



## CURRICULUM VITAE

**NAME** Theodore Trefon

**NATIONALITY** Greek

**LANGUAGES** English: Mother tongue  
French: Fluent  
Lingala: Working knowledge

### EXPERTISE

- Expertise in political economy of natural resources and environmental governance (including National Park governance), state-society relations, social science research methods, urban sociology and aid delivery analysis.
- Research and policy work on Congo/Zaire.
- Field-based project evaluations.
- Experienced political scientist, researcher, professor, project manager and consultant.
- Advisory to USAID, the European Commission, CIFOR, UNESCO, CARE, DfID, Wildlife Conservation Society, the Worldwide Fund for Nature, the World Bank, the European Court of Auditors, the Dutch Finance Ministry, think tanks and private consultancy firms.
- Contributing editor to ROAPE *Review of African Political Economy*.

### EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

- Boston University. Ph.D., Political Science.
- Institut d'Etudes Politiques. Paris. Certificat d'Etudes Politiques.
- New York University. B.A., Philosophy.

### EMPLOYMENT, RESEARCH AND COLLABORATIONS

September 2024 – present - **Associate at The Policy Practice**

October 2022-present - **Independent consultant**

April 2006 – October 2022 - **Royal Museum for Central Africa**, Senior Researcher, Earth Sciences Department; former Head of Contemporary History section. 50% part-time January 2018-September 2022. Emeritus since October 2022.

January 2020- present - Senior Research Coordinator at **ERAIFT/Kinshasa** for an urban bushmeat project funded by the UK Global Challenges Research Fund. 20% part time.

April 2017 – March 2020 - **World Resources Institute**, Strategy lead, Central Africa forests program, part time.

April 2011 – July 2013 - **Boston University Brussels**, Adjunct Professor of International Relations, part time.

May 2007-December 2010 - **Belgian Center for Expertise on Central Africa**, Founding Director (CRE-AC -seconded part time from Royal Museum for Central Africa).

May 2005-April 2006 - **Katholieke Universiteit Leuven**, Part-time visiting professor of Cultures and Development Studies, Department of Anthropology.

January 2004-March 2006 - **University of Brussels**, Researcher, Congo State (Project: 'Networks of Governance in a Failed State').

June 2003-March 2006 - **University of Brussels**, Coordinator of European Union-funded environmental and participatory management projects. Tasks included overseeing daily project management and research activity outreach in central Africa

October 2000-December 2003 - **University of Brussels**, Researcher , 'Rethinking the Nation-State in Central Africa'.

January 2000-Present - **ERAIFT - Kinshasa**, Visiting professor of environmental governance.

1995-2000 - **University of Brussels (ULB)**, Researcher and coordinator for forest-city interfaces for the European Union-financed project: *The Future of Tropical Rainforest Peoples*. Creation of an African network of researchers. Pro-active participation in daily project management

#### **CONSULTANCIES** (last ten years) –

December 2024. Evaluation of the CIFOR-ICRAF RESSAC project for CERED. 20 days.

July-September 2024. Socio-economic study of the Conkuoati National Park, Republic of Congo for Form International. 20 days.

April-July 2024. Political Economy Analysis of the forest sector in Central Africa, DRC, RoC, Cameroon. The Policy Practice/TetraTech/USAID 44 days.

June-July 2022. Political Economy Analysis of green economy potential, Republic of Congo. TetraTech, 27 days.

January 2021-March 2022. Political Economy Analysis of the bushmeat value chain in (i) Okapi Wildlife Reserve Ituri Province (DRC) and (ii) northern Republic of Congo (Ouesso basin); PEA local chicken production Ouesso basin. Wildlife Conservation Society. 71 days.

March 2021-July 2022. Team leader USAID evaluation Community Resilience in Central Africa. Social Impact. 90 days.

June 2020-July 2021. Teaching module design, human rights in African protected areas, US Fish and Wildlife Service/RIFFEAC. 35 days.

April-October 2020. Political Economy Analysis of the DRC's demographic transition. The Policy Practice/DfID. 15 days.

December 2019-August 2020. Country expert, DRC Democracy-Rights-Governance assessment Tetra Tech/USAID. 39 days.

June-December 2019. AGRECO/European Commission. Team leader, due diligence governance assessment Salonga National Park. 33 days.

February 2017. ERAIFT/European Commission. Governance evaluation of the Yangambi Biosphere Reserve. 15 days.

December 2016-January 2017. World Bank. Drafting strategic guidelines for DRC's governance opportunities and challenges. 25 days.

October-November 2016. Integra. Resources Rights Governance & Policy Reform Deputy team leader and specialist for CARPE Phase III mid-term evaluation. Washington, DC and DRC (Equateur & Tshuapa Provinces + Kinshasa). 51 days.

October 2015. World Resources Institute. Lead meeting for WRI/WCS on natural resource governance. Kinshasa. 5 days.

March 2015. Tetra Tech ARD. Drafting concept note on DRC's governance priorities in the framework of territorial decentralization. 4 days.

April 2013. Overseas Development Institute. Review of DRC governance report prepared for International Rescue Committee. 1 day.

March 2013. European Court of Auditors. Review of DRC governance audit. 6 days.

February 2013. Tetra Tech ARD. Review of USAID's 'Democracy, Human Rights and Governance Assessment of the Democratic Republic of the Congo Final report'. 3 days.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### Main books

Trefon, T. (2023) *Bushmeat: Culture, economy and conservation in Central Africa*, London: Hurst, 256 pp.

Trefon, T. and N. Kabuyaya (2018) *Goma: Stories of strength and sorrow from eastern Congo*, London: Zed Books, 256 pp.

Trefon, T. and N. Kabuyaya (2016) *Précarité et Bien Etre à Goma (RDC): Récits de vie dans une ville de tous les dangers*, Tervuren/Paris: Les Cahiers de l'Institut Africain/L'Harmattan, 200 pp.

Trefon, T. (2016) *Congo's Environmental paradox: Potential and predation in a land of plenty*, London: Zed Books, 202 pp.

Trefon, T. (2011) *Congo Masquerade: The Political Culture of Aid Inefficiency and Reform Failure*, London: Zed Books, 176 pp.

Trefon, T. (ed.) (2009) *Réforme au Congo: Attentes et désillusions*. Tervuren/Paris: Les Cahiers de l'Institut Africain/L'Harmattan, 275 pp.

Trefon, T. with B. Ngoy (2007) *Parcours administratifs dans un Etat en faillite : Récits de Lubumbashi (RDC)*. Tervuren/Paris: Les Cahiers de l'Institut Africain/L'Harmattan, 153 pp.

Trefon, T. (ed.) (2004) *Re-inventing Order in the Congo: How people respond to state failure in Kinshasa*, London: Zed Books, 222 pp.

More than 100 articles, book chapters, published reports, unpublished reports, book reviews, published translations, etc. available on request.

### **International Conferences, Workshops & Presentations**

65 in the past 10 years.

### **Missions to Central Africa**

(129 missions since 1994 – 106 to DRC).