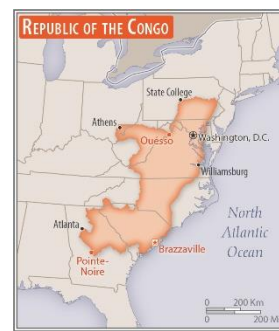


REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



INTRODUCTION

Upon independence in 1960, the former French region of Middle Congo became the Republic of the Congo. A quarter century of experimentation with Marxism was abandoned in 1990 and a democratically elected government took office in 1992. Now back under Marxist leadership, the Republic of Congo is one of Africa's largest petroleum producers.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

President Denis SASSOU-Nguesso

Head of Government

Prime Minister Clement MOUAMBA

Government Type

presidential republic

Capital

Brazzaville

Legislature

bicameral Parliament consists of Senate (72 seats) and National Assembly (151seats)

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 342,000 sq km

Land: 341,500 sq km

Water: 500 sq km

Climate

tropical; rainy season (March to June); dry season (June to October); persistent high temperatures and humidity; particularly enervating climate astride the Equator

Natural Resources

petroleum, timber, potash, lead, zinc, uranium, copper, phosphates, gold, magnesium, natural gas, hydropower

as of October 2021

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

primarily an oil- and natural resources-based economy; recovery from mid-2010s oil devaluation has been slow and curtailed by COVID-19; extreme poverty increasing, particularly in southern rural regions; attempting to implement recommended CEMAC reforms; increasing likelihood of debt default

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$19.03 billion (2020 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$3,400 (2020 est.)

Industries - petroleum extraction, cement, lumber, brewing, sugar, palm oil, soap, flour, cigarettes

Agricultural products - cassava, sugarcane, oil palm fruit, cassava leaves, bananas, plantains, roots/tubers, game meat, vegetables, mangoes/guavas

Exports \$4.193 billion (2017 est.)

crude petroleum, copper, lumber, ships, refined petroleum (2019)

partners: China 49%, UAE 15%, India 6%, Italy 5% (2019)

Imports \$2.501 billion (2017 est.)

ships, chicken products, refined petroleum, processed fish, packaged medicines (2019)

partners: China 15%, France 12%, Belgium 6%, Angola 5% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

5.4 million (July 2021 est.)

Population Growth

2.36% (2021 est.)

Ethnicity

Kongo 40.5%, Teke 16.9%

Mbochi 13.1%, foreigner

8.2%, Sangha 5.6%, Mbere/Mbeti/Kele 4.4%, Punu 4.3%, Pygmy

1.6%, Oubanguiens 1.6%, Duma 1.5%, Makaa 1.3%, other and

unspecified 1% (2014-15 est.)

Language

French (official), French Lingala and Monokutuba (lingua franca trade languages), many local languages and dialects

Religion

Roman Catholic 33.1%, Awakening Churches/Christian Revival

22.3%, Protestant 19.9%, Salutiste 2.2%, Muslim 1.6%,

Kimbanguiste 1.5%, other 8.1%, none 11.3% (2010 est.)

