The Congo is the Earth's second largest river by volume and has the world's second largest rainforest (18% of the planet's remaining tropical rainforest)

In general, biodiversity is important in rainforests because of how different species depend on each other to survive. I.e., Macaranga trees provide habitat for ants that in turn protect the trees from predatory insects and invasive plants. Some animals depend on others for food, etc.

Tropical forests are the most bio-diverse ecosystems in the world, providing fuels, food and medicines essential to human life.

Biodiversity plays an important role in filtration and purification of air and water, and subsequently the production of food.

Species become extinct on a daily basis. The United Nations Education Program advises plant and animal species can be preserved by "banning hunting, conserving habitats and promoting reforestation."

Western lowland gorilla. There are about 90,000 western lowland gorillas in the wild. Some other gorilla species, like the mountain gorilla found in Congo, Rwanda, and Uganda are much rarer. Gorillas are threatened by hunting and deforestation.

The Congo Basin represents 70% of the African continent's plant cover and makes up a large portion of Africa's biodiversity with over 600 tree species and 10 000 animal species.

World's second largest rainforest (18% of the planet's remaining tropical rainforest).

People who live in the rainforest are angry because giant trees are taken from their forests and nothing but destruction is left behind. The people of Africa stand to lose the most from climate impacts. The government needs to save the Congo forest not only for the sake of the global climate, but for the benefit of the Congolese people who depend on it.

The Congo Basin represents 70% of the African continent's plant cover and makes up a large portion of Africa's biodiversity with over 600 tree species and 10 000 animal species

It covers more than 100 million hectares. The forests in the eastern sector are amazingly diverse as one of the few forest areas in Africa to have survived the ice age. About 45 percent of DR Congo is covered by primary forest which provides a refuge for several large mammal species driven to extinction in other African countries. Overall, the country is known to have more than 11,000 species of plants, 450 mammals, 1,150 birds, 300 reptiles, and 200 amphibians.

The Congo is one of the world's most threatened ecosystems. Commercial logging, clearing for subsistence agriculture, and widespread civil strife has devastated forests, displaced forest dwellers, and resulted in the expansion of the "bushmeat" trade. Since the 1980s, Africa has had the highest deforestation rates of any region on the globe.

Most of the deforestation in the Congo is caused by local subsistence activities by poor farmers and villagers who rely on forest lands for agriculture and fuelwood collection. Slash-and-burn is commonly used for clearing forest.   
Typically, poor farmers and colonists gains access to forest lands by following logging roads, although in the past few years civil strife has driven many Central Africans deep into the rainforest to escape the widespread violence.

Logging in the Congo Basin has increased significantly as peace has returned to the region. In 2004, encouraged by the World Bank, Congo announced its plans to step up the commercial logging of its rainforest. The timber industry is a major employer in Congo countries and thousands of workers rely on logging companies for basic healthcare and other services. Illegal logging is a significant problem as underpaid bureaucrats look to supplement their incomes by opening restricted areas to cutting.   
Since the end of the war in Congo DR, concessions have been granted and the pace of logging in Africa's largest remaining rain forest is picking up   
More than 20 million hectares of logging occurs in the DRC, where international logging companies are causing social chaos and environmental havoc. Efforts by the World Bank, by far the largest donor to the country, to control the logging industry are failing.

Meanwhile the rainforest is being sold off under the illusion that the DRC's timber industry will kick starting the country's economy, lifting its people out of poverty and encouraging development.

In the DRC, we've also shown that in exchange for the rights to log timber worth many hundreds of thousands of dollars, companies may give communities gifts worth as little as $100. These 'social responsibility contracts' provide gifts like salt, beer, soap and sugar and are little more than licences to loot the country's rainforest, so we prefer to call them 'contracts of shame'. Schools and hospitals promised by the loggers also fail to materialise but the communities are also forced to sign away their right to protest. Those who do are often met with intimidation and sometimes arrest as the local authorities side with the loggers.

Oil exploration isn’t causing as much deforestation. The oil companies have contended they could improve the park's security situation, which is unstable due to the presence of armed rebels hiding in the vast park, if they are allowed to do oil exploration. Over 130 rangers have died in the book due to conflict with rebels in the past 15 years.

Central Africa has been plagued with violence since the mid-90s. Hundreds of thousands of refugees have moved through the forests of the Congo, stripping vegetation and devastating wildlife populations. National parks like Virunga -- home to the endangered mountain gorilla -- were looted and park staffers slaughtered. Refugee camps bordering parks added to the pressure on parklands.

