AXIS as seen by President Sidi Ould Tah (3)

When doctrine becomes a demonstration

Long version

Introduction — From doctrine to field experiments

A new perspective on African wealth — When Sidi Ould Tah assumed the presidency of the African Development Bank, he brought with him a simple yet ambitious conviction: Africa does not lack resources; what it lacks, above all, are mechanisms capable of transforming its wealth into development financing. Emerging from this idea is what many observers describe as a New African Financial Architecture (NAFA), founded on the increased mobilization of the continent's resources, better leveraging of natural assets, and greater involvement of local communities in wealth creation.

Financing Africa differently — This vision marks a significant shift. For decades, financing for African development relied primarily on international aid, concessional loans, and foreign investment. Without questioning the utility of these instruments, Sidi Ould Tah advocates a complementary approach: seeking more solutions from within the continent itself. The goal is no longer merely to attract funding, but also to unlock and mobilize resources already present in African economies—whether in the form of savings, natural assets, or underutilized community wealth.

The test of reality — Yet a doctrine, however coherent, is only truly valuable when put into practice. Ideas must be tested against reality, applied in complex contexts, and yield observable results. Only then do they evolve from strategic guidelines into instruments of transformation. Any new architecture requires initial pilot projects, early experiments, and testing grounds.

Why the DRC matters today — It is precisely from this perspective that the Democratic Republic of the Congo warrants special attention today. Few countries combine such a concentration of natural resources, environmental capital of global significance, immense development needs, and a community fabric capable of driving large-scale local initiatives. Added to this unique context is the presence of institutions such as the Social Fund of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FSRDC), whose experience in community development represents a major asset for implementing new approaches.

When the vision takes shape — Events unfolding between December 2025 and June 2026 suggest that a further milestone is being reached. The meeting between the African Development Bank, the FSRDC, and the promoters of the AXIS program; the approval of the Crisis Response Project in Support of Affected Populations in Eastern DRC (PRECAPE); and the subsequent review of financing agreements by the Congolese Senate form a sequence that transcends the scope of a mere development project. They illustrate how a strategic vision is beginning to take shape through concrete mechanisms.

The reality test — The question is no longer simply about understanding the new doctrine championed by Sidi Ould Tah. It is about determining where and how this doctrine is beginning to be put to the test of reality. In this regard, the DRC is emerging as one of the first arenas where the contours of a new approach to financing African development are taking shape.

1. The PRECAPE: the first signal

A program that goes beyond the crisis response

Approval of PRECAPE — On April 29, 2026, the Board of Directors of the African Development Bank approved $48.83 million in funding for the Crisis Response Project in Support of Affected Populations in the Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (PRECAPE). The program primarily targets the Uvira, Beni, and Walikale territories—areas among the hardest hit by the economic and social consequences of the crises affecting the country's east. At first glance, it appears to be a project focused on reconstruction and support for vulnerable populations. However, a closer look at its structure reveals a broader ambition: to support the reconstruction of these territories while creating the conditions for sustainable economic development.

Resilience, reconstruction, and inclusion — PRECAPE combines several dimensions rarely found together in a single program. Key areas of intervention include the rehabilitation of social infrastructure, access to essential services, support for displaced populations, assistance for women and youth, vocational training, and the revitalization of local economic activities. This combination reflects an expanded concept of resilience. The goal is not merely to address the effects of the crisis but to strengthen the territories' capacity to regain a more autonomous and inclusive development trajectory.

A vision extending beyond emergency aid — This orientation sets PRECAPE apart from conventional humanitarian approaches. While emergency programs primarily address immediate needs, PRECAPE seeks to tackle the root causes of economic and social fragility. Infrastructure reconstruction is merely a starting point; the real challenge lies in restoring sustainable capacities for production, employment, local governance, and value creation. This ambition explains why the program warrants attention not only as a reconstruction effort but also as a testing ground for new approaches to territorial development.

A new concept of territorial development

Communities at the heart of the initiative — One of PRECAPE's most notable features is the central role given to local communities. The populations involved are not viewed merely as recipients of aid or beneficiaries of infrastructure funded by external partners; they emerge as active participants in reconstruction and development. This approach is particularly vital in territories where stability hinges largely on the ability of communities to revive economic activity, strengthen social cohesion, and engage directly in development processes.

