



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO
MINISTRY OF MINES



Technical Coordination and
Mining Planning Unit

MINING INVESTORS **GUIDE**



**DRC, LAND OF
OPPORTUNITIES**
**THE FUTURE
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MINING INVESTORS GUIDE



**DRC, LAND OF
OPPORTUNITIES**

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STARS NOW**



HIS EXCELLENCY Félix Antoine TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO
PRESIDENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

SUMMARY

PREFACE

INTRODUCTION

I. GENERAL

- I.1 Geographical situation and general information on the DRC
- I.2 Relief and Hydrography
- I.3 Climate, Vegetation and Soil
- I.4 Population
- I.5 Education

II. POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANISATION

- II.1 Political organisation
- II.2 Administrative organisation

III. ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE

- III.1 Energy
- III.2 Transport
- III.3 Communications

IV. LIVING, INVESTING AND WORKING IN THE DRC

- IV.1 Strategic Assets of the DRC Mining Sector
- IV.2 Immigration procedure
- IV.3 General procedure for starting a business
- IV.4 Business climate and liberalisation
- IV.5 Insurance and banking

V. MINERAL POTENTIAL AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE DRC'S MINING SECTOR

- V.1 Geological Overview
- V.2 Mineral Potential
- V.3 Mining Domain and Mineral Value Chain
- V.4 Mining Project Life Cycle
- V.5 Investment Opportunities in the Mining Sector of the DRC
- V.6 Mining mode of operation
 - V.6.1 Small-scale mining
 - V.6.2 Artisanal

VI. LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK OF THE MINING SECTOR

- VI.1 Legal Framework Governing the Mining Sector in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
- VI.2 Access Modalities to the Mining Sector
- VI.3 Categories of Mineral and Quarry Rights and Their Legal Attributes
- VI.4 Conditions for Obtaining Mining and Quarry Rights

VI.5 Tax Regime Applicable to the Mining Sector in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

VI.6 Applicable Customs Regime

VI.7 Tax Regime

VII. GOVERNANCE, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND TRANSPARENCY

VII.1 Requirements for Initiating and Operating Specific Mining Activities

VIII. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES



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MINISTER OF MINES



INTRODUCTION

In this era of simultaneous energy and digital transitions developments that are not only underway but are set to shape our future for decades to come the minerals underpinning this transformation, many of which are abundantly found in **the Democratic Republic of the Congo**, are poised to attract intensifying global demand. It is to be hoped that this growing appetite will contribute to shared progress and sustainable development for the global community.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), whose geological wealth remains only partially explored, is home to world class deposits of critical metals such as copper, cobalt, tin, niobium, tantalum (coltan), gold, and zinc. These are primarily extracted through industrial operations, alongside a dynamic and increasingly formalised artisanal mining sector. As the world's second largest copper producer behind only Chile, the DRC recorded a production volume of **3,100,234** tonnes in 2024 and ranks seventh globally in copper reserves. With regard to cobalt, a strategic metal prized for its essential role in lithium-ion batteries and high temperature superalloys used in jet engines, the DRC holds the **largest known reserves** and is the leading **global producer**.

As the energy transition and digitalisation accelerate following a temporary slowdown likely linked to geopolitical uncertainties such as the war in Ukraine projections from the International Energy Agency (IEA) highlight the scale of the coming demand surge. Achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2040 will require six times more mineral inputs than are used today, including twice the current global demand for copper and twenty times the current demand for cobalt.

With its vast untapped mineral potential, the DRC has a unique opportunity to play a pivotal role in this global transformation. By attracting strategic investments across critical mineral value chains and with the support of the international community our country can realise its full mining potential in a fair and transparent manner, while contributing responsibly to global supply security.

It is within this strategic vision that **His Excellency Mr. Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo**, President of the Republic and Head of State, has mandated the Government to actively promote geological research, support responsible mining practices, and foster a competitive and transparent business environment. These efforts aim to establish mutually beneficial partnerships, ensure inclusive growth, and improve the living standards of the Congolese population.

In doing so, the Democratic Republic of the Congo is well-positioned to become a credible and indispensable player in the sustainable supply of critical minerals minerals that are essential to the green transition, digital innovation, and the emergence of a future shaped by artificial intelligence.

This second edition of the Investor's Guide to the Mining Sector in the Democratic Republic of the Congo reflects our commitment to that vision.

Prof. Dieudonné-Louis TAMBWE K.'A-M.

Coordinator of the CTCPM

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

The Democratic Republic of Congo (**2.345 410 km**) is the second largest country in Africa after Algeria. It stretches from the Atlantic Ocean to the Eastern Plateau and covers most of the Congo River basin. The North of the country is one of the largest areas of equatorial forest in the world; the East of the country borders the great East African rift, area of mountains, hills, Great Lakes but also volcanoes.



The South and the centre, domain of savannah trees, form a high plateau rich in minerals. In the extreme west, about thirty kilometres north of the mouth of the Congo River, there is a coastline on the Atlantic Ocean. The country shares borders with the enclave of Cabinda (Angola) to the west-southwest, the Republic of Congo to the west, the Central African Republic to the north, South Sudan to the northeast, Uganda to the east-northeast, Rwanda and Burundi to the east, Tanzania to the east-southeast, Zambia to the south-southeast and Angola to the southwest.

The DRC has been a member of the International Organisation of the Francophonie since 1977.

Figure 1. Political Map of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Source: <https://gifex.com/fr/>

I.1 GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION AND GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE DRC

OFFICIAL NAME	DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO
FORM OF STATE	Semi-presidential system
GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION	A landlocked country in Central Africa, the DRC, with its 2,345,410 km ² , is the second largest country in Africa after Algeria. Sharing its border with 9 African countries, it is limited to the north by the Central African Republic and Sudan, to the east by Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Tanzania, and to the south by Zambia and Angola.
Capital city	Kinshasa
Official language	French
National languages	Swahili, Lingala, Kikongo et Tshiluba
PROVINCES	Bas-Uele, Equateur, Haut-Katanga, Haut- Lomami, Haut-Uele, Ituri, Kasai, Kasai Central, Kasai Oriental, Kinshasa, Kongo-Central, Kwango, Kwilu, Lomami, Lualaba, Mai-Ndombe, Maniema, Mongala, Nord-Kivu, Nord-Ubangi, Sankuru, Sud-Kivu, Sud-Ubangi, Tanganyika, Tshopo, Tshuapa.
MEASURES	Metric system
CURRENCY	Congolese Franc (CDF)
GDP (AT CURRENT PRICES) 2019	USD 86,036.2 billion (source: Bank's weekly digest)
GDP GROWTH RATE	4.6% (source: Weekly summary of the Central Bank of Congo)
AVERAGE ANNUAL INFLATION RATE FOR 2019	4.5% (source: Weekly summary of the Central Bank of Congo)

CURRENCIES USED IN COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS	Free circulation of all foreign currencies concomitantly with the Congolese franc (see the Foreign Exchange Regulations in force in the DRC, chapter 3, section 3 relating to transactions and services in foreign currencies).
INTERNET PENETRATION RATE IN 2019	17% (Source ARPTC/Direction de Prospective Économique).
MOBILE TELEPHONY PENETRATION RATE IN 2019	42% (Source ARPTC/Direction de Prospective Économique).
AVERAGE REVENUE PER USER (ARPU) IN 2019	3.5 USD (Source ARPTC/Direction de Prospective Économique).

Table 1. Geographical and General Overview of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

I.2 RELIEF AND HYDROGRAPHY

I.2.1 Relief

The relief of the Democratic Republic of Congo is made up of the central basin, the southern and south-eastern plateaus, the hills and massifs of Bas-Congo, a coastal zone and the mountainous bulge in the east.

I.2.1.1 Central Cuvette :

This is a vast depression of 750,000 km² whose altitude varies between 340 m (Lac Tumba and Mai-ndombe) and 700 m (Collines de l'Uélé). It is bounded to the north by the watershed of the Ubangui and Chari rivers, to the east by the mountainous ridge that borders the East African Rift, to the south and south-east by the Kasai and Katanga plateaus, and to the west by the Congo River and the Kwango plateau.

The landscapes are calm and contain a dense hydrographic network, whose floodable areas constitute immense swamps. Some of its rivers, such as the Kasai and the Tshikapa, carry brown water impregnated with organic matter, mainly ferruginous.

I.2.1.2 Southern and South-Eastern Plateaux:

They are monotonous and include: the Kwango and Kasai plateaus the Katanga highlands.

Source: <https://congo-tourisme.org/decouvrir/geographie/>

I.2.1.3 Hills and Massifs of Kongo-Central

These are granite and quartzite hills and massifs locally known as the “Monts de Cristal” (Crystal Mountains). They form part of the Western Congolese mountain chain.

The Banana coastline is a relatively narrow coastal strip, featuring sandy beaches in some areas and steep cliffs in others.

The uniqueness of this region lies in its mangrove landscapes, dominated by mangrove trees

I.2.1.4 Mountain Belt on the Eastern Edge of the Central Basin

This belt includes high mountain ranges and rift valleys, such as:

The volcanic Virunga Massif and the Ruwenzori Mountains, which serve as a natural divide between the Nile Basin and the Congo Basin; Rift valleys whose floors are occupied by a chain of lakes: **Albert, Edward, Kivu, Tanganyika, and Moero.**

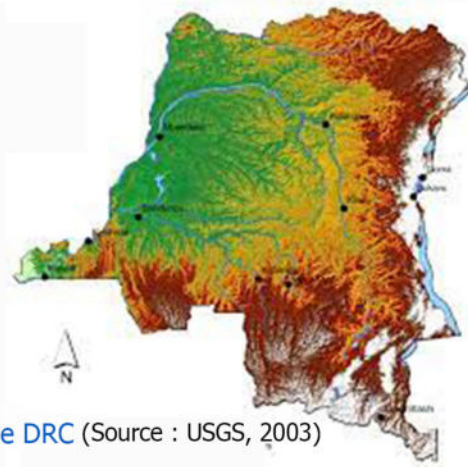


Figure 2. Relief Map of the DRC (Source : USGS, 2003)

I.2.2 Hydrography

Spanning the vast basin of the Congo River, which covers more than 2,300,000 km² or two-thirds of the national territory the country is endowed with a dense and well-distributed hydrographic network, according to a government report.

Only two regions fall outside the Congo River's catchment area:

- The northwestern part of Mayumbe, drained by a small coastal river, the Shiloango;
- The areas surrounding Lakes Albert and Edward, which belong to the Nile Basin.
- The Congo Basin itself extends over an area of 3,684,000 km² on both sides of the Equator one third in the Northern Hemisphere and two-thirds in the Southern Hemisphere.
- The Congo River ranks as the fifth-longest river in the world, with a length of 4,374 km, but it is second in average discharge (39,600 m³/sec) and second in basin size, placing it just after the Amazon.

I.3 CLIMATE, VEGETATION AND SOIL

I.3.1 Climate

The temperature of the Congo is that of hot countries. The average annual temperature varies between 24 and 25°C in the North in the central basin, in the North of Katanga, in Kasai, in Kinshasa and in Central Kongo. In the eastern mountains, the altitude moderates the temperature. It is 19°C in Goma (1550 m above sea level) and about 20°C on the high plateaus of Katanga.

The climatic distribution is as follows:

- straddling the Equator, the climate is equatorial;
- as one moves away from the Equator towards the North or South, the climate becomes subtropical (Guinean-Sudanese and Senegalese).

I.3.2 Vegetation

The vegetation is very diverse depending on the climatic conditions, the relief and the soils, which themselves differ from one region to another.

Thick and massive, very homogeneous landscapes occupy about **1,000,000** km² in the Cuvette Centrale. These include :

- Dense forests on either side of the Equator;
- Open forests towards the east where, with altitude, the size of large trees decreases; savannahs and steppes.



Photo credit: Fripeek

MINING INVESTORS GUIDE / 12

I.3.3 SOILS

The soils of the Democratic Republic of Congo belong to the category of tropical and equatorial soils that are deeply decomposed and rich in iron and alumina, under the action of a hot and humid climate.

I.3.4 POPULATION



The Democratic Republic of Congo is a country located in Central Africa with an estimated population of 107 million in 2021, making it the 14th most populous country in the world. This population is characterised by its youthfulness, with 60% of its inhabitants under 20 years of age.

The population density in the Democratic Republic of Congo is about 45 inhabitants per km², which is comparable to the African average. The population is concentrated on the plateaus, in the savannah near rivers and lakes; the north and centre of the country, the domain of the jungle, are almost empty. The rural exodus has swelled the cities. The largest cities are Kinshasa, Lubumbashi, Mbuji-Mayi, Kananga, Kisangani and Bukavu.

