## Democratic Republic of the Congo

# The BantuFirst Project: 2018 Fieldwork Report from the Kongo Central Province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Bernard Clist[1]

Institut des Mondes Africains
Paris, France
bernardolivier.clist@ugent.be

Suzanne Bigohe
Université de Kinshasa, DRC

Clément Mambu
Institut des Musées Nationaux du Congo, DRC

Koen Bostoen[1]

[1]BantuFirst project, UGent Centre for Bantu Studies, Ghent University, Belgium

### Introduction

The archaeological and palaeo-environmental field research presented in this paper is part of the BantuFirst project, which is funded by the European Research Council (Consolidator's Grant no. 724275) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program (see project website at http://bantufirst.ugent.be). This five-year (2018-2022) interdisciplinary research program aims at improving our understanding of the appearance of the first villages, the expansion of Bantu speech communities and the spread of iron metallurgy south of the rainforest. It examines how these different phenomena are related to each other and to a changing natural environment. In terms of organization and interdisciplinarity, the BantuFirst project is similar to its forerunner, i.e. the KongoKing research project (2012-2016), also funded by the European Research Council (Starting Grant no. 284126) but rather focusing on the Late Iron Age (LIA) and historical archaeology (see archived project website http://www.kongoking.net and also Bostoen and Brinkman 2018; Clist *et al.* 2013a, b, 2014, 2015, 2018c; Kaumba 2014, 2015; Matonda *et al.* 2014; Nikis and Champion 2014; Nikis and De Putter 2015; Nikis *et al.* 2013). In the first year of the BantuFirst project, one archaeological fieldwork campaign took place from June to August 2018 in the Kinshasa, Kwango, Kwilu and Mai-Ndombe Provinces of the DRC (Seidensticker *et al.* 2018: 23-29) and another from September to November 2018 in the Kongo Central Province of the DRC, on which we report here. The fieldwork in the Kongo Central Province was carried out by Bernard Clist, who led the mission, in close collaboration with Clément Mambu, research assistant from the IMNC, Suzanne Bigohe, a MA student from Kinshasa University, and Isidore Nkanu, who has been our driver and excavation assistant for many years.

### Objectives and Research Protocol

The Kongo Central fieldwork campaign aimed at helping to resolve several research questions that are central to the BantuFirst project:

1) Were the first villages on the Atlantic Ocean coastline the result of a north to south coastal expansion that took place in the course of the third millennium BP?

2) What were the relationships between autochthonous hunter-gatherer groups and the earliest village communities, if any?

3) Was there a rise of social complexity in the province during the Early Iron Age (EIA) (cf. Clist *et al.* 2019, forthcoming)?

4) What were the subsistence strategies of the earliest village communities, before and after the advent of iron metallurgy?

