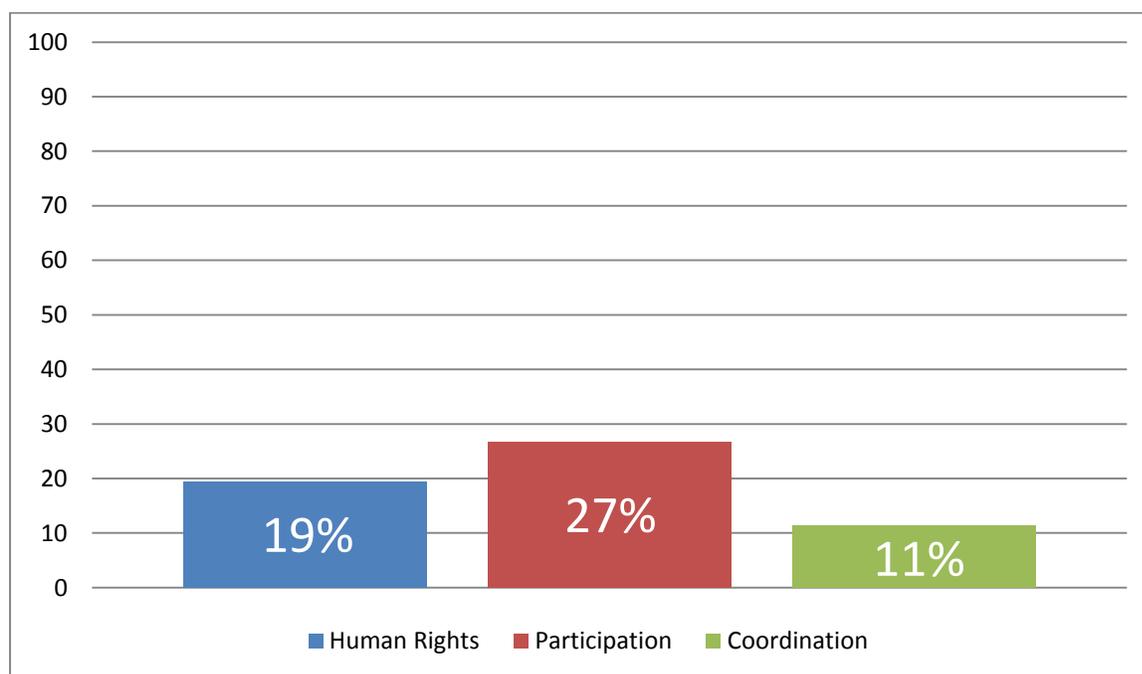


Case Study: The Democratic Republic of Congo

An anomaly with limited but existent participatory rights, but almost no human rights and a non-functional coordination

A scientific analysis evaluating human rights, participation and coordination in the DR Congo using the People Index

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1.1 Human Rights in the Congo

Are all inhabitants respected as free and equal citizens? 8%

The Congolese constitution states: “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.” It continues: “All Congolese are equal before the law and have the right to equal protection by the law.”¹

Though, the reality looks very different. There are continuous human rights violations in the DR Congo, perpetrated by rebel groups, militia and even the Congolese Army.² In ongoing clashes between army and rebel groups, people including civilians are murdered, tortured and raped. Several Congolese

¹ THE CONSTITUTION OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, 2005.

<http://www.parliament.am/library/sahmanadrutyunner/kongo.pdf>, publishing date: 2005, retrieved on: 15.03.16.

² Human Rights Watch: Soldiers Who Rape, Commanders Who Condone.

<http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/drc0709web.pdf>, publishing date: July 2009, retrieved on 15.03.16.

politicians are accused of having violated human rights: Jean-Pierre Bemba, said to own a fortune of several 100 million US-Dollar, is currently in trial at the International Crime Court at The Hague.³ Additionally, there are conflicts between various tribes and ethnicities, sometimes resulting in terrifying massacres. The government, lacking influence in large parts of the country, is mostly unable to prevent violence of such kind.

According to the constitution, women's rights are ensured, but the reality looks totally different: Especially sexual violence towards women is still a serious problem in the Congo, perpetrated by armed groups as well as by the official army. The government is not able to ensure equality of men and women and cannot grant physical security. While prosecution for crimes such as rape is rare, families also pressure victims to remain silent to safeguard the reputations of the victim and her family.⁴ It is common in the DR Congo that men rule the household and take major decisions; there are no official projects to revise this tradition. Furthermore, only 7,2% of all high positions in governmental institutions are occupied by women.⁵

Freedom of religion is granted in the constitution and has never been a reason for violence in recent years. Officially, homosexuality is legal in the DR Congo, but individuals involved in homosexual acts are often subject to prosecution.⁶ UNICEF states that around 25% of children in the DR Congo aged five to fourteen are working.⁷ The postponed elections and the failure of setting up a concrete timetable for the process have since led to various protests throughout the Congo. While opposition marches went peacefully in key cities like Mbandaka, more than 50 people died in clashes between police and protesters in Kinshasa. The use of excessive force by police was condemned by the United Nations.⁸

All in all, not even basic human rights are ensured in the country. Although freedom and equality are guaranteed in the constitution, they are not respected.

Are fair and free procedures common? 10%

The constitution states: "All Congolese are equal before the law and have the right to equal protection by the law." Ironically, large parts of the country are lacking formal institutions and therefore the presence of institutional law. Formal procedures are almost non-existent in rural areas; disputes and

³ Wakabi, Wairagala: Qui est Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo? <http://french.bembatrial.org/contexte-historique-du-proces/qui-est-jean-pierre-bemba-gombo>, publishing date: 2010, retrieved on 15.03.16.

