Good day everybody, my name is Congo Peafowl

To be more accurate, my full name is *Afropavo congensis*. Without boasting, I am quite extraordinary. Indeed, I am the only African peafowl! All other peafowl come from India and Southeast Asia. My discovery in 1913 in Ituri Province in the Congo was an exciting fact for ornithologists. ☺ It is Mr. Chapin who noticed an unknown feather on the cap of a Congolese. So he bought this crown to identify the feather once back in New York. But neither he nor his colleagues were able to identify the feather of my ancestor. It is only 23 years later, when he visited the Belgian Congo Museum in Tervuren that he came upon two large birds whose feathers were like the one he had brought from the Congo. Comparing the two feathers he discovered that it was indeed the same species! The Director of the Museum said to have received them in 1914 as young blue Indian peacocks. But Chapin knew this information was not right and ended by describing my species in 1936.

That's the story.

I measure 60 to 70 cm and my tail is rather short. I don't have the long tail of my Asian cousins. Males are blue-green iridescent, with a reddish bib and a double white and black crest on the head. Females have a golden brown, metallic brown and pale green plumage.

Female :   Male :

I live in primary forests of central and eastern Democratic Republic of Congo where I eat many fruits and insects such as ants, beetles and termites.

I'm rather discreet and difficult to observe.

My species is unfortunately considered as vulnerable. Indeed, our total population is declining and is now estimated at less than 10,000 individuals (Birdlife 2000). Our species is in danger of extinction because of our fragmented distribution, the destruction of our habitat (deforestation, agriculture etc.) and hunting ☹

We are present and protected in the Salonga National Park in the Congo and in the Zoo of Antwerp in Belgium. Unfortunately this is not enough to protect our species.