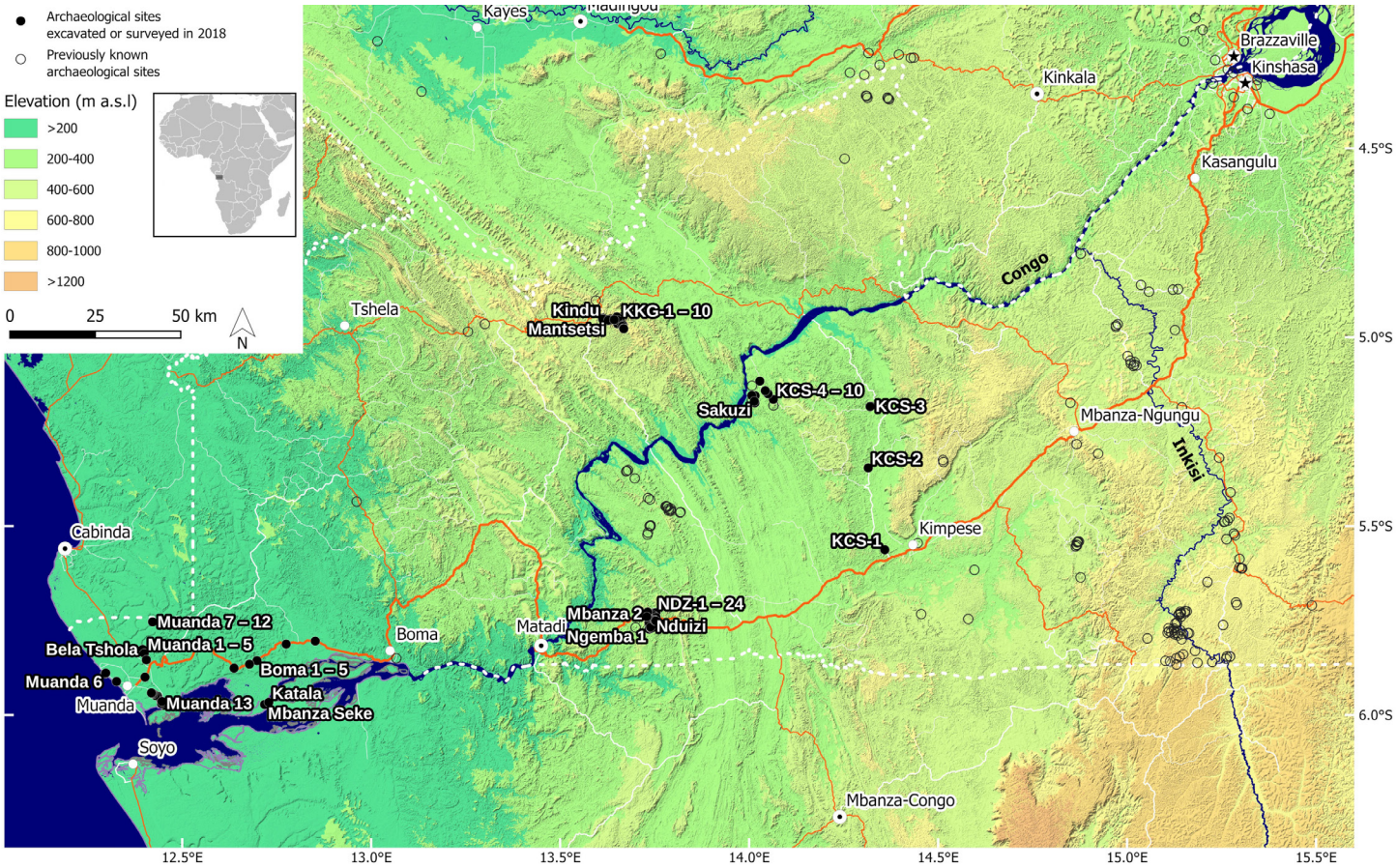


**Figure 1**: Map of the 2018 finds (black dots) and of the KongoKing project finds (black circles) (map: Dirk Seidensticker).

5) What was the natural environment at the times of the first settlements and what were the types of interaction between man and his environment?

To tackle these questions, the strategy was three-fold:

1) Re-excavate four known sites that had already yielded archaeological evidence for early settlement, i.e. Kindu, Kongo dia Vanga, Mantsetsi, Sakuzi.

2) Survey for new sites and excavate selected ones, especially on the coast and around Kongo dia Vanga, which is situated at some 40 km east of Matadi.

3) Obtain, whenever possible, a deep column of soil from or close to every site, using bulk sampling and augering (*Edelman* auger for mixed soils with a 3 m long tubing), to reconstruct past vegetation relying on the $^{13}C$ analysis of the Soil Organic Matter as well as phytolith and charcoal identification. In addition, all refuse pits were excavated to enable flotation alongside phytolith and charcoal identification.

Every archaeological site was located using a Garmin GPS Map 64ST with a resolution of three meters. During excavations, we used 10 cm thick spits and recorded all artifacts per square meter. All earth was dry-sieved on 5 and 2.5 mm mesh. Surveyed sites that yielded only recognizable LIA pottery were left untouched, but registered for possible later excavations.

## Results

After preparatory works in Kinshasa, the actual fieldwork campaign started on 5 October and lasted until 15 November 2018. We traveled 3267 km in total, excavated ten archaeological sites (six of which were new), registered 73 new sites from different archaeological periods, collected 94 charcoal samples, obtained

73 soil samples from four columns, and singled out seven refuse pits in settlement sites for flotation purposes. A list of sites is presented in Table 1. The fieldwork was successively carried out in four distinct areas of the province: 1) Kibula Catholic Seminar area south of the Congo River; 2) Kinkenge town north of the Congo River and on the eastern slopes of the Mayombe; 3) Kongo dia Vanga village (aka Nduizi today) south of the Congo River and about 40 km east of Matadi, and 4) Muanda on the coast (Figure 1).