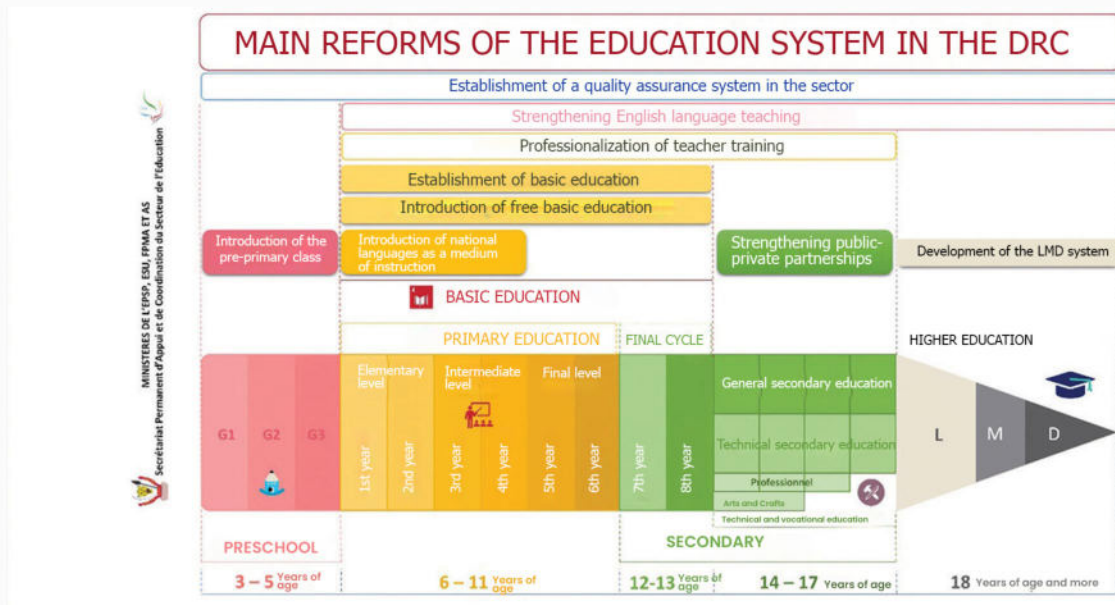
I.3.5. EDUCATION

The structure of national education, the primary, secondary and vocational education sector comprises three levels: nursery, primary and secondary.

The primary level is organised in a 6-year cycle divided into three stages: elementary, intermediate and final.

Children who have reached the age of six are admitted to the first year of primary school. The secondary level comprises 4 cycles:

- the cycle of professional specialisation (CSP) lasting one or two years
- the Arts and Crafts cycle lasting from one to three years
- the professional cycle lasting 4 to 5 years
- the long cycle (humanities) lasting 6 years and opening the door to higher and university studies.



Source:Min.EPST 2022 **FIGURE 3. Reform of the Education System in the DRC**



Photos credits : pupils: www.presidence.cd
students: fripeek

II. POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANISATION

The Democratic Republic of Congo is governed by the Constitution of 18 February 2006 as amended and completed by Law No. 11/002 of 20 January 2011

II.1. Political organisation

The country has the following political institutions:

- The President of the Republic, The Government headed by the Prime Minister;
- The Parliament: composed of two chambers, the National Assembly and the Senate;
- Courts and tribunals.



Courts and tribunals.

II.2 Administrative organisation

The DRC is divided into 26 provinces, each headed by a governor elected by the Provincial Assembly.

	Provinces	Administrative centers	Area
1.	Bas-uélé	Buta	148 331 Km ²
2.	Equateur	Mbandaka	103 902 Km ²
3.	Haut-Katanga	Lubumbashi	132 425 Km ²
4.	Haut-Lomami	Kamina	108 204 Km ²
5.	Haut-Uele	Isiro	89 683 Km ²
6.	Ituri	Bunia	65 658 Km ²
7.	Kasaï	Luebo	95 631 Km ²
8.	Kasaï-Central	Kananga	60 958 Km ²
9.	Kasaï-Oriental	Mbuji-Mayi	9 545 Km ²

10.	Kinshasa	Kinshasa	9 965 km ²
11.	Kongo-Central	Matadi	53 920 Km ²
12.	Kwango	Kenge	89 974 Km ²
13.	Kwilu	Kikwit	78 219 Km ²
14.	Lomani	Kabinda	56 426 Km ²
15.	Lualaba	Kolwezi	121 308 Km ²
16.	Mai-Ndombe	Inongo	127 465 Km ²
17.	Maniema	Kindu	132 520 Km ²
18.	Mongala	Lisala	58 141 Km ²
19.	Nord-Kivu	Goma	59 483 km ²
20.	Nord-Ubangi	Gbadolite	56 644 Km ²
21.	Sankuru	Lusambo	104 331 Km ²
22.	Sud-Kivu	Bukavu	65 070 Km ²
23.	Sud-Ubangi	Gemena	51 648 Km ²
24.	Tanganyika	Kalemie	134 940 Km ²
25.	Tshopo	Kisangani	199 567 Km ²
26.	Tshuapa	Boende	132 967 Km ²

Table 2. List of the 26 Provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

III. ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE

III.1 Energy

Energy is a vital production factor and a major component of the economy. The energy deficit in the Democratic Republic of Congo certainly hinders the mining industry.

However, Law No. 14/011 of 17 June 2014 on the electricity sector, which ended the monopoly of the Société Nationale de l'Électricité (SNEL), now allows potential investors (operator-miners) to build or rehabilitate a power station through a "public-private" partnership.

This sector is regulated by the Autorité de Régulation du Secteur de l'Énergie (ARE).

The DRC has about 2.7 gigawatts (GW) of electricity capacity spread across the country. Less than half of this capacity is effectively exploitable due to ageing equipment. 95% of the DRC's energy production is hydroelectric, thanks to the Congo River.

The national grid is composed of three distinct networks, in the west, east and south. The provinces of Haut-Katanga and Lualaba, the focus of the country's mining activities, are covered by the southern grid, which is connected to Inga's hydroelectric plants.

The DRC also has significant potential for renewable energy resources such as: solar, biomass, biofuel, biogas, wind, etc.

This sector is regulated by the Autorité de Régulation du secteur de l'Electricité (**ARE**).



Some dams built as part of the infrastructure linked to mining projects.

Station	Capacity(MW)	Province	Operator	Year Commissioned
AZAMBI	11	Haut-Uélé	Kibali Gold Mines	2018
BUSANGA	240	Haut-Katanga	SICOHYDRO (SICOMINES)	2022
NSEKE	260	Lualaba	SNEL TENKEFUNGU RUME	Planned for 2023

Source: Min.du Plan RDC [Table 3. List of some dams of the DRC](#)

III.2. Transport

Without viable transport infrastructures, the export of mining products is inconceivable. The DRC, with its geographical position, constitutes an indispensable platform for cross-border trade. It has a road network of **153,209** km, a railway network of **3,641** km, **16,328** km of waterways, 26 airports and 7 major ports.

III.2.1 Railway network

The DRC's railway network measures **3,641** km, and this sector is under a state monopoly regime. Goods traffic on the rails is estimated at 158.00 million tonnes and kilometres travelled. 858 km of (electrified) railways serve the mining provinces of Lualaba and Haut-Katanga. The railway in the DRC is currently organised into 4 clearly separated networks, namely

Matadi-Kinshasa line, The Great Katanga line, Kasai Ilebo-Kamina-Dilolo-Benguela (Angola) also linking Lubumbashi-Sakania-Zambia; Great Lakes Line, First section Kisangani-Ubundu, to compensate for the Boyoma Falls (Stanley-Falls) the second section kindu-kabalo-Kalemie (Lake Tanganyika); Vicinal lines of Mayumbe and Uélé.



III.2.2 Road network

The road network of the DRC currently comprises **153,209** km of roads distributed as follows :

- 58,509 km of roads of general interest;
- 7400 km of urban roads;
- 87,300 km of local interest or agricultural roads.

Only 17.5% of the Congolese road network is in good condition, which makes the evacuation of minerals inefficient (by road).

The national roads in the DRC are those that connect major towns and territories in the country. Their use is subject to tolls when crossing certain territories and towns.



National road	Distance (Km)	Towns and territories crossed
RN1	3086,7	Moanda-Boma-Matadi-Kinshasa. Kinshasa-Kenge-Kikwit-Tshikapa-
		Kananga-Mbuji-mayi-Likasi-Lubumbashi-Sakania
RN2	1404,2	Mbuji-Mayi-Kabinda-Mwenga-Kabore-Bukavu-Goma-Rutshuru-Beni
RN3	583	Kisangani-Lubutu-Walikale-bukavbu
N4	1505,4	Beni-Mambassa-Bafwasende-Kisangani-Banalia-Buta-Bondo
RN5	1356	Bukavu-Uvira-Baraka-Fizi-Misisi-Kalemie-Pweto-kilwa-Kasomeno-Lubumbashi

Photo credit: globalinfos

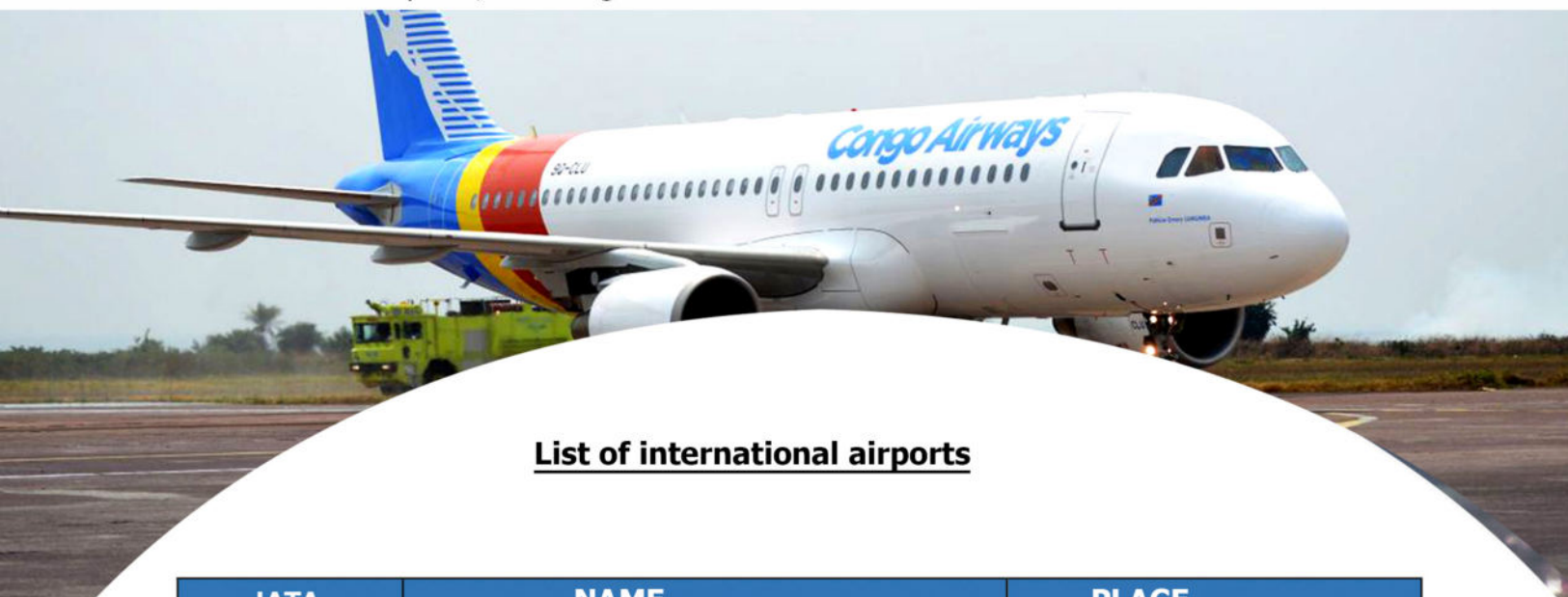
RN6	839	Libenge-Gemena-Lisala-Bumba-Aketi
RN7	1229	Kisangani-Ikela-Lodja-Kananga
RN8	856	Mbandaka-Ingende-Boende-Yayama
RN9	170	Bagata-Mosango
RN12	440	Mbanza-ngungu-Boma
RN16	452	Kisantu-Kimvula-Popokabaka-Mayamba-
RN17	360	Mongali-Bagata
RN19	415	Kilunda-Kikwit
RN20	630	Isangempoo-Bulungu
RN22	230	Ikombe-Basankusu
RN23	90	Boyabo-Zongo
RN24	470	Gemena-Gbadolite-Yakoma
RN25	740	Buta-Niania
N26	220	Djamu-Aba
RN27	75	Komanda-Bunia-
RN31	580	Lubutu-Kasongo
RN33	768	Kabondo dianda-Malemba nkulu-Manono-Nyemba-Kelemie
RN34	90	Kirungu-Muandapole
RN35	70	Kasomeno-Kasenge
RN39	1300	Nguba-Kolwezi-Dilolo-Bulungu
RN40	250	Mweneditu-Kananga
RN41	230	Mweka-Kananga
RN42	135	Kadimayiba-Lusambo

Table 4. List of National Roads in the DRC

Source: Foner and Mthe Ministry of Infrastructure and Public Works

C. Airports

The DRC has **27** airports, including **4** international and **23** national.



List of international airports

IATA	NAME	PLACE
FIH	Aéroport international de Ndjili	Kinshasa
FBM	Aéroport international de Luano	Lubumbashi
FKI	Aéroport international de Bangoka	Kisangani
GOM	Aéroport international de Goma	Goma

List of national airports

IATA	NAME	PLACE
PFR	Aéroport d'Ilebo	Ilebo
NLO	Aéroport de Ndolo	Kinshasa
BSU	Aéroport de Basankusu	Basankusu
KGA	Aéroport de Kananga	Kananga
KND	Aéroport de Kindu	Kindu
BNC	Aéroport de Mavivi	Béni
BKY	Aéroport de kavumu	Bukavu
BUX	Aéroport de Bunia	Bunia
FMI	Aéroport de Kalemie	Kalemie
GMA	Aéroport de Gemena	Gemena
KWZ	Aéroport de Kolwezi	Kolwezi

MDK	Aéroport de Mbandaka	Mbandaka
MJM	Aéroport de Bipemba	Mbuji-mayi
BMB	Aéroport de Bumba	Bumba
IRP	Aéroport de Matari	Isiro
MNB	Aéroport de Moanda	Moanda
LJA	Aéroport de Lodja	Lodja
BDT	Aéroport de Gbadolite	Gbadolite
FDU	Aéroport de Bandundu	Bandundu-ville
TSH	Aéroport de Tshikapa	Tshikapa
MAT	Aéroport de Tshimpi	Matadi
BOA	Aéroport de Boma	Boma
KKW	Aéroport de Kikwit	Kikwit

Source: RVA 2021 [Table 5. List of airports of the DRC](#)

D. Ports

Since its origin, the DRC has had a transport system largely based on waterways that irrigate almost the entire country. It has 3 seaports, 4 lake ports and 5 river ports.