⁴ US Department of State: Democratic Republic of the Congo. <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/160453.pdf>, publishing date: Unknown, retrieved on: 31.03.16.

⁵ Matundu Mbambi, Annie and Faray-Kele, Marie: GENDER INEQUALITY AND SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE D.R.CONGO. http://www.peacewomen.org/assets/file/Resources/NGO/hrinst_genderinequalityinthedrc_wilpf_december2010english.pdf, publishing date: 2010, retrieved on 15.03.16.

⁶ US Department of State: Democratic Republic of the Congo. <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/160453.pdf>, publishing date: Unknown, retrieved on: 31.03.16.

⁷ UNICEF: UNICEF Democratic Republic of Congo. http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/Countries_1749.html, retrieved on 03.04.16.

⁸ Radio Okapi: Violences à Kinshasa: l'ONU dénonce «un usage excessif de la force». <http://www.radiookapi.net/2016/09/29/actualite/societe/violences-kinshasa-lonu-denonce-un-usage-excessif-de-la-force>, published on: 29.09.16, retrieved on: 30.09.16.

crimes are commonly dealt with using tribal law which sometimes is excessively brutal.^{9,10} Likewise, big cities are dominated by informal procedures, limiting the use of formal procedures. In a system with hardly any formal rules or structures, bribery is very common. Local traders are forced to pay informal taxes to higher positioned officials; police condone infractions if they are paid in exchange.¹¹

The Doing Business Index ranks the Congo 184 out of 189; the Corruption Perception Index 147 out of 168. Congolese politics and economy are shaped by extreme corruption, misuse and incompetence. Massive amounts of money are misappropriated, an analysis of several mining contracts revealed that not a single one of them was advantageous for the state.¹² The government makes use of excessive force through police and army against protests. In January 2015, during protests against a proposed change in the constitution, several people were shot dead and some disappeared after having been arrested by police.¹³ In all prisons in the country, no food is provided and imprisoned people are dependent on supplies by relatives, resulting in some prisoners starving to death.¹⁴ City slums as well as remote parts of the country are often threatened if not even dominated by criminal organizations, mostly consisting of young people without any prospects.¹⁵ In August 2016, facing protests against the delayed elections, the government dismissed the senior Human Rights Watch researcher for the DR Congo.¹⁶

Various national and international human rights organizations are investigating in the DR Congo. However, there are reports that state security harassed, intimidated and even detained NGO workers.¹⁷ Fair and free procedures are not very common in the DR Congo. Informal procedures and legal uncertainty shape the country.

Are all international borders respected? 40%

The Democratic Republic of Congo borders nine countries. During the Congo wars, Rwandan and Ugandan troops were deployed in the Congo, but FARDC contingents did not violate border policies. In 2013, when fighting against rebels backed by Rwanda, Congolese forces were accused of having fired rockets into Rwandan territory.¹⁸ Furthermore, there are several disputes regarding the border between Angola and the DR Congo: Angolan forces occupied villages in the Congolese Kwango province, and the

⁹ Zongwe, Dunia, Butedi, François and Phebe, Clement: The Legal System and Research of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC): An Overview. http://www.nyulawglobal.org/globalex/Democratic_Republic_Congo.html, publishing date: 2015, retrieved on: 15.03.16.

¹⁰ Van Reybrouck, David: Kongo. Berlin 2013, p. 598.

¹¹ Van Reybrouck, David: Kongo. Berlin 2013, p. 572.

¹² Van Reybrouck, David: Kongo. Berlin 2013, p. 601.

¹³ Smith, David: Grief and anger in Congo follow violent protests against Joseph Kabila. <http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2015/jan/26/democratic-republic-congo-protests-joseph-kabila>, publishing date: 26.01.15, retrieved on: 15.03.16.

¹⁴ Van Reybrouck, David: Kongo. Berlin 2013, p. 547.

¹⁵ Johnson, Dominic: Kongo - Kriege, Korruption und die Kunst des Überlebens. Frankfurt am Main 2014, p. 184.

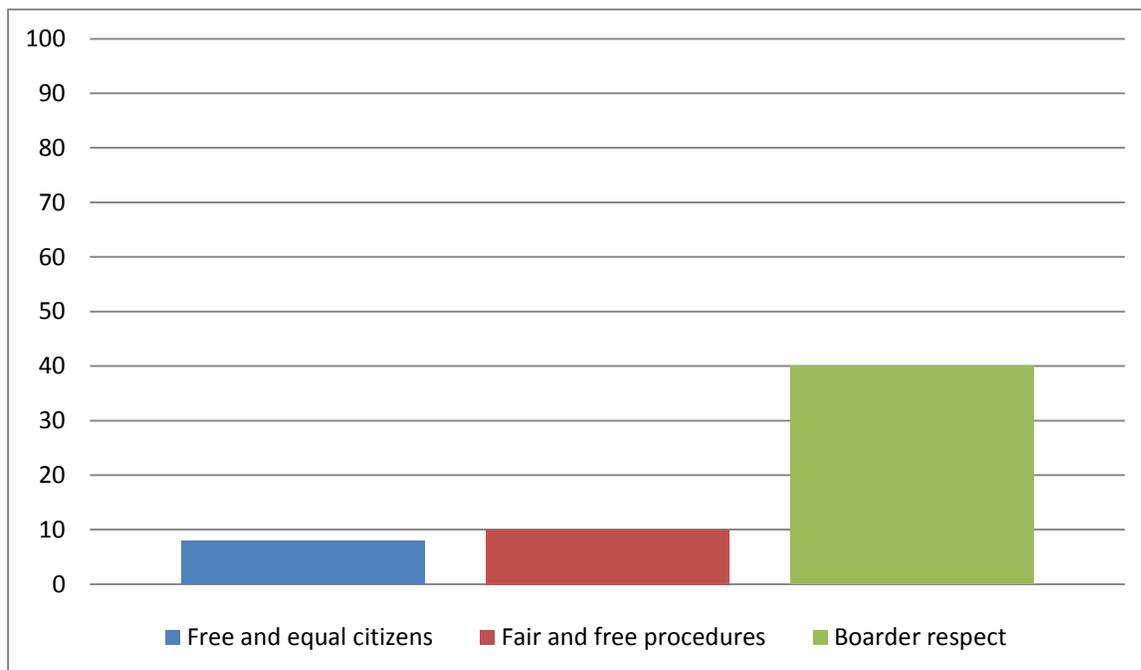
¹⁶ Stearns, Jason: On Ida Sawyer's Departue. <http://congoreserchgroup.org/on-ida-sawyers-departue/>, publishing date: 10.08.16, retrieved on: 30.09.2016

