

AXIS as seen by President Sidi Ould Tah (2)

How the DRC became the first laboratory for the AfDB's new doctrine



Blog Post

🔍 The detail that changes the way PRECAPE is read

At first glance, the Multichannel Project to Support Populations Affected by the Crisis in Eastern DRC and Burundi (PRECAPE) resembles a classic resilience program. Infrastructure reconstruction. Support for vulnerable populations. Training. Local development. All of this is true.

But a closer look reveals something else. For the first time, the African Development Bank has integrated into a program it finances a component dedicated to leveraging community assets through the AXIS program. This detail may be more significant than it appears.

🔍 A discreet evolution

For a long time, development institutions financed infrastructure, equipment, and public services. The logic was simple: natural resources generate wealth, which in turn feeds budgets, and budgets finance development.

AXIS, which has initial funding within PRECAPE, proposes a different approach. What if certain resources could themselves become direct drivers of financing for local areas? What if communities participated more actively in creating this value? It is precisely this hypothesis that now seems to interest the African Development Bank (AfDB).

🔍 The meeting of December 19, 2025

A few months before PRECAPE financing, the AXIS program teams present their vision to several Bank officials. The discussion is not primarily about technology.

It concerns governance. On traceability. On natural resources. On job creation. On the capacity of communities to participate more in the wealth produced in their territories. In other words, on several themes which now occupy an increasing place in the Bank's reflections.

🔍 Why AXIS is attracting attention

The program's value lies less in its tools than in its architecture. Mapping resources. Tracking flows. Documenting assets. Creating greater transparency. Linking natural resources, local development, and financing. This approach addresses a question that has become central: how to transform often undervalued assets into real investment capacity for local areas?

🔍 WinstantGold as a testing ground

AXIS's first pilot project, WinstantGold, illustrates this approach. On the one hand, GoldConnect seeks to better structure and trace artisanal gold. On the other, MACC explores the valorization of community carbon. Two very different resources. One shared ambition: to ensure that a larger share of the value created benefits the communities that produce, preserve, or manage these assets.

From the DRC to Africa

The real issue likely extends beyond the Congolese context. The DRC possesses some of the continent's most significant natural resources. But it is not alone. Many African countries have forestry, mining, agricultural, or environmental assets facing the same challenges in developing and leveraging them.

If some of the experiments conducted today prove their worth, they could pave the way for a new generation of financing mechanisms based on the continent's own wealth.

The real signal

Ultimately, the issue may not be PRECAPE or AXIS. The issue is broader. The AfDB seems to be gradually shifting from a project-based financing approach to one focused on financing ecosystems. Ecosystems capable of connecting:

- ⚡ Natural resources
- ⚡ Communities
- ⚡ Territories
- ⚡ Governance
- ⚡ Investment
- ⚡ Local development

If this trend continues, the meeting of December 19, 2025 may appear in retrospect as one of the first moments when this new vision began to take shape.