The role of the FSRDC — Within this framework, the Social Fund of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FSRDC) plays a central role. Its experience with community-based programs, its local presence, and its ability to align national priorities with locally expressed needs make it a key player in implementation. The FSRDC bridges the gap between the strategic direction of the African Development Bank, Congolese public policies, and the practical realities of the territories in question. This mediating role is a key factor enabling PRECAPE to transcend the scope of a standard international funding initiative.

Local development and value creation — The program also introduces a particularly compelling economic dimension. It goes beyond simply improving access to education, healthcare, or basic infrastructure; PRECAPE also seeks to boost the territories' capacity to generate income, support economic activities, and create opportunities for local populations. This approach aligns with the African Development Bank's current focus on strengthening local economic capacity and fostering value creation that is deeply rooted in local realities.

Why this program marks a turning point

A decision that goes beyond reconstruction — The uniqueness of PRECAPE lies not merely in its funding volume or the diversity of its interventions. It is defined primarily by its aim to combine reconstruction, local development, and the testing of new economic mechanisms. The program does not limit itself to financing infrastructure or social services; it also seeks to create conditions that enable the affected regions to generate greater economic value themselves. This approach reflects a significant shift in how development in vulnerable areas is conceived.

Explicit support for the rollout of AXIS — It is against this backdrop that a particularly significant element emerges. From the moment PRECAPE was approved by the African Development Bank's Board of Directors, program documents explicitly mentioned support for the rollout of AXIS. While this reference might appear minor given the project's overall scope, it is arguably the most important piece of information in this sequence. For the first time, AXIS is no longer presented merely as an innovative initiative or a project under discussion; its deployment is now linked to a program officially funded by the AfDB.

The first sign of a deeper shift — This decision extends far beyond simple technical support. It suggests that the African Development Bank views AXIS as more than just a tool or an isolated experiment. By agreeing to support its rollout within the framework of PRECAPE, the Bank implicitly acknowledges the value of an approach based on leveraging community assets, ensuring resource traceability, and mobilizing new local economic capacities. Coming just months after initial discussions between the program teams, the transition from interest to financial commitment sends a strong signal. For observers of the AfDB's current evolution, this could even be the first concrete indication of how the new strategic directions championed by Sidi Ould Tah are beginning to translate into operational action on the ground.

2. AXIS then enters the scope of the BAD

Choosing the AXIS Program

A subtle yet strategic mention — In communications regarding PRECAPE, the reference to AXIS takes up only a few lines. At first glance, it might appear to be a minor detail given the program's scope and the diversity of its components. However, this understated presentation should not obscure its significance. Major institutional shifts often begin with modest signals. By explicitly incorporating the rollout of AXIS into a program approved by its Board of Directors, the African Development Bank is taking a step that goes far beyond merely acknowledging an innovation. It signals that the Bank now views this approach as relevant enough to be linked to a development operation that is both funded and implemented on the ground.

Why the AfDB is interested in AXIS — To understand this interest, one must look at the concerns currently gaining prominence in the Bank's strategic thinking. How can the economic resilience of local areas be strengthened? How can more local value be created? How can additional resources be mobilized in contexts where financing needs remain immense? AXIS offers answers to these questions. The program does not determine its actions based on available funding; instead, it starts with the resources already present in local areas, exploring ways to transform them into drivers of development. This logic aligns with several emerging trends in debates regarding the future of development finance in Africa.

The logic of community assets — The unique nature of AXIS lies precisely in this approach. While many programs focus on infrastructure or the provision of services, AXIS focuses on assets owned, managed, or preserved by the communities themselves. Forest resources, carbon sequestration capacity, artisanal mining, and other local assets are viewed not merely as physical resources, but as assets capable of generating economic value when properly identified, governed, and leveraged. This approach introduces a new dimension to thinking about local development: territories are no longer merely recipients of funding; they also become holders of assets.

