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Tshopo: the capture and trade of prohibited parrots

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(Photo of illustration) The Tshopo River.
Radio Okapi/Ph. Paul Matendo

Catch and trade in parrots are now banned throughout the province of Tshopo. This decision was formalized by an order signed on Friday 19 March by the provincial governor and made public by the provincial Minister of the Environment on the margins of the International Forest Day.

This provincial decree reinforces the measures already taken at national level by the Minister of State for the Environment, who had banned the trade in parrots. According to the provincial minister of trustee, this decision is intended to preserve this bird species, emblematic of the ecosystem of the region.

Sources close to the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN) reveal that every month between 2,000 and 3,000 parrots leave the city of Kisangani for transport to Kinshasa. These figures underline the urgency of action to prevent the disappearance of this species.

"If such measures are not taken, there is a risk that this species of bird will disappear from our ecosystem," warns a source within the ICCN.

In addition, these birds are particularly fragile. Out of 100 parrots caught for sale, only 30-40% survive, further exacerbating their decline.

With the issuance of this decree, the transit of parrots to Kisangani, from other provinces such as Maniema, is now severely restricted. This measure is a severe blow to traffickers and aims to reduce the illegal trade in these birds.

To ensure the survival of parrots seized by traffickers, the ICCN has announced the construction of three to four aviaries next week. These cages, 5 metres high and 8 metres wide, will allow parrots to replenish their wings before being released into their natural habitat.

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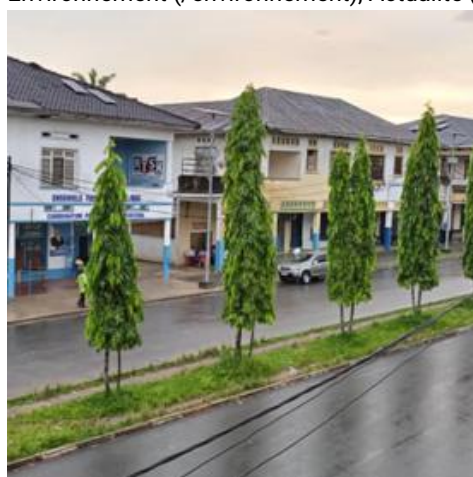
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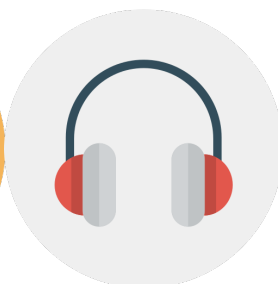
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