¹⁷ US Department of State: Democratic Republic of the Congo. <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/160453.pdf>, publishing date: Unknown, retrieved on: 31.03.16.

¹⁸ No author (BBC): DR Congo unrest: Rwanda condemns 'bombing'. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-23882094>, publishing date: 29.08.13, retrieved on: 15.03.16.

maritime border between the two countries is disputed.¹⁹ Congolese authorities are currently not involved in any conflict that is not located within the Congo's territory.

While borders are not violated by official authorities, the government cannot control nor protect the full extent of its borders. That causes uncontrollable movements, smuggling and tax evasion: In 1999, Rwanda exported gold worth 29 million US-Dollar although the country itself does not have any gold resources. Additionally, almost 20% of all diamond exports of the DR Congo are thought to be traded via Rwanda or Uganda.²⁰ This causes the DR Congo to miss out immense revenues through mineral trading and tax receipts. Furthermore, armed groups such as LRA and ADF are benefitting from the accessibility of the DR Congo when seeking shelter to avoid prosecution in Uganda or the Central African Republic.²¹



¹⁹ Misser, François: DRC and Angola's Borders and barrels. <http://www.theafricareport.com/Central-Africa/drc-and-angolas-borders-and-barrels.html>, publishing date: 04.07.14, retrieved on: 15.03.16.

²⁰ André, Catherine und Marysse, Stefan: GUERRE ET PILLAGE ECONOMIQUE EN REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO. <http://www.ucsia.org/objs/iob/gralac/2000/Annuaire%20MarysseAndrePILLAGE%20ECONOMIQUE.pdf>, published in: 2001, retrieved on 17.04.16.

²¹ Mugabi, Frank: LRA's Otti flees Congolese army. http://www.newvision.co.ug/new_vision/news/1115674/lra-ott-flees-congolese-army, publishing date: 05.10.05, retrieved on: 17.04.16.

1.2 The Congo – a participative State?

May the people elect and recall their government? 35%

Theoretically, Congolese people are allowed to elect and recall their government. After the Congo wars, the United Nations set up a transitional government until presidential elections could be held in 2006. Before that, the parliament passed the constitution. Since there was no absolute majority for any of the candidates, a run-off between Joseph Kabila and Jean-Pierre Bemba was necessary. Eventually, Joseph Kabila won the elections. Originally, the constitution stated: “The President of the Republic is elected by an absolute majority of the votes cast.” But shortly before the 2011 elections, the president revised this law, thus making himself able to win the 2011 elections with only a relative majority.²² One day after the elections while waiting for the results, the government drew 20.000 security forces together in the capital, Kinshasa. Officially, Kabila won the elections with 49%, followed by Étienne Tshisekedi with 32%. But when the results were finally published, election observers expressed doubts about the numbers: The results of each electoral office were not publicly accessible, only the results of each constituency. But there, 3.268 of the electoral offices were missing, representing more than one million votes. Most of the missing offices were located in opposition dominated territory.²³ Furthermore, in some constituencies Kabila got straight 100%, in one extreme case even with a turnout of 100,17%.²⁴

The constitution continues: “The President of the Republic is elected by direct universal suffrage for a term of five years which is renewable only once.” That means that Kabila would have to leave office in 2016. Though, there are signs that he is not planning to do so. In January 2015, the parliament tried to modify the constitution once more – allowing Kabila to stay in office. These plans were opposed by massive protests in which at least 38 people were killed, but eventually made the parliament drop the idea.²⁵ In July 2015, the government carried out a comprehensive provincial reform. This completely redefined political and economic structures and furthermore requires a whole new registration of every person eligible to vote. In a country like the Congo, it is unclear how long such a process will take and the government already announced that the elections will be delayed by two to four years.²⁶ In late 2016, a “dialogue” was set up to discuss the election process with opposition members, but has so far not produced any constructive outcomes.²⁷

Although the DR Congo is theoretically built on an exemplary democracy, the country is characterized by uncertain elections and questionable decisions.

²² Report of the United Nations Joint Human Right Office on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms during the pre-electoral period in the DR Congo, 2011, p.7.

(http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/CD/UNJHRO_HRElectionsReport_en.pdf, retrieved on 16.03.16)

²³ Johnson, Dominic: Kongo - Kriege, Korruption und die Kunst des Überlebens. Frankfurt am Main 2014, p. 213.

²⁴ Johnson, Dominic: Kongo - Kriege, Korruption und die Kunst des Überlebens. Frankfurt am Main 2014, p. 214.