A shift in perspective regarding natural resources

From resource stock to economic asset — This evolution reflects a deeper shift in perspective. For a long time, natural resources were viewed primarily as raw materials destined for exploitation, processing, or export. The logic driving AXIS is different. It involves recognizing that certain resources can also become economic assets capable of underpinning financing mechanisms, generating local income, or strengthening the development capacity of territories. This shift in focus — from resource to asset — is one of the most innovative aspects of the approach.

Artisanal gold — The case of artisanal gold illustrates this evolution particularly well. In many regions of the DRC, artisanal mining is a major economic activity but often faces challenges regarding traceability, formalization, and governance. Through initiatives like GoldConnect, AXIS seeks to improve the visibility of supply chains, build trust among stakeholders, and facilitate the integration of this activity into formal economic systems. The goal is not merely to track production more effectively; it is also to enable the territories and communities involved to capture more value from existing wealth.

Community carbon — A similar logic applies to the realm of community carbon. The forests of the Congo Basin represent one of the planet's most significant carbon reservoirs. For a long time, this reality was viewed primarily through the lens of environmental conservation. AXIS introduces a complementary perspective. Through mechanisms such as the Community Carbon Market (MACC), the program explores how environmental services provided by communities can generate economic opportunities and contribute to funding local development. Here, too, the natural resource is viewed as an asset capable of generating value.

An Unexpected Convergence

Sidi Ould Tah's approach — When these elements are viewed within the broader context of the strategies championed by Sidi Ould Tah, several points of convergence emerge. Since taking the helm at the African Development Bank, he has emphasized the need for Africa to better mobilize its own wealth to finance its development. Underlying this ambition is the concept that the continent's resources should increasingly be viewed as economic and financial levers capable of driving Africa's transformation.

PRECAPE — PRECAPE was not originally conceived as a program dedicated to financial innovation. Its primary objective remains the economic and social reconstruction of areas affected by crises. Yet, its structure reveals an openness to new approaches to development. By combining infrastructure, inclusion, resilience, and the testing of innovative mechanisms, the program creates a framework particularly conducive to the emergence of solutions capable of sustainably strengthening local economic capacities.

The AXIS Program — AXIS sits precisely at the intersection of these two dynamics. On one hand, the African Development Bank seeks to promote approaches that enable better mobilization of African resources. On the other, AXIS offers mechanisms designed to identify, manage, and unlock the value of community assets that remain largely underutilized. The convergence of these two approaches likely explains why the program now falls within the scope of PRECAPE. More than just a technical innovation, AXIS is emerging as one of the first arenas where the AfDB's new strategic directions are being translated into operational reality.

3. December 19, 2025: the pivotal moment

An unnoticed meeting

The participants — In retrospect, December 19, 2025, stands out as a pivotal date in the trajectory that would lead, a few months later, to the integration of AXIS into PRECAPE. Yet, at the time, nothing foreshadowed such a development. The meeting brought together representatives from the African Development Bank, the Social Fund of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FSRDC), and the promoters of the AXIS program. It was neither an official ceremony nor a public announcement, nor a financial negotiation. The discussions took place within the framework of a technical working session dedicated to examining an approach that was still largely unfamiliar to development institutions.

Meeting objectives — For the AXIS teams, the primary goal was educational. The aim was to present a new framework designed to better identify, govern, and leverage certain community assets. The meeting also sought to demonstrate that resources often overlooked by traditional financing mechanisms could contribute to local economic development if properly documented and organized. For the AfDB, the focus was less on evaluating a specific project and more on understanding whether this approach offered relevant solutions to the challenges of territorial development, economic resilience, and local resource mobilization.

Respective expectations — While the participants' expectations differed, they converged on one essential point: the search for new models capable of sustainably strengthening the economic capacity of communities. The AXIS promoters wanted to demonstrate the coherence of their approach and its ability to generate local value. FSRDC officials sought to identify mechanisms that could complement traditional community development tools. Meanwhile, the AfDB was increasingly exploring ways to better link local resources with development financing needs. This convergence of interests explains the keen attention paid to the presentation. What is being presented to the AfDB.

