



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



INTRODUCTION

The Kingdom of Kongo ruled the area around the mouth of the Congo River from the 14th to 19th centuries. European exploration of the Congo Basin in the 1870s brought the Congo territory under Belgian control. The Republic of the Congo gained its independence from Belgium in 1960 and was renamed the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 1997.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

President Felix TSHISEKEDI

Head of Government

Prime Minister Anatole Collinet MAKOSSO

Government Type

semi-presidential republic

Capital

Kinshasa

Legislature

bicameral Parliament or Parlement consists of the Senate (109 seats) and the National Assembly (500 seats)

Ambassador to US

Ambassador Marie-Hélène MATHEY-BOO

US Ambassador

Ambassador Lucy TAMLYN

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 2,344,858 sq km

Land: 2,267,048 sq km

Water: 77,810 sq km

Climate

tropical; hot and humid in equatorial river basin; cooler and drier in southern highlands; cooler and wetter in eastern highlands

Natural Resources

cobalt, copper, niobium, tantalum, petroleum, industrial and gem diamonds, gold, silver, zinc, manganese, tin, uranium, coal, hydropower

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

Very poor, large, natural resource-rich sub-Saharan country; possesses the world's second largest rainforest; increasing Chinese extractive sector trade; massive decrease in government investments; increasing current account deficit and public debts.

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$103 billion (2021 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$1,100 (2021 est.)

Industries - mining (copper, cobalt, gold, diamonds, coltan, zinc, tin, tungsten), mineral processing, consumer products (textiles, plastics, footwear, cigarettes), metal products

Agricultural products - cassava, plantains, sugar cane, maize, oil palm fruit, rice, roots/tubers, bananas, sweet potatoes, groundnuts

Exports \$22.35 billion (2021 est.)

copper, cobalt, crude oil, diamonds, cocoa products (2020)

partners: China 46%, Tanzania 9%, United Arab Emirates 6%, South Africa 6%, Singapore 5% (2020)

Imports \$22.19 billion (2021 est.)

paper documents and products, packaged medicines, sulphur, refined petroleum, poultry (2020)

partners: China 24%, United States 16%, Zambia 11%, South Africa 9%, India 4% (2020)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

108.4 million (July 2022 est.)

Population Growth

3.14% (2022 est.)

Ethnicity

more than 200 African ethnic groups of which the majority are Bantu; the four largest tribes - Mongo, Luba, Kongo (all Bantu), and the Mangbetu-Azande (Hamitic) - make up about 45% of the population

Language

French (official), Lingala (a lingua franca trade language), Kingwana (a dialect of Kiswahili or Swahili), Kikongo, Tshiluba

Religion

Roman Catholic 29.9%, Protestant 26.7%, other Christian 36.5%, Kimbanguist 2.8%, Muslim 1.3%, other 1.2%, none 1.3%, unspecified 0.2% (2014 est.)