²⁵ Roth, Ken and Sawyer, Ida: Joseph Kabila Forever. <http://foreignpolicy.com/2015/07/28/joseph-kabila-forever-congo-president-extend-term/>, publishing date: 28.07.15, retrieved on: 16.03.16.

²⁶ International Business Times: DRC: Elections delayed by up to four years is 'troubling but not surprising'. <http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/drc-elections-delayed-by-four-years-troubling-not-surprising-1526669>, publishing date: 01.11.15, retrieved on: 17.03.16.

²⁷ Radio Okapi: Vital Kamerhe: «L'actuel président ne sera pas candidat à sa propre succession». <http://www.radiookapi.net/2016/09/23/actualite/politique/vital-kamerhe-lactuel-president-ne-sera-pas-candidat-sa-propre>, published on: 23.09.16, retrieved on 30.09.16.

May the people participate in current decision-making? 5%

In the constitution of the DR Congo, there are no elements of direct democracy. Except from some symbolic referenda in Zaïre, there has been only one plebiscite since 1973 on the national level: Initiated by the United Nations, the Congo successfully voted on the new constitution in 2005. The provinces of the Congo are ruled by Kabila-loyal governors, there are no regional elements of direct democracy. The freedom of opinion and expression is limited. In the 2014 Press Freedom Index, the country ranks 151 out of 183. Some journalists are directly paid by the politicians they write about.²⁸ Critical journalists are persecuted and in extreme cases even murdered.²⁹ Internet access in the DR Congo is limited to the key cities, although the major parties are represented online.

Still, some voices say that even the democratic institutions do not have much power within the state but are rather weakly and inefficiently structured. David Van Reybrouck, an author who spent several years in the Congo, writes that “political decisions [in the Congo] are taken somewhere else, which is in the immediate surroundings of the president. The true power in the third republic does not lie in the democratic institutions, but within a few confidants of the president, including his mother and sister.”³⁰

The average Congolese cannot participate in decision-making.

How representative are the people’s representations? 40%

Electioneering in the Congo is rather free and fair, compared to other African states. The presidential candidates usually travel across the country to promote their ideas. Nevertheless, they limit their campaigns to the big cities which means that the rural population will only rarely get a chance to see a candidate.³¹ Furthermore, tribalism is still a significant issue in the DR Congo: Presidential candidates generally tend to receive most votes from the region of their origin. In 2011, Joseph Kabila, who was born in the eastern part of the country also got most of the votes from the eastern provinces. Étienne Tshisekedi, originating from the Luba tribe of the Kasai region, usually wins the most votes within the Kasai area.³² This results in an imbalance since there is only a part of the people represented by one candidate. Additionally, candidates who cannot identify themselves with an ethnicity are hardly voted at all.

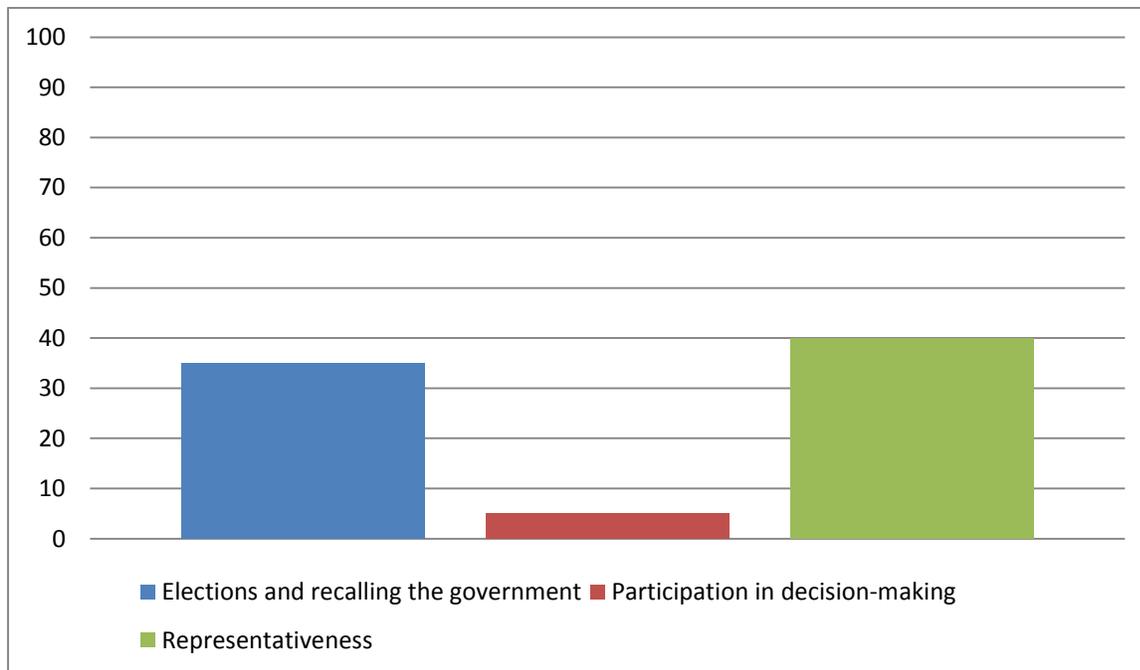
²⁸ Van Reybrouck, David: Kongo. Berlin 2013, p. 573.

²⁹ Johnson, Dominic: Weitere Suspendierung nach Mord. <http://www.taz.de/!53945>, Stand 13.06.10, abgerufen am 30.10.14.

³⁰ Van Reybrouck, David: Kongo. Berlin 2013, p. 599.