Seaports:

- **The Port of Matadi:** the main and largest port of the DRC with an annual handling of 2,500,000 tonnes;
- **The Port of Boma:** the second largest seaport in DRC with 6 quay cranes with a lifting capacity of 3 to 3.5 tonnes;
- **The Port of Banana:** Under construction, the deep water port of Banana is expected to improve the country's commercial exchanges and will have a positive impact on the national economy.

Lake Ports:

- **The Port of Kalundu:** important in terms of capacity, 6 boats of 500 to 1000 tons can dock simultaneously and its Beach capable of handling more than 700 tons daily.
- **The Port of Kalemie:** located on Lake Tanganyika, it can handle up to 220,000 tonnes
- **The Port of Bukavu:** located on Lake Kivu, important for its handling capacity of 1,200 tonnes
- **The port of Goma:** located on Lake Kivu, it allows trade on the lake.

River ports

- **Port of Kinshasa:** owned by the Congolese Transport and Ports Company, it comprises all the public port facilities,
- **Port of Kisangani:** located on the right bank of the Congo River in the Tshopo province, it is the second largest river port after Kinshasa,
- **Port of Mbandaka:** located on the Congo River, it links the city of Mbandaka to Kinshasa and Kisangani,
- **Port of Ilebo:** located on the Kasai River in the province of Central Kasai,
- **Port of Ubundu:** located in the province of Tshopo, it connects Tshopo to the province of Maniema and allows trade between these two provinces.



Photo credit: MGT



III.3. COMMUNICATION

Telecommunications play a very important economic and social role in our societies today. The remarkable progress of NICTs, and more specifically telecommunications, has led the DRC to draw up laws to govern the telecommunications sector. To date, the DRC has several mobile network operators, fibre optic network operators, VSAT operators and internet access providers.

Mobile network operators

Operators	Coverage	Services
Airtel	National	2G – 3G – 4G deployment – Mobile Money
Vodacom	National	2G – 3G – 4G deployment – Mobile Money
Orange RDC	National	2G – 3G – 4G deployment – Mobile Money
Africell	Kinshasa + major cities	2G – 3G – 4G deployment – Mobile Money
Standard Telecom	Kinshasa (some municipalities)	CDMA – Internet

These active mobile telephony players mostly belong to large international groups, except for Standard Telecom, which is the result of a foreign partnership with the public operator SCPT

source: National Digital Plan DRC 2019

Photo credit : Fripeek

Fibre optic network operators

Operators	Coverage
SCPT	3,600 km of national fiber optic backbone segments (target of 30,000 km), connected through Moanda to West African coastal countries and Europe, and through Kasumbalesa to Southern Africa. The latter connects only the following cities: Kinshasa, Moanda, Matadi, Mbanza-Ngungu, Tshela, Kikwit, Bandundu City, Mbuji-Mayi, Kananga, Kamina, Kolwezi, Likasi, Lubumbashi, and Kasumbalesa. • Two urban fiber optic rings in Kinshasa (10 Gbps and 40 Gbps).
SNEL	2,200 km of fiber optic line mounted on high-voltage electricity transmission pylons along the 'Inga-Shaba' route.
Liquid Telecom	• Over 300 km of fiber optic cable extending from the Zambian border to Lualaba. • An urban ring in Lubumbashi and another in Goma, planned to be commercialized in Open Access mode, available to all operators or ISPs. • Ongoing project to deploy an FTTx infrastructure in Kinshasa using the urban ring of one of the mobile network operators.

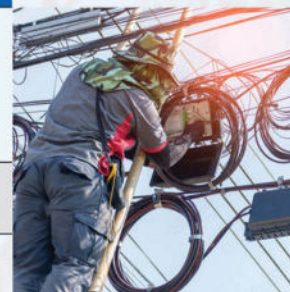


Table 6. Overview of Fiber Optic Network Operators

VSAT operators

- African digital network
- Compass green worldwinc SARL
- Konnect Africa
- Sonema sam Monaco S.A



Internet access providers

Operators	Coverage	Services
Microcom	Kinshasa + major cities	Microwave connections in BLR and VSAT for Internet and Intranet. Fiber optic links on the SCPT metro ring. Data center and servers.
Global Broadband Solutions	Kinshasa + major cities	Microwave connections via BLR and VSAT for Internet and Intranet. Data center and servers.
OrionCom	Kinshasa	Microwave connections via BLR and VSAT for Internet and Intranet
DHI	Kinshasa + major cities	Microwave connections via BLR for Internet and Intranet
Raganet	Kinshasa + major cities	Microwave connections via BLR and VSAT for Internet and Intranet
Afrinet	Kinshasa	Microwave connections via BLR for Internet and Intranet
PIWI	Kinshasa	Wholesale reseller in BLR
Standard Telecom	Kinshasa	Fiber optic links on the SCPT metro ring.

Other more or less informal providers operate, but their impact cannot be quantified due to the lack of comprehensive identification by the Regulator (ARPTC) or the Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications, and ICT (PTNTIC).

Table 7. Overview of Internet access provider

Source Table: National Digital Plan DRC 2019

IV. LIVING, INVESTING AND WORKING IN THE DRC

IV.1 Strategic Assets of the DRC Mining Sector

The Congolese mining sector boasts a set of structural and institutional advantages that position it as one of the most attractive in Africa for medium- and long-term investments. These strengths rest upon six major pillars:

Pillar I: **Exceptional and Diverse Mineral Potential**

The DRC possesses one of the richest and most diverse subsoils in the world :

- **The world's leading producer of cobalt** (accounting for 70% of global production), essential for lithium-ion batteries;
- **The fourth-largest copper producer in Africa**, with estimated reserves exceeding 75 million tonnes;
- **Significant reserves of cobalt**, gold, coltan, lithium, zinc, manganese, tin, iron, tungsten, rare earth elements, uranium, among others;
- **Diamond production** (primarily in the Kasai region), with strong potential for mineral resource expansion in underexplored areas;
- **Presence of rare earth elements and strategic minerals**, currently at the core of global technological value chains;

Deposits are largely untapped or underexploited, particularly in the eastern and southern parts of the country.

Pillar II: **Political Stability and Improving Macroeconomic Environment**

Since the first peaceful transfer of power in 2019, the DRC has experienced a gradual stabilization of its political climate.

Institutions are functioning with greater coordination, accompanied by strengthened **governance in the extractive** sector.

Structural reforms, supported by the **IMF**, the **World Bank**, and the **African Development Bank**, have enhanced macroeconomic management;

GDP growth is projected around 6-8% in 2023-2024, driven by the mining sector;

Inflation reduction and improved public finance management;

Implementation of a **National Strategic Development Plan** (NSDP) prioritizing the local value addition of mineral resources.

Pillar III: **Clear, Modern, and Reliable Legal and Fiscal Framework**

The DRC has a Mining Code revised in 2018, aligned with international standards:

- Clarification of Fiscal, Environmental, and Social Obligations ;
- Introduction of fiscal stabilization measures for the duration of projects (up to 5 years);
- **Security of mining rights** ensured through the Mining Cadastre (CAMI) and traceability systems;
- The State provides a transparent contractual framework, with a **public registry of mining contracts**, enhancing predictability.

The mining tax regime is competitive compared to the regional average :

- Royalties are proportionate to the criticality of the mineral resources;
- Tax exemptions are granted during the exploration phase.

Pillar IV: **Transparency of Mining Rights and Security of Titles**

- The DRC has been an active member of the **Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative** (EITI) since 2005, with ongoing progress;
- The **Mining Cadastre** (CAMI) provides a computerized and publicly accessible management system for mining titles;
- Standardized procedures govern the allocation, renewal, transfer, and revocation of mining and quarrying rights;
- Legal protection of mining property is reinforced through notarized systems for asset transfers and partnerships.

This transparency fosters **investor confidence** and contributes to reducing disputes related to mining titles.

Pillar V: **Skilled and Competent Local Workforce**

- The DRC benefits from an experienced labor force in mining-related professions, particularly in the provinces of Haut-Katanga, Lualaba, and Ituri;
- Several technical schools, universities, and specialized training centers operate in the fields of geology, mining, metallurgy, environment, and electromechanics, including:
 - University of Lubumbashi (UNILU);
 - University of Kinshasa (UNIKIN);
 - Official University of Bukavu (UOB);
 - Kolwezi School of Mines (EMK);
 - University of Goma (UNIGOM), among others.
- The Mining Code mandates a minimum **quota for local employment** and the progressive replacement of expatriate workers;
- Major mining companies and NGOs are engaged in **continuous vocational training** programs.

Pillar VI: Development of Energy and Transport Infrastructure

Energy



- Ongoing projects to increase hydroelectric capacity:
 - **I- Inga III and Grand Inga** (with a potential capacity exceeding 11,000 MW);
 - Rehabilitation of Nseke, Nzilo, and Mwadingusha dams.
- Gradual access to electricity for both industrial and artisanal mining zones.
- Promotion of solar and **thermal mini-grids** in remote mining areas.

Transport

- Modernization of strategic roads linking mining hubs to ports (notably via the Lobito Corridor through Angola).
- Rehabilitation of railway lines: SNCC and the Katanga–Dilolo railway.
- Expansion of regional airports and improvement of logistics for mineral cargo transport.

IV.1.1 Investment Opportunities and Competitive Advantages

IV.1.2 Strategy for the Development of the Mining Sector

- Encouraging geological exploration and discovery of new reserves;
- Increasing value addition to mining outputs through local processing and transformation;
- Attracting investment in infrastructure that supports the growth of the mining ecosystem.

IV.1.3 Government Vision

- Ensuring the **sustainability and effective implementation of the Mining Code**, whose primary goal is to allow Congolese citizens to benefit from their natural resources while providing a stable and secure environment for investors;
- **Promoting the local transformation** of natural resources to increase their value, notably through the development and strengthening of the energy sector.

IV.2 Immigration Procedure

In accordance with Decree-Law No. 002/003 of March 11, 2003, the **General Directorate of Migration** (DGM) is a public service of the Congolese State, endowed with administrative and financial autonomy. Its core responsibilities include:

- Implementing the Government's immigration and emigration policies;
- Enforcing immigration and emigration laws and regulations within Congolese territory;
- Border control and monitoring of foreign nationals;
- Issuing visas to foreign nationals;
- Cooperating in the identification and apprehension of criminals, offenders, or individuals suspected or wanted by the **International Criminal Police Organization** (INTERPOL).

IV.2.1 Immigration Requirements for Entering the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Entry into the Democratic Republic of the Congo for any foreign national is subject to the following requirements:

- A valid national or international passport or other valid travel document;
- A valid tourist, airport, or entry visa;
- An International Certificate of Vaccination, as prescribed by public health and quarantine regulations;
- A valid round-trip airline ticket.

IV.2.2 Types of Visa

Visas are issued by the DGM under the following conditions:

■ Conditions for Obtaining a Pre-Approval (Flying) Visa:

- A formal letter of request addressed to the Director General of the General Directorate of Migration;
- A photocopy of the applicant's passport;
- A copy of the sponsor's identification document (if Congolese) or passport (if foreign);
- Proof of payment of applicable visa processing fees.

■ Airport/Seaport Visa:

Issued at the port of entry to holders of a pre-approved (Flying) Visa or upon express authorization by the Director General of the DGM. This visa is valid for 7 days. After this period, the applicant must regularize their stay through the Chancellery Services of the General or Provincial Directorate of Migration.

■ Settlement visa

Issued to foreigners wishing to settle in DR Congo;

It confers not only the status of resident, but also the possibility of exercising professional or economic activities under the conditions laid down by the Law.

Types of Establishment Visas

- ✓ Ordinary Establishment Visa ;
- ✓ Working Establishment Visa ;
- ✓ Specific Work Establishment Visa;
- ✓ Establishment Visa for Studies;
- ✓ Settlement Visa for foreign spouses of nationals (matrimonial);
- ✓ Special Establishment Visa;
- ✓ Permanent Establishment Visa.

IV.2.3 Visa requirements

General conditions for all Establishment Visas:

- Be legally resident in DR Congo;
- To have stayed for at least six months in DR Congo;
- Hold a valid passport (at least six months);
- Complete the form in full;
- Present a valid international vaccination card;
- Present a certificate of good conduct from your country and municipality of residence (less than 3 months old);
- Present a certificate of residence issued by the commune of residence (less than 3 months old);
- Present the original and the copy of the consular attestation or registration; have sufficient means of subsistence.

■ Ordinary Establishment Visa (3 years) For Traders

Elements of the file to be submitted :

- Company statutes (notarized);
- Trade and Personal Property Credit Register (RCCM) ;
- National Identification Number (Id. Nat.);
- Up-to-date tax current account (Non-problematic);
- Proof of affiliation with the INPP, CNSS, and a recognized employers' union in the Democratic Republic of Congo; (eg: FEC, COPEMECO, FENAPEC, etc.)