AXIS as governance infrastructure — Contrary to some reductive interpretations, AXIS is not presented merely as a technological platform. The program defines itself primarily as a governance infrastructure designed to organize relationships between communities, natural resources, public institutions, and economic actors. Its ambition is to create a framework that enables better identification of local assets, secures the information associated with them, and fosters their integration into territorial development strategies. This institutional dimension quickly emerges as one of the project's most innovative aspects.

Traceability mechanisms — Particular attention is also paid to the traceability systems proposed by the program. In sectors such as artisanal gold mining or community-based carbon projects, the ability to document the origin of resources, track their evolution, and guarantee the reliability of information is a critical issue. AXIS aims specifically to address this challenge by developing mechanisms capable of enhancing transparency and trust among the various stakeholders. For financial institutions and development partners alike, this issue is central, as no asset can generate lasting value if its origin or governance remains uncertain.

New value-creation models — Finally, discussions focus on the economic models that could emerge from these community assets. The goal is not merely to manage existing resources more effectively, but to explore ways to generate greater economic value from them for the benefit of local territories. Whether dealing with community carbon, artisanal mining, or other local resources, the underlying logic remains the same: creating mechanisms to transform often undervalued assets into drivers of development. This approach aligns directly with the ongoing deliberations regarding new forms of financing for African development.

Key highlights

The territorial approach — One of the elements generating the most interest is the territorial approach championed by AXIS. The program does not begin with available financial instruments to determine subsequent actions; instead, it starts with on-the-ground realities, community resources, and locally expressed needs. This approach reflects a broader shift in development policy, where territories are increasingly viewed not merely as sites for intervention, but as active agents in their own economic transformation.

Community assets — The very concept of "community assets" also captures the participants' attention. It introduces a new way of thinking about local resources. Communities are no longer viewed solely through the lens of their needs or vulnerabilities; they are also seen as possessing assets capable of generating value when properly identified, protected, and organized. This approach fundamentally alters the perspective on local development, shifting the focus from deficits to potential, and from needs to capacities.

The capacity to generate new resources — This final point arguably best explains the interest sparked by the presentation. In a context where financing needs across the continent remain immense, any initiative capable of unlocking new economic resources naturally draws attention. AXIS does not aim to replace traditional development finance mechanisms; rather, it proposes complementing them by better leveraging the wealth already present within territories. When the AfDB later decides to support the program's rollout under PRECAPE, this potential to generate new resources stands out, in retrospect, as a decisive factor from the December 19, 2025 meeting.

4. Why AXIS meets the AfDB's new doctrine

Leveraging local resources

A priority of the new doctrine — Since assuming the presidency of the African Development Bank (AfDB), Sidi Ould Tah has championed an idea that frequently recurs in his statements: Africa already possesses a significant share of the resources needed for its development. The challenge, therefore, is not merely to mobilize more external funding, but also to better identify, organize, and leverage the wealth present on the continent. This shift marks a significant evolution. Natural, environmental, and community resources are no longer viewed solely as factors of production or raw materials; they are increasingly seen as assets capable of driving value creation and financing development.

The example of Congolese communities — It is precisely in this area that AXIS aligns with the AfDB's current priorities. The program is based on the premise that local communities have not only needs to be met but also resources to be leveraged. In the territories concerned, these resources can take various forms: community forests, carbon sequestration capacity, artisanal mining, local know-how, or other territorial assets. The proposed approach aims to make these assets more visible, better governed, and more integrated into economic dynamics. This logic directly reflects the goal of fostering new development capacities emerging from the territories themselves.

Mobilizing complementary funding

The limits of traditional financing — The AfDB faces a well-known equation. Africa's development financing needs remain immense, while public resources, international aid, and state borrowing capacities cannot meet all expectations on their own. Even when substantial funding is mobilized, the question of sustainability remains. How can the impact of a program be sustained once the funds have been committed? How can the economic autonomy of territories be strengthened? How can dependence on external resources be gradually reduced? These questions are playing an increasingly important role in current discussions regarding the future of development finance.

