

AGRICULTURE IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

POTENTIALITIES & ASSETS

SEVERAL CULTURES

LEADING SUB-SECTORS

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES



**WHY INVEST IN
DRC**

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DRC in INDIA

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Cassava and cassava leaves Crop

C o n t e n t s

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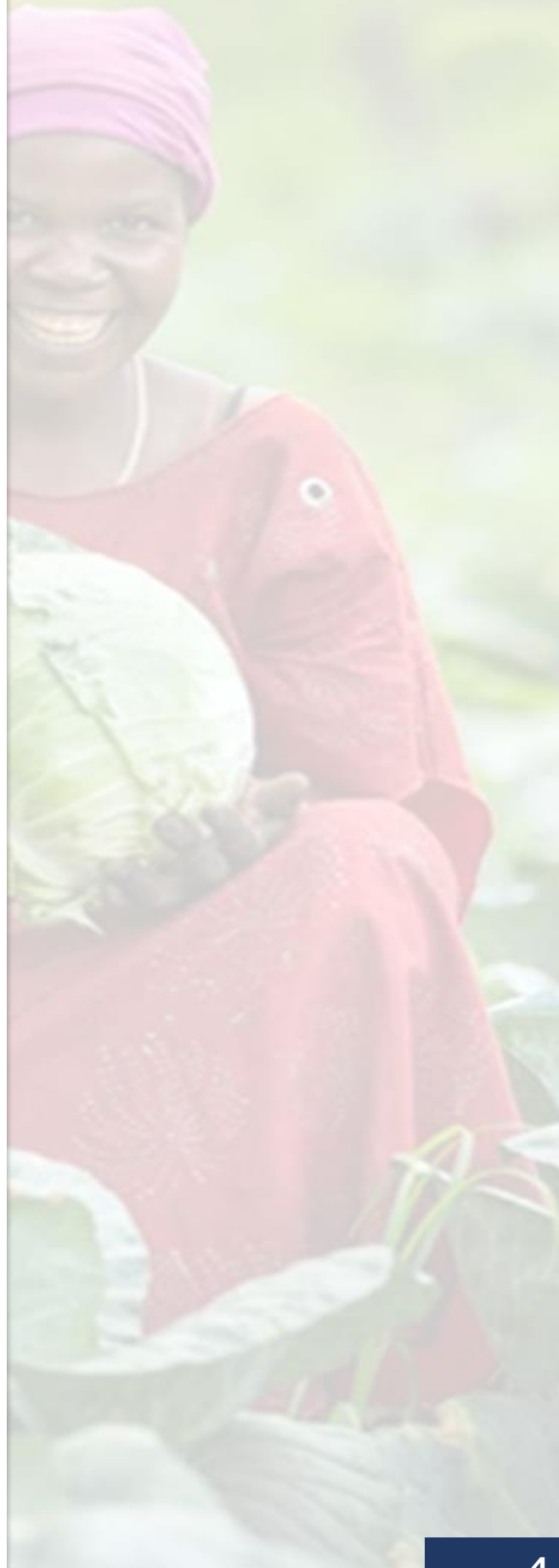
1. Wealth and Agricultural Potential
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The Democratic Republic of the Congo is one of the largest countries in the world: this central African state is roughly the size of Western Europe but only one per cent of land is under cultivation. The country hosts half of all of Africa's forests and has significant deposits of gold and the highly-prized mineral coltan. Most of the country's natural resources and people are found in the southern grasslands, while the northern and central regions are largely forested. Farming is predominantly low-input and subsistence-based, with little commercial activity.

With 80 million hectares of extensive arable land, 4 million hectares of irrigated land, and many rivers with important fishery resources, the DRC has the bulk of the major assets needed to become a global agricultural power. Today, although the agricultural sector contributes 18 percent of GDP and accounts for over 60 percent of new jobs, it still fails to ensure food independence and to generate sufficient revenues and sustainable employment.

The main cash crops include coffee, palm oil, rubber, cotton, sugar, tea and cocoa. Food crops also include cassava, plantains, maize, groundnuts and rice. However, commercial agricultural production remains limited, with many producers engaged in subsistence food agriculture. To cope with food shortage, the implementation of agro-industrial parks is underway in different areas of the DRC.





DRC is roughly the size of Western Europe but only one per cent of land is under cultivation.

The agricultural sector in many sub-Saharan countries is extremely sensitive and its stability affects the stability of the whole region. A very good example representing sub-Saharan Africa is the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). It is a country with a lot of potential

The position of agriculture in the DRC economy is stable one. Furthermore, agriculture probably represents the most stable part of the DRC economy. According to the portfolio and competitiveness analyses, the most important commodity items for the DRC are the following: Rice paddy, Maize, and Cassava. The most competitive trade items are particularly Coffee, Tea, and Cocoa, and Sugar Raw centrifugal. The most notable weakness of DRC agriculture is the production of Wheat, Beverages, Poultry Meat, and Fixed Vegetable Oils.

The aim of this brochure is firstly to specify the position of agriculture in the DRC, which is the priority of the Congolese government and also to specify the value and potentiality of the agriculture in this country.

The brochure's ambition is to identify the most perspective commodities (groups of commodities), both for production and also for trade, and to recommend such a production and trade profile which would allow the DRC the possibility of improving its competitiveness - not only in relation to other African countries, but also in relation to the global market. All that in order to attract more investors.

I. POTENTIALITIES & ASSETS

The **Democratic Republic of the Congo** is blessed with great **agricultural potential** and **assets** all over in the country.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo has a vast agricultural potential with an abundance of natural resources and a climate that favours a range of activities. Over 120 million ha of land are available conducive to cultivation or pasture, of which only about 10 percent is currently exploited. It also has 55 million ha of exploitable dense forest.

DRC is one of the most populated countries in Africa with almost 100 million consumers, constituting an important market for producers. Climatic conditions favour with tropical climate of larger scale agricultural activities throughout the year, with rainfall alternating year-round between the Northern and Southern Hemispheres



1. D.R. CONGO AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL

a. 80 million hectares of arable land

The country holds a large amount of available **arable land** that is not utilised yet: While it has enormous **agricultural potential** with an estimated **80 million hectares of arable land** and climatic conditions favourable for farming,



The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is located in sub-Saharan central Africa. Its surface area of 2.3 million km² equals two-thirds of the area of the European Union. It shares borders with Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, Zambia, Angola, Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, and South Sudan. DRC has the potential to be one of the richest countries in Africa thanks to 80 million hectares of arable land and over 1,100 minerals and precious metals on its territory (The World Bank 2015).

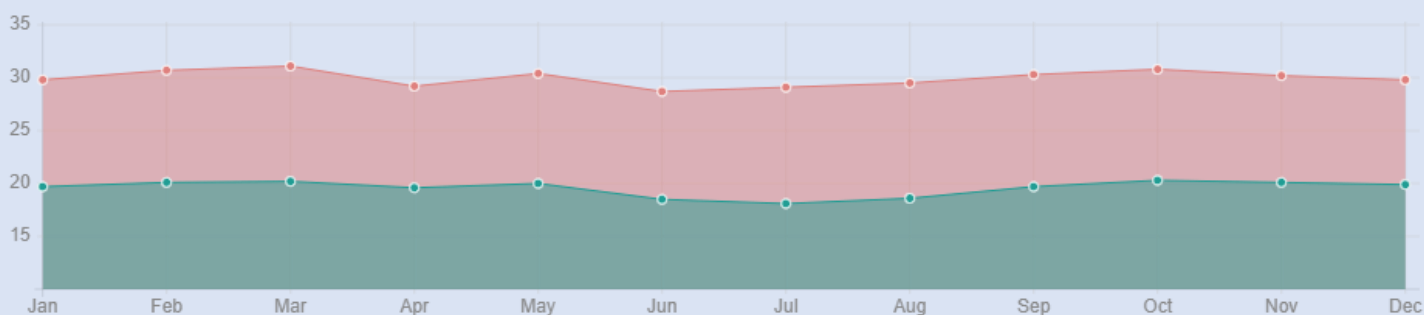
b. Diverse climatic conditions

The Democratic Republic of the Congo lies on the equator, with one-third of the country to the north and two-thirds to the south.

The **climate** is hot and humid in the river basin and cool and dry in the southern highlands, with a cold, alpine **climate** in the Rwenzori Mountains.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as in all equatorial countries, there is a tropical climate. Unlike in Europe or the USA, there is almost no difference between the seasons. The daylight hours vary little, and the temperature differences between summer and winter are also lesser. Depending on the season, the average daytime temperatures range between 29 and 31 degrees. In some parts of the country the temperature raises up to 34 °C. In the colder months and depending in the region, the temperature lowers down to 18°C in a month's average.