■ Permanent Establishment Visa

The Permanent Establishment Visa has an indefinite duration. Its holder is exempted from an exit-return visa.

Special conditions:

- To address a letter of application to the Director General of the Directorate General of Migration;
- To have resided regularly in DR Congo without interruption for at least 15 years;
- Be engaged in agricultural, liberal, commercial or industrial activities;
- Be in good standing with the tax authorities.

Note: Any foreigner holding a Permanent Visa is exempt from the Exit-Return Visa.



IV.3 GENERAL PROCEDURE FOR CREATING A COMPANY

According to the provisions of Article 6 of the Uniform Act of 30 January 2014 on the rights of commercial companies and economic interest groupings, the legal forms of companies recognised in DR Congo are:

- The Establishment (or sole proprietorship or Trader natural person);
- The Limited Liability Company (SARL);
- The Limited Company (SA);
- The Simplified Joint Stock Company (SAS);
- The General Partnership (SNC);
- The Limited Partnership (SCS);
- The Economic Interest Grouping (GIE).

It is worth mentioning that the creation of the Guichet Unique de Création d'Entreprise (a public institution placed under the tutelary authority of the Ministry of Justice) is a major reform carried out within the framework of improving the investment procedures in our country.

Any investor wishing to create a company in DR Congo will save time by applying to the Guichet Unique de Création d'Entreprise.

IV.3.1 Documents to be submitted to the Guichet Unique de Création d'Entreprise (www.guichetunique.cd)

• Legal entity

- Letter of application for the creation of a company addressed to the Director General of the Guichet Unique;
- Statutes of the company in 4 copies + the electronic version of the statutes for publication in the Official Gazette;
- Specimen signature of the manager (plus photocopy of the validity of the visa if the manager is a foreigner);
- Declaration of subscription to and payment of the share capital;
- Proof of payment of the share capital (payment slip or certificate issued by a banking or microfinance institution duly authorised in the State Party of the registered office). For the Limited Liability Company (SARL), there is no minimum capital requirement even though the nominal value of the contributions should not be less than the equivalent of 5,000 CDF each (10 USD).
- For the Société Anonyme (SA), the share capital must be the equivalent of at least 10,000,000 CDF (20,000 USD) when it does not make a public offering and 100,000,000 CDF (200,000 USD) in the opposite case. In addition to this amount of share capital, in accordance with Congolese tax legislation; a proportional duty of 1% of the value of the share capital (at the creation and possibly at the increase of the share capital or at the extension of the duration of the company) must be paid.
- Proof of payment of administrative fees

▪ **Natural person for the establishment of an institution**

- Letter of application for setting up a business addressed to the Director General of the One-Stop Shop;
- Title deed or lease contract or occupation title;
- Recognised identity document;
- Extract from the criminal record or certificate of honour valid for 75 days;
- Resident's visa (for foreigners);
- Marriage contract (for foreigners if necessary);
- Mandate or Power of Attorney (in case the manager is not present to start the procedure).

IV.3.2 Documents provided by the administrations and the GUCE

- Acknowledgement of receipt for the registration of the company;
- Note of collection from the General Directorate of Administrative, Judicial, Domain and Participation Revenue (DGRAD);
- Articles of Association and Notarial Acts;
- Trade and Personal Property Credit Register (RCCM);
- Deed of deposit;
- National Identification Number;
- N° Impôt Direction Générale des Impôts (DGI);
- No. Registration with the National Institute for Professional Preparation (INPP);
- N° Affiliation to the National Social Security Fund (CNSS);
- Certificate of registration with the National Employment Office (ONEM);
- Acknowledgement of receipt from the environment.

Cost of setting up a business (legal entity and individual) :

- Natural person: 30 USD
- Legal person: 80 USD when the applicant firm submits notarised articles of association and 70 USD in the case of sub-private articles of association submitted to the Guichet Unique de Création d'Entreprise (GUCE) for the creation of the SARL.
- Processing time of the file: 3 days

Elements of the file for the representative office, subsidiary and branch (articles 116-120 and 179-180 of the Uniform Act relating to the law of commercial companies and economic interest groups):

- Decision of creation of the office, branch, parent company or subsidiary, legalised and stamped by the DR CONGO embassy in the country where the applicant is located;
- Physical address;
- Name of the person in charge;
- Identity document;
- Filing and opening of the file;
- Statutes;
- Extract "K bis" from the Register

A representative or liaison office may serve as an establishment of a foreign company; however, it remains subject to the laws of the host member state where it is located and must be registered with the Trade and Personal Property Credit Register (RCCM) in accordance with the applicable regulations.

If the activities of the representative office justify its transformation into a branch, a modification request must be submitted to the RCCM within thirty (30) days following the change in status. If the company's statutes are not notarized, the registration cost is reduced from USD 80 to USD 70.

Addresses:

Kinshasa: 482, Avenue de la Science, Gombe Municipality
(Inside the compound of the Office des Routes Laboratory, opposite ITI-GOMBE)
Located on the upper floor of the building housing the Commercial Court of Kinshasa/Gombe
✉ Email: guichetuniqueRD Congo@yahoo.fr / guce@guichetunique.cd
☎ Phone: +243 822 284 008

Lubumbashi : CNSS Building, Lumumba Avenue, Lubumbashi Municipality, Haut-Katanga
☎ Phone: +243 812 824 408

Kisangani : Place du Cinquantenaire, ex-UZB Building, Makiso Municipality, Tshopo Province

Goma : 14, Boulevard Kanyamuhanga, Les Volcans Quarter, Goma Municipality
☎ Phone: +243 995 603 257

However, investors may request the support of ANAPI during this process, in its role as the One-Stop Investment Center in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. **ANAPI**'s services are free of charge.

Address: Intersection of Boulevard du 30 Juin and 1er Mall Avenue (ex-TSF), No. 33c, Gombe Municipality

🌐 Website: www.investindrc.cd
✉ Email: anapirdc@yahoo.fr / anapi@investindrc.com
☎ Phone: +243 999 925 026

It is important to note that the One-Stop Business Creation Office is not yet operational nationwide in the DRC. To address this gap, Commercial Courts, and where applicable, High Courts, issue the Trade and Personal Property Credit Register (RCCM) certificate, which confers legal personality on a company and authorizes it to carry out commercial activities.



IV.3 BUSINESS CLIMATE AND LIBERALISATION

The gloomy institutional environment for business in the DRC has for a long time made many investors wary. To overcome this difficulty and improve the DRC's business climate rating in reports and initiatives by international institutions, on 12 September 2012, the DRC joined the Organisation for the Harmonisation of Business Law in Africa (OHADA), and on 16 January 2020, by Ordinance No. 20/001, a service called the Business Climate Unit (CCA) was created, attached to the Presidency of the Republic.

This structure constitutes the interface with the business world and is part of the dynamics of improving the business climate, by integrating more transparency and speed in order to make the DRC more competitive and attractive to potential investors.

To this end, the CCA has put in place since November 2021 a digital monitoring and evaluation system aimed at strengthening the momentum of legal and judicial security of investments.

IV.4 INSURANCE AND BANKS

IV.4.1 Insurance

The insurance sector has been liberalised in the Democratic Republic of Congo since 2015 through Law n°15/005 of 17 March 2015 on the insurance code.

The Insurance Regulatory and Control Authority "ARCA" in acronym, is the regulatory body of this sector.

List of insurance companies in the DRC:

- SOCIETE NATIONALE D'ASSURANCES (SONAS SA)
- AFRISSUR SA ;
- ACTIVA VIE RDC SA ;
- ACTIVA ASSURANCES DRC SA ;
- RAWSUR LIFE SA ;
- SUNU Assurances IARD DRC SA ;



- SOCIETE FINANCIERE D'ASSURANCE
- CONGO SA (SFA CONGO);

Photo credit:Fripeek

- RAWSUR SA ;
- CONGO SA
- GLOBAL PIONNER ASSURANCE (GPA);
- AFRICAN REINSURANCE CORPORATION (AFRICA RE) ;
- ZEP RE (PTA REINSURANCE COMPANY)

- MAYFAIR INSURANCE

IV.4.2 Banks

List of approved banks in the DRC:

Name	Head of office	Other point of operation	
		Provinces	Points of operation
Equity banque (Equity BCDC)	Kinshasa	Kinshasa	Siège Social du Blvd 30 juin Branch Gombe/Royal, Limete 7ème rue Branch, victoire/Matonge Branch , Plazza village , Limete Branch 16ème rue, UNIKIN Branch
		Sud-Kivu	Bukavu Branch
		Kasai-central	Kananga Branch
		Kongo-centra	Matadi Branch
		Tshopo	Kisangani Branch
		Kasai-oriental	Mbuji-Mayi Branch
		Lualaba	Fungurume Branch, Kolwezi Branch
		Ituri	Bunia Branch
		Nord-Kivu	Goma Branch, Beni Branch
		Haut-Katanga	Lubumbashi Branch, Likasi Branch
FirstBank DRC SA	Kinshasa	Kinshasa	Socimat Branch, Branch Kitambo, Branch Bandal, Palais du Peuple Branch,

Name	Head of office	Other point of operation	
		Provinces	Points of operation
FirstBank DRC SA			Agence de Binza-pigeon, Agence de UPN, Agence de Binza-Délvaux, Agence de Matete, Agence de Ngiri-Ngiri.
		Haut-Katanga	Agence de Lubumbashi
		Kongo-central	Agence de Matadi, Agence de Boma, Agence de Moanda, Agence de Mbanzangungu
		Nord-Kivu	Agence de Goma, Agence de Butembo, Agence de Beni
		Sud-Kivu	Agence de Bukavu
Bank of Africa RDC SA (BOA)	Kinshasa	Kinshasa	22, Avenue des Aviateurs Kinshasa Gombe
United Bank for Africa DRC SA (UBA)	Kinshasa	Kinshasa	853, avenue de la Libération (ex 24 Novembre), Gombe
BGFIbank	Kinshasa	Kinshasa	Boulevard du 30 juin Kinshasa Gombe
Access Bank RDC	Kinshasa	Kinshasa	70, Boulevard du 30 juin, Kinshasa Gombe
		Nord-Kivu	Agence de Goma,
Solidaire Banque SA	Kinshasa	Kinshasa	Avenue du Marché
Sofibanque SA	Kinshasa	Kinshasa	4258, Avenue Kabasele Tshamala (Ex Flambeau)

Advans Bank Congo	Kinshasa	Kinshasa	04, Bas Congo, Kinshasa Gombe
Trust Merchant Bank (TMB)	Lubumbashi	Kinshasa	le Château Branch, Ex NBK Branch, Grand HÔtel Branch
		Haut-Katanga	Moero Branch Lubumbashi, Kenya Branch, Likasi Branch, Kilwa Branch
		Lualaba	Kolwezi Branch, Fungurume Branch
		Lomami	Lomami Branch
Afriland First Bank SA	Kinshasa	Kinshasa	767 Boulevard of 30 june Kinshasa Gombe
Citi Group Bank SA	Kinshasa	Kinshasa	Croisement des avenues Ngongo-lutete Kin-Gombe
Standard Bank	Kinshasa	Kinshasa	Avenue de la Mongala n°12
EcoBank	Kinshasa	Kinshasa	3487, Boulevard of 30 june Kinshasa-Gombe, Kitambo Branch,
RAWBank	Kinshasa	Kinshasa	3642, Boulevard of 30 june Kinshasa-Gombe, Limete Branch, Gombe Branch
		Kongo central	Matadi Branch
		Haut-Katanga	Lubumbashi Branch
		Lualaba	Kolwezi Branch

Figure 8. Presents the Licensed Banks in the DRC



V. MINERAL POTENTIAL AND OPPORTUNITIES OF THE DRC MINING SECTOR

V.1 Geological overview

The geological configuration of the DRC shows the presence of two main sub-sets:

- The bedrock formations comprise all the magmatic and metamorphic formations laid down during the Archean - Neoproterozoic period. These formations are strongly folded and form a ring around the Congo Basin known as the "annular rim";
- The overlying formations are essentially non-metamorphic and generally fossiliferous sedimentary deposits of an age ranging from the Upper Carboniferous to the Holocene, resting unconformably on the bedrock.