³¹ Johnson, Dominic: Kongo - Kriege, Korruption und die Kunst des Überlebens. Frankfurt am Main 2014, p. 212.

³² The Carter Center: Presidential and Legislative Elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Atlanta 2011, p. 59.



1.3 Crime and corruption – what is the state able to give?

Is there guaranteed peace? 10%

Since its independence, the Congo has been shaped by extreme violence. During the Congo Wars (1997 – 2003), life was not worth anything. Even after the wars, violence still continued.

Over many years, the eastern Congo was place of the conflict between the tribes of Hutu and Tutsi, originating in the Rwandan Genocide in 1994. Incessant violence also caused the remaining tribes in the area to organize militarily, resulting in the civilian population being subject to assaults from all sides. The actual influence and presence of these so called “rebel groups” varies: Large movements such as AFDL or RCD temporarily controlled over half of the country, while the Mai-Mai militias³³ focus on controlling smaller mining areas. Trading minerals, but also local taxes and pillage are the main sources of income of rebel groups.³⁴ Also the Congolese army, FARDC, is accused of having committed crimes such as rape and pillage.³⁵ Nearly all of the rebel groups are opposed to the government, but also towards each other. Corrupt commanders of the Congolese army are accused to cooperate with rebel groups to have a share in the immense revenues of illegal mineral trading.³⁶ While the main conflict between Hutu and Tutsi has subsided significantly, the countless clashes between various tribes remain, often resulting in extreme violence. With the destruction of the rebel movement M23 in 2013, only one major rebel group remains in the Congo, the FDLR.

³³ Mai-Mai militias are so called “self-defense militias” of local tribes

³⁴ Pasternak, Ian: Der Konflikt im Ostkongo – Eine Auseinandersetzung zwischen verschiedenen afrikanischen Stämmen? Berlin 2015, p. 26.

³⁵ Human Rights Watch: Soldiers Who Rape, Commanders Who Condone.

<http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/drc0709web.pdf>, publishing date: July 2009, retrieved on 15.03.16.

³⁶ Final report of the UN-Committee. 2007, p.11 (<http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/DRC%20S%202008%2043.pdf>, retrieved on: 25.03.16)

The government is lacking influence in many remote parts of the country, especially in the conflict-marked east. Compared to the extreme violence in the east, the situation in the western parts of the DR Congo is stable. Still, there are reports of police and security forces being involved in assaulting villages in Équateur province to break resistance against large-scale logging by foreign companies.³⁷ While the government is not always directly responsible for violation of human rights, it is completely unable to prevent violence of such kind. The overcrowded slums of major cities are often ruled by gangs who do not shy away from violence.

Because of the lack of official structures and employers, ethnic organization remains the safest and most reliable form of organization in the DR Congo. Various threats continue to cause the population to organize militarily, therefore preventing any longer periods of peace.

Is the public infrastructure sufficiently fostered? 5%

The infrastructure of the DR Congo is generally in a very poor state. The Mobutu regime was neither able nor willing to maintain key infrastructure built by the Belgians such as paved roads, railways or airports. At the very latest after the two Congo wars, the infrastructure was almost completely destroyed or unusable. In 2012, there were only 2.795km of paved roads across the country – most of them in or close to the capital.³⁸ Roads connecting key cities are mostly just a dirt path with numerous holes, making it impossible to drive on for normal vehicles. Apart from a few old European all-wheel-drive trucks, transport is normally carried out by either plane or boat. Due to the lack of roads, there are around 800 airstrips in the DR Congo, most of them only consisting of a grass runway making it dangerous to operate on them. While the runways of some major airports have just been renewed, the Congolese national airline just stopped flying to the country's 3rd largest city because of the very poor condition of the runway surface.³⁹ The DR Congo has one of the worst aviation safety records worldwide.⁴⁰

There are some river sections which are frequently served by boats, the most important being on the river Congo between Kinshasa and Kisangani. Though, the journey by boat usually takes up 40 days and holds many dangers. The boats are in a very poor shape and there have been severe accidents.⁴¹ The railway system of the Congo still uses the infrastructure from colonial times. Some portions are abandoned, and on the few active tracks trains drive very irregularly. Recently there have been sino-congolese deals exchanging mining rights against refurbished infrastructure. But apart from new buildings in the capital and some asphalt roads in mining areas there has not been much implemented yet.

³⁷ Greenpeace: Stolen future. <http://ic.fsc.org/download.greenpeace-report-stolen-future.1675.htm>, publishing date: 2011, retrieved on: 03.04.16.

³⁸ World Food Programme: DR Congo road network. <http://dlca.logcluster.org/display/public/DLCA/2.3+Democratic+Republic+of+Congo+Road+Network>, retrieved on 12.03.16.

³⁹ Radio Okapi: Congo Airways suspend ses vols à destination de Mbuji-Mayi. <http://www.radiookapi.net/2015/12/09/actualite/societe/congo-airways-suspend-ses-vols-destination-de-mbuji-mayi>, publishing date: 09.12.15, retrieved on 18.03.16.

⁴⁰ Aviation Safety Network. https://aviation-safety.net/statistics/geographical/worst_geo_loc.php, retrieved on 18.03.16.

⁴¹ BBC: DR Congo boat sinking 'kills 140'. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-10807021>, publishing date: 29.07.10, retrieved on 19.03.16.