Average daytime and night-time temperatures

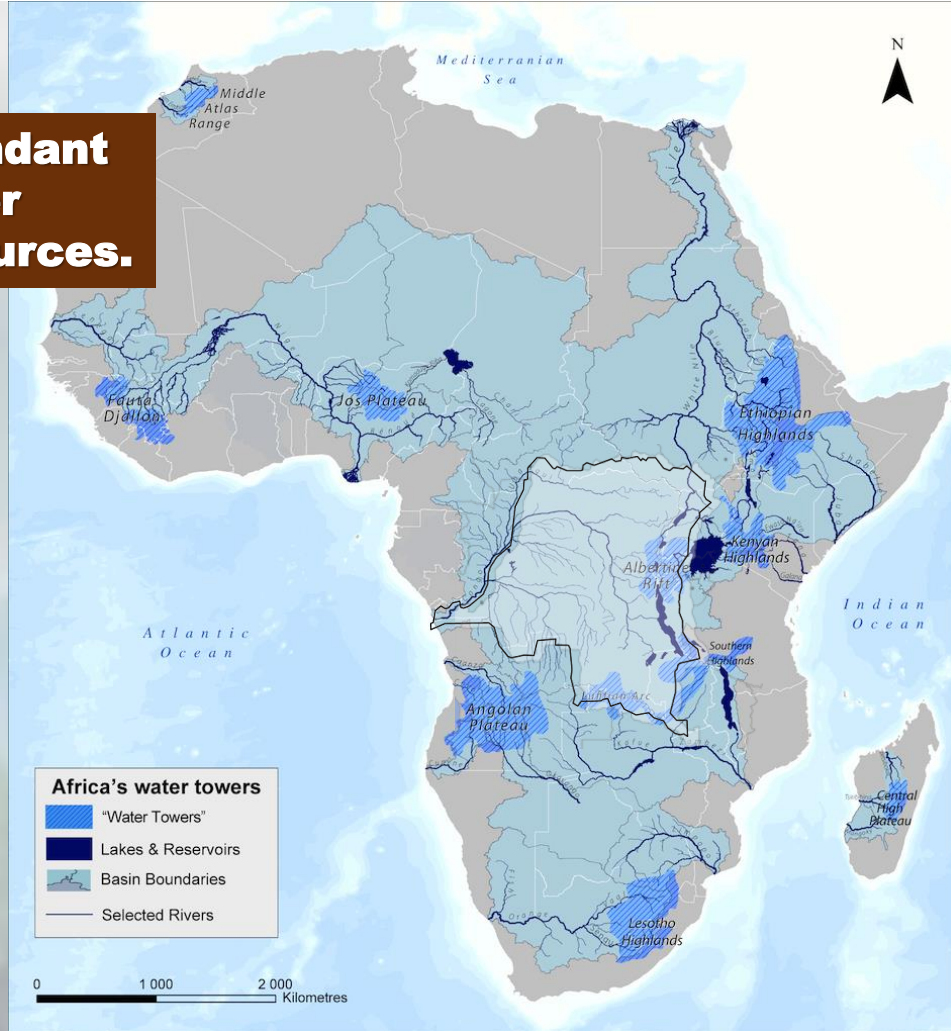


<https://www.worlddata.info/africa/>

The country is divided into four major climatic regions: equatorial, tropical and subequatorial, Atlantic, and mountain climate zone. 60% of the country –133 million hectares – is forest (DRC Ministry of Health 03/2010; Encyclopaedia Britannica 2015; Mongabay 04/02/2006).

C. Abundant water resources.

DRC is the most water-rich country in Africa



It accounts for approximately 52 percent of Africa's surface water reserves and 23 percent of Africa's internal renewable water resources. The internal renewable freshwater resources per capita were estimated at 14,406 m³/person/year in 2008. This value is significantly higher than the internationally recognized water sufficiency limit of 1,700 m³/person/year. The DRC has an average annual precipitation of around 1,543 mm/year, varying in space and time (800-1,800 mm/year). Furthermore, the DRC possesses considerable water autonomy since 70 percent of its total renewable water resources are generated internally from precipitation. The abundant water resources in the DRC are linked to the vast forest coverage, which extends over 155.5 million ha

Rivers and lakes

They comprise approximately 3.5 percent of the DRC's surface area. The surface water resources of the DRC are dominated by the Congo River and its tributaries. With a mean flow of around 41,000 m³/s, the Congo River has the second largest discharge volume in the world. The Congo River basin accounts for 98 percent of the country's surface area and provides the country with one of the most extensive river networks in the world. The quality of surface waters is generally very good. The high-water quality is mostly a result of the high dilution capacity of the river network, the low population density and the dominance of human activities that belong to the subsistence type, having only a minor impact on the environment.

d. 55 million ha of
exploitable dense forest.

The **DRC** is home to the second largest and most intact area of contiguous rainforest in the world, and now over 75 million hectares of **forest** (three times the size of the UK) could be available to local communities, who can manage their natural resources according to their own customs and needs.

Forests are a valuable natural resource for DRC, not only for the products extracted (timber, charcoal, palm oil), but also as habitat for wildlife that draw tourists, and for the services they provide (carbon sinks, erosion control, water filtering and flow regulation). DRC's forests are part of the greater Congo Basin, which makes up 18 percent of the world's tropical forests.

The Congo Basin is the second largest tropical rainforest in the world, with almost 2 million square kilometers of humid forest- an area about the size of Mexico. Including secondary and savanna forest, the area equals about 3 million square kilometers, almost half the size of the continental US.

The Basin is defined by the watershed of the Congo River, located primarily in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, with smaller portions in Gabon, Republic of Congo, Cameroon, Central African Republic, and Equatorial Guinea

2. Topography(Geography) and Climatic Situation

a. Geography

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is the largest and most populous country in Central Africa. It straddles the Equator and is surrounded by Angola to the southwest; Angola's Cabinda exclave and the Republic of the Congo to the northwest; the Central African Republic to the north; South Sudan to the northeast; Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, and Tanzania in the east from north to south; and Zambia to the southeast.



The country has a very diverse terrain; - The annual rainfall in the DRC vary from 815 to 2465 mm - Bowls offer favourable for growing oil palm weather, rubber, coffee, cocoa, bananas and cassava. - And savannas can be grown cotton, cereals, legumes, tubers (cassava, sweet potato, yams etc.) and livestock can be practiced - The temperate climate of the mountains to the east of the country is suitable for growing coffee, tea, potato, wheat, pea, sorghum and livestock herds. - The natural pasture can support up to 40 million head of cattle. - Arable land

DRC covers a similar amount of land as the US east of the Mississippi River

Congo river is Africa's second longest river after the Nile

Country includes everything from rain forests, to grasslands, to mountains

Great Rift Valley touches DRC in the far eastern half

National Parks in the country hold multiple endangered species (Congo-Kinshasa: Land)



Landscape:

The basin is covered by rich tropical rainforests and swamps. Together these ecosystems make up the bulk of Central Africa's rainforest, which at 178 million hectares (2005) is the world's second largest rainforest.

The climate is warm and humid; with two main seasons: one long rainy season and a dry season with slightly less rains. It rains about 117 days per year with a total of approximately 1,766mm of rainfall. Usually the rainy season begins in the first half of March and the dry season usually begins in November.

Animals and Plants:

There are approximately 10, 000 species of tropical plants in the Congo rainforest and 30 percent are unique to the region. Endangered wildlife, including forest elephants, chimpanzees, bonobos, and lowland and mountain gorillas inhabit the lush forests.