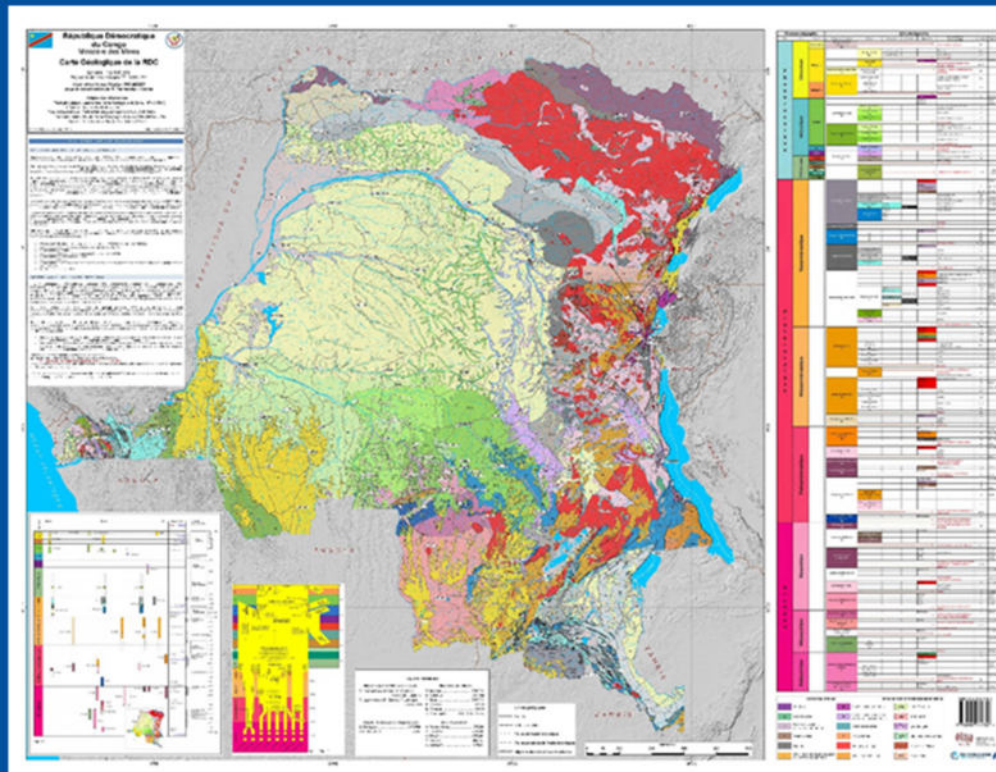


Figure 3. Geological map of the DRC

V.2 Mineral Potential

The Democratic Republic of the Congo possesses vast and highly diversified mineral resources, including several world-class deposits. Both its soil and subsoil are rich in energy resources, metals, industrial minerals, precious stones, fertilizers, as well as construction and ornamental materials.

By way of illustration, the following can be cited:

- Light metals (aluminum, titanium);
- Precious metals (gold, silver, platinum group metals);
- Base metals (copper, lead, zinc);
- Rare metals (barium, germanium, zirconium);
- Rare earth elements (lanthanum, praseodymium, dysprosium, lutetium);
- Industrial minerals (limestone, gypsum, dolomite);
- Precious stones (diamond, ruby);
- Fertilizer minerals (phosphates, nitrates);
- Construction materials (rubble stone, pebbles, sandstone);
- Geothermal sources, located in the western branch of the East African Rift system.

PROVINCES	MINERAL RAW MATERIALS
Bas-Uélé	Coltan, diamond, clay, zinc, iron
Equateur	iron, diamond, gold, clay,
Haut-Katanga	Zinc, diamond, gold, silver, cobalt
Haut-Lomami	Coltan, cassiterite, wolframite, silver, tin lithium
Haut-Uélé	Clay, iron, wolframite, diamond, gold, silver
Kasaï	Silver, iron, diamond, gold
Kasaï-Central	Silver, clay, iron, diamond, gold, chrome nickel, kaolin, cobalt, talc

Kasaï-Oriental	Phosphate, copper, iron, diamond, gold,
Kinshasa	Clay, silica, kaolin, sandstone, arkosic
Kongo-Central	Bauxite, pyroschite, limestone, phosphate, vanadium, diamond, gold, copper, lead, zinc, manganese, marble, black granite.
Kwango	diamond, gold, clay, iron
Kwilu	gold, clay, iron, diamond
Lomami	copper, cobalt, gold, clay, iron, diamond
Lualaba	uranium, cobalt, gold, iron, diamond, manganese ,gold, diamond, iron
Mai-Ndombe	uranium, cobalt, gold, iron, diamond, manganese ,
Maniema	copper, gold, diamond, iron, tin
Mongala	mercury, gold, diamond, iron, limestone
Nord-Kivu	gold, niobium, tantalite, cassiterite, beryl, tungsten, manganite, clay, granite thistle, monazite, platinum, wolframite
Nord-Ubangi	tin, mercury, gold, diamond, iron, limestone
Sankuru	gold, diamond, iron,
Sud-Kivu	gold, niobium, tantalite, cassiterite, sapphire, silver, bastnaesite, clay, monazite, monazite, tantalum, wolframite
Sud-Ubangi	diamond, iron, gold
Tanganyika	gold, cassiterite, nickel, platinum, copper, tin

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
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| ● or | ■ plomb |
| ● aluminium | ● calcaire |
| ● antimoine | ● manganèse |
| ● amiantes | ● monazite |
| ● barite | ● nickel |
| ● bauxite | ● niobium |
| ● béryllium | ● Niobo-tantalate |
| ● bitume | ● hydrocarbure |
| ◆ fer | ● phosphate |
| ● charbon | ● platine |
| ● cobalt | ● pyrite |
| ■ cuivre | ● terres rares |
| ● évaporite | ● sel |
| ● énergie géothermique | ● sable |
| ● graphite | ● pierre semi-précieuse |
| ● gypse | ● titane |
| ● minéral industriel | ● tungstène |
| ● cyanite | ● uranium |
| ● vanadium | ■ zinc |

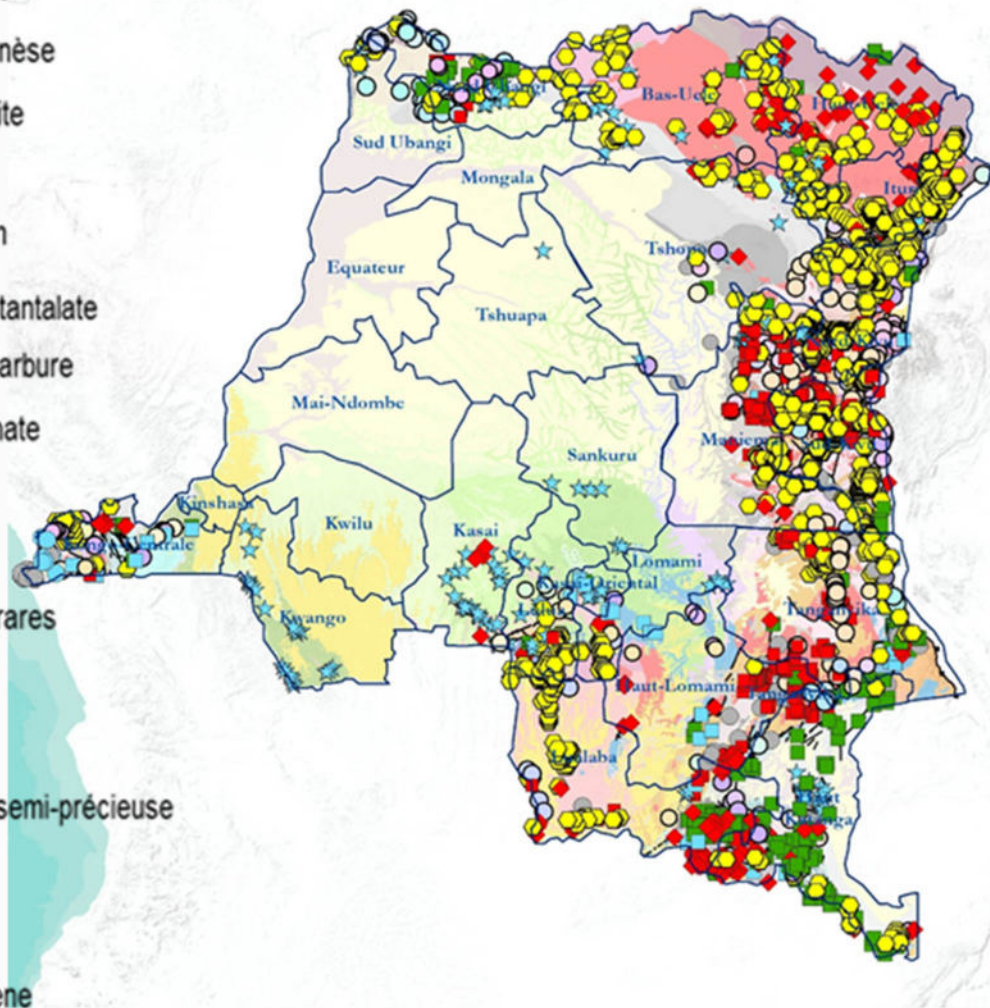


Figure Map of mineral occurrences in the DRC

V.3. Mining sector and mineral value chain

V.3.1. Mining domain

The DRC's mining domain is divided into two parts. One part is conceded to third parties and the other, unconceded, belongs to the State.

V.3.2. Mineral value chain

The Extractive Industries Value Chain is an approach to planning for the effective management of mineral resources. The elements of the chain are a set of levers that need to be worked on for development impact and human welfare.

Figure X. STAGES OF THE EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES VALUE CHAIN



Source: CTCPM 2022

Table X. Value chain of mineral substances in the DRC

N°	Raw material (Mineral)	Minerals	Ressources	Metallurgy	Properties	Uses
1.	Copper	Malachite Azurite Tenorite Bornite	80.000.000 ton	Pyro or Hydro (SX-EW)	High electrical c onductivity after silver; Antibacterial; Malleable ; Ductile ;	Wire for cables ; Construction ; Sanitary (against bacteria) ; Electric vehicles Alloy manufacturing (brass, bronze)
2.	Cobalt	Theterogenite Cobaltite Linnaeite Carrollite	5.000.000 ton	By-product of copper metallurgy	Ferromagnetic	Superalloys ; Magnetic alloys; Ceramics ; Chemicals (pigments)
3.	Lithium	Spodumene Petalite Lepidolite Bikinaite Pentlandite Nickelite	31.000.000 ton	Hydro and/or Pyro (molten salt electrolysis)	High heat capacity	Batteries Ceramics Pharmaceuticals (good mood)
4.	Nickel			Pyro	Ferromagnetic	Alloy manufacturing (batteries) Stainless steels
5.	Gold	Native metal	750 ton	Hydro (cyanidation leaching) and pyro	High ductility ; Unalterable	Hoarding ; Jewellery
6.	Tantalum	Coltan	30.000.000 ton	Hydro (acid lea ching) and Pyro (igneous electrolysis)	High resistance to corrosion and high temperatures	Electronic capacitors

7.	Niobium	Coltan Pyrochlore		Hydro (acid leaching) and Pyro (igneous electrolysis)	High resistance to corrosion and high temperatures	Special steels Superalloys
8.	Manganese	Pyrolusite Psilomelane Braunite		Pyro	High corrosion resistance; Magnetic properties	Batteries (manganese dioxide) Ferro-manganese Silico-manganese
9.	Rare earths	Monazite Bastnaesite Xenotime		Hydro and Pyro (igneous electrolysis)	Highly reducing; Reactive in molten state	Catalysts during oil refining Catalytic converters in automobiles Permanent magnets
10.	Aluminium	Bauxite		Pyro (igneous electrolysis)	Low density Formation of an oxide surface layer	Thin films in the manufacture of packaging Mechanical and building construction
11.	Diamond	Kimberlite (Bedrock)	700,000,000 carats		Optical qualities Hardness Rarity	Jewellery Cutting tools

V.4 Mining project life cycle

The mining industry is a major sector of the economy in the DRC.

In general, mining projects require large investments that last several years and can be lucrative. The revenues they generate are significant, both for private companies and for the government.

The typical life cycle of a mining project (open pit or underground) has four phases:

- Research and feasibility study ;
- Construction and development of the mine;
- Mining;
- Mine closure

The figure below provides an overview of this mining project life cycle :

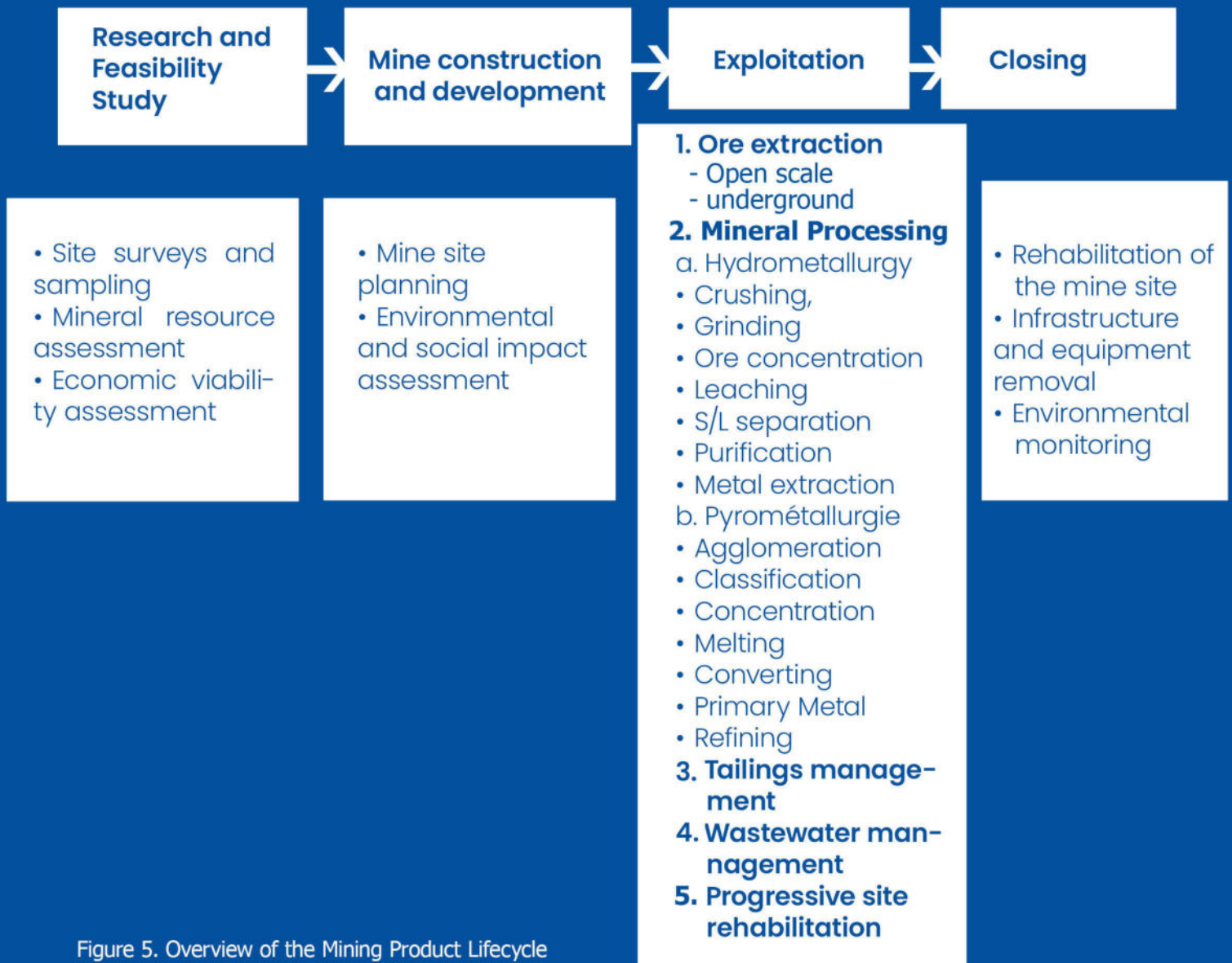


Figure 5. Overview of the Mining Product Lifecycle

V. 5 Investment Opportunities in the Mining Sector in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Democratic Republic of the Congo stands ready to welcome investors with proven technical expertise and sound financial capacity, with the objective of establishing mutually beneficial partnerships.