Large parts of the country do not have access to water and electricity. However, the country has big potential for hydropower: Currently, the hydroelectric Inga dams are providing electricity for the capital city. Originally, they were financed by US development aid and built in the 1970s together with the Inga-Shaba power line. This gigantic project delivered electricity from the Congo River to mining areas in the south. As of 2011, the dams as well as the 1700km-long power line are not completely functional anymore due to poor maintenance.⁴²

Is the economy well-coordinated? 5%

The DR Congo is one of the world's most fertile countries and holds various valuable minerals, such as coltan. Still, the country is also one of the poorest worldwide.

Because of mismanagement, misuse and corruption the financial system of the Zaïre totally collapsed in 1993. Wages in the public sector were not paid anymore and financial stability of formal institutions broke down completely. Also important economic businesses, like the state-owned mining company Gécamines, were incapacitated. The Congo wars aggravated this situation and eventually caused almost the whole public sector to move into informal procedures. Until today, there are almost no official salaries. Incomes of the education sector were suspended from 1993 to 2007. Then, the government announced to start paying wages again. But massive distrust in the government's pledge to pay led to protests, eventually rejecting the planned salary system and keeping the informal counterpart.⁴³

Mining and mineral-trading is the Congo's major source of income. Its contribution to the economy marked about 97% in 2016, making the country extremely vulnerable to commodity price shocks.⁴⁴ Almost 50% of foreign direct investments go to the mining sector, on the one hand leading to ongoing development, but on the other hand neglecting large parts of the country that do not hold opportunities for mining.⁴⁵ Most of the mines are either controlled by artisanal miners or foreign mining companies. The mining agreements, for the most part entered during or even before the Congo Wars, are usually not profitable for the country but only for specific people. Therefore, in 2007 the government announced the review of 60 mining contracts and to renegotiate them. Still, some voices described the contract renegotiation as "nothing more than a ruse by members of the government to transfer mineral riches from the pockets of foreign mining companies to the pockets of well-connected businessmen in Kabila's government."⁴⁶

Next to minerals, agricultural products form an important part of the DR Congo's exports. Although about two thirds of the population is working in the primary sector, the country is dependent on food imports: High production costs and the lack of options for cheap domestic transport make imports more

⁴² International hydropower association and personal information from satellite images and trip reports.

⁴³ Johnson, Dominic: Kongo - Kriege, Korruption und die Kunst des Überlebens. Frankfurt am Main 2014, p. 183.

⁴⁴ Pinto-Moreira, Emmanuel: Managing Resource Windfalls: Exploring Policy Options for the DRC. Worldbank 2016, p. 3.

⁴⁵ Pinto-Moreira, Emmanuel: Managing Resource Windfalls: Exploring Policy Options for the DRC. Worldbank 2016, p. 4.

⁴⁶ Ernst, Aaron: D.R. Congo Reviews Mining Contracts Signed.

<https://www.globalpolicy.org/component/content/article/181/33674.html>, publishing date: 08.05.08, retrieved on: 23.03.16.

attractive than local food, causing the local agricultural sector to focus on either substantial economy or exports. Furthermore, cheap textile imports prostrated the local textile production.⁴⁷

In 1960, the DR Congo had a GDP per capita of 220 US-Dollar, ranking 60th out of 108 countries, far ahead of for example China and Thailand. Corrupt politicians, debts, armed conflicts and dubious contracts leave the country with only 405 US-Dollar in 2015, ranking 181st out of 188 countries.

How equally are the incomes distributed? 5%

In the DR Congo there are almost no official incomes at all; there are no wages or pensions paid by the government or any other official institution. The only exceptions are high government positions or military staff, such as Kabila's presidential guard.

Therefore, inequality is a serious problem: While about 98% of the population lives in extreme poverty, some families, clans and warlords have immense fortunes. President Joseph Kabila himself is said to own at least 100 million US-Dollar.⁴⁸ In rural areas of the Kwilu province, the income per year per person amounted to only 20 US-Dollar.⁴⁹ This is still far below the international definition of absolute poverty which is set at 365 US-Dollar per year per person. The Gini-coefficient of the DR Congo is 44.4.

The country is shaped by extreme corruption. Bribery is common and political power is misused excessively: The parliament granted itself salary increases, several cars and new houses.⁵⁰

Is health effectively protected? 5%

Since shortly after the DR Congo's independence, there has been almost no health system at all. Large parts of the population do not have any access to healthcare.

In 2006, the government published alarming statistics: 82% of the population cannot access healthcare and 79% of the population has too little to eat. In Kinshasa, 11% of the population is suffering from severe malnutrition; this is as much as in the war-shaped province of South-Kivu.⁵¹ Especially the situation of children is severe: UNICEF states that one of seven children dies before reaching the age of five while almost half of these deaths are caused by malnutrition.⁵² Vaccination rates for even the most common diseases are lower than 50% and 1,3% of the mothers die in childbirth. Life expectancy in the DR Congo is only 44 years.

Various diseases are widespread. The majority of deaths are not directly caused by war, but by diseases occurring in areas previously destroyed by fighting. Malaria, diarrhea and respiratory diseases are the

⁴⁷ Johnson, Dominic: Kongo - Kriege, Korruption und die Kunst des Überlebens. Frankfurt am Main 2014, p. 185.

⁴⁸ Titz, Christoph: Schwerreiche Regenten: Afrikas Raubkönige. <http://www.spiegel.de/politik/ausland/afrika-die-reichsten-herrscher-des-kontinents-a-1077688.html>, publishing date: 22.02.16, retrieved on: 15.03.16.

⁴⁹ Johnson, Dominic: Kongo - Kriege, Korruption und die Kunst des Überlebens. Frankfurt am Main 2014, p. 181.

⁵⁰ Van Reybrouck, David: Kongo. Berlin 2013, p. 552.