The potential contribution of territorial assets — This is where territorial assets become truly significant. AXIS does not aim to replace public funding, concessional loans, or international investments. Instead, the program seeks to complement these instruments by mobilizing resources that have previously been undervalued. The logic is straightforward: once an asset is properly identified, documented, governed, and recognized, it can serve as a foundation for new economic activities, generate additional revenue, or attract new investment. Viewed in this light, community assets emerge not merely as local resources but as potential levers for financing territorial development.

Empowering territories as development actors

Local governance — One of the most significant aspects of AXIS is the emphasis placed on local governance. The program is not based on a centralized resource management model. On the contrary, it seeks to build the capacity of local stakeholders to participate in identifying, managing, and leveraging the assets found within their communities. This approach aligns with a conviction increasingly central to development policy: the most sustainable solutions are often those rooted in local ownership and the direct involvement of the populations concerned.

Economic inclusion — This territorial governance model is coupled with a commitment to economic inclusion. Communities should not merely be consulted or involved in projects; they must also benefit from the value created. This is particularly important in sectors such as artisanal gold mining or community-based carbon initiatives, where local populations directly contribute to producing or preserving the resources in question. AXIS therefore aims to establish mechanisms that enable local stakeholders to share more fully in the benefits generated by the wealth found within their territories.

Creating shared value — Ultimately, the concept of creating shared value is likely where the primary alignment between AXIS and the AfDB's new doctrine lies. The goal is not merely to generate more wealth, but to distribute the benefits of that wealth more equitably among the various stakeholders contributing to its creation. By enhancing the visibility of community assets, improving their governance, and facilitating their integration into formal economic mechanisms, AXIS aims to ensure that a larger share of the value remains within local communities. This ambition directly reflects a core principle of the new African financial architecture: transforming the continent's resources into a driver of development that benefits those who produce, protect, or manage them.

5. AXIS, a concrete illustration of NAFA

Why the NAFA seeks new assets

Beyond debt and aid — The thinking behind the New African Financial Architecture (NAFA) stems from a widely shared view among development institutions: the continent's financing needs now exceed the capacity of traditional mechanisms. International public aid, concessional loans, and sovereign debt will continue to play an important role, but they are no longer sufficient to meet the scale of investment required in infrastructure, energy, agriculture, education, and employment. The NAFA does not propose replacing these instruments; rather, it seeks to broaden the scope of mobilizable resources by identifying new sources of funding from within African economies themselves.

Mobilizing wealth already present in Africa — This approach is based on a simple idea: Africa is far from being a resource-poor continent. On the contrary, it possesses considerable assets that often remain undervalued, insufficiently documented, or poorly integrated into existing economic mechanisms. Institutional savings, natural resources, environmental capital, community assets, and local productive capacities all represent largely untapped potential. The NAFA aims precisely to build the bridges needed to transform this existing wealth into capacity for financing development. The challenge, therefore, is not merely to find more money, but to better unlock the value already present on the continent.

Transforming resources into economic assets — This is arguably where the true innovation of this approach lies. A natural resource is not automatically an economic asset. To generate value, it must be identified, measured, documented, governed, and integrated into mechanisms that make it mobilizable. The NAFA relies heavily on this transformation. It seeks to bring assets to light where previously only scattered or undervalued resources were seen. This shift in perspective is essential, as it opens the door to new financing models rooted in African economic realities themselves.

What AXIS actually does

Identifying community assets — This is precisely where AXIS serves as a particularly compelling illustration of the NAFA approach. The program begins with a fundamental step: identifying assets held, managed, or preserved by communities. In many territories, these assets exist but remain invisible to conventional development finance mechanisms. Forest resources, carbon sequestration capacity, artisanal mining activities, and other local forms of wealth are all elements capable of generating value, provided they are properly recognized. AXIS operates on the same premise as NAFA: wealth often exists even before the mechanisms to mobilize it have been established.

Making them visible and traceable — Once identified, these assets must be made visible. This is where the mapping, documentation, and traceability mechanisms developed by the program come into play. Visibility is not merely a statistical exercise; it is a prerequisite for economic valorization. An asset that cannot be located, documented, or verified is difficult to mobilize. By enhancing transparency and data reliability, AXIS seeks to foster the trust of institutions, financial partners, and the communities themselves. This step directly addresses one of the challenges NAFA aims to tackle across the continent.