The Congolese subsoil is endowed with substantial reserves of strategic mineral resources, including cobalt (approximately 70% of global reserves), copper (10% of global reserves), columbo-tantalite (coltan), germanium, lithium, nickel, graphite, aluminum, and many others—critical for the global ecological transition. These resources represent a significant investment opportunity for the DRC, particularly in light of the global shift toward clean energy and the increasing demand for energy transition minerals.

The DRC also offers a broad range of investment opportunities across various segments of the mining sector, including:

- Systematic geological exploration in mineralized blocks, in collaboration with the Congolese National Geological Survey (SGN-C);
- Reserve certification of state-owned mining companies with existing deposits, with the potential to enter into operational joint ventures;
- Establishment of metallurgical industries for the processing and transformation of ores into refined or value-added products (e.g., cassiterite, coltan);
- Development of gold refineries to optimize the production of artisanal gold and combat smuggling and illicit trade of this mineral;
- Creation of diamond cutting and polishing facilities to integrate artisanal diamond production into the formal economy, enhance traceability, and reduce fraud and smuggling.

Given the mining sector’s reliance on energy and transport infrastructure, the development of such supporting infrastructure—outlined in the diagram below—also presents significant investment opportunities.



VI. Mode of operation

VI.1 Open pit

Open pit mining is the preferred method of extracting ore from near-surface deposits (typically between 0 and 400m depth), with costs per tonne of ore extracted generally lower than those of ore extracted using underground methods.

The choice of the open pit method is based on :

- The possibilities of extending the pit (in height or depth), in (length and width); the geometry of the flanks, in more or less high and sloping steps, in more or less wide benches, with the objectives of limiting the volume of waste rock and ensuring the stability of the losses.
- Open-cast mining generally requires the use of construction equipment with "non-standard" gauges, such as those found in certain large quarries or aggregate operations (hydraulic shovels, dumper trucks, heavy-duty changers).
- Artisanal exploitation, this mode of exploitation requires less financial resources in terms of equipment and is carried out in an artisanal exploitation area. Here the extraction and concentration of minerals is carried out using non-industrial tools, methods and processes. The legislation requires artisanal miners to form cooperatives.
- Small-scale or small-scale mining: This mode of mining requires moderate financial resources compared to artisanal mining. It is a small-scale, permanent operation, requiring a minimum of fixed facilities, using semi-industrial or industrial processes, after a deposit has been identified. A Small Scale Mining Certificate (SSMC) is required to carry out this activity.
- Industrial mining: This type of mining requires significant resources and is carried out from an identified deposit, and by means of surface and/or underground works, to extract mineral substances from a deposit or an artificial deposit, and possibly to process them in order to use or market them.

An Exploitation Certificate (EC) allows this activity to be carried out.

VI.2 Underground

This is a very common method of mining at depth, up to a few hundred metres below ground level. The principle is to remove ore while leaving pillars in place to support the land above the deposit.



VI. LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK OF THE MINING SECTOR

VI.1 Legislative Instruments Governing the Mining Sector in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The mining sector of the Democratic Republic of the Congo is primarily governed by Law No. 007/2002 of 11 July 2002 establishing the Mining Code, as amended and supplemented by Law No. 18/001 of 9 March 2018.

This primary legislation is complemented by a set of implementing regulations, most notably:

- Decree No. 038/2003 of 26 March 2003 establishing the Mining Regulations, as amended and supplemented by Decree No. 18/024 of 8 June 2018;
- Interministerial and Ministerial Orders;
- Administrative circulars and official service notes.

VI.2 Access Modalities to the Mining Sector in the DRC

There are several entry pathways for investing in the mining sector of the DRC, including:

- Acquisition of mining and/or quarry rights through the ordinary procedure, by submitting an application to the Mining Cadastre (CAMI), in accordance with Articles 35 to 49 of the Mining Code;
- Acquisition of mining and/or quarry rights through competitive tendering, in accordance with Articles 33 and 33 bis of the Mining Code;
- Entering into a partnership, either with a state-owned enterprise (from the national mining portfolio) or a private mining operator;
- Obtaining approval as a mineral processing entity, pursuant to Ministerial Order No. 0138/CAB.MIN/MINES/01/2019 of 26 February 2019 regulating the activities of mineral processing entities;
- Obtaining accreditation as an approved trading post (comptoir), as defined in Articles 120 to 127 of the Mining Code and Articles 258 to 265 of the Mining Regulations;
- Obtaining approval as a licensed Mining and Quarrying Agent, pursuant to Article 25 of the Mining Code;
- Obtaining accreditation as a certified geological consulting firm;

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- Accreditation as an Authorized Mineral Analysis Laboratory, in accordance with Ministerial Order No. 00549/CAB.MIN/MINES/01/2022 of 18 September 2022 regulating the activities of mineral analysis laboratories;
- Accreditation as a Mining Cooperative, pursuant to Article 10(e) and Article 11 ter of the Mining Code;
- Obtaining a Trader's Card for Artisanal Export Products, as provided under Articles 116 to 119 of the Mining Code;
- Obtaining an Artisanal Miner's Card, in accordance with Article 5 (paragraphs 2 and 5) and Article 27(b) (c) of the Mining Code;
- Creation of a Subcontracting Company in compliance with OHADA business law, as per Article 108 quinquies of the Mining Code;

Accreditation as a Traceability Initiative for Mineral Substances:

- **Category A:** Cooperation agencies and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), which must first sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Minister of Mines in order to obtain the title of Traceability Initiative;
- **Category B:** Commercial companies, which may obtain accreditation as Traceability Initiatives under Article 4 of Ministerial Order No. 00548.CAB.MIN/MINES/01/2023 of 18 September 2023, regulating the activities of mineral traceability initiatives.

VI.3 Classification and Attributes of Mining and Quarry Rights

The Mining Code of the DRC outlines various types of mining and quarry rights that may be granted by decree of the Minister of Mines or the Provincial Minister in charge of Mines, and certified by the **Mining Cadastre** (CAMI). These titles include:

■ Mining Rights

- Research Permit (**PR**): A real, immovable, exclusive, transferable, and assignable right. However, it is not leasable, as it does not yet apply to an economically exploitable deposit. (Article 51 of the Mining Code);
- Exploitation Permit (**PE**): A real, immovable, exclusive, transferable, assignable, and leasable right. (Article 65 of the Mining Code);
- Tailings Exploitation Permit (**PER**): A real, immovable, exclusive, transferable, assignable, and leasable right. (Article 89 of the Mining Code);
- Small-Scale Mining Exploitation Permit (**PEPM**): Also a real, immovable, exclusive, transferable, assignable, and leasable right. (Article 100 of the Mining Code).

■ Quarry Rights

- Authorization for Quarry Product Research (ARPC) : This is a real, immovable, exclusive right which is non-transferable, non-assignable, and non-leasable, as per Article 137 of the Mining Code.
- Permanent Quarry Exploitation Authorization (AECF) : The AECF is a real, immovable, exclusive, transferable, assignable, and leasable right, pursuant to Article 148 of the Mining Code.
- Temporary Quarry Exploitation Authorization (AECT) : This is a real right allowing temporary exploitation of quarries under specific conditions (legal provisions apply).
- Authorization for Quarry Opening for Public Utility Works.

VI.4. Eligibility Criteria for Mining and Quarry Rights

Entities eligible to hold mining and/or quarry rights in the DRC include:

- Any **Congolese legal entity** whose registered and administrative office is located within national territory, and whose corporate purpose is exclusively limited to mining activities;
- Any **foreign legal entity**, whose corporate purpose is also exclusively limited to mining activities, and which complies with the laws of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;
- Any **scientific research organization**, which is eligible only for research-related mining and/or quarry rights.

VI.5. Mining Tax Regime in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

VI.5.1 Definitions and Principles

The mining fiscal and parafiscal regime in the DRC is a preferential regime, offering more favorable tax and customs conditions than the general legal framework, as per:

- Article 220 of Law No. 007/2002 of July 11, 2002 (Mining Code), amended by Law No. 18/001 of March 9, 2018;
- Article 509 of Decree No. 038/2003 of March 26, 2003 (Mining Regulation), amended by Decree No. 18/024 of June 8, 2018.
- The purpose of this regime is to reduce the overall tax burden by applying lower tax rates than those imposed under the general regime. However, the tax and customs procedures remain the same as those under common law (Article 224 of the Mining Code).
- The Congolese tax system is characterized by schedular taxation, meaning that different categories of income are taxed separately and differently, depending on their nature or origin.

Note: The mining perimeter is measured in mining squares, with each square corresponding to 84.955 hectares (standard cadastral unit in the DRC).

■ Taxpayers

The following taxpayers are the **beneficiaries of the preferential fiscal and parafiscal regime**, as stipulated under Article 219 of the Mining Code and Article 509 of the Mining Regulation:

- Holders of mining rights;
- Subcontractors, in accordance with Law No. 17/001 of February 8, 2017, establishing the rules applicable to subcontracting in the private sector;
- Holders of Permanent Quarry Exploitation Authorizations, excluding those concerning commonly used construction materials;
- Entities holding approvals as authorized processing entities.

VI.5.3. Stability Guarantees

This preferential regime is protected by guarantees of stability, meaning that (Article 276 of the Mining Code):

- Its revision can only occur through amendments to the Mining Code by Parliament;
- Even in the event of a revision of the Mining Code, the principle of acquired rights stability applies. This ensures that mining rights already granted and validated remain subject to the original regime for five (5) years, starting from:
 - o The entry into force of the current Code for exploitation rights already valid at that date;
 - o The granting date of a new exploitation right acquired under a valid exploration permit in force on the date of entry into effect of the current law.

In addition, the mandatory prior cession of 10% of the share capital to the State before the granting of any Exploitation Permit (PE) is considered a safeguard against the abuse of public authority, including nationalizations and expropriations without public utility justification and fair compensation. These 10% shares are free of all encumbrances and non-dilutable (Article 71 of the Mining Code).

VI.5.4. Taxes and Duties

Structure of Taxes and Duties

The mining tax regime is based on schedular taxation, divided into two main categories (see sections B and C):

- Customs and Excise Duties (Import duties, consumption duties, and excise taxes) ;
- Real and Income-Based Contributions (Property tax on vehicles, land surface area taxes on concessions, Payroll-related contributions, Special road tax, Income tax contributions and Mining royalty.)

Principles for Determining Industrial and Commercial Profits (ICP) (Articles 248–258 of the Mining Code)

- In accordance with accounting standards and tax legislation;
- Research and development expenses (during the Exploration Permit phase) are amortizable over the first two years of the Exploitation Permit phase, at a rate of 50% per year;
- Deductible items include: loan interest, Mining royalties, provisions for the Environmental and Social Impact Study (ESIA) and the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), calculated at a rate of 0.5% of ICP.



VI.6 Customs Regime

VI.6.1 Conditions and Principles

Eligibility :

- Access to the preferential customs regime is subject to interministerial approval (Ministries of Mines and Finance) of the applicant's request, which must include a list of material goods to be imported for the implementation of the mining project;
- This approval must be granted within 60 days, after which, in the absence of a response, the list is considered automatically approved (Article 225 of the Mining Code).

Samples:

- The export of samples for analysis or industrial testing is exempt from customs duties and other charges, except for administrative service fees.

Transfer and use of goods that benefited from exemptions (Article 228 of the Mining Code):

- Requires prior administrative authorization;
- Payment of outstanding duties and taxes at the rates in effect on the date of transfer, calculated based on the residual value.



VI.6 Tax Regime

Imported goods listed on the approved list are subject to preferential customs duties depending on the project phase (Articles 232–233 of the Mining Code).

VI.6.1 Real Taxes

Land Tax:

- Exemptions apply to buildings included in the surface area tax base of mining concessions (see below);
- Other buildings are taxed at the ordinary rate (Article 236 of the Mining Code).