⁵¹ Johnson, Dominic: Kongo - Kriege, Korruption und die Kunst des Überlebens. Frankfurt am Main 2014, p. 181.

⁵² UNICEF: UNICEF Democratic Republic of Congo. http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/Countries_1749.html, retrieved on 03.04.16.

most common reasons for death in the DR Congo.⁵³ Per year, about 30.000 people get infected with Cholera.⁵⁴

Hospitals are only found in key cities and are usually overcrowded and poorly equipped. In 2007, the second largest hospital of the country located in Lubumbashi was running without water for around four years. Also the hygienic standards are extremely poor: Toilets were neither working nor emptied manually, causing the bathrooms to fill with excreta.⁵⁵ Healthcare in rural areas is – if even existent – usually organized through NGOs or other projects since the government fails to establish health centers.

Health in the DR Congo is almost not protected at all; hunger and disease shape the country.

Are qualification and education, research and development well managed? 20%

The educational system of the DR Congo is in a very poor state. There is a great disparity between rural areas and cities. Still, there are many schools, but often lacking equipment and qualified teachers.

Education outside of Kinshasa or Lubumbashi is built on informal procedures. That means that there are no official wages for the teachers. The teachers are directly paid by the parents, although the constitution states: “Primary education is compulsory and free in the public establishments.”⁵⁶

Government statistics revealed that 76% of the population is unable to send their children to a school, but at the same time state that in 2010 75% of the children were attending primary school, compared to only 50% in 2001.⁵⁷ Still, the literacy rate only increased by 1% between 2001 and 2007 – showing alarming differences between men and women: Looking at men, the rate increased by almost 5% while it decreased by 2% when looking at women.

The DR Congo has universities in all key cities. The most popular among them is the University of Kinshasa: Several faculties host around 26.000 students; the university has a professionally-made web presence including an e-campus system.⁵⁸

Ecological and financial sustainability - 30%

Due to its poor infrastructure and economy, the DR Congo’s CO₂-emissions are among the lowest of the world. Electricity is, if available, almost completely won through hydropower. Hydropower is a very green way of winning energy; in the DR Congo there are three hydroelectric power stations and several

⁵³ IRC: Mortality in the Democratic Republic of Congo. http://www.rescue.org/sites/default/files/resource-file/2006-7_congoMortalitySurvey.pdf, publishing date: 2006, retrieved on 24.03.16.

⁵⁴ Johnson, Dominic: Kongo - Kriege, Korruption und die Kunst des Überlebens. Frankfurt am Main 2014, p. 180.

⁵⁵ Van Reybrouck, David: Kongo. Berlin 2013, p. 597.

⁵⁶ Johnson, Dominic: Kongo - Kriege, Korruption und die Kunst des Überlebens. Frankfurt am Main 2014, p. 183.

⁵⁷ Document de stratégie de réduction de la pauvreté, 2011, p.31.

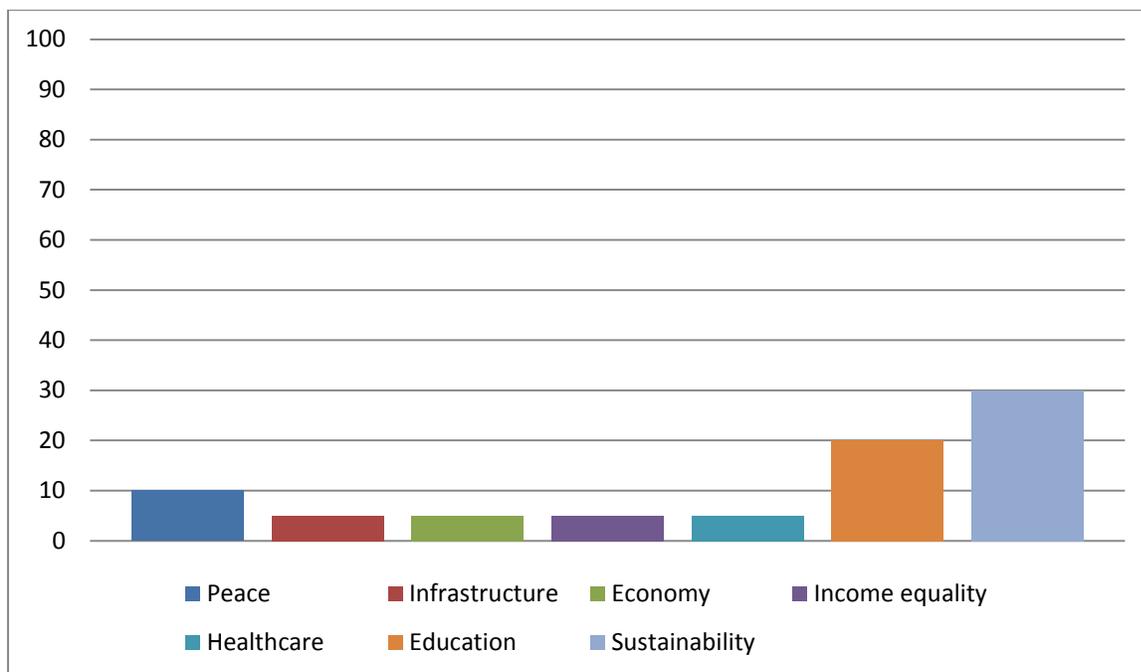
(http://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Project-and-Operations/RDC_-_2011-2015_-_Document_de_strat%C3%A9gie_de_r%C3%A9duction_de_la_pauvret%C3%A9.pdf, retrieved on 09.04.16)

⁵⁸ <http://www.unikin.cd/>

plans for expansion or new constructions.⁵⁹ In areas where no electricity is provided, people who can afford use diesel generators to generate electricity. Most of the vehicles and factories use technology from years ago, therefore increasing the CO₂-emissions.