Integrating them into value-creation mechanisms — However, the ultimate goal is neither mapping nor traceability. Rather, it is to enable these assets to contribute to economic value creation. Whether dealing with community-held carbon assets or artisanal gold, AXIS explores ways to link local resources to mechanisms capable of generating revenue, investment, or new economic opportunities. The underlying logic mirrors that of NAFA: ensuring that previously underutilized wealth can directly contribute to development financing. The distinction here is that this ambition is applied at the level of specific territories and communities.

Why the convergence is striking

The same economic logic — When comparing the principles of the NAFA with those of AXIS, the resemblance is remarkable. In both cases, the starting point is the view that the primary problem is not necessarily a lack of wealth, but the difficulty of transforming it into economic capacity. Both approaches seek to identify undervalued assets, strengthen their governance, and create the conditions for their mobilization. This similarity does not mean that AXIS is officially a NAFA program; however, it demonstrates that the initiative aligns with an intellectual and economic logic very close to the one currently promoted by the AfDB.

The same territorial logic — A second point of convergence lies in the importance accorded to local territories. The NAFA is not limited to major financial institutions or capital markets; it also presupposes that local wealth can be better integrated into development dynamics. AXIS applies this very principle by focusing on communities, on-the-ground resources, and local governance mechanisms. In both instances, development is no longer conceived solely from the top down by institutions; it also relies on the economic capacities of the territories themselves.

The same ambition for endogenous financing — Finally, the strongest convergence arguably concerns the ultimate goal. The NAFA seeks to strengthen Africa's capacity to finance more of its own development. AXIS pursues a comparable ambition on a different scale: strengthening the capacity of territories to generate more resources themselves to support their economic development. In both cases, the aim is to gradually reduce reliance on exclusively external funding by mobilizing wealth already present within the areas concerned. For this reason, AXIS can be viewed not only as a territorial development project but also as one of the most concrete illustrations of the principles that the New African Financial Architecture seeks to promote today.

6. The DRC is becoming a laboratory.

The initial testing ground

Why the DRC, rather than other countries? — It is no coincidence that the Democratic Republic of the Congo holds a special place in this process. Few African countries combine such an abundance of natural resources, environmental assets of global significance, and such pressing needs for territorial development. This combination creates an environment particularly well-suited to piloting new approaches aimed at turning local wealth into drivers of development. For an institution like the African Development Bank, the DRC thus serves as a prime setting for testing mechanisms that could be replicated elsewhere on the continent.

Factors enabling the experiment — Several factors lend credibility to this experiment. The country possesses significant forest resources, considerable potential in community-based carbon initiatives, and an artisanal mining sector that plays a major role in the local economy. Yet, beyond the resources themselves, the DRC also has institutions capable of supporting these innovations. The presence of the FSRDC, its experience with community programs, and its deep local roots provide an operational framework rarely found at this scale.

The FSRDC's role in implementation — For several years, the Social Fund of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FSRDC) has played a vital role in driving local development programs. This experience now enables it to bridge the gap between the strategic ambitions of the AfDB and the realities on the ground. In the case of PRECAPE, the FSRDC stands out as a key player in translating an institutional vision into concrete action.

An experiment now backed by institutions

Funding approved by the AfDB — The approval of PRECAPE by the African Development Bank's Board of Directors on April 29, 2026, marks the first step in this institutionalization process. From this point on, the mechanisms associated with the program—including support for the rollout of AXIS—move beyond the realm of mere innovation or technical experimentation. They become components of a program officially funded by one of the continent's leading financial institutions.

The role of the Minister of Finance — A second milestone occurs when the Congolese Minister of Finance, Doudou Fwamba Likunde Li-Botayi, presents the financing agreements linked to various international partner-backed projects to the Senate. Through this step, the Congolese government does more than simply acknowledge a decision made abroad; it integrates PRECAPE into national priorities and commits the Republic's institutions to its implementation.