*Kibula Catholic Seminar (KCS) area (5-11 October 2018)*

Ancient-looking pottery and polished stone axes had been collected from the surface around the seminar from the 1950s to the 1970s. In 1984, excavations were carried out on the Sakuzi hilltop at a short distance inland from the Kay Ladio village situated on the Congo River (de Maret and Clist 1985). They yielded Ngovo (Neolithic), Kay Ladio (EIA) and Mbafu (LIA) ceramics. Sakuzi was the only excavated site. Most of the artifacts and contexts were studied and $^{14}$C dates obtained and then published together with a basic interpretation of the archaeological material (de Maret 1986, 1990; Gosselain 1988). 34 years later, we went back to Sakuzi to excavate village refuse pits, conduct palaeo-environmental sampling and carry out further surveys on the surrounding hilltops, which were not systematically explored in 1984.

Eleven sites were registered (Table 1, no. 1-11). Of major interest are two sites near to the modern village of Kay Ladio, which yielded Kay Ladio ware (Table 1, no. 6-7). Together with the neighboring Sakuzi hilltop and the KCS-8 site, they provide evidence for concentrations of settlements of Kay Ladio producers, also found around Kinkenge, Nduizi and north-west of Songololo (see below and Clist *et al.* 2019, forthcoming).

In 1984, we studied 15 features at Sakuzi related to an unidentified ceramic group (1 pit), a new 'Sakuzi Group' (4 pits), the Ngovo Group (2 pits) and the Kay Ladio Group (8 pits) (Gosselain 1988). Later, three of the 'Sakuzi Group' features were re-assigned to the Ngovo Group, while the unidentified group was stylistically associated with Imbonga ceramics from the Inner Congo Basin (Clist 2005: 754-755). In 2018, ten more features and a 2 m$^2$ palaeo-environmental trench were excavated. Meanwhile, $^{14}$C dates have been obtained from three 2018 pits with Kay Ladio ware and from one pit with Ngovo ware. The precise dates will be published elsewhere. They tie in with the already established chronology for both ceramic groups. In addition, Mbafu pottery, dated in 2014 to the thirteenth to fourteenth centuries AD (Clist *et al.* 2018d: 248-253), was found on the surface.

*Kinkenge (KKG) area (12-19 October 2018)*

In 1951, M. Bequaert excavated on the Kindu and Mantsetsi hilltops at a few kilometers from Kinkenge. Clist (1982) analyzed the pottery found during these excavations, Lavachery (1990) the lithics. In order to verify the stratigraphy and to date the various archaeological periods attested (SA, EIA LIA), more excavations were carried out at both sites in 2015 as part of the KongoKing project (Clist *et al.* 2015, 2018a). The 2018 fieldwork aimed at extensively surveying the hilltops between Kindu and Kinkenge and at collecting new palaeo-environmental data. We conducted new excavations at the sites of Kindu and Mantsetsi and discovered ten new sites attesting various archaeological periods (Table 1 no. 15-24).

At Kindu, six trenches of 1 m$^2$ each were opened. One of them contained LIA pottery and was expanded to 4 m$^2$. Another one was extended to 2 m$^2$; it featured a LSA quartz concentration between a depth of 30 to 60 cm, with a higher artifact density (153 per square meter) between -40 and -50 cm. All trenches yielded pottery between the surface and -30 cm. One trench was sampled down to 110 cm for palaeo-environmental studies. A $^{14}$C date has been obtained for the LSA quartz concentration. The precise dates will be published elsewhere.

At Mantsetsi, the Kay Ladio Group component could not be dated in 2015 because sheet erosion had removed the pottery-containing layer from the hilltop (Clist *et al.* 2018a: 203-204). However, Bequaert's 1951 field notes mention findings of ancient pottery at another part of the hill, i.e. at the foot of the northern slope. In this area, we opened four aligned trenches of 1 m$^2$ each in 2018, at distances of 20 meters, starting a first trench at the top of the hill with the fourth trench located 60 meters down the hill. The first trench was expanded to 2 m$^2$ for palaeo-environmental sampling, as Bequaert's work in 1951 had shown the presence of soils with a depth of circa 2 meters. We found a diffuse quartz component from the surface to a depth of 170 cm, with about five artifacts per square meter, and a quartz concentration from -170 cm

to -200 cm, with a maximum of 97 artifacts/square meter between -190 and -200 cm. Charcoal from the -40/-50 cm, -100/-110 cm and -190/-200 cm spits have been processed for radiocarbon dating. The precise dates will be published elsewhere.

**Figure 2:** Excavations around the Nduizi village houses, features no. 3 (front, fifth to sixth century cal AD) & no. 4 (back: third to fourth century cal AD) (picture: B. Clist).