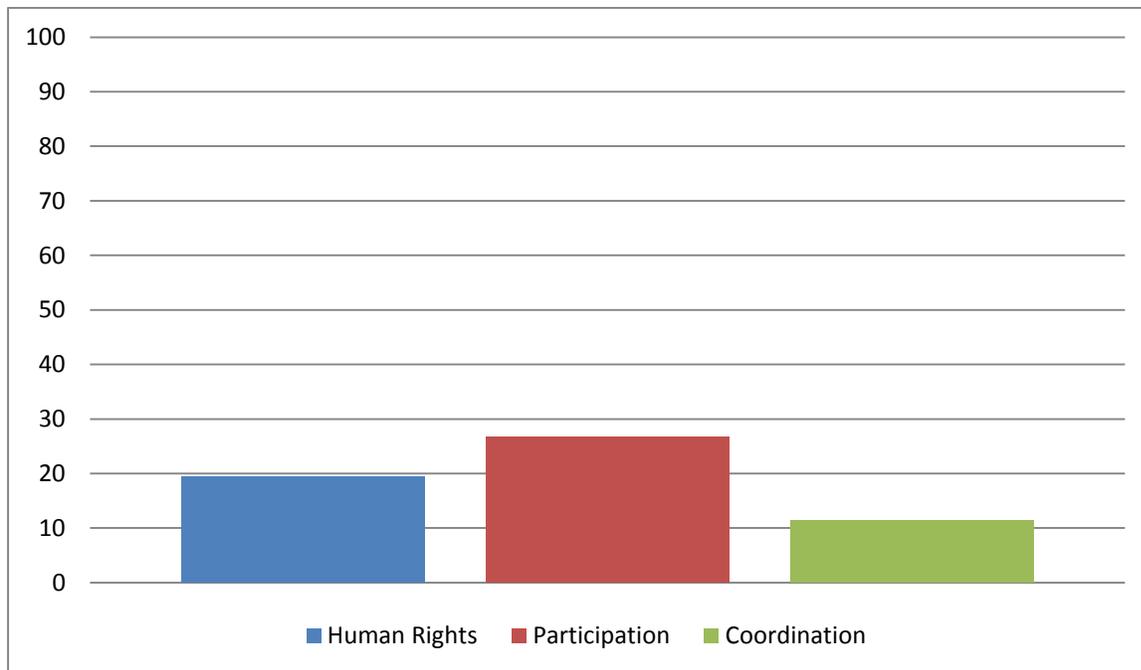
Another ecological issue in the DR Congo is deforestation. The country is home of the largest rainforest of Africa. The United Nations list logging of high-value timber, charcoal production and clearance for agricultural cultivation as the main issues for deforestation. Theoretically, the Congolese government manages and restricts the logging, but in fact it has no influence in rural areas and cannot prevent illegal logging.⁶⁰

The World Bank is predicting a slight increase of the GDP; however the DR Congo is characterized by unstable politics and economics. Additionally, the World Bank estimates the DR Congo's total debt to more than 6 billion US-Dollar. Upcoming elections could stabilize the economy as well as increase the instability across the country.



⁵⁹ Radio Okapi: La fin des travaux de construction de la centrale de Kakobola annoncée pour fin mars. <http://www.radiookapi.net/2016/03/14/actualite/societe/la-fin-des-travaux-de-construction-de-la-centrale-de-kakobola-annoncee>, published on: 14.03.16, retrieved on: 07.04.16.

⁶⁰ UNEP: Post-Conflict Environmental Assessment - Synthesis for Policy Makers, 2011, p. 29. (http://postconflict.unep.ch/publications/UNEP_DRC_PCEA_EN.pdf, retrieved on: 08.04.16)



2. Conclusion

2.1 Evaluation of the results

The Democratic Republic of Congo ranks among the lowest in the Human Development Index; the human development is categorized as “low”.⁶¹ The outcomes of this analysis confirm this result. Since its independence, the DR Congo has been shaped by dictatorship, corruption and war. In none of these periods, it has been able to recover; on the contrary, usually circumstances turned even worse.

Since 2006, the DR Congo is officially a democracy – after almost 40 years. Its past leaves the country with almost no infrastructure, resulting in poor healthcare and education. The government is failing to improve the situation of the country, corruption and mismanagement of the economy lead to poverty and inequality. The enormous amount of natural resources does not bring any wealth for the Congolese, but instead disparity and conflict.

Economic conflicts in the DR Congo mostly aim at defeating and destroying any competition individually. Western economies are characterized too by competition, but on a totally different level. Therefore, it must be the aim to transfer economic conflict to the competitive, productive and democratic level. Though, this can only happen if the population is not existentially threatened through economic competition. A first step to solve this issue would be to finally establish formal procedures.

In the 60s and 70s, dictator Mobutu managed to end ethnic conflict using massive suppression. Nowadays, a dictatorship is not an acceptable solution anymore. The requirement for political stability in

⁶¹ Human Development Report, 2015, p. 2. (http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr_theme/country-notes/COD.pdf, retrieved on 10.04.16.)

the DR Congo is “good governance” – a democratically elected government which is able to shape the country’s future in an efficient and sustainable way. The current government is not able to fulfill these criteria.

Therefore, the DR Congo can be titled as an **“Anomy with limited but existent participatory rights, but almost no human rights and a non-functional coordination”**.

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