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Note on terminology

In this study, Congo is used to refer to the Congo Free State (1885-1908) and the Belgian Congo (1908-60). Zaïre will be used for the country post-independence (1960), although the name was not officially changed until 1971. Kongo is the name of the ethnic group found in the lower part of the country where most of the original research was carried out. The language of this group is KiKongo.



Group of sisters wearing the common 'Province cloth' on a Final Profession Day.
Kimwenza, 1992.



Sisters relaxing together after a Final Vow Day celebration, dressed in the same cloth. Kimwenda, 1992.



Sisters wearing their usual kind of daily attire. Ngidinga, 1992.