*Nduizi (NDZ) area (24 October-3 November 2018)*

In 1951, M. Bequaert conducted archaeological fieldwork in the surroundings of the village of Kongo dia Vanga – known today as Nduizi, which is situated along the National Road linking Kinshasa and Matadi (Table 1 no. 26). He found polished stone axes as well as Ngovo and Kay Ladio pottery (Clist 1982: 109-114). Our 2018 fieldwork was the first since that time. In the modern village, following on Bequaert's excavations, we could identify some eroded features, sometimes adjacent to house walls or partly covered by a house (Figure 2). We excavated several of them and five pits have been radiocarbon dated. Four of them date back to the EIA, which ties in with the pottery they contain, i.e. Kay Ladio in three of them and Kitala in one of them (Clist *et al.* 2018b: 50, 2019, forthcoming). The precise dates will be published elsewhere.

After completing work at and around Nduizi, we selected two new sites for further excavations, i.e. Mbanza 2 and Ngemba 1.

Mbanza 2 is a large hilltop culminating at 370 m and situated 2 km northwest of Nduizi. This heavily eroded hill yielded evidence for intermittent human occupations from the MSA to the LIA. The Iron Age components are made up of scattered potsherds and a few surface concentrations indicating former pits or still intact pit bottoms. Four such pits have been radiocarbon dated, yielding dates in the EIA. Two of them contain EIA Kay Ladio ware. Two other pits have a pottery type with attributes that differ from Kay Ladio ware, which ties in with our recent hypothesis of growing diversity and complexity during the EIA in the Kongo Central Province (Clist *et al.* 2019, forthcoming). A concentration of Ngovo potsherds, probably the remains of an eroded pit, and several polished stone axes disseminated on the hilltop suggest the presence of a small Neolithic settlement. On the hilltop a 2 $m^2$ trench was dug down to 110 cm to obtain palaeo-environmental data.

Ngemba 1 is a low-lying hill south of Nduizi, which is situated along a small dirt road going towards the Angolan border (cf. Table 1, no. 27). Apart from surface-collected Stone Age artifacts, the site has bowl-shaped iron furnaces of 0.7-0.8 m in diameter (Figure 3), similar to the ones found at sites 34, 36, 42 & 47. Two of the furnaces were completely excavated and radiocarbon-dated to the LIA. The precise dates will be published elsewhere. The furnaces are similar in shape, volume and chronology to the ones studied during the KongoKing project at Kazu 6, only 30 km northwest of Ngemba 1 (Clist *et al.* 2018a: 195-197). Together, they bear evidence to this area's importance for iron production during the early days of the Kongo kingdom.


**Figure 3**: Excavations in a light rain at the Ngemba 1 site, furnace no. 2 (fourteenth to fifteenth century cal AD) (picture: B. Clist).Ngemba 1 site, furnace no. 2 (fourteenth to fifteenth century cal AD) (picture: B. Clist).Ngemba 1 site, furnace no. 2 (fourteenth to fifteenth century cal AD) (picture: B. Clist).

*Muanda area (5-14 November 2018)*

Ever since a short mission in 1986 (Kanimba Misago 1987), no archaeological fieldwork had been published in the coastal area of the DRC. The main aim of our 2018 fieldwork was to initiate the establishment of a cultural sequence for this part of the country by excavating any pottery-bearing site with well-preserved archaeological contexts. The topography of the coast is quite flat, monotonous, covered by savanna, and devoid of eroded hilltops, which handicap surveys elsewhere in the province. We also conducted systematic interviews with men and especially women in the fields and villages to locate sites. We recorded 27 new sites between Boma and Muanda (Table 1 no. 51-77), of which we excavated two: Muanda 6 and Muanda 13. At two other sites we sampled a profile: Boma 1 and Katala.

**Figure 4**: Ongoing excavations at the Muanda 6 site, sixth century cal AD (picture: B. Clist).

The site of Muanda 6 consists of a settlement layer at a depth of -40/-50 cm below the surface (Figure 4). Within the ancient village, a shell midden was formed whose eroded summit yielded pottery and mangrove shells on the surface spread over a few square meters. We set up test trenches on the midden and at ten meters to both the north and south of it. We also carried out a 3 m deep coring for palaeo-environmental purposes. The earth excavated from the 1 $m^2$ test pits was systematically dry-sieved, first with 5 mm sieves and then with 2.5 mm sieves. This way, we could collect evidence of fish (at least four taxons), mammals (to be identified), and crabs between the surface and -50 cm. These are well preserved thanks to the *Tympanotonus fuscatus fuscatus* midden to which were added some shells of eight other species. The summit trench also yielded six small shell beads (diameter ca. 2.5 mm) (3 at 20/-30 cm, 1 at -30/-40 cm, 2 at -40/-50 cm). Two $^{14}C$ dates were obtained from *Elaeis guineensis* found in the settlement layer of trench 1. Both date back to the EIA, circa 1550 BP. The fabrics, shapes and decoration of the 1054 potsherds obtained from the three square meters excavated are significantly different from those of the contemporary Kay Ladio and Kitala wares found further east. We discovered this new Muanda ware at two other coastal sites: Katala and Muanda 8.

