



## Title: Reinforcing the capacity of the National SALW Commission

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**Organisation:** UNDP/DRC - CNC

**Contact CNC :** José IKONGO ISEKOTOKO BOYOO  
**Position :** Directeur et Secrétaire Permanent CNC-ALPC  
**Avenue :** Roi Baudouin 145 Kinshasa - Gombe,  
**Tel :** +243 81 500 68 25 – **Email :** [joseikongo@yahoo.fr](mailto:joseikongo@yahoo.fr)

**Contact UNDP :** Koen DE GROOF  
**Position :** Analyste Programme  
**Tel :** +243 97 000 22 60 – **E-mail:** [koen.degroof@undp.org](mailto:koen.degroof@undp.org)  
**Address:** Immeuble Losonia Kinshasa, RD Congo B.P.

**Project Title:** Reinforcing the capacity of the National SALW Commission: Phase II

**Country:** Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

**Amount:** 600,000 USD

**Activity period:** 6 Months (1 March – 31 August 2012)

### Problem Statement

The protracted armed conflicts that erupted in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) between 1996 and 2003 resulted in the presence of large numbers of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) stored in unsafe conditions around the country. This constitutes a constant risk not only to the local population but also to the current peaceful transition process in DRC. Significantly, neither the Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo (FARDC) nor the Congolese National Police (PNC) possess the necessary technical capacity to ensure and guarantee the safe storage of weapons in their possession. Whilst the movement of arms across borders remains a critical concern, there is substantial research concluding that the majority of arms used by armed groups come from FARDC stockpiles<sup>1</sup>. As such, securing and marking existing FARDC arms stockpiles is as critical as securing borders. The DRC has signed the Nairobi Protocol for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and the recent Kinshasa Protocol, but currently lacks the capacity to meet its obligations.

In order to fulfill its regional and international commitments, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo put in place the National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons Control and Armed Violence Reduction (CNC-ALPC). The CNC is mandated to oversee the implementation of the Nairobi Protocol and to ensure effective management and securitization of SALW. The CNC-ALPC, with the support of UNDP, is located in Kinshasa but has recently suffered from the loss of its office to another government service which has reduced its effectiveness. Furthermore, the CNC-ALPC does not have the necessary operational antennas in the provinces needed to ensure fulfillment of its mandate. The establishment of sub-offices is needed to reinforce the CNC-ALPC's breadth and

<sup>1</sup> Final report of a UN group of experts about the security of the FARDC depots – Dec 2008 and 2009

capacity and to facilitate the implementation of SALW project at both the national and the provincial level.

On 9 July 2011, the Congolese government officially adopted its 5-year National Action Plan on Small Arms Management and Control (2012-2016) which is centered around three strategic axes: 1) the development of an institutional framework on SALW control; 2) the effective management of state-owned and civilian SALW; and 3) the effective provision of information. The implementation of the National Action Plan is overseen by the CNC and depends on the mobilization of resources, the support of the international community as well as on the commitment of Congolese authorities at all levels.

### **Project Goal**

The main goal of this project is to reinforce and develop the institutional framework on SALW control in the DRC building on the results achieved in Phase I (funded by Germany). By strengthening the National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons Control and Armed Violence Reduction at both the national and provincial level, the project seeks to fulfill a precondition for the implementation of the Congolese National Action Plan on Small Arms Management and Control (2012-2016).

### **Objectives, activities and results**

#### **Implementation strategy**

Since 2008, the staff of the CNC head office and the UNDP office in Kinshasa work together on a daily basis and regularly undertake joint missions to the provinces in order to interact with local authorities and implement project activities. During the project period, the CNC will continue to benefit from UNDPs technical and logistical support. At the provincial level, the CNC antennas will ensure inter-agency cooperation between the Governors' Office, the Police (PNC), the Armed Forces (FARDC), the Intelligence Service (ANR), and the Border Service (DGM). Members of civil society are represented in the antennas and will play a crucial role in sensitization activities.

**Objective #1: Strengthening the effectiveness of the National SALW Commission (CNC-ALPC) in Kinshasa by providing it with the resources necessary for its day-to-day operations.**

Time needed for achieving the goal: 6 months

#### **Activities:**

1. Construction of a head office for the CNC in Kinshasa.
2. Meeting the CNC's operational costs (e.g. fuel, communication) in Kinshasa.
3. Supporting the participation of the CNC's Permanent Secretary in meetings and conferences related to SALW control and disarmament.

#### **Results:**

- The CNC is functioning as an effective entity that disposes of its own office and is less dependent on UNDP logistical support.
- The DRC is represented at international meetings and succeeds in mobilizing international resources to support the implementation of its National Action Plan on Small Arms Management and Control (2012-2016).



**Objective #2: Enabling the sub-offices of the National SALW Commission (CNC-ALPC) in the provinces of Bas-Congo, Katanga and Province Orientale to become operational**

Time needed for achieving the goal: 6 months

**Activities:**

1. Training of the staff of the CNC sub-offices in Kisangani and Lubumbashi on their role and mandate.
2. Organisation by CNC sub-offices of outreach and community mobilization activities in support of the implementation of the National Action Plan and in cooperation with the Security Sector Reform Network.
3. Formulation of province-based project proposals by the sub-offices following broad consultations including all stakeholders.

**Results:**

- The CNC sub-offices in Kisangani, Matadi and Lubumbashi are fully operational and are capable of coordinating SALW-related initiatives across government agencies.
- The inhabitants of the cities of Kisangani, Matadi and Lubumbashi are aware of the problems related to SALW proliferation and know about the existence of a National Action Plan
- The CNC head office in Kinshasa receives concrete inputs and proposals regarding SALW control from the provincial level.

**Objective #3: Establishing the capacity of the National SALW Commission (CNC-ALPC) to coordinate SALW control and armed violence reduction activities at the provincial level in the province of Equateur.**

Time needed for achieving the goal: 6 months

**Activities:**

1. Construction and equipment a CNC sub-office in Mbandaka, the capital of the province of Equateur.
2. Appointment and training of the four representatives that will make up the staff of the CNC sub-office: representatives of the Governor's Office, the armed forces (FARDC) and the police (PNC), as well as a member of civil society.

**Results:**

- The province of Equateur disposes of a permanent organ that allows for the coordination of the fight against SALW proliferation and the implementation of the National Action Plan on Small Arms Management and Control (2012-2016) at the provincial level.