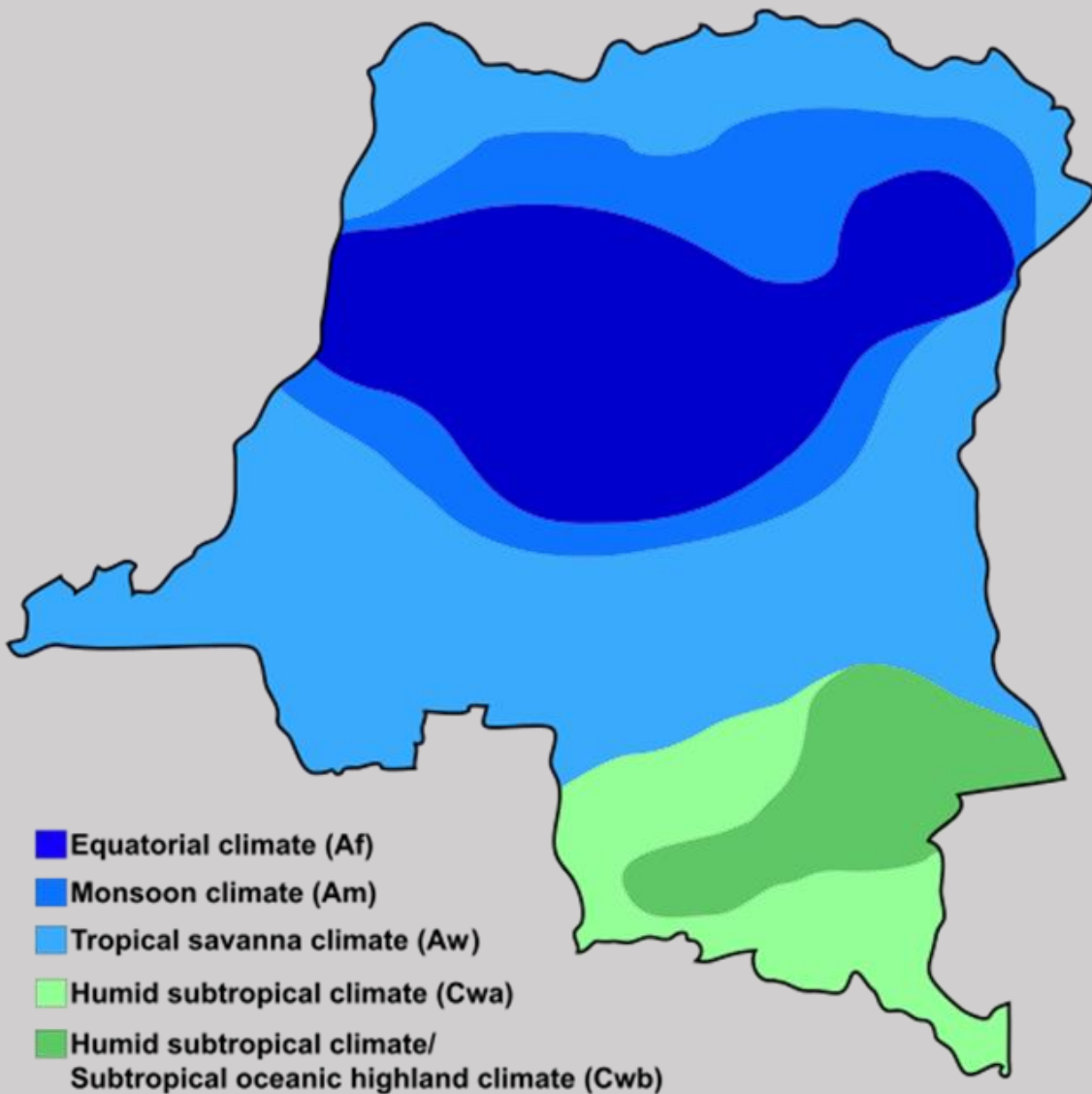
The central region has an equatorial climate with high temperatures and heavy rainfall, with different climatic cycles in the northern and southern regions. ...

High mountains are found in the extreme eastern region. The DRC lies on the Equator, with one-third of the country to the north and two-thirds to the south.

Location:

The Congo rainforest is located in Central Africa.

Democratic Republic of the Congo map of Köppen climate classification



Geography and Climate in DRC plays a great role in how people live. People who live in the rain forests, mountains, or grasslands all live completely different lives because of the conditions in their region. The climate affects how subsistence farmer's crops grow which means it can determine almost everything for that farmer. In areas such as the rain forests the climate does not vary as much and the people that live there learn to live with the climate. Climate and geography are some extremely important factors in the lives of people all across the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

3. Rainfall and Hydrography

a. Location in the World

The country is located on the equator, having a hot and humid equatorial climate in the centre, and tropical in the north and south.

The climatic variations at work in the country determine very diverse ecosystems and very rich biodiversity.

Half of the territory, corresponding to the central basin, is covered with forests. The other half, close to the tropics, is dominated by savannas (plateaus and highlands).



b. Seasons & Temperatures

The **DRC** has a tropical climate with two distinct **seasons**; the '**dry season**' (18 to 27°C) called '**Congolese Winter**', which is from June to August and the '**rainy season**' (22 to 33°C) runs from September to May with its heavy, monsoon rains.

1. **Dry season** (or winter season in the tropics) characterized by rare and lower rainfall. North of the equator, this season extends from December to May, and in the southern hemisphere, from May to September. It records the lowest temperatures. The sky is generally overcast, and the vegetation suffers from lack of water.

2. **Rainy season** (or tropical summer season), the rainfall is between 1000 and 1500 mm and extends from May to November and from September to May right through the equator.

Generally in DRC, it is hot to very hot all year round. Maximum temperatures are 30-35 degrees during rainy periods (with peaks at 40 degrees) and rarely fall below 20 degrees in the dry season

These temperatures are however influenced by the altitude and the humidity rate which is higher or lower depending on the region. Thus, the central basin records the hottest temperatures, while on the edges formed by the highlands and mountains of the East, the altitude clearly limits these temperatures.

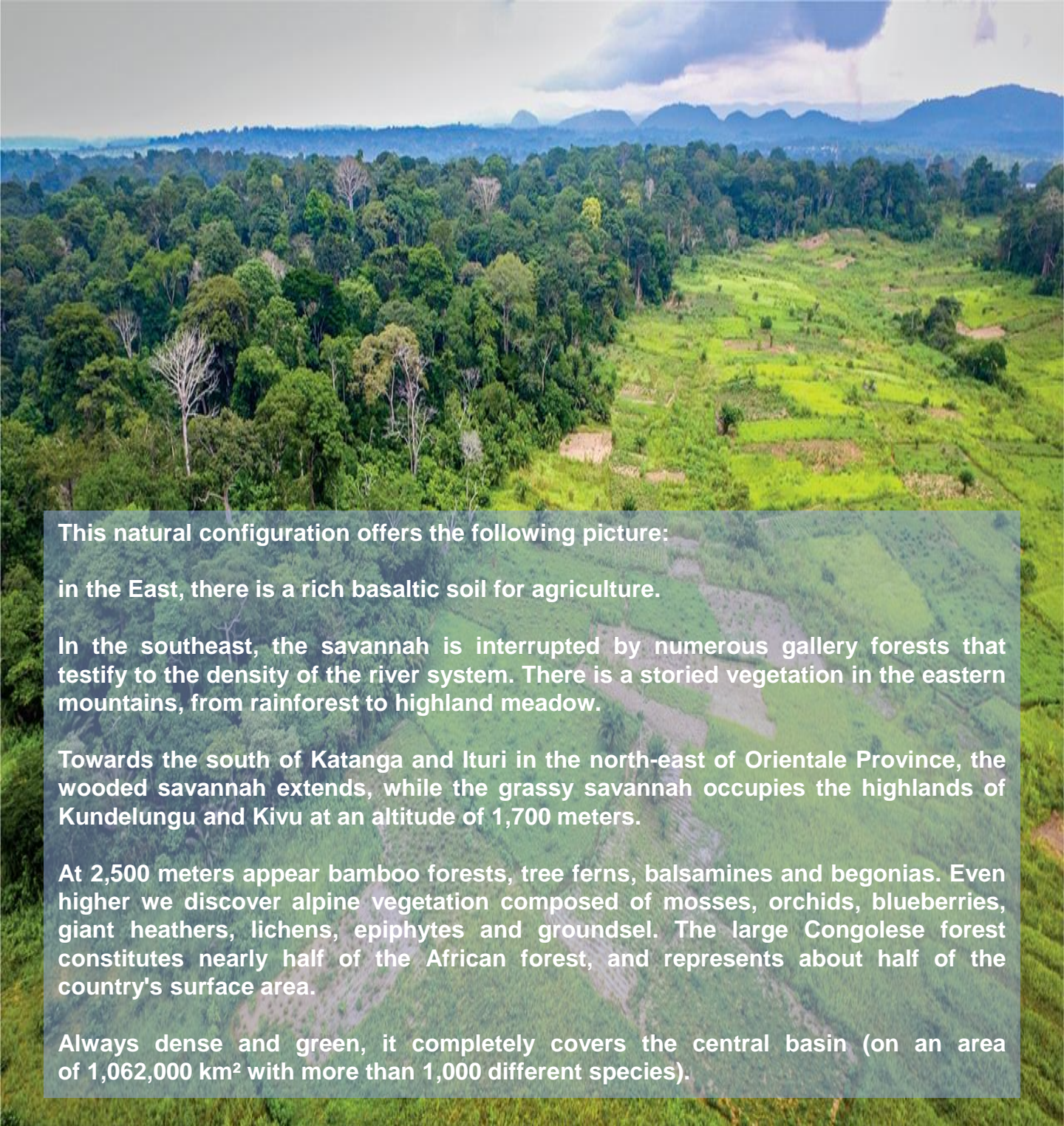
The degree of humidity varies and is generally higher at night than during the day. It is higher in the rainy season and in the forest zone than in the savannas, and more in the lowland regions than in the plateaus. A high temperature is all the more bearable as the degree of humidity is low, a somewhat high temperature becoming overwhelming when the humidity increases.

c. Soils & Vegetation

The soils of the DRC are mainly equatorial, tropical and azonal types, constituting immense expanses of uncultivated arable land, with very favourable climatic conditions.