Around Muanda, dozens of onshore oil platforms exist. We surface-collected artifacts from several of them (Table 1, sites no. 58-61, 66-69, 71-76). Muanda 13 (no. 70) is the only one which we excavated after having identified two pits dug from a buried village layer at -20 cm. One of the pits has been radiocarbon dated to the EIA. The pottery style attested at Muanda 13 is different from the one found in Muanda 6, Muanda 8 and Katala, but it has been found at eight other sites (Table 1 no. 56, 64, 66, 69, 72-75).

Katala is a modern village established in the mangroves on the north bank of the Congo River. The profile under the modern village contains pottery of two different types, one located stratigraphically on top of the other: the Muanda style (older) and the Katala style (younger). The Katala style is also found at the Muanda 5 site.

Boma 1 consists of a large borrow pit that was dug for road works between Boma and Muanda. The profiles are 750 cm deep. Isolated Stone Age artifacts were collected in the profiles, buried between -650 cm and -710 cm. We interpret them as coming from several discrete occupation layers stratified there. Concentrated within a 50 cm long section of a profile, at -620 cm, we found 20 densely concentrated artifacts (17 on quartz) suggesting that some areas of the site may still contain interesting stone components in situ.

**Conclusion**

The new data obtained during our 2018 fieldwork campaign contribute to a better understanding of the emergence of settlements and the start of the Iron Age around 1900 years ago in the Kongo Central Province of the DRC. With regard to the earliest villages predating the advent of iron metallurgy, we found new evidence of Ngovo

pottery at Mbanza 2 and Sakuzi. We excavated new instances of the earliest EIA pottery, i.e. Kay Ladio ware, at Mbanza 2, Nduizi and Sakuzi, with some interesting stylistic peculiarities observed in the pottery of some of the Nduizi pits. On the coast, we identified four different EIA pottery styles, the oldest of which dates back to the 6th century cal AD. At Kindu and Mantsetsi, we unearthed evidence for the LSA. This Stone Age component is possibly contemporaneous with the earliest villages in the area, but this needs to be further examined through in-depth laboratory analysis.

**Acknowledgements**

Our thanks go to the Procure Sainte Anne in Kinshasa who has extended its offer to house our field equipment and Toyota Hilux between our stays in the DRC. We are also grateful to the Institut des Musées nationaux du Congo and Prof. Dr. Paul Bakwa-Lufu, its acting Director-General, for all administrative and logistical help offered. Philippe Béarez and Caroline Mougne from the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle in Paris (France) carried out preliminary identifications of shells and bones from the Muanda 6 site.