Vehicle Taxation:

- Exemptions apply to vehicles used for staff transport, material transport, and material handling within the mining concession (Article 237 of the Mining Code);
- Other vehicles are taxed at the general law rate (standard regime).

Surface Area Contribution of Concessions (Article 238 of the Mining Code):

- For a Research Permit (PR):
 - o 1st year: Rate = USD 0.20/ha
 - o 2nd year: Rate = USD 0.30/ha
 - o 3rd year: Rate = USD 0.35/ha
 - o 4th year: Rate = USD 0.40/ha
- For an Exploitation Permit (PE)
 - o 1st year: Rate = USD 0.40/ha
 - o 2nd year: Rate = USD 0.60/ha
 - o 3rd year: Rate = USD 0.70/ha
 - o Subsequent years: Rate = USD 0.80/ha

VI.6.1 Special Road Tax

- Subject to ordinary law conditions (General Regime) (Article 239 of the Mining Code).

VI.6.2 Mining Royalty

The rates of the mining royalty are as follows (Article 241 of the Mining Code) :

- 0%: Common-use construction materials
- 1.0%: Industrial minerals, solid hydrocarbons, and other non-listed substances
- 1.0%: Iron and ferrous metals
- 3.5%: Non-ferrous and/or base metals
- 3.5%: Precious metals
- 6%: Precious and colored stones
- 10%: Strategic substances

Tax credit and deduction:

- The mining royalty is deductible from the corporate income tax base (Article 255 of the Mining Code).

VI.6.3 Income Taxes

Tax on Staff Compensation (Article 244 of the Mining Code) :

- Applicable at the ordinary rate.

Special Tax on Expatriate Staff Compensation (Article 244 bis of the Mining Code) :

- Rate: Half the ordinary rate for the first ten years of the project and for the subsequent years;
- Deductible from corporate income tax (BIC).

Capital Income Tax (Withholding) (Article 246 of the Mining Code) :

- Exemption: Interest on foreign-currency loans contracted abroad under favorable terms;
- Dividends and other distributions paid to shareholders are subject to a withholding tax of 10%;
- Other types of capital income are taxed at the ordinary rates.

Corporate Income Tax / Business Profits Tax (BIC) (Article 247 of the Mining Code) :

- Obligation to withhold BIC prepayments;
- BIC assessment as per standard accounting and tax rules (see previous section);
- Rate: 30% (Articles 244–258 of the Mining Code).

Value Added Tax (VAT) (Article 259 of the Mining Code):

- Applicable at the ordinary rate.

VI.6.4 Other Regimes

Artisanal Mining:

- The fiscal and customs regime applicable to artisanal miners, traders, and approved buying counters is defined by regulation (Article 261 of the Mining Code and Article 537 of the Mining Regulations).

Small-Scale Mining or Small Mines:

- Customs regime: Subject to the preferential regime (Articles 225–235 of the Mining Code);
- Fiscal regime: Subject to a single tax at the rate of 10% of turnover, payable at the time of sale. This is a flat-rate regime;
- The taxpayer has the option to choose between this flat-rate regime or the preferential fiscal regime.
- Foreign exchange (Article 263 of the Mining Code): Freedom to convert foreign currencies and transfer funds and profits; Freedom to export and market mineral products; Freedom to manage export earnings.
- State Guarantees (Articles 273–276 of the Mining Code): Guarantee of economic freedoms and stability of the fiscal and parafiscal regime; protection against unlawful expropriation, except in exceptional circumstances and subject to fair compensation.



VII. GOVERNANCE AND TRANSPARENCY

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is firmly committed to implementing standards that promote good governance and transparency in the extractive industries.

In accordance with the provisions of Article 25 bis of the Mining Regulations, the Government has formally pledged to implement the **Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative** (EITI) standard or any other national, regional, or international standard with similar objectives to which it has freely subscribed. It is within this framework that the DRC has joined organizations such as the **OECD**, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), and the Kimberley Process, among others

Along the same lines, and without prejudice to certain legal provisions—namely Articles 1, point 54 bis; 7 ter; and 7 quater of the Mining Code, as well as Articles 28 and 97 paragraph j of the Mining Regulations—stakeholders are required to implement transparency measures, which include obligations for relevant public authorities and holders of mining rights under the Mining Code to:

- Establish a publicly accessible registry system for mining rights at the Mining Cadastre;
- Provide a description of procedures for the application, transfer, and granting of mining titles, licenses, or authorizations, including their technical and financial details;
- Ensure the publication of all mining contracts, their annexes, and amendments in the Official Gazette and on the **CTCPM website**.

VII.1 Conditions for Starting and Operating Certain Mining Activities

VII.1.1 Mineral Processing Entities

Mineral processing entities are classified into three categories:

- **Category A:** Entities engaged in the processing of ores and pre-concentrates with the objective of producing concentrates as marketable mining products;
- **Category B :** Entities that, from ores, slags, pre-concentrates, or concentrates, obtain either a refined metal or alloy as a marketable mining product;
- **Category C:** Entities involved in the cleaning and polishing of precious and colored stones, aimed at producing a marketable mining product with improved decorative, lapidary properties and appearance.

To be accredited as a mineral processing entity, the applicant must meet the following conditions:

- Be an economic entity established as a sole proprietorship, commercial company, or mining cooperative in accordance with Congolese law;
- Provide proof of financial capacity equal to the minimum required investment;
- Submit an Environmental and Social Impact Study (ESIA) and an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) for the project;
- Present a feasibility study for the project;
- Employ qualified personnel in the processing of mineral substances, giving priority—at equal qualification and experience levels—to Congolese nationals;
- Not be bankrupt or undergoing liquidation, in the case of legal persons;
- Guarantee a value-added rate equal to or greater than that set by the Metallurgy Directorate, based on prevailing economic and technical parameters. This rate shall not be less than 35% under any circumstance;
- Enjoy full civil rights, be of good moral standing, and not be insolvent, in the case of natural persons.

The application for accreditation as a mineral processing entity must be addressed to the Minister in charge of Mines, and submitted in four original copies to the Metallurgy Directorate, which registers it in the Register of Accreditation Requests for Mineral Processing Entities.

Accreditation Fees and Annual Royalties for Mineral Processing Entities :

Category A: USD 5,000.00

Category B: USD 3,500.00

Category C: USD 3,000.00

The annual royalty is as follows:

Category A: USD 50,000.00

Category B: USD 100,000.00

Category C: USD 100,000.00

In addition, a security deposit of five thousand US dollars (**USD 5,000.00**) must be paid.

VII.1.2 Geological Consulting Firm

To obtain accreditation as a Geological Consulting Firm, the applicant must meet the following conditions:

- Be a legally constituted legal entity;
- disposer des moyens techniques et financiers permettant de conduire au mieux, en partie ou en totalité, les activités prévues à l'article 93 bis du présent Décret ;
- Employ qualified personnel with proven experience in conducting geological and mining exploration work, as well as in preparing feasibility studies;
- Not be bankrupt or undergoing liquidation;
- Submit a written commitment to give priority to the employment of Congolese nationals with the required qualifications and experience;
- Present a continuous training and development program that promotes technology and skills transfer to its staff. For this purpose, the firm must designate the qualified personnel required to carry out its various missions. Specifically, the firm must include expertise in the main disciplines relevant to its consulting activities.

The accreditation as a geological consulting firm is valid for five years, renewable for the same duration, with no limit on the number of renewals. The renewal of accreditation is subject to the following conditions:

- The firm must not have failed to meet its tax and parafiscal obligations;
- The firm must not have defaulted on its commitments regarding knowledge and technology transfer, where applicable;
- The firm must not have been convicted of any offense under the Mining Code or this Decree.

- Must not have failed to submit their annual activity reports.

Upon submitting the application for accreditation as a geological consulting firm, the applicant is required to pay a non-refundable application fee of five hundred US dollars (**USD 500.00**).

The annual advance royalty for a geological consulting firm is ten thousand US dollars (USD **10,000.00**), and the security deposit is five thousand US dollars (USD **5,000.00**).

VII.1.3 Environmental Consulting Firm

To obtain accreditation as an Environmental Consulting Firm, the applicant must meet the following requirements:

- Be structured as an independent environmental consulting firm with no financial or affiliation ties to any mining company;
- Demonstrate the expertise and professional experience of the firm's experts in environmental protection within the mining sector, in accordance with the following criteria:
 - At least one expert must hold a higher education degree in environmental sciences;
 - At least one expert must hold a higher education degree in a geoscience or earth science and technology discipline;
 - At least two experts must hold a technical training certificate in the preparation and evaluation of environmental impact studies or environmental audits, following a training program of at least one year at a higher education institution or a recognized technical training center with expertise in this field;
 - At least two experts must have at least three years of experience in the preparation and evaluation of environmental impact studies or environmental audits for at least six mining projects, each involving an investment of no less than the equivalent of USD **2,000,000** in Congolese Francs;
 - At least one expert must hold a technical training certificate in the assessment and harmonization of social aspects and impacts of large and medium-scale mining projects, obtained through a training program of at least one year at a higher education institution or a recognized technical training center with expertise in this field.
 - At least one expert of the consulting firm must have a minimum of three years' experience in the development and evaluation of the social aspects of environmental impact studies for at least six mining projects, each involving an investment equal to or exceeding the Congolese Franc equivalent of USD **2,000,000**.

- The firm must demonstrate honorable professional conduct and good moral character. It is not mandatory for the consulting firm to have a permanent representation in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The application for accreditation as an environmental consulting firm shall be addressed to the **Minister in charge of Mines**, and submitted to the **Directorate for the Protection of the Mining Environment**, in **French language**. The application must be accompanied by the following documents:

- A certified true copy of the firm's articles of association;
- A brochure or document describing the expertise, personnel, and experience of the firm;
- The CVs of the environmental and social experts, with sufficient detail to allow verification of their qualifications and experience in line with the criteria outlined in Article 420 above;
- A sworn written statement by the General Director of the firm certifying that:
 - The firm has not been sanctioned by a competent authority for misconduct or gross negligence in the delivery of professional services, nor has it been subject to such sanctions in the past ten years;
 - The firm is neither bankrupt nor in the process of liquidation;
 - A valid extract of the criminal record (certificate of good conduct) for each expert of the firm;
 - A certified copy of the tax clearance certificate of the firm.

At the time of application submission, the applicant must pay a filing fee amounting to five hundred US dollars (**USD 500.00**). The accreditation fee is set at seven thousand five hundred US dollars (**USD 7,500.00**).

VII.1.4 Diamond Cutting Entities

The issuance of an authorization for diamond cutting is subject to compliance with the provisions of Articles 23(a) and 27(a), (b), and (c) of the Mining Code. In addition, the applicant must meet the following conditions:

- To guarantee a value-added rate equal to or greater than that set by the Mining Directorate, based on current economic and technical parameters;
- To enjoy full civil rights, be of good moral standing, and reside in the Democratic Republic of Congo, in the case of a natural person;
- Not to be bankrupt or undergoing liquidation, in the case of a legal entity;
- To pay the application fees;
- To provide evidence of financial capacity to carry out the project in accordance with the financing plan presented in the feasibility study.

The application for authorization to operate as a diamond cutting entity must be submitted in duplicate to the Minister responsible for Mines and filed at the Mining Directorate. The application must include, *mutatis mutandis*, the information required under Article 97 of the Mining Regulations, as well as the following documents:

- The purpose, investment location or site, and the anticipated start date of operations;
- The feasibility study, which must include:
- The project cost, investment program, duration, implementation schedule, and financing plan with an indication of funding sources;
- The production objectives;
- The Environmental and Social Impact Study (**ESIA**) and the Environmental and Social Management Plan (**ESMP**) of the project.

Upon submission of the application for accreditation, the applicant shall pay a security deposit of five thousand US dollars (**USD 5,000.00**). The annual fee for diamond cutting entities is set as follows:

- Large entity: two hundred thousand US dollars (**USD 200,000.00**);
- Small entity: one hundred thousand US dollars (**USD 100,000.00**).

VII.1.5 Laboratory for the Analysis of Marketable Mineral Products

Accreditation as a laboratory for the analysis of mineral substances is subject to the applicant meeting the following cumulative conditions:

- Be an economic entity established in accordance with Congolese positive law or a scientific-oriented organization;
- Possess laboratory equipment that complies with internationally recognized standards;
- Employ qualified personnel for mineral substance analysis work, with a priority requirement to hire Congolese personnel when qualifications and experience are equivalent.
- Not be bankrupt or undergoing liquidation, in the case of a legal entity;
- Enjoy full civil rights, be of good moral character, and not be declared insolvent, in the case of a natural person;
- Obtain prior approval of the project's Environmental and Social Impact Study (ESIA) and Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP).

The application for accreditation as a laboratory for the analysis of mineral substances must be submitted in four original copies to the Minister responsible for Mines and filed with the Directorate of Geology, which registers the application in the Register of Laboratory Accreditation Requests.

The Directorate of Geology issues the applicant a receipt upon payment of the filing fee. One copy of the application must be submitted by the applicant to the General Secretariat for Mines, and another to the relevant Regional Mining Office, along with proof of payment of the filing fee.