Climates and vegetation determine **four** distinct **zones** : an **equatorial zone** in the central basin with high temperatures and rainfall (between 23 and 26 ° and 1,765 mm of rainfall in Kisangani, more than 2,000 mm in the lower valley Tshuapa) and dense forest; **two tropical type zones** favourable to the wooded savannah on both sides of the fourth parallel north and south (between 22 and 27 ° and 1415 mm in Kinshasa); an altitude zone, less hot and less watered, towards the east and south-east (between 16 and 22 ° and 1,200 mm in Lubumbashi). <http://www.congo-tourisme.org>





This natural configuration offers the following picture:

in the East, there is a rich basaltic soil for agriculture.

In the southeast, the savannah is interrupted by numerous gallery forests that testify to the density of the river system. There is a storied vegetation in the eastern mountains, from rainforest to highland meadow.

Towards the south of Katanga and Ituri in the north-east of Orientale Province, the wooded savannah extends, while the grassy savannah occupies the highlands of Kundelungu and Kivu at an altitude of 1,700 meters.

At 2,500 meters appear bamboo forests, tree ferns, balsamines and begonias. Even higher we discover alpine vegetation composed of mosses, orchids, blueberries, giant heathers, lichens, epiphytes and groundsel. The large Congolese forest constitutes nearly half of the African forest, and represents about half of the country's surface area.

Always dense and green, it completely covers the central basin (on an area of 1,062,000 km² with more than 1,000 different species).

Elsewhere, these are areas of wooded savanna, particularly in Bas-Congo, Kasai, in the extreme north of Ecuador, One third of the country occupies the northern part of the equator and two thirds the southern part, so that the dry season in the north corresponds to the rainy season in the south and vice versa. Hence a remarkable climatic and agronomic regularity

Heading towards the mountains of the north-east and south-east, in the highlands and mountains of Katanga, Kivu and Ituri, the climate becomes more and more pleasant (25 ° average diurnal).

4. Lakes & Rivers A Strong agricultural potential

The Democratic Republic of the Congo has an important hydrographic network covering around 77,810 km² and including a river (Congo River) and lakes. - The Congo River possesses the most regular and powerful flow in the world (40.000 m³/second) after the Amazon. - The Congo River stands for a very important hydrographic potential with a basin of approximately 3.75 million km².

It has a regular and powerful flow (40,000 m³/day) mainly due to its closeness to Equator. - The Country is provided with a dense river network and well distributed throughout the entire territory favorable to the development of irrigation on almost 4 million hectares. - This gives the possibility to produce throughout the year. - The Including hydrographic network includes about thirty large rivers totalling more than 20,000 km of shoreline, - On the African plane, the Congo River comes first and ranks second on the global plane after the Amazon River in Brazil in terms of flow

www.investindrc.cd

www.investindrcongo.com

Congo River

The **Congo River** (French: *Fleuve Congo*) is the second longest river in Africa, shorter only than the Nile, as well as the second largest river in the world by discharge volume, following only the Amazon. It is also the world's deepest recorded river, with measured depths in excess of 220 m (720 ft).



The Congo-Lualaba-Chambeshi River system has an overall length of 4,700 km (2,920 mi), which makes it the world's ninth-longest river. The Chambeshi is a tributary of the Lualaba River, and Lualaba is the name of the Congo River upstream of Boyoma Falls, extending for 1,800 km (1,120 mi).

Lake Kivu



Lake Kivu is one of the African Great Lakes. It lies on the border between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda, and is in the Albertine Rift, the western branch of the East African Rift. Lake Kivu empties into the Ruzizi River, which flows southwards into Lake Tanganyika.
[Wikipedia](#)

Area: 2,700 km²
Catchment area: 2,700 km²
Max. depth: 480 m (1,575 ft)

Island: [Idjwi](#)



VALUES AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Lake Kivu is home to around 28 fish species, half of which are cichlids found only in Lake Kivu. It is the largest local source of fish, providing more than 20,000 tons of fish per year and subsidizing fish imports for animal protein. The fishery supports 500,000 people in Rwanda and the DRC. There is a high potential for agriculture in the North Kivu province (DRCongo) where the lake lies and for eco-tourism on the islands and around the lake.

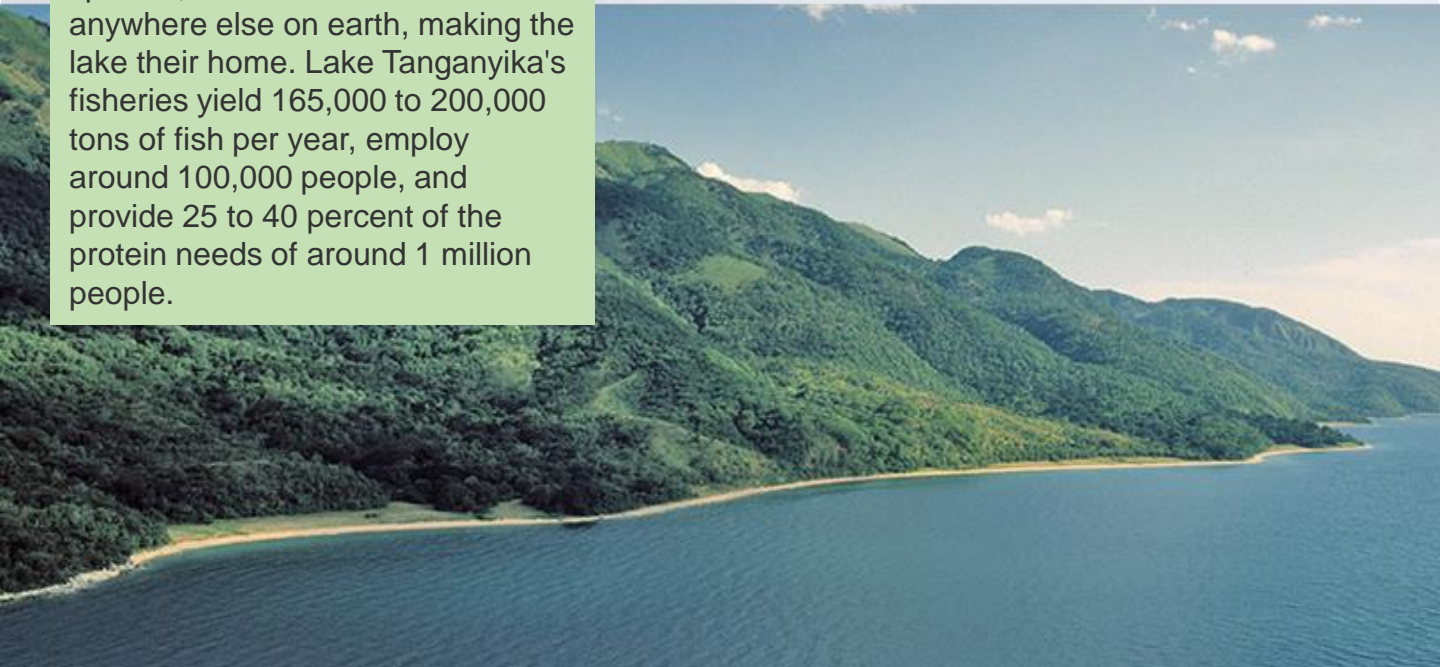
Rapidly increasing fishing pressure and agricultural intensification are the major activities in this East part of Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Lake Tanganyika

Lake Tanganyika is the deepest lake in Africa and is the largest among the Albertine Rift lakes. The basin has a population of more than 10 million people and the population density within the basin varies between 13 and 250 persons per km².