**Table 1**

| Number | Site | Latitude S. | Longitude E. | Tentative cultural affiliation |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | KCS-1 | 5°33'46" | 14°21'33" | IA, Fe |
| 2 | KCS-2 | 5°20'46" | 14°18'55" | SA, LIA, Fe |
| 3 | KCS-3 | 5°10'58" | 14°19'19" | SA |
| 4 | KCS-4 | 5°11'02" | 14°19'13" | SA, Fe, IA |
| 5 | KCS-5 | 5°09'53" | 14°03'51" | IA |
| 6 | KCS-6 | 5°09'18" | 14°00'58" | EIA (KL) |
| 7 | KCS-7 | 5°09'16" | 14°00'26" | EIA (KL) + others |
| 8 | KCS-8 | 5°10'25" | 14°00'56" | SA, Fe, EIA (KL and others) |
| 9 | KCS-9 | 5°09'00" | 14°03'01" | IA |
| 10 | KCS-10 | 5°08'30" | 14°02'34" | IA |
| 11 | KCS-11 | 5°06'59" | 14°01'42" | IA |
| 12 | ***Sakuzi*** | 5°10'11" | 14°00'50" | SA, EIA (NG, KL) + others, LIA |
| 13 | ***Kindu*** | 4°57'08" | 13°36'48" | SA, EIA (KL), LIA |
| 14 | ***Mantsetsi*** | 4°57'16" | 13°39'20" | SA, EIA (KL), LIA |
| 15 | KKG-1 | 4°57'16" | 13°39'20" | IA |
| 16 | KKG-2 | 4°57'19" | 13°39'32" | IA |
| 17 | KKG-3 | 4°57'52" | 13°39'08" | IA |
| 18 | KKG-4 | 4°56'46" | 13°39'01" | IA |
| 19 | KKG-5 | 4°57'20" | 13°39'13" | IA |
| 20 | KKG-6 | 4°58'05" | 13°39'58" | IA |
| 21 | KKG-7 | 4°58'15" | 13°39'53" | IA |
| 22 | KKG-8 | 4°58'36" | 13°40'03" | IA |
| 23 | KKG-9 | 4°58'39" | 13°40'06" | IA |
| 24 | KKG-10 | 4°57'14" | 13°38'35" | SA, EIA, LIA |
| 25 | Mbanza 2 | 5°43'56" | 13°43'49" | SA, NG, KL, EIA, PT, LIA |
| 26 | ***Nduizi*** | 5°44'30" | 13°44'45" | EIA (KL + others), LIA |
| 27 | Ngemba 1 | 5°46'08" | 13°44'12" | SA, Fe |
| 28 | NDZ-1 | 5°43'45" | 13°45'00" | SA, EIA (NG), PT |
| 29 | NDZ-2 | 5°43'46" | 13°45'05" | SA, EIA (NG), PT |
| 30 | NDZ-3 | 5°43'46" | 13°45'13" | SA, EIA (NG), PT |
| 31 | NDZ-4 | NC | NC | LIA |
| 32 | NDZ-5 | 5°44'37" | 13°44'49" | SA, LIA |
| 33 | NDZ-6 | 5°44'12" | 13°44'52" | PT |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 34 | NDZ-7 | 5°44’29” | 13°45’14” | PT, Fe, EIA (KL) |
| 35 | NDZ-8 | 5°44’51” | 13°44’19” | SA, PT |
| 36 | NDZ-9 | 5°44’48” | 13°44’20” | Fe |
| 37 | NDZ-10 | 5°44’06” | 13°43’40” | EIA (KL), LIA |
| 38 | NDZ-11 | 5°44’03” | 13°43’35” | LIA |
| 39 | NDZ-12 | 5°43’50” | 13°43’51” | SA (MSA) |
| 40 | NDZ-13 | 5°43’40” | 13°43’54” | SA (MSA) |
| 41 | NDZ-14 | 5°46’23” | 13°44’08” | SA (MSA , LSA), EIA (KL), LIA |
| 42 | NDZ-15 | 5°45’22” | 13°44’08” | SA, EIA (KL), Fe, |
| 43 | NDZ-16 | 5°46’11” | 13°44’22” | IA |
| 44 | NDZ-17 | 5°46’13” | 13°44’27” | IA |
| 45 | NDZ-18 | 5°46’13” | 13°44’30” | SA |
| 46 | NDZ-19 | 5°46’02” | 13°44’22” | IA |
| 47 | NDZ-20 | 5°44’55” | 13°44’59” | Fe |
| 48 | NDZ-21 | 5°45’00” | 13°45’03” | LIA |
| 49 | NDZ-22 | 5°45’03” | 13°45’12” | PT |
| 50 | NDZ-23 | 5°44’24” | 13°43’46” | LIA |
| 51 | Boma 1 | 5°48’16” | 12°51’08” | SA, collected in profile |
| 52 | Boma 2 | 5°48’45” | 12°46’31” | SA |
| 53 | Boma 3 | 5°51’23” | 12°41’53” | SA |
| 54 | Boma 4 | 5°51’56” | 12°40’41” | SA |
| 55 | Boma 5 | 5°52’34” | 12°38’14” | SA |
| 56 | Mbanza Seke | 5°58’20” | 12°43’05” | IA |
| 57 | Bela Tshola | 5°49’36” | 12°23’44” | IA |
| 58 | Muanda 1 | 5°53’59” | 12°24’06” | SA |
| 59 | Muanda 2 | 5°50’13” | 12°23’59” | IA |
| 60 | Muanda 3 | 5°54’41” | 12°19’35” | LIA |
| 61 | Muanda 4 | 5°53’27” | 12°17’44” | IA |
| 62 | Muanda 5 | 5°45’11” | 12°25’17” | IA |
| 63 | Muanda 6 | 5°53’20” | 12°17’52” | IA |
| 64 | Muanda 7 | 5°45’13” | 12°25’18” | IA |
| 65 | Muanda 8 | 5°51’15” | 12°24’19” | IA |
| 66 | Muanda 9 | 5°58’28” | 12°27’12” | IA |
| 67 | Muanda 10 | 5°58’06” | 12°26’45” | LIA |
| 68 | Muanda 11 | 5°57’56” | 12°26’39” | LIA |
| 69 | Muanda 12 | 5°57’47” | 12°26’39” | IA |
| 70 | Muanda 13 | 5°58’11” | 12°26’43” | LIA |
| 71 | Muanda 14 | 5°57’00” | 12°26’05” | SA |
| 72 | Muanda 15 | 5°56’53” | 12°25’45” | IA |
| 73 | Muanda 16 | 5°56’39” | 12°25’25” | IA |
| 74 | Muanda 17 | 5°56’34” | 12°25’14” | IA |
| 75 | Muanda 18 | 5°56’30” | 12°25’07” | IA |
| 76 | Muanda 19 | 5°57’51” | 12°26’47” | IA |
| 77 | Katala | 5°57’59” | 12°43’45” | IA, collected in Congo River profile |