The Congo Basin has some of the world richest mineral deposits. Mining operations are poorly monitored and virtually no consideration is given to short-term health efects -- much less to the environmental impact.

Minerals found in cell phones are sometimes mined illegally and destructively in African rainforests.

Hunters ussualy hunt for food in this area and not for sport. But wheather it is for sport or for food, it is killing a large number of species.

Today the visitor to many Central African cities can purchase the meat of virtually any forest animal. Demand for bushmeat is driven by the desire for protein, not necessarily the animal source of the protein, the demand for which varies from market to market. In Gabon, McRae reports that annual per capita consumption of bushmeat may reach eight pounds annually.   
The availability of bushmeat is made possible by the logging industry whose road construction opens rainforest to hunters and settlers. Hunters make a living by selling bushmeat to passing loggers, traders, and local villagers. The majority of bushmeat is brought to city markets by loggers.   
Regional bushmeat hunting is expected is increase as commercial logging expands in the Congo Basin.

The impact of uncontrolled logging on climate change could be catastrophic. If current trends continue, by 2050 deforestation in the DRC will release about the same amount of CO2 into the atmosphere as the UK has over the last sixty years.

Deforestation means that food will be missing, not only for animals but for humans aswell. But deforestation means that some animals can’t have the same amount of food from trees as they did before which leads to them dying leading to other animals running out of food, starving them to death and so on.

Also, animals that used the trees as shelter are left without a shelter. This can lead either to predators finishing species off really quickly because they don’t have shelter or leaving the animals unprotected, meaning they’ll end up more likely to die because of the cold, storms, etc. Less shelter also means hunters can find certain animals more easily.

Rights to perform logging in the Congo tropical are worth a lot; hundreds of thousands of dollars but they are sometimes lost because companies give very little back to Congo in exchange for rights to log timber. (100)

Timber can bring good and bad economic consequences to the DRC. Timber is good as construction material and as a material it might be good for DRC’s economy however if the land is used for agriculture and if slash and burn is used then all the timber is lost.

Tourism in the congo rainforest may decrease because of deforestation. Not only deforestation but it might be because of all the civil war danger that makes it dangerous. However, deforestation might also be decreasing tourism because some people might want to go to see the forest and the biodiversity within the rainforest. Gorillas are something worth seeing and with the increased illegal mining and deforestation for illegal logging.

The habitat of the great apes is in danger because illegal mining is happening in many rainforests in africa, not only in Congo. This illegal mining destroys the habitat of the great ape.

Trees protect the land from rain. They’ll absorb the water needed but will help in keeping the climatic conditions and maintaining the temperature. So, deforestation leads to floods and droughts.

Environmental degradation is the deterioration of the environment through the reduction of resources. In this case it is the soil. Deforestation causes the topmost layer of the soil to get destroyed and this causes the soil to loosen. This leads to soil resources getting lost because of the soil loosening.

There are over 600 tree species and 10 000 animal species that live in the Congo rainforest and logging, mining, etc takes their homes away. Hunting kills them. If some animals food disappears, then they’ll eventually disappear and lots of species will be lost.

DR Congo's government has lately taken a strong interest in protecting the country's forests. In 2002, the government imposed a ban on the allocation of new logging concessions. While the moratorium was widely ignored, in 2005 the government received a $90-million grant from the World Bank to help it police existing forestry concessions, control new concessions, and develop sustainable management plans for its forests.

Two-thirds of timber concessions were cancelled in 2009

The government of the Democratic Republic of Congo has ripped up 91 contracts after a review of the notoriously corrupt and damaging logging sector in a country the size of Western Europe.

The government also joined the Coalition for Rainforest Nations, a group of tropical developing nations that sought—and won—money from industrial countries for rainforest protection at the November 2005 climate conference in Montreal.

Already more than 8 percent of DR Congo is protected in reserves, and the government has announced it aims to expand these conservation areas to 10-15 percent of the country. so there is hope that returning tourists—Encouraged by wildlife and the reconstruction of park facilities—will boost conservation in the country.

In coming years the government of DR Congo will be in the unenviable position of having to balance the need to conserve its forests with the needs of its increasingly destitute population—all the while trying to promote stability and economic growth, while servicing its debt. There will be considerable pressure to turn towards forests—at least 60 percent of which are loggable—as a source of income. The economy of DR Congo has long been highly dependent on natural resource extraction—especially timber harvesting and mining—and this is unlikely to change in the near future