

Which strategies to conserve and restore metallophytes threatened by intensive mining activities in Southeastern D.R.Congo ?

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► Context

Integration of economic activities with environmental integrity: case of mining activities in South Katanga, in the Democratic Republic of Congo (Fig. 1).

While pristine habitats are threatened by mining activities, plant communities include numerous endemic species (Fig. 2).



Fig 2. Due to high available copper and cobalt concentrations in soils, Cu-Co hills present original plant communities with over 550 metallophytes including 56 endemics

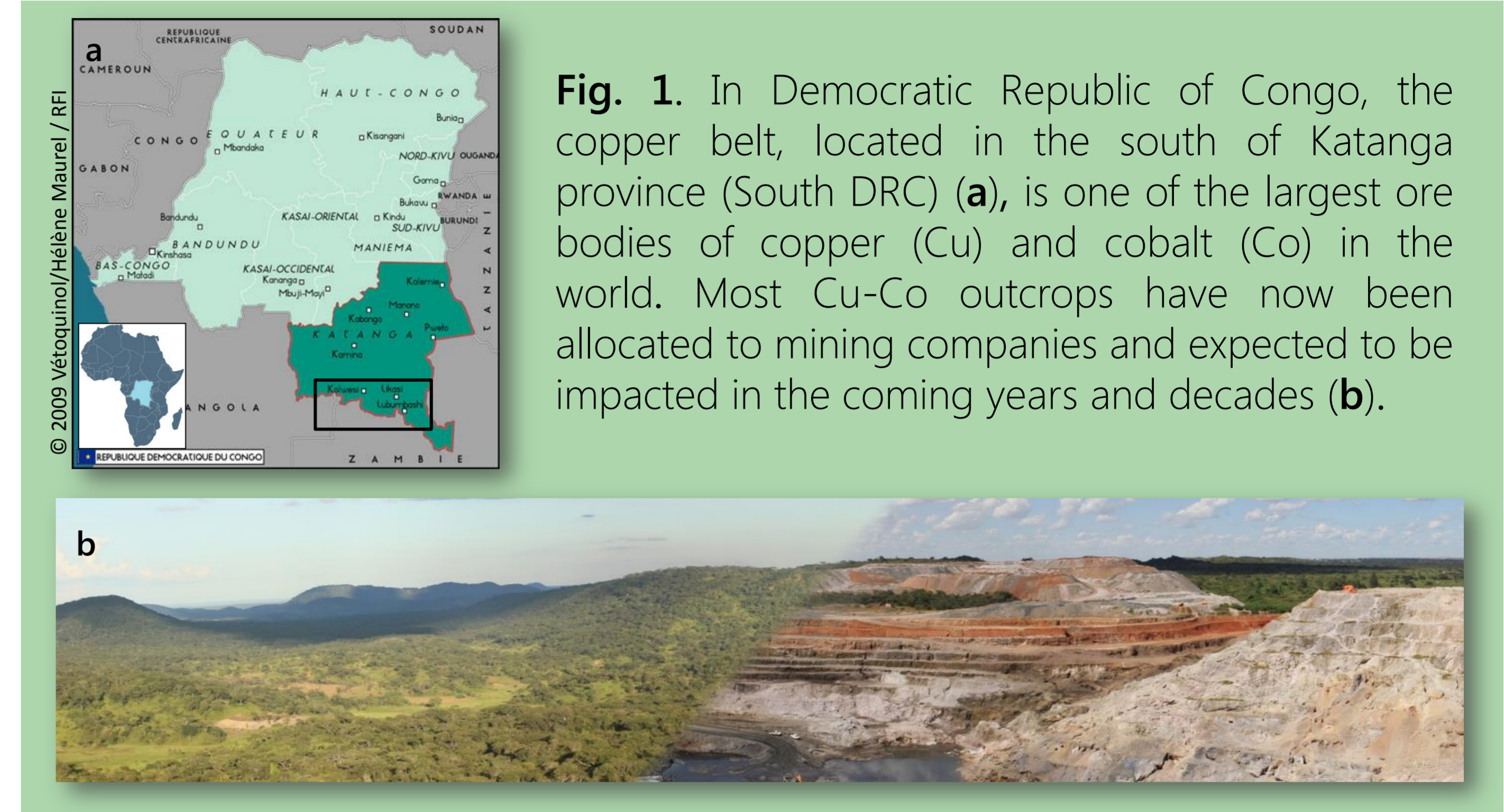
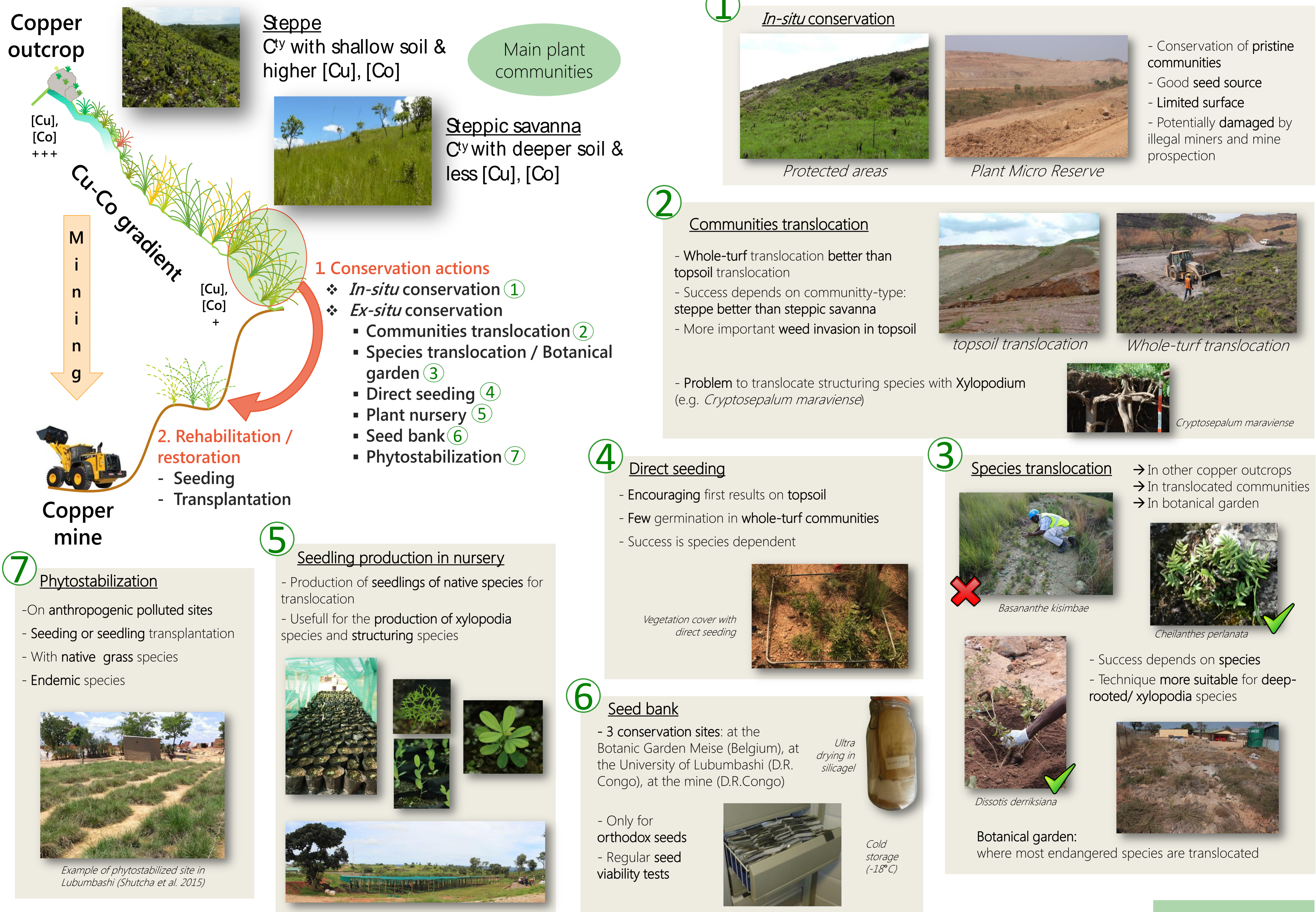


Fig. 1. In Democratic Republic of Congo, the copper belt, located in the south of Katanga province (South DRC) (a), is one of the largest ore bodies of copper (Cu) and cobalt (Co) in the world. Most Cu-Co outcrops have now been allocated to mining companies and expected to be impacted in the coming years and decades (b).

► Strategies to conserve and restore Cu-Co communities

- To gain information on ecology of copper community & experience on the restoration of copper vegetation
- To temporarily store and conserve native copper plant diversity in order to reestablish it on post-mining sites

Complementarity of implemented actions :



- Development of cooperation between university and mine company
- Improve restoration programs using native plant
- Deliver appropriate know-how to mining companies



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