**Table 1.** Catalog of archaeological sites surveyed and excavated during the 2018 fieldwork in the Kongo Central Province. Old excavated sites are shown in bold italics, new excavated sites in bold. Abbreviations: SA = undifferentiated Stone Age; MSA = Middle Stone Age; LSA = Late Stone Age; EIA = Early Iron Age; LIA = Late Iron Age; IA = undifferentiated Iron Age pottery; KL = Kay Ladio pottery; NG = Ngovo pottery; PT = polished stone tools; Fe = iron-working structure; NC = GPS coordinates unavailable; KCS = Kibula Catholic Seminar area; KKG = Kinkenge area; NDZ = Nduizi area.

**References cited**


Bostoen, K. & Brinkman I.(editors)
2018. *The Kongo Kingdom: The Origins, Dynamics and Cosmopolitan Culture of an African Polity*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Clist, B.
1982. Etude archéologique du matériel de la mission Maurits Bequaert de 1950-1952 au Bas-Zaïre. Brussels: Université Libre de Bruxelles, Mémoire de Licence.
2005. Des premiers villages aux premiers européens autour de l'estuaire du Gabon: quatre millénaires d'interactions entre l'homme et son milieu. Brussels: Université Libre de Bruxelles, Thèse de Doctorat.

Clist, B., Cranshof, E., De Herdt, T., Kidebua, R., Matonda, I., Nkanza Lutayi, A., Zaid, B. and Bostoen, K.
2015. Le projet KongoKing: Les prospections et fouilles menées en 2015 dans la province du Kongo Central (République Démocratique du Congo). *Nyame Akuma* 84: 128-141.

Clist, B., Cranshof, E., Matonda, I. & Kidebua, R.
2018a. 'Fouilles et prospections dans le territoire de Songololo'. In Clist, B., de Maret, P. and Bostoen, K. (eds.) 2018. *Une archéologie des provinces septentrionales du royaume Kongo*. Oxford: Archaeopress, pp. 189-204.

Clist, B., de Maret, P. & Bostoen, K.
2018b. Les débuts de la céramique, de la sédentarisation et de la métallurgie. In Clist, B., de Maret, P. and Bostoen, K. (eds.) 2018. *Une archéologie des provinces septentrionales du royaume Kongo*. Oxford: Archaeopress, pp. 45–50.

Clist, B., de Maret, P. & Bostoen, K. (eds.)
2018c. *Une archéologie des provinces septentrionales du royaume Kongo*. Oxford: Archaeopress.

Clist, B., de Maret, P., de Schryver, G.-M., Kaumba, M., Matonda, I., Cranshof, E. & Bostoen, K.
2013a. The KongoKing Project: 2012 Fieldwork Report from the Lower Congo Province (DRC). *Nyame Akuma* 79: 60-73.

Clist, B., de Maret, P., Livingstone-Smith, A., Cranshof, E., Kaumba, M., Matonda, I., Mambu, C., Yogolelo, J. & Bostoen, K.
2013b. The KongoKing Project: 2013 Fieldwork Report from the Lower Congo Province (DRC). *Nyame Akuma* 80: 22-31.