The application must be accompanied by the following documents:

- A certified true copy of the notarized articles of association, in the case of a legal entity;
- A certified true copy of the Trade and Personal Property Credit Register (RCCM);
- A certified true copy of a certificate issued by an accredited bank attesting to the applicant's integrity;
- A certified true copy of a valid tax certificate;
- The site plan of the laboratory;
- The minutes of the commodo and incommodo public inquiry;
- The registration letter with the Central Bank of Congo;
- The National Identification Number;
- A detailed technical description of the laboratory equipment;
- Proof of qualifications of the personnel assigned to analysis work;
- References to a certified international laboratory;
- ISO 17025 accreditation, or, if not yet obtained, evidence that the accreditation process has begun, including outstanding steps and estimated completion timeline;
- The Environmental and Social Impact Study (ESIA) and the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) of the project;

For natural persons:

- The applicant's identity, a certificate of good conduct, life, and morals, and an extract from the criminal record from the first place of residence dated no more than three months prior;
- A valid residence permit, for foreign nationals;
- Proof of the competence of the executive personnel responsible for the technical supervision of the laboratory.

- A written commitment to confidentiality, impartiality, integrity, and independence, particularly with regard to under-valuation;
- A copy of the inspection report verifying the laboratory equipment, technical staff qualifications, and the solvency of the company, carried out by the Directorate of Geology at the applicant's expense;
- A sworn statement that the laboratory is not owned, in whole or in part, by any operational mining company in the Democratic Republic of Congo or any of its subsidiaries, and is not particularly affiliated with one.

In the event of an expansion of its activities, the holder of the laboratory accreditation must submit a request for authorization under the same conditions as for the initial accreditation. The application must be accompanied by the following documents:

- A copy of the Ministerial Order granting or renewing the laboratory's accreditation, currently valid;
- The site plan of the extension;
- The minutes of the commodo and incommodo public inquiry;
- A detailed technical description of the equipment in the extension;
- Proof of the qualification of the personnel assigned to the analysis work;
- The laboratory's ISO 17025 accreditation, or, if not yet obtained, proof of the start of the process, including outstanding steps and estimated duration;
- The Environmental and Social Impact Study (ESIA) and the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) of the project;
- The feasibility study of the project;
- Proof of the competence of the executive staff responsible for the technical supervision of the extension;
- A written commitment to confidentiality, impartiality, integrity, and independence, particularly regarding under-valuation;
- A copy of the inspection report verifying the extension's equipment, technical staff qualifications, and the company's solvency, carried out by the Directorate of Geology at the applicant's expense.

The accreditation fee is set at five thousand US dollars (**USD 5,000.00**), and the annual anticipatory fee is one hundred fifty thousand US dollars (**USD 150,000.00**).



VII.1.6 Diamond Buying and Selling Counters

VII.1.6.1 Conditions for Opening

The application for accreditation as a diamond buying and selling counter must be submitted in two copies to the Minister in charge of Mines and filed with the Directorate of Mines. The following documents must be attached to the application:

▪ For a natural person (individual):

- A photocopy of the national identity card or residence permit (for foreign nationals residing in the DRC);
- Three passport-sized photographs;
- A certified true copy of the new Trade and Company Register;
- A valid tax clearance certificate;

References:

- o Banking or stock exchange references for a Congolese national;
- o Banking or stock exchange references for a foreign national residing in the DRC;
- o Proof of deposit of a security bond: **USD 50,000**;
- o Proof of advance payment of the annual fee to the Public Treasury: **USD 200,000**;
- o A criminal record extract from the person's place of primary residence.

▪ Pour la personne morale

- The new Trade and Company Register;
- Notarized articles of incorporation, with evidence of filing with the clerk of court;
- The national identification number;
- LA valid tax clearance certificate;
- Proof of deposit of a security bond: **USD 50,000**;
- Proof of advance payment of the annual fee to the Public Treasury: **USD 200,000**;
- Bank references specifying the financial capacity of the shareholders.

VII.1.6.2 Conditions for Operation

- Accreditation for operating a diamond buying and selling counter is valid in Kinshasa and in artisanal mining areas.
- Its validity lasts for one calendar year, and it can be renewed multiple times.
- The number of authorized buyers is limited to ten (10).
- The buyer's card costs **USD 1,000** for each of the first ten (10) buyers.
- Starting from the eleventh buyer, each additional buyer's card costs **USD 15,000**.
- For each export, a single ad valorem tax must be paid, equal to **7%** of **2.5%** of the appraised value.
- The export authorization for diamonds costs **USD 300**.

It should be noted that this single taxation regime does not exempt diamond buying and selling counters from fulfilling other fiscal and parafiscal obligations.



Gold Buying and Selling Counters

VII.1.6.3 Conditions for Opening

The application for accreditation as a gold buying and selling counter must be submitted in two copies to the Minister in charge of Mines and filed with the Directorate of Mines.

The following documents must be attached to the application:

▪ For a natural person (individual):

- A photocopy of the national identity card or residence permit, in the case of a foreign national;

- Three passport-size photographs;
- A certified copy of the new Commercial Register;
- A valid tax clearance certificate;
- References, as follows:
 - Banking or stock exchange references for a Congolese national;
 - Banking or stock exchange references for a foreign national residing in the DRC;
 - Proof of deposit of a security bond: **USD 2,500**;
 - Proof of advance payment of the annual fee to the Public Treasury: **USD 5,000**;
 - Bank references specifying the financial capacity of the partners.

▪ **For a legal entity (company):**

- The new Commercial Register;
- Notarized Articles of Association, with proof of deposit at the court registry;
- The National Identification Number;
- A valid tax clearance certificate;
- Proof of advance payment of the annual fee to the Public Treasury: **USD 5,000**;
- Bank references specifying the financial capacity of the partners.

VII.1.7.2 Conditions for Operation

- Accreditation for a gold buying and selling counter is valid in Kinshasa and in artisanal mining zones;
- It is valid for one calendar year, renewable multiple times
- The number of buyers is limited to ten (10);
- A buyer's card costs **USD 1,000** for the first ten (10) buyers;
- Starting from the eleventh card, each additional buyer's card costs **USD 1,500**;
- On each export, payment of an ad valorem tax equal to 7% of 1.25% of the appraised value is required;
- A filing fee of **USD 150** is due upon accreditation of the buyer;
- The export authorization for gold costs **USD 200**.

VIII. ORGANISATION CHART OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES

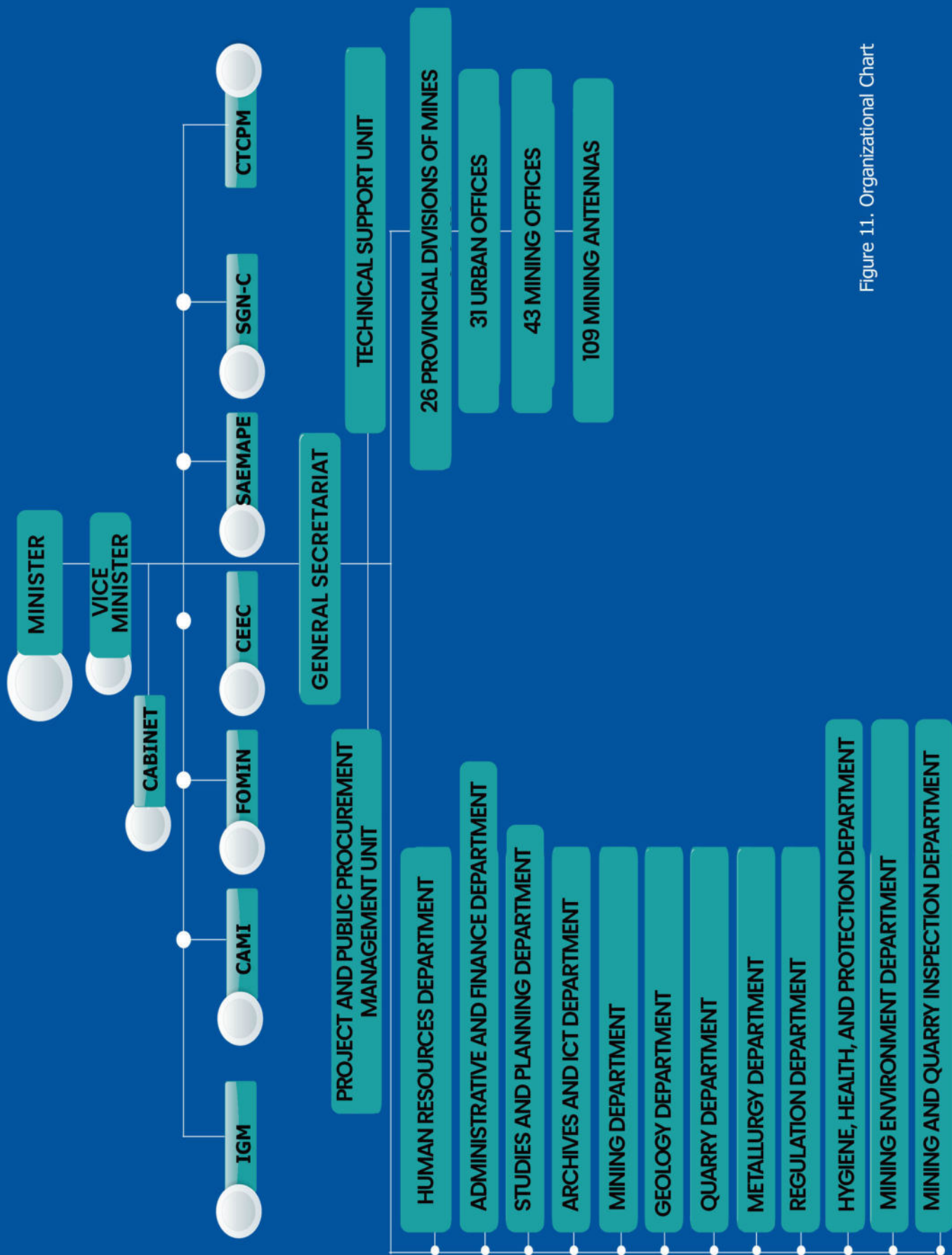
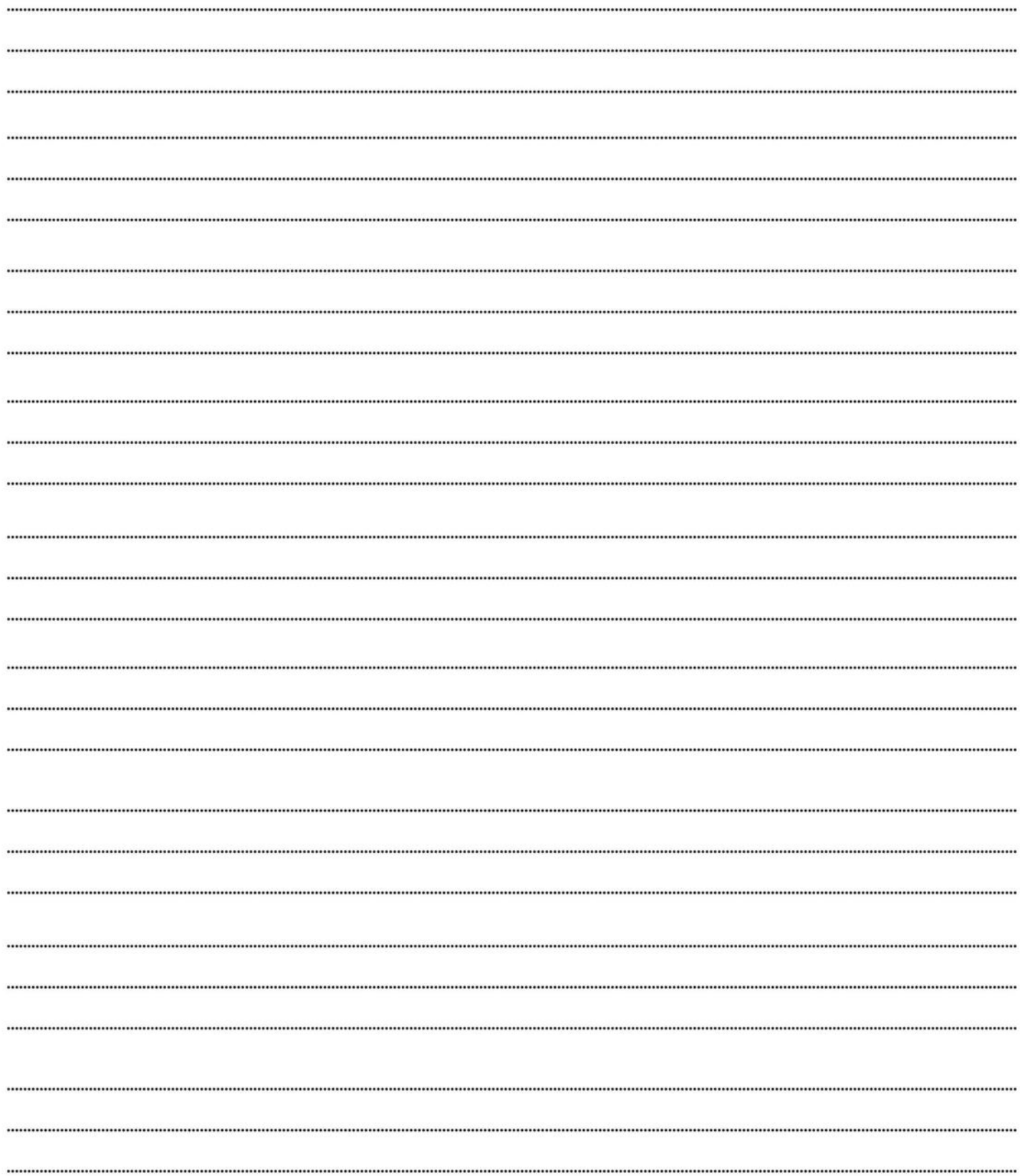


Figure 11. Organizational Chart





TECHNICAL COORDINATION AND MINING PLANNING UNIT



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