Lake Tanganyika also has one of the richest freshwater ecosystems in the world, with over 2000 species, 500 of them not found anywhere else on earth, making the lake their home. Lake Tanganyika's fisheries yield 165,000 to 200,000 tons of fish per year, employ around 100,000 people, and provide 25 to 40 percent of the protein needs of around 1 million people.



VALUES AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Lake Tanganyika is one of the richest freshwater ecosystems in the world with about 2000 species of fish, plants, crustaceans, and birds. About 500 of the species are not found anywhere else on Earth, and 50 percent of those species are cichlid fishes. The lake is, therefore, a unique habitat for biodiversity conservation and evolutionary studies.

Three fish species, Lake Tanganyika Sardine, Slek Lates, and Lake Tanganyika Sprat, constitute the major commercial fisheries. Both commercial and artisanal fisheries yield 165,000-200,000 tons of fish per year, employ about 100,000 people in fisheries related activities, and provide 25-40 percent of the protein needs to one million people living around the lake.

Investment opportunities in the lake basin, including agriculture and cage fish farming; farming on slopes or strips of land between the rift escarpment and the lake; oil and gas development, especially in the southern shores, Ruzizi River basin border of Burundi and DRC and along the north-eastern shore of the lake; and tourism in four national parks—Ruzizi River Nature Reserve

Lake Albert



Lake Albert, also Mwitanzige and formerly Lake Mobutu, is a lake located in Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It is one of the African Great Lakes. Lake Albert is Africa's seventh-largest lake, and the world's twenty-seventh largest lake by volume.

[Wikipedia](#)

Lake Albert is a body of water in central Africa, located between Uganda on the east and the Democratic Republic of the Congo on the west. It is also known as Lake Mobutu.

Lake Albert is part of the Great Rift Valley, a depression that extends southward to Lake Tanganyika and northward across the Red Sea basin into Asia. The lake is about 100 miles (160 km) long and 20 miles (30 km) wide and has an area of 2,064 square miles (5,300 sq km). It lies within the basin of the Nile River, 2,200 feet (670 meters) above sea level.



The lake harbors between 40 and 55 species of fish species.

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The fishery provides employment, income, and quality protein for the basin communities and water for domestic use. There are prospects for cage fish farming with pilot projects testing cage fish farming on the lake.

The area around the lake supports subsistence small holder farming as a livelihood activity. Crops grown include beans, maize and bananas for subsistence and income generation. .

The climate is favourable for cash crops like tea, coffee and cotton and there are opportunities for sustainable agricultural intensification.

Lake Edward

Lake Edward, Rutanzige or Edward Nyanza is the smallest of the African Great Lakes. It is in the Albertine Rift, the western branch of the East African Rift, on the border between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda, with its northern shore a few kilometres south of the equator. [Wikipedia](#)



VALUES AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Lake Edward-George basin harbors approximately 81 fish species, 60 of which are cichlids. 92 percent of these cichlids aren't found anywhere else in the world. Of the 21 non-cichlids species, about 5 percent are only found in this lake system. The lake and its surroundings support diverse habitats with high plant and animal biodiversity.

The lake boasts opportunities for high fish harvest and for improving handling and value addition for commercial fish species

The climate is favourable for cash crops like tea, coffee, cotton, and food crops such as beans, maize and banana. The vegetation around the lake is bushland, thicket, and acacia wooded grassland.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is the second largest country in Africa, after Algeria. DRC is endowed by nature with forest that covers two-thirds of the country, including the second-largest rainforest in the world (after Brazil's), and 66 million acres of agricultural land, fed with ample supplies of fresh water from rainfall, lot of rivers and lakes that we could not all mention here ([see list on www.investindrcongo.com](http://www.investindrcongo.com))

According to the World Bank, 103,238 square miles or 66,072,320 acres (11.6 percent of DRC's 905,600 square miles, or 580,160,000 acres, of territory) is agricultural land, usable for crops and pastureland. Of this area, 30,790 square miles (19,725,440 acres), or 3.4 percent of the total territory, is arable.

But it is estimated that only 10 percent of the DRC's agricultural land is currently being used, due to lack of investment

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2016/jun/23/>

The agricultural potential is clear. The DRC has fertile soil and ample freshwater supplies. It lacks agricultural support programs and sources of investment funding.

From peaceful plains to snow-capped peaks, close to volcanoes and enchanting lakes, one is tempted to say that all the wonders of the world are gathered in this beautiful region and in this country alone, with the possibility of traveling in all seasons.



With this rich natural endowment and a climate ideal for most agriculture, the DRC has the potential to be an agricultural powerhouse for Africa.

II. AGRICULTURAL CROPS

**80
MILLION
HECTARES
OF
ARABLE
LAND -
SEVERAL
CULTURES**

Agriculture in the Republic of the Congo is mostly at the subsistence level. Self-sufficiency in food production is yet to be achieved. Cassava (*manioc*) is the basic food crop everywhere in the country except in the southern region, where bananas and plantains are prevalent. Among the cash crops, the most important are sugarcane and tobacco, though palm kernels, cacao, and coffee are also cultivated to some extent. The main consumption crops are bananas, manioc, peanuts, plantains, sugarcane, and yams. Subsistence agriculture is the country's most significant employer, and it is one of the three most important economic sectors.



Agriculture is mainly in the peri-urban and remote areas of DR Congo where the main crops grown are manioc (Cassava), plantains, bananas, peanuts, palm oil, fruits, vegetables, yams, beans, Rice, peas and maize.

More and more in DRC, especially the city of Kinshasa province, there is an immense population growth, empty spaces once occupied by farmers in the city centre of Kinshasa have become residential or large residential areas.



DRC: towards the creation of special agro-industrial zones in rural areas



The DRC is engaged in a process of creation of agro-industrial zones in rural areas. The project is under study and high-level discussions are underway between the National Executive and the African Development Bank (AfDB) to materialize this ambitious project across the country.

Objective: *to develop the value chain that creates wealth and growth .*

Agriculture, a priority

Agriculture is one of the priorities of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Because it is a sector that will solve huge problems, including that of food self-sufficiency which is inadmissible in a country that has 80 million hectares of arable land while only less than 10% are exploited.

A real investment opportunity

This structural approach to the transformation of rural areas will have the advantages of enabling farmers to find outlets, to remove the constraint of transport to the urban areas where the products flow; create jobs, change the structure of agriculture, reduce rural exodus and eventually broaden the tax base in rural areas.

FOOD AND VEGETABLE CROPS

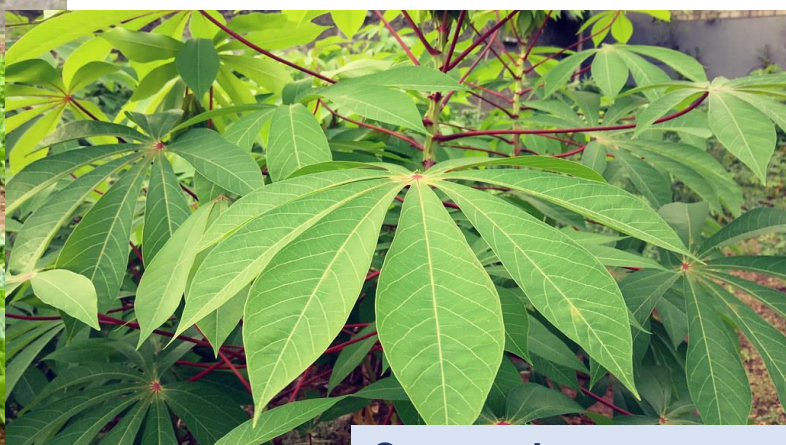


Cassava, Maize, Rice,
Peanut, Banana
Plantains, Potatoes,
Yams, Wheat, Sorghum,
Bean, Soybean,
Cowpea, Taro, Sweet
Potato, etc.
Onion, tomato,
vegetables,
etc.



Bananas and plantains serve as important food crops in much of Africa. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, production of bananas is concentrated in the eastern region and ranges between 75,000 and 80,000 t/year. Bananas rank second in importance after cassava in eastern DR Congo.

Spinach



Cassava leaves



A series of collecting missions to the four corners of the Democratic Republic of Congo reveals the extent of the country's Plantain diversity. Experts have long suspected that the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is home to one of the highest diversity of Plantains in Africa.

www.promusa.org/blogpost362



Sweet potatoes in the hills surrounding the South Kivu Province of the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. **Sweet potato** is the staple food for many households in this part of the country.



Cassava are common throughout the world's tropical areas.

