DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
OF THE CONGO

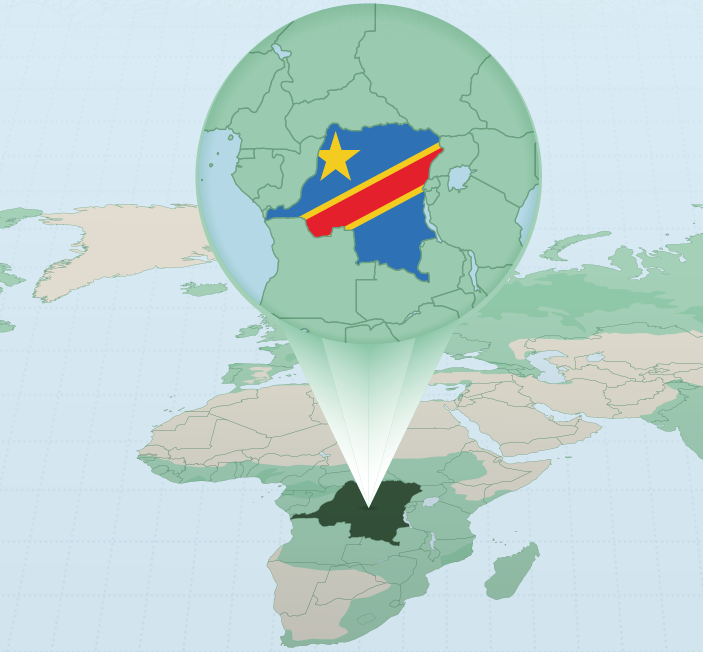
INVESTOR PASSPORT



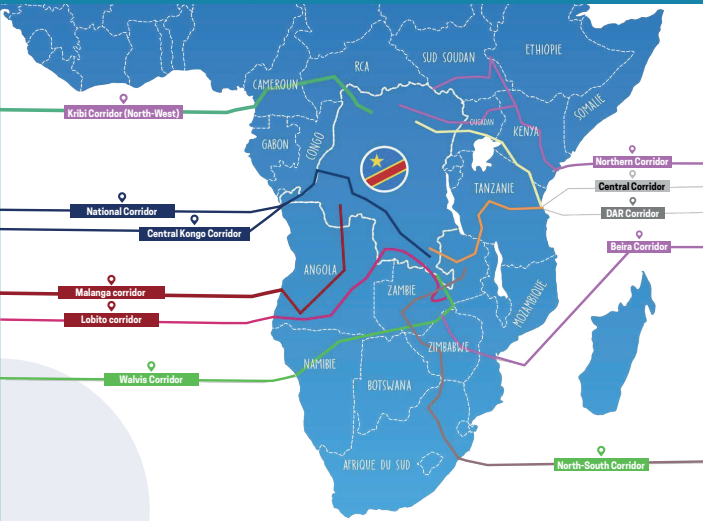
DOCUMENT DESIGNED BY ANAPI

Welcome to the Democratic Republic of Congo :

Land of growing opportunities and sustainable opportunities.



The DRC's geostrategic position



A huge market in the heart of Africa.



General information about the DRC

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is the second-largest country in Africa, covering an area of 2,345,410 km² with a population of approximately 114.6 million. Located in the heart of the continent, the DRC holds a major geostrategic position. It is endowed with significant natural resources, including the Congo River, volcanoes, lakes, and vast tropical forests that shelter exceptional wildlife such as gorillas, chimpanzees, and okapis.

The DRC enjoys a generally warm and humid climate that varies across provinces and is characterized by dense vegetation. The country is divided into 26 provinces, including Kinshasa, the capital, which ranks as the fourth most populous city in Africa.

This vast country has enormous economic potential that has yet to be transformed into real wealth. These include: 37% of Africa's hydroelectric potential (and 23% of the world's potential), 47% of Africa's tropical forests (and 6% of the world's tropical forests). The country also has more than 1,000 forest species, many of which are highly sought after internationally, as well as more than 1,100 mineral substances, including lithium and coltan.

DRC profile

Official name	Democratic Republic of Congo
Capital	Kinshasa, seat of national institutions with provincial status of Province
Form of government	Unitary and decentralized
President	Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo
Currency	Congolese franc (CDF)
Government	Republic , Semi-presidential
Area	2.345.410 million km²
Population	Over 114.622,3 million inhabitants
Languages	French (official), Lingala, Swahili, Tshiluba, and Kikongo (National)
GDP (in billions of USD)	71.5 billion (2024)
GDP growth rate	6,7 (2024)
Inflation rate	11,7 (2024)
Current GDP per capita	$656,1
Climate	Tropical humid climate, with two seasons (dry and rainy)
Currencies used in commercial transactions	Free circulation of all foreign currencies with the Congolese franc.
Volume of FDI inflows in 2024	3.11 billion USD (UNCTAD Report 2024)
Regional organizations	COMESA, CEEAC, EAC, SADC, OHADA, CPGEL, CIRGL, ...