Presentation to the Congolese Senate — This parliamentary stage is of particular importance. It marks the transition from funding approved by an international donor to a program increasingly embraced by national institutions. For both AXIS and PRECAPE, this step represents a fundamental shift in nature. The project is no longer merely being monitored or funded; it enters the public decision-making process and the institutional frameworks responsible for its execution.

What is being tested today

MACC and community carbon — One of the most innovative aspects of the experiment involves leveraging community carbon. Through the Community Carbon Market (MACC), the aim is to better recognize the economic value of environmental services provided by communities that protect forest ecosystems. This approach seeks to transform an environmental asset into a potential source of revenue and local funding.

GoldConnect and artisanal gold — A similar logic applies to the artisanal gold sector. With GoldConnect, the goal is to improve traceability, transparency, and governance within mining value chains. The ambition is to enable producing communities to better benefit from the wealth generated by their activities while bolstering the confidence of economic and institutional stakeholders.

Traceability mechanisms — At the heart of these pilot projects lies a single idea: sustainable value creation is impossible without trust. The traceability mechanisms proposed by AXIS aim specifically to document resources, secure information, and increase asset visibility. They form the foundation upon which new economic models can subsequently be built.

Potential for future replication

Expansion to other regions — If the mechanisms currently being piloted yield the expected results, there is nothing to limit their application solely to the territories covered by PRECAPE. The principles developed regarding the governance of community assets could be adapted to other Congolese provinces with similar characteristics.

Potential interest for other African countries — Beyond the DRC, several African countries face similar challenges: abundant natural resources, difficulties in mobilizing local financing, and a need to strengthen the economic capacity of communities. Lessons learned from the Congolese experience could therefore be of interest far beyond its borders.

The DRC as a continental showcase — This may well be the most significant aspect of this initiative. If AXIS succeeds in demonstrating that properly identified, governed, and leveraged community assets can contribute to financing local development, the DRC could retrospectively be seen as one of the first testing grounds for this new approach. The country would no longer merely be a beneficiary of a development program; it would become a site where a new method of financing African development is being put into practice.

Conclusion — From doctrine to proof

A doctrine confronted with reality — The first two articles in this series were devoted to the emergence of a vision. This third part shows how this vision begins to be confronted with realities on the ground. With PRECAPE, the African Development Bank is not only financing a reconstruction and resilience program. It also creates the conditions for testing new approaches based on the development of local resources, the involvement of communities and the creation of territorial value. The question is no longer just doctrinal; it becomes operational.

First laboratory of the new AfDB — The Democratic Republic of Congo today occupies a unique position in this development. The combination of its natural resources, its environmental capital, its development needs and the experience of the FSRDC makes it a particularly relevant testing ground. The integration of AXIS into PRECAPE thus makes it possible to observe how the principles associated with the New African Financial Architecture can be translated into concrete mechanisms for territorial development. In this sense, the DRC already appears as one of the first laboratories of the transformation undertaken within the AfDB.

The logic of the Kinshasa Process — Any innovation generally goes through three stages: experimentation, evaluation then reproduction. European public policies have largely been constructed according to this logic, through mechanisms allowing new approaches to be tested locally before considering their gradual generalization. The Kinshasa Process, designed by WuinqstantGold, is part of this same philosophy. Its ambition is not only to bring about innovative projects, but to create the conditions enabling the identification of models capable of being reproduced on a larger scale.

A method before being a program — From this perspective, the main issue is perhaps not AXIS itself but the method it represents. If mechanisms based on the governance of community assets, the traceability of resources and the creation of local value demonstrate their effectiveness, they could inspire other territories facing comparable challenges. The Congolese experience then takes on a dimension that goes far beyond the national framework.

Towards a new generation of African projects? — It is still too early to answer with certainty. But one thing is already clear. The sequence opened between December 2025 and June 2026 does not only tell the story of a development program. It perhaps illustrates the emergence of a new way of thinking about financing African development: starting from territories, revealing existing assets, organizing their governance and gradually transforming local resources into development capacities. If this hypothesis is confirmed, the DRC will not only have hosted an innovative project. It will have helped to open a path likely to inspire many other experiences on the continent.