Cassava are a staple food throughout much of Africa, but are particularly important in Western Africa, where they are used to make Fufu like in the Democratic Republic of the Congo



Maize and cassava are the two most important staple foods consumed by households in the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of Congo

Less than two percent of the land is cultivated, and most of this is used for subsistence farming. Congo's farmland is the source of a wide variety of crops. These include maize, rice, cassava (manioc), sweet potatoes, yam, taro, plantain, tomatoes, pumpkin and varieties of peas and nuts. These foods are eaten throughout the country, but there are also regional dishes.

FOOD AND VEGETABLE CROPS

Fibbers, hevea, Millet, Oil palm, Cinchona, Cocoa, coffee, Tobacco, Cotton, Pyrethrum, Tea, Sugar cane, Papain, Sesame, Urena, Bambara groundnut, jatropa, etc.



Groundnuts, or peanuts (*Arachis hypogaea*) are a legume, root crop. They are native to South America, but they are cultivated in many tropical and sub-tropical parts of the world

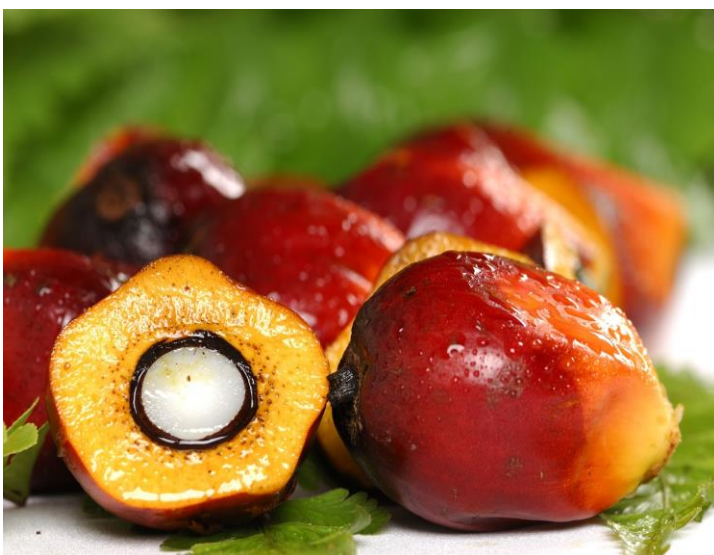


Cotton



Sugar can Plantation

Oil palm plantation yields profit potential in DRC.



Palm Oil

During the past decade, donors and companies have begun to build viable coffee and cocoa sectors in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The locus of activity has been in eastern Congo



Assessing the Growth Potential of Eastern Congo's Coffee and Cocoa Sectors

Eastern Congo, particularly the provinces of North Kivu and South Kivu, produces excellent coffee and cocoa.

Furthermore, eastern Congo has a successful history of large-scale coffee production, first under the Belgian colonists, then in the first decades of independence



Coffee production in Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is centred in the Lake Kivu provinces. There are about 11,000 coffee farmers in the country who produce two main varieties of coffee, Robusta and Arabica.

The recent entry into eastern DR Congo of development dollars and private-sector partners, ranging from small traders to retail giants like Starbucks, has provided a foundation to expand the DRC's agricultural export sector.

Investment Opportunity

Now the DRC is rewarding this show of faith by taking steps to attract a larger pool of investors focused on achieving both financial returns and positive social impact. Also it is forging a vision for the cash crop sector, putting its own resources into its development, and taking actions to improve the business environment in order to attract more investors

FOOD SECURITY



The food security can be improved and local markets can be supplied thanks to a sustainable increase of agricultural production (market gardening and small breeding) and with strong marketing.



The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is a United Nations agency dedicated to helping advance and invest in the lives of rural people around the world through low-interest loans and grants. IFAD seeks to empower rural people to increase their food security, improve the nutrition of their families and increase their incomes through funding of grants and low-interest loans to several projects. IFAD works in areas where poverty and hunger are most prominent.

<https://www.ifad.org>



IFPRI

The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) provides research-based policy solutions to sustainably reduce poverty and end hunger and malnutrition in developing countries. Established in 1975, IFPRI currently has more than 600 employees working in over 50 countries. It is a research center of CGIAR, a worldwide partnership engaged in agricultural research for development

<https://www.ifpri.org/about>

The North Kivu Agriculture Sector Support Project

The North Kivu Agriculture Sector Support Project aims to improve food security in the Democratic Republic of Congo. It will also increase the incomes of the smallholder farmers participating in the territories of Beni, Lubero, Rutshuru, Nyiragongo and Masisi in the province of North Kivu.

The project will build the capacity of the farmers, farmer's organizations and provincial agricultural services involved in maize, rice, potato and Arabica coffee value chains. It will ensure that the agricultural services farmers receive from the Producers' Organizations are adequate and meet their needs. Furthermore, the project will improve smallholder farmers' access to agricultural inputs such as fertilizers and certified seeds and their access to markets. It will assist farmers' organizations in building storage facilities and warehouses to help them sell their products at a higher price.

Smallholder farmers targeted by the project are those who typically cultivate less than 1 ha, own less than five heads of livestock, own rudimentary transportation and are widowed or women heads of households. The project will develop a criteria to involve women who are victims of gender based violence. In total, 28,400 rural households will benefit directly from the project activities. <https://www.investindrc.cd>

Source: IFAD

Informing national policies

Our policy engagement agenda focuses on the measures national and local governments need to take to enable rural transformation. We work with governments and other local partners to identify the obstacles to rural development and design targeted country-specific solutions. We also help governments to implement existing policies, and to monitor and evaluate their impacts.

From land reform to agricultural production services, from rural finance to farmer organization, we help develop frameworks that empower smallholder farmers and rural entrepreneurs to thrive, and to feed growing urban populations.

Our aim is not merely to ensure that rural transformation as an integral part of economic modernization, but also to ensure it is inclusive – benefiting even the poorest and most marginal groups in the rural population, sustainable and proofed against climate change, even in fragile situations

III. LEADING SUB-SECTORS

The National Investment promotion Agency (ANAPI) has developed four main agricultural sub-sector, specific publications that outline investment opportunities . Also, as the DRC's provinces each have varying agro-ecological environments and thus support different agricultural products, ANAPI has mapped these opportunities by province.

<https://www.abghq.com/downloads/DRC.pdf>

1. PERENNIAL CROPS

A. HEVEA (RUBBER)



- Equateur is a true giant of the culture of hevea. This culture of Hevea is practiced in the forest areas with a high concentration in Lisala, Bokungu, Boende, Budjala, Bikoro and Ikela.
- Maniema (Kibombo territory, Elila and Kailo) - Eastern Province (Isiro Yangambi, lokutu ...)
- Bandundu (Kesengo, Bokolo, Pongoboli ...)

B. COTTON



- Equateur ;
- Eastern Province (in the territories of Bongo, Ango, Niangara, Dungu, and Bambesa Rungu) ;
- Western Kasai ;
- Eastern Kasai ;
- Maniema (Pangi, Kabambare, Kibombo, Lubutu).

C. PALM OIL



- Equateur (Bosondjo, Yaligimba, Ebondo, Lisafa) ;
- Eastern Province (Lokutu, Isiro, Lunde ...) ;
- Eastern Kasai (Lusambo Sankuru ...)
- Maniema (Pangi, Kabambare, Kibombo, Lubutu)
- Western Kasai (Mapango, Ilebo, Mweka, Demba)
- Bandundu (along the Lukeni River).

D. COFFEE



- South Kivu (in the highlands of Fizi Territory) ;
- Eastern Province, North Kivu (Beni and Rutshuru)
- Maniema (Kibombo, Pangi, Punia, and Kabambare Lubutu)
- Domestic production in 2007 : 31,930 tons Tea, Cinchona and Pyrethrum : North Kivu (Kabare, Goma, Lubero, Rutshuru and Masisi).

E. COCOA



- The province of Equateur is also noticeable for its cocoa which ranks first in domestic production ; -
- The province of Eastern Kasai in the district of Sankuru also has the assets needed for the crop ;
- Domestic production in 2007 : 5,550 tonnes

F. TOBACCO

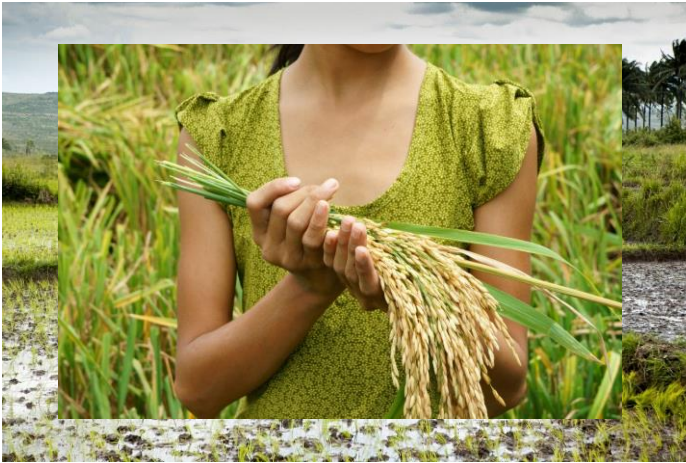


This culture is practiced in Katanga with strong distribution in the territories of Kaniama, Kongolo, Kabongo and Sandoa.