7 Reasons to invest in the DRC



01 A land of endless possibilities , and investment opportunities

02 Basic infrastructure under rehabilitation, and modernization across the country

03 A booming economy

04 Abundant, skilled, and affordable labor force

05 An increasingly attractive and competitive business environment

06 Huge market at the heart of Africa

07 Strengthening of legal and judicial security in business practices.

Investor guarantees

A National mechanisms

1 Constitution of the Republic :

- The State guarantees the right to individual or collective property acquired in accordance with the law or custom. (Art. 34, para. 1);
- It encourages and ensures the security of private, national, and foreign investments. (Art. 34, para. 2);
- The State guarantees the right to private initiative for both nationals and foreigners. (Art 35, para. 1).

2 Investment Code

- Prohibition of nationalization and expropriation;
- Equal treatment of all domestic and foreign investors;
- Freedom to transfer generated income;
- Respect for acquired rights.

3 Other National mechanisms

- Prohibition of nationalization and expropriation; The Constitution and the Investment Code both contain this information.
- Equal treatment of all domestic and foreign investors;
- Freedom to transfer generated income;
- Respect for acquired rights;
- Promulgation of the Special Economic Zones Act;
- Promulgation of the Ordinance-Law on the promotion of entrepreneurship and start-ups and on the promotion of crafts;
- Liberalization of the economy in several sectors: insurance, electricity, water, mining, hydrocarbons;
- Rationalization of systems for paying taxes, duties, and fees owed to the State.

B International mechanisms

Constitution of the Republic :

- Establishment of external mechanisms to secure investments;
- Adherence to OHADA (Organisation for the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa);
- Accession of to the ACA (African Insurance Agency) with a view to obtaining insurance (export credits; against political risks; investments and other financial products to reduce business risks and costs);
- Accession to the SADC Protocol on Finance and Investment;
- Accession to the Common Investment Zone COMESA;
- Accession to the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA);
- Member of ICSID (International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes based in Washington City);
- Accession to the New York Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards;
- Simplification of domestic parafiscal charges;
- Adoption of several bilateral agreements on the reciprocal protection and promotion of
- investments, as well as agreements on double taxation.



Priority investment sectors

ENERGY

Hydroelectric potential of 100,000 megawatts, including 44,000 megawatts at the Inga site alone and 56,000 megawatts spread across 780 sites throughout the country.

INFRASTRUCTURES

Rail network : A rail network spanning 5,033 km aimed at interconnecting provinces and neighbouring countries. However, the rail network is in urgent need of modernisation or rehabilitation.

Maritime, river and lake routes : There is great potential in this network, totalling 16,238 km, which needs to be marked out, dredged and exploited;

Air routes : There are 270 landing strips, of which 101 are open to public traffic and five to international traffic (Kinshasa, Lubumbashi, Kisangani and Goma). These must be modernised and rehabilitated.

Road network : A road network totalling 152,400 km (2% of which is paved), distributed as follows: General interest roads : 58,129 km Local or rural track roads: 88,871 km; Secondary provincial roads: 17,245 km. These roads are to be modernised and rehabilitated.











AGRICULTURE, FISHING, AND LIVESTOCK

80 million hectares of arable land, 4 million hectares of irrigable land. Fishing potential of 700,000 tons of fish per year. Livestock potential of 40 million head of cattle.

MINING

Rich subsoil teeming with various important mineral resources (±11,000 substances) including coltan, lithium and 60% of the world's cobalt reserves.

ICT (INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY)

Ambition to make digital technology a lever for integration, good governance, economic growth, and social progress. Adoption of the National Digital Plan based on four strategic pillars: Infrastructure, Content, Application Uses, Governance – Regulation.

INDUSTRY

Availability of raw materials to develop various industrial sectors (construction materials, packaging, etc.). Establishment of Six industrial zones and special economic zones are to be erected (out of 21 planned, three are operational and 18 are seeking developers), as well as 22 agro-industrial parks.

BANKS AND INSURANCE

A low banking rate of 6% (in 2022) and a low financial inclusion rate of 38.5% for a population of over 100 million.

The insurance sector is liberalized and regulated by the Insurance Regulatory and Supervisory Authority (ARCA), with a promising market currently valued at US$900 million and a potential of US$3 to US$5 billion in the medium term.

HYDROCARBONS

With a potential of 22 billion barrels of oil and 66 billion m³of natural Maritime, river and lake routes : gas, the DRC has ambitions to become one of Africa's leading hydrocarbon producers.