Clist, B., Hubau, W., Tshibamba Mukendi, J., Beeckman, H. & Bostoen, K.
2019. 'The Earliest Iron-Producing Communities in the Lower Congo Region of Central Africa: New Insights from the Bu, Kindu and Mantsetsi Sites'. *Azania*: *Archaeological Research in Africa* 2 (published online on 24 June 2019).

Clist, B., Kaumba, M., Matonda, I. & Bostoen, K.
Forthcoming. 'Kitala Ware: A New Early Iron Age Pottery Group from the Lower Congo Region in Central Africa'. *African Archaeological Review*.

Clist, B., Nikis, N. & de Maret, P.
2018d. 'Séquence chrono-culturelle de la poterie kongo (13e-19e siècles)'. In Clist, B., de Maret, P. & Bostoen, K. (eds.) 2018. *Une archéologie des provinces septentrionales du royaume Kongo*. Oxford: Archaeopress, pp. 243–295.

Clist, B., Nikis, N., Nkanza Lutayi, A., Overmeire, J., Praet, M., Scheerlinck, K. & Bostoen, K.
2014. 'Le projet KongoKing: Les prospections et fouilles menées en 2014 à Misenga, Sumbi et Ngongo Mbata (Province du Bas-Congo, RDC)'. *Nyame Akuma* 82: 48-56.

de Maret, P.
1986. 'The Ngovo Group: An Industry with Polished Stone Tools and Pottery in Lower-Zaïre'. *African Archaeological Review* 4: 103–133.

de Maret, P.
1990. 'Le "néolithique" et l'Age du Fer Ancien dans le sud-ouest de l'Afrique Centrale'. In Lanfranchi, R. & Schwartz, D. (eds.) 1990. *Paysages quaternaires de l'Afrique Centrale Atlantique*. Paris: ORSTOM, 447-457.

de Maret, P. & Clist, B.
1985. Archaeological Research in Zaïre. *Nyame Akuma* 26: 41-42.

Gosselain, O.
1988. Sakusi: fouille d'un premier village du néolithique et de l'âge des métaux au Zaïre. Brussels: Université Libre de Bruxelles, Mémoire de Licence.

Kanimba Misago, C.
1987. 'Recherches archéologiques récentes au Zaïre 1986'. *Nsi* 1: 18-21.

Kaumba, M.
2014. 'Le projet Kongoking: Enquêtes sur la poterie kongo contemporaine menées en 2014 dans la province du Bas-Congo (République Démocratique du Congo)'. *Nyame Akuma* 82: 66-72.

Kaumba, M.
2015. 'Le projet Kongoking: Enquêtes sur la poterie kongo contemporaine menées en 2015 dans les provinces du Kongo-Central (République Démocratique du Congo), du Zaïre et de Uíge (République d'Angola)'. *Nyame Akuma* 84: 154-160.

Lavachery, P.
1990. L'Âge de la Pierre Récent au Bas-Zaïre: étude du matériel lithique des missions Bequaert, 1950-1952 et de Maret 1973. Brussels: Université Libre de Bruxelles, Mémoire de Licence.

Matonda, I., Cranshof, E., Mambu, C., Kidebua, R. & Bostoen, K.
2014. 'Le projet KongoKing: Prospections archéologiques et enquêtes ethnoarchéologiques dans la vallée de l'Inkisi et régions avoisinantes (Province du Bas-Congo, RDC)'. *Nyame Akuma* 82: 57–-65.

Nikis, N. & Champion, L.
2014. 'Fouilles, prospections, et prélèvements archéobotaniques dans les zones cuprifères de Mindouli et Boko-Songho en République du Congo'. *Nyame Akuma* 82: 73-83.

Nikis, N. & De Putter, T.
2015. 'Recherches géo-archéologiques dans les zones cuprifères du bassin du Niari en République du Congo'. *Nyame Akuma* 85: 142-153.

Nikis, N., de Maret, P., Lanfranchi, R., Nsania, J., Goma, J.-P., Clist, B. & Bostoen, K.
2013. 'Projet KongoKing. Prospections en République du Congo (Brazzaville): le cuivre et l'origine des anciens royaumes Kongo et Teke'. *Nyame Akuma* 80: 32-42.

Seidensticker, D., Jungnickel, K., Mambu, C., Yogolelo, J., Kidebua, R. & Bostoen, K.
2018. 'The BantuFirst Project: 2018 Fieldwork Report from the Kinshasa, Kwango, Kwilu and Mai-Ndombe Provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo'. *Nyame Akuma* 90: 23-29.