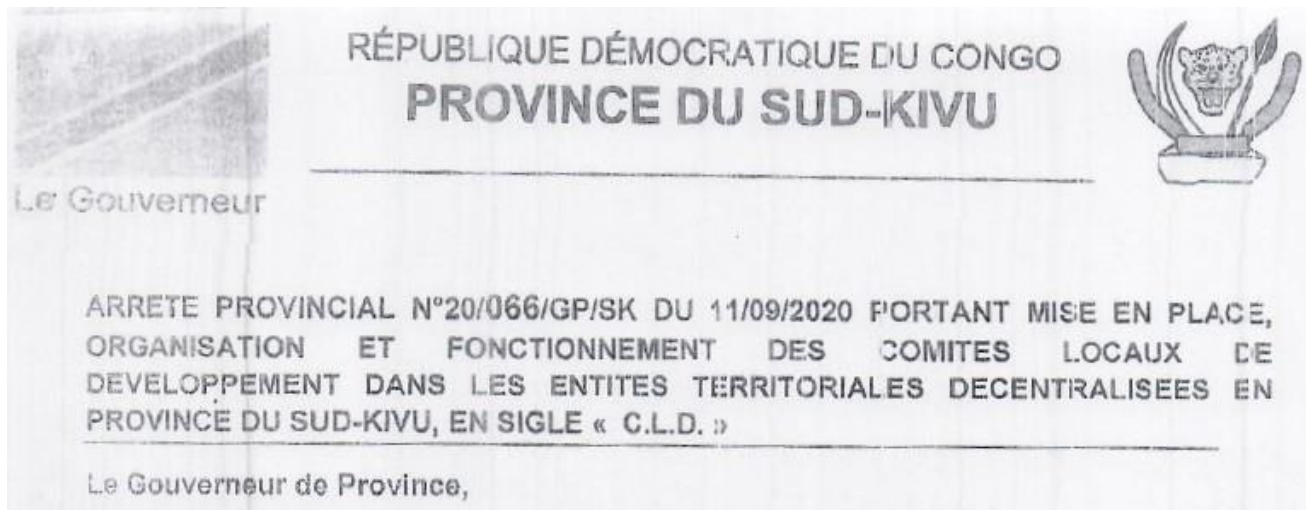


PROMULGATION OF A PROVINCIAL DECREE ESTABLISHING LOCAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES IN SOUTH KIVU

VNG International Congo



On September 11, 2020, in Bukavu (South Kivu), the Governor of the Province promulgated a provincial decree on **the organization and functioning of Local Development Committees (LDC)** within the Decentralized Territorial Entities in the South Kivu Province.

This decree was issued in accordance with the provincial government's desire to finalize the decentralization process by operationalizing local governance structures, but also to mitigate the dysfunctions and inconsistencies caused by the multiplication of structures put in place by various projects, and with a view to ensure the sustainability of results. This legislative breakthrough will finally **cement connected local development approaches** at the provincial level.

Article 2 of the decree defines the Local Development Committee as *"an authority for the coordination, harmonization, monitoring and evaluation of humanitarian and development plans, programs and projects within the ETDs [Decentralized Territorial Entities] in the South Kivu Province"*. The missions of these Committees are detailed in Article 4: they will be responsible, among other things, for *"identifying (...) priority needs and orienting local development policy; providing a local framework for agricultural initiatives, conflict prevention and resolution, humanitarian protection, and environmental and natural resource management."*



This enactment crowns the **advocacy efforts of VNG International Congo**, through the **ARC Kalehe - "Inawezekana" project**. Developed from start to finish by VNG International experts, the experiences and best practices resulting from the implementation of support to Local Development Committees in the Kalehe Territory served as a basis for the development of this decree. The advocacy aspect of this project and the involvement of the different levels of governance (deconcentrated territories and decentralized sectors and chiefdoms) within it, indeed allows the **centralization of the accumulated good practices**, resulting in a constant advocacy on security issues with legislative and decision-making actors such as Provincial Ministries. In addition to the **perpetuation of the stabilization process** that this decree represents, it also symbolizes a **change in the behavior of administrations**: this new mode of integrated governance shows a willingness to **take into**

account the needs of populations and to involve them in management, one of the desired results of the ARC Kalehe project.

The ARC (Addressing Root Causes) Kalehe - "Inawezekana" project is implemented in partnership with ZOA and WarChild Holland, and is financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands through the ARC Fund. Since January 2017, this project aims to address the root causes of conflict in hard-hit areas, particularly the Kalehe Territory, through three pillars: democratic dialogue, governance and economic recovery, through the mentoring of women and youth.