TOURISM

Nine national parks and 63 protected areas and domains, including five UNESCO World Heritage Sites. A unique combination of habitats, from mangroves to glaciers, savannas to swamp forests, offering the possibility of a huge variety of tourist activities.

The rehabilitation of hunting areas and reserves and the creation of seaside resorts with beach facilities are just some of the improvements that have been made in the tourism sector.

HEALTH

This sector is dominated by 433 general referral hospitals, 649 hospital centers, and 13,316 health centers, most of which are concentrated in Kinshasa, which is a , while there are still business opportunities at the national level.



Fundamental missions

The National Investment Promotion Agency (ANAPI), created in 2002 and placed under the authority of the Minister of Planning, is a public institution that aims to promote the many opportunities offered by the DRC and provide administrative support to all investors who establish or expand their economic activities in the country.

Its fundamental missions can be broken down into :

- Promoting a positive image of the DRC
- Promoting the country's investment opportunities
- Advocacy for the improvement of the business climate
- Administrative support and services for investors

1 Pre-investment

Provision of reliable information;
Organization of site visits;
Identification of local partners.

2 During investments

- Administrative support;
- Granting of customs, tax, and parafiscal advantages.

3 After investments

- Support for established investors;
- Advocacy with government agencies;
- A solid partnership.



Legal framework for investment in the DRC

The country has opted for a liberal economy in which almost all economic activities have been liberalized.

The legal arsenal relating to the investment framework in the Democratic Republic of Congo consists in particular of the following texts :

- Investment Code;
- Law on Special Economic Zones;
- Competition Law;
- Accession to OHADA;
- Mining Code;
- Public-Private Partnership Law;
- Insurance Code;
- Agricultural Law;
- Electricity Sector Liberalization Act ;
- Digital Code;
- Law on Commercial Courts:
- Ordinances promoting entrepreneurship and start-ups.



Business climate

Implementation of several reforms related to :

- **Taxation :** (i) standardised invoicing; (ii) digitalisation of the revenue chain; and (iii) a one-stop shop for declaring and paying taxes, social contributions and employer contributions on remuneration.
- **Support facilities :** (i) a one-stop shop for sarting a business , (ii) a one-stop shop for construction permits, (iii) a one-stop shop for foreign trade and (iv) a digital code for the digitisation of services.
- **Fighting corruption :** (i) The establishment of the Prevention and Fight Against Corruption Agency (APLC) in 2020; (ii) ISIS regulated and Logirag software to combat fraud and tax evasion; (iii) an integrated public procurement system; and so on.
- **Transformation of reforms** into assignments for reforming ministers.
- **Monitoring and evaluation of reform implementation** at the highest level through the Digital Monitoring and Evaluation Table of the Presidency of the Republic's Business Climate Unit ;
- **Strengthening and revitalising provincial** business climate units ;
- **Providing support** to provinces in developing roadmaps for provincialreforms to improve the business climate.

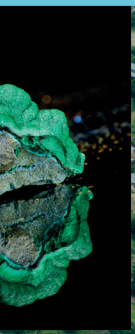


Incentives granted

to investors in

The Democratic Republic of the Congo









Benefits granted by the Investment Code

A **Customs benefits**

- Exemption from import duties on new equipment and materials (including second-hand equipment and materials for SMEs and SMIs only);
- Exemption from export duties and taxes;
- Exemption from import VAT for start-up projects.

B **Tax benefits**

- Exemption from income tax and profits tax (IBP);
- Exemption from property tax.

C **Parafiscal benefits**

- Exemption from fixed or proportional duties.

D **Guarantees granted**

- No discrimination;
- Prohibition on expropriating an investment;
- Freedom of transfer.

INVESTMENT PROCEDURE IN THE DRC

A **General procedure**

Completion of all formalities for setting up a business at the «One-Stop Shop for Business Creation « (Kinshasa, Lubumbashi, Kolwezi, Goma, Bukavu, Kisangani), currently being set up in other provinces.

E-mail : guichetuniquerdc@yahoo.fr
guce@guichetunique.cd
Web site : www.guichetunique.cd

B **Other specific steps**

(Obtaining operating licenses and other specific authorizations)

- Letter of request to be sent to the relevant department;
- Attach the following documents to the letter: proof of the legal existence of the company;
- Presentation of the project to be carried out;
- Payment of administrative fees in accordance with the legal texts governing the sector concerned;
- Issuance of operating permits and licenses.

Depending on the target sector, these formalities may be supplemented by other provisions laid down in the legal texts governing the sector.

Discover more **opportunities available for** promising investments in the DRC

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Country
solution
for the survival
of the planet



ANAPI
National Investment Promotion Agency

« Now is the time to invest in the DRC »

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