- North Kivu (Masisi and Rutshuru) ; -
- Eastern Province : Ituri, and Faradje watsha ;
- Bandundu : Bagata, Kenge, Mayi-Ndombe ;
- Bas-Congo : Seke-Banza

2. FOOD CROPS

A. RICE



- Equateur (territory of Bumba)
- Eastern Province ;
- South Kivu (Fizi highlands) and
- Maniema.

Rice cultivation is practiced in many provinces, but with a wider distribution in the forest areas of Yahuma, Banalia, Opala, Bafuasende, Aketi and Buta in the Eastern Province. Bumba territory in Equateur Province is also favourable for this crop. - Domestic production in 2007 : 316,180 tons

B. SOYA BEANS



- Eastern Kasai (Kabinda)
- Equateur...

C. SUGAR CANE



- Bas-Congo (Kwilu-Ngongo) ;
- South Kivu (Kiliba) ;
- Eastern Province (Lotokila, Yanonge) and
- Bandundu (Mushie pentane).

E. CORN



- Eastern Province, Katanga and both Kasai.
- North Kivu

Domestic production in 2007 : 1,155,720 tons

D. CASSAVA



- Bandundu (Kwango districts, Kwilu, Plateau and MaiNdombe)
- Bas-Congo. –
- Domestic production in 2007 : 15,004,430 tons

E. BEAN



- North Kivu,
- South Kivu,
- Kasai Occidental
- Eastern Province, Katanga,
- Bas-Congo and Bandundu
- Domestic production in 2007 : 112,250 tons

F. PEANUT



- Bandundu (Idiofa, Bulungu, Masimanimba, Bagata, Gungu and Mushi territories) ;
- Katanga (Tanganyika District and Haut-Lomami)
- Domestic production in 2007 : 369,370 tons

G. PLANTAINS



- North Kivu (Beni, Rutshuru, Masisi, Walikale, Kabare, Fizi and Mwenga territories there is fertile soil, mainly of volcanic origin.
- Domestic production in 2017 : 488,810 tons

H. POTATO AND SWEET POTATO



- North Kivu Province (Masisi, Rutshuru, Walikale, Lubero, ..)
- South Kivu (Uvira, Kabare, Bukavu, ...)
- Domestic production in 2017 : 93,560 tons



- North Kivu (Masisi and Lubero)
- Katanga (Moba Lubudi and Mitwaba).
- Domestic production in 2017 : 8,690 tonnes

3. LIVESTOCK



The DRC has enormous potential pastoral with more than 87 million hectares that are covered by vast plains and vast grassy and wooded grassland that is favourable to the expansion of livestock.

The total number of animals in the country is estimated at about 7,000,000 heads, 60 percent goats, 15 percent of pigs, 14 percent of sheep and 11 percent of cattle.

<https://www.abghq.com/downloads/DRC.pdf>

The aim of the government is to intensify animal husbandry in the areas of: poultry, sheep, goats, and pigs and to ensure that extension services in other major urban centers and supporting the creation and development of private farms and small farms family. In particular there is interest in rehabilitating the many cattle ranches, that were decimated by the war(s), in the Provinces of Katanga (Plateau Kundelungu), North Kivu (Masisi), South Kivu, Kasai Occidental, Kasai-Oriental, Bandundu (Feshi and Kikwit), Province Orientale (Ituri).

Additionally, while livestock breeding can be found nationwide, the premier breeding areas are found in the southern savannahs and the mountainous regions of the Southeast and East (Kasai and Katanga, and in the mountains of South Kivu, Maniema and North Kivu). Also, small livestock and poultry have gained importance in operation urban and peri-urban areas where they are intended for home consumption and sale in the city(ies). Today, this livestock farming sector is divided into two main parts, a smaller modern farming sub-sector and a much larger traditional sub-sector.



The eight most favourable livestock investment regions by province are:

• **BAS CONGO**

In this province, livestock breeding is done in Lower River: – Cataract; – Lukaya; – Boma; – Matadi.

• **BANDUNDU**

The physical environment of Bandundu, in general is favorable for livestock breeding. The breeding of large-ruminants (i.e. cattle, sheep, goats) is much more favorable in the district of Kwilu.

• **KATANGA**

Livestock farming is generally practiced throughout the whole of the province and there is significant agro-ecological potential (Savannah) and the pastoral tradition. Cattle farms were concentrated in the Marungu region extending to Southeast and North – East valleys in the province, where there are favorable conditions for livestock farming. Other attractive areas are found in the center (Plateau Bianco) and to the west of the province in the Lualaba region.

• **NORTH KIVU**

The natural environment and the traditional vocation of North Kivu are favorable to the development of livestock breeding. Covering only 2.5 percent of the area of the country, this province is home to more than a fifth of the national cattle herd and is therefore the largest livestock farming region in the country after the Eastern Province.

• **ORIENTALE PROVINCE**

The geophysical situation of the Eastern Province justifies its position among the provinces as an important prospective livestock farming region within the DRC

• **KASAI OCCIDENTAL**

The Kasai Occidental province is an important and favorable region for the intensification of livestock farming. It currently provides meat, milk, wool, hides, manure and labor and livestock farming and the processing of various related goods is already an important economic development driver in this region.

• **SOUTH KIVU**

This is another traditional livestock rearing province in the DRC and over 90 percent of the beef cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and poultry are found here.

• **MANIEMA**

Livestock farming in this provinces is comprised primarily of goats, sheep, pigs, birds and backyard animals (chickens, ducks, rabbits). The exploitation of cattle is not developed in the province.

4. FISHERIES

The DRC has vast water bodies representing 86,000 km² with a fishing potential exploitable 707,000 tons annually. However, the annual fish production is estimated at 250,000 tonnes, 35% of the fisheries potential. The consumption gap is offset by imports about 100,000 tonnes of fish per year.

Currently, three types of fishing are practiced, namely:

Customary fishing (using dugout canoes that can bear a load of two tonnes);



Artisanal fishing (using canoes equipped with outboard motors that can bear a load of 1.5 tonnes per fisherman);

Semi-industrial fishing (using seiner fishing boats which allows about 30 to 300 tons / year)



IV. INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Democratic Republic of the Congo offers several investment opportunities in the agricultural sector from production to marketing, to create a chain of competitive value at the sub-region. - As part of the revival of the agricultural industry in the DRC, several Scope of activities - Organization - Services provided...

1. WEALTH AND AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL

ACCORDING TO THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT, ABOUT 70 PERCENT OF THE EMPLOYED POPULATION IS ENGAGED IN AGRICULTURE, MOSTLY FOR SUBSISTENCE; HOWEVER, ONLY ABOUT 10 MILLION OF THE COUNTRY'S 80 MILLION HECTARES OF ARABLE LAND ARE UNDER CULTIVATION...

EAST

- Food crops: cassava, potatoes, rice, beans, Perennial sorghum, wheat, vegetables... - Perennial/ Industrial: Coffee, banana, oil palm, tea, and cinchona, Rauwolfia, Cinchona... - Livestock: Cattle, goats, poultry...

WEST

Food crops: cassava, rice, squash, corn; fruits, beans, soybeans, potatoes, vegetables ... - Perennial crops: oil palm, coffee, cocoa, banana... - Livestock: Cattle, goats, poultry, goats, pigs...

NORTH

Food crops: rice, maize, cassava, potato... - Perennial crops: coffee, cocoa, oil palm, rubber... - Livestock: Cattle, goats, poultry...

CENTER

Food crops: Corn, soybeans, cassava... - Perennial crops / industrial: coffee, oil palm, cotton...

The Democratic Republic of the **Congo (DRC)** is blessed with great **agricultural potential**. It has 80 million hectares of arable **land**, diverse climatic conditions and abundant water resources. But this **potential** has barely been tapped, and the **DRC** is unable to feed itself.

THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO IS OPEN FOR AGRIBUSINESS INVESTMENT, (ANNOUNCES DRC'S MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE)

Given the DRC's sizeable land mass – 227 million hectares – the Congolese still endure a system that provides an insufficient amount of crops. The main agricultural exports in terms of value – unmanufactured tobacco, green coffee, sugar, wheat and dry rubber – still have great potential, as commercial agriculture is limited. Most farmers are still subsistence or small-scale. A lack of manufacturing and packaging infrastructure hinders the country's ability to move the value chain further onshore and capture greater profits and rewards for the farmers.

The livestock and fishery sectors have the highest potential. Imported frozen chicken and fish are the norm in the DRC. The cost of chicken and eggs in Kinshasa is approximate twice the price you would pay in South Africa. The same story applies to milk and cheese. Both poultry and dairy suffer from a lack of capital and outdated equipment. Boosting production and lowering costs is the name of the game. Most of the DRC's urbanized population are seeing gains in income but are still waiting for lower prices in order to meet their greater consumption needs.

Land under annual or perennial crops constitutes only 3.5 percent of the total land area. Agriculture is divided into two basic sectors: subsistence, which employs the vast majority of the workforce, and commercial, which is export-oriented and conducted on plantations. Subsistence farming involves four million families on plots averaging 1.6 hectares (four acres), usually a little larger in savanna areas than in the rain forest.

The DRC has more available farmland than any other country in Africa, with an agricultural potential to feed close to two billion people. DR Congo has an estimated 80 million hectares of available arable land with 10% of this land is currently being used. The agricultural sector contributes 18 percent of GDP and accounts for over 60 percent of new jobs. <https://www.ambardcusa.org/invest-in-the-drc/industries/agriculture/>

3. LOCAL MARKET MORE THEN 100 MILLION CONGOLESE

4. REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MARKETS (9 NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES WITH NEARLY 300 MILLION PEOPLE)

THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BECOME A BREADBASKET FOR THE DEVELOPING WORLD, BUT POOR LAND USE AND A LACK OF INVESTMENT PREVENT THAT.

COFFEE

Coffee is the DRC's third most important export (after copper and crude oil) and is the leading agricultural export. An estimated 33,000 tons were produced in 2004 (down from an average of 97,000 tons during 1989–91);

80 percent of production comes from the Oriental Provinces, Equateur, and both north and south Kivu. □
10–15 percent of production is arabica coffee, the vast majority being robusta; coffee exports are mostly sold to Italy, France, Belgium, and Switzerland.

The collapse of the International Coffee Agreement in 1989 quickly led to a doubling of exports by the former Zaire, whereupon the surplus entering the world market drove down prices rapidly.

RUBBER

Rubber is the fourth most important export cash crop. The plantation crop has been slowly recovering from nationalization. Some plantations are now replanting for the first time in over 20 years.

Congo DRC is a member of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), and the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (ECGLC). The country has benefited from a number of ITC interventions under PACT2 notably in the area of coffee export promotion and the reinforcement of trade support institutions. Congo DRC is looking forward to further diversify its economy by developing its production and exports of non-traditional products such as yam and cassava.

5. Investment Climate and Incentives

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is a multi-party democracy and provides a market-oriented liberalized economic environment. The Government of Democratic Republic of the Congo welcomes investors across sectors and the laws relating to investment have provided for incentives aimed specifically at increased levels of investment and international trade, as well as increased domestic economic growth.

The Heart of Africa

Strategically located in the heart of Africa and bordered by 9 neighbouring countries, the Democratic Republic of the Congo represents a mega market in the heart of the African continent with a population of more than 70 million people within a region of over 250 million consumers when including the neighbouring countries. The DRC is also endowed with rare and strategic minerals sought by both developed and emerging economies around the world. There is 120 million hectare of arable land, abundant rainfall throughout the year, tens of thousands of rivers, half of the African equatorial forest, and over 100,000 MW of potential hydropower



Member of OHADA

Thanks to its membership in harmonized regional legal regime of OHADA, DRC has access to arbitral mechanisms based on international instruments, such as the 1985 Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and the 1998 Rules of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce. The DRC also has signed a number of bilateral treaties for the promotion and protection of investment and select double taxation treaties.



The government prioritizes attracting foreign investment into the country. The government has however improved economic governance and the business climate in order to attract investments. Most foreign direct investments are governed by the 2002 Investment Code.

The DRC offers a number of investment incentives designed to attract foreign capital, mainly in the form of tax and customs exemptions, approved under the Investment Code system. Eligibility is based on location and type of enterprise; number of jobs created; extent of training and promotion of local staff; export-producing nature of the operation; and value added to local resources

Furthermore, tax exemptions in the DRC vary depending on location, categorized by economic region and applied during the first years following the establishment of a business as such:

3 years for Economic Region A (Kinshasa); • 4 years for Economic Region B (Bas Congo; cities of Lubumbashi, Likasi and Kolwezi); • 5 years for Economic Region C (Bandundu, Equateur, Kasai Oriental, Kasai Occidental, Maniema, North Kivu, South Kivu, Province Orientale and Katanga).

Selected tax exemptions that are offered include the following:

- Full exemption from professional tax on income for profits made by approved investments;
- Full exemption from duties and taxes on export of all or part of finished products, carved or semi-carved in good conditions for the balance of payments;
- Exemption from land tax (on land concessions and developed properties);
- Exemption from ad valorem duty on the constitution or increase of the share capital of limited liability companies (SARL);
- Exemption from tax on turnover inside the country for products and services bought from local producers.

The DRC also offers customs exemptions:

- With the exception of the administrative tax (5 percent), full exemption from duties and taxes on import for machinery, new tools and equipment, new spare parts not exceeding 10 percent of CIF value of the said equipment for public utility investments;
- Exoneration from duties and taxes on export for all or part of finished products, carved or semi-carved, in good conditions for the balance of payment.

Small businesses are also encouraged through the following incentives:

- The possibility of calculating their provision for depreciation according to a degressive mode;
- Deduction of taxable profit from expenses made for the training or improvement of staff, or protection and conservation of the environment;
- Exemption from duties on corporate or cooperative charters and on registration fees in the Trade Register.

Investments in the DRC are protected by the Constitution and the Investment Code. Guarantees provided by the Investment Code are:

- Equal treatment for all investors regardless of nationality;
- Exclusion from nationalization and expropriation;
- Free transfer abroad of dividends and other income generated by investments;
- Settlement of disputes;
- Established commercial and labour courts, in which sit business representatives.



5. LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE TOOLS AVAILABLE

.Agricultural Laws
The National Investment Code
.The National Agricultural Investment Plan
.Facilities of Industrial Promotion Fund (IPF)
.The National Fund for Agricultural Development (FNDA)



The Democratic Republic of the Congo is a vast agricultural country with a population whose majority lives in rural areas and depends mainly on agriculture, livestock and fisheries.

Formerly active in the export of various agricultural products, the Democratic Republic of Congo is today in a situation without common measure with its agricultural potentialities.

Despite its large expanses of arable land, its important hydrographic network, its diversity of climates, its fishing potential and considerable breeding, the Democratic Republic of Congo now ranks among the deficit countries in agriculture and food security.

Developed under the provisions of Article 123 of the Constitution, the Congolese law fills the long-standing deficit in the sector and sets the broad guidelines in the form of the fundamental principles relating to agriculture. It considers the objectives of decentralization, integrates both diversities and agroecological specificities

The DRC is party to both bilateral and multilateral investment guarantee agreements, including the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) specialized in insurance against political and other non-commercial risks; the New York Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards; the OHADA Treaty; and the African Trade Insurance Agency (ATIA).



ANAPI: A partner, dedicated to the service of investors



DR CONGO

**NATIONAL AGENCY FOR
THE PROMOTION OF
INVESTMENT**

The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo established a one-stop solution know as The National Agency for the Promotion of investment (ANAPI). It is the preferred partner of investors, called upon to provide support, through various services, both before, during, and after the approval investment.

ANAPI indeed offers the following services: reception at the airport or port. Transport; Hotel booking; Organisation of stays; Approval to the benefits of the Code of investment friendliness; Search for land concessions and/or the premises; The legal and administrative formalities required. Support for the resolution of disputes with Governments; Supplies of information; Support for promoting competitiveness and expansion of the business.



To bolster investors, ANAPI has within itself a structure called "Guichet Unique". It is a space comprising various State services involved in the process of the creation of companies and investments. Through this one-stop, the investor can, in one place, complete all the formalities required to start his business.





For further details
www.investindrcongo.com