DR CONGO COUNTRY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Version: 2

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Contents

1.1 Country Assessment Report Template

Country Name	DRC
Introduction	The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the second-largest country in Africa, covers approximately 2.3 million square kilometres and shares borders with nine countries across Central and Eastern Africa. The DRC is endowed with exceptional natural resources, including the world's largest reserves of cobalt, significant copper deposits, vast hydroelectric potential estimated at over 100,000 MW, substantial arable land, immense biodiversity, and the world's second-largest tropical rainforest after the Amazon. As of 2024, the DRC's population stands at approximately 105 million, making it the fourth most populous country in Africa, with an urban population comprising approximately 46% of the total. The population is projected to reach 294 million by 2050, growing at an annual rate of roughly 3.0%, which is significantly higher than both the African average (2.4%) and the global average. This rapid demographic expansion places enormous pressure on infrastructure, service delivery, and employment generation, while also representing substantial future energy demand. The DRC's economy ranks among the largest in Central Africa, with a GDP estimated at USD 64-68 billion as of 2024, translating to a per capita GDP of approximately USD 610-650, which is among the lowest globally, despite the country's substantial resource wealth. The economy remains heavily dependent on mineral exports, particularly cobalt (which supplies approximately 70% of global production), copper, gold, and diamonds, accounting for over 90% of export revenues. This concentration creates severe vulnerability to international commodity price fluctuations and undermines long-term economic sustainability and diversification efforts.

1.2 Electrical Generation and Demand

Generation	**Technology**	**Capacity (MW)**
	Wind Hydro Fossil/Thermal Biomass Solar	1 3620 20 1 7 Source: (ecofinagency, 2025)
	Total	3,649
Demand	**Sector**	**Demand** (GWh)
	Residential Commercial/Service/Public Sector Transport Industrial Primary Activities	2,500-3,000 2,000-2,500 200 7,500-8,500 800 Source (ARE, 2025)
	Total	13,625

Electrical Generation

- Annual electricity production in the DRC increased by 9.3% between 2020 and 2024, rising from 12,460.4 GWh to 13,625 GWh (ARE, 2025), with installed capacity growing from 2,972 MW (developmentreimagined, 2024)to 3,649 MW (ecofinagency, 2025), marking a 22.7% increase. The generation mix remains overwhelmingly dominated by hydropower, which accounts for approximately 99% of total installed capacity and generation.

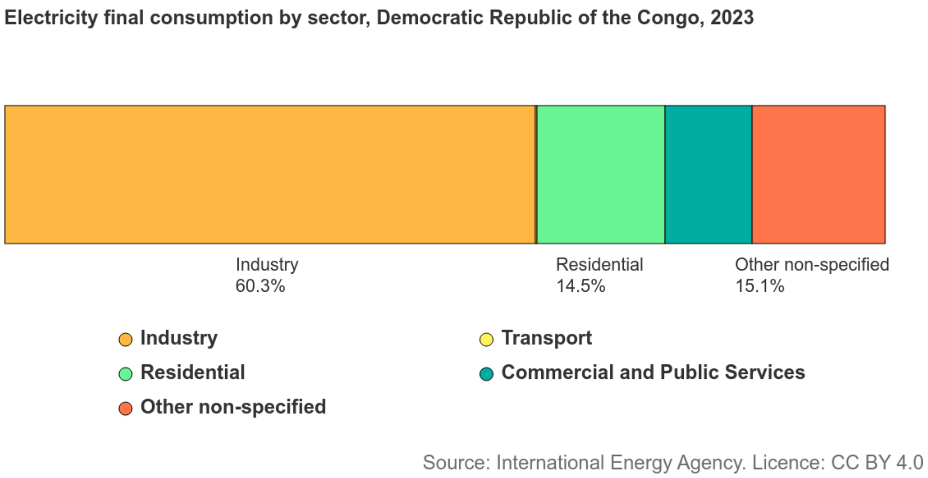
- The bulk of hydropower generation comes from the Inga I and Inga II dams on the Congo River in

Kongo Central Province, with a combined installed capacity of 1,775 MW; however, operational capacity is significantly lower due to ageing infrastructure and maintenance challenges. Additional hydropower facilities include the Zongo 2 plant (150 MW), various plants in the mining regions of Katanga/Haut-Katanga, and small-scale installations across the country.

- Since 2020, 37 new private sector projects have been authorised, representing a potential installed capacity of 4,125.1 MW. Notably, 67% of these authorisations are focused on photovoltaic projects, offering a projected capacity of 2,721 MW. Solar energy development is primarily focused on off-grid and mini-grid systems serving areas without grid access, with significant expansion planned through partnerships among telecommunications companies, solar home system providers, and development finance institutions.

- Thermal/diesel generation capacity remains minimal and is primarily used for backup power in mining operations, urban areas during grid outages, and isolated communities. The government policy prioritises renewable energy expansion over fossil fuel generation.

Electrical Consumption & Demand



- The industrial sector, particularly copper and cobalt mining operations in Katanga/Haut-Katanga and Lualaba provinces, represents the largest share of electricity demand. Major mining companies often have dedicated power purchase agreements and may operate their own captive generation facilities to supplement unreliable grid supply.

- Residential demand remains constrained by the extremely low electrification rate of approximately 19-21% nationally (41% urban, 1-2% rural), indicating that most of the population lacks access to grid electricity.

- Commercial and public sector demand includes government buildings, hospitals, schools, telecommunications infrastructure, and commercial establishments in urban centres, particularly Kinshasa, Lubumbashi, and other provincial capitals. Much of this demand is currently met through expensive diesel backup generation due to frequent grid outages and load shedding.

- Peak demand significantly exceeds available generation capacity, with estimates suggesting peak demand of 4,200-4,500 MW against operational capacity of only 1,900-2,100 MW, resulting in chronic supply deficits, frequent blackouts, and extensive load shedding across all customer categories except critical mining operations with dedicated supply arrangements.

- The transport sector's electricity demand remains negligible as electric vehicle penetration is virtually non-existent. Primary activities, including agriculture, water pumping, and rural processing, have minimal grid-connected demand but represent substantial potential for off-grid renewable energy applications, particularly solar-powered irrigation and agro-processing.

1.3 Electrical Interconnection and Import/Export

Connected country	Capacity (MW)	Annual import fromcountry (GWh)	Annual export tocountry (GWh)
Zambia	600MW	1,387 GWh as of 2022	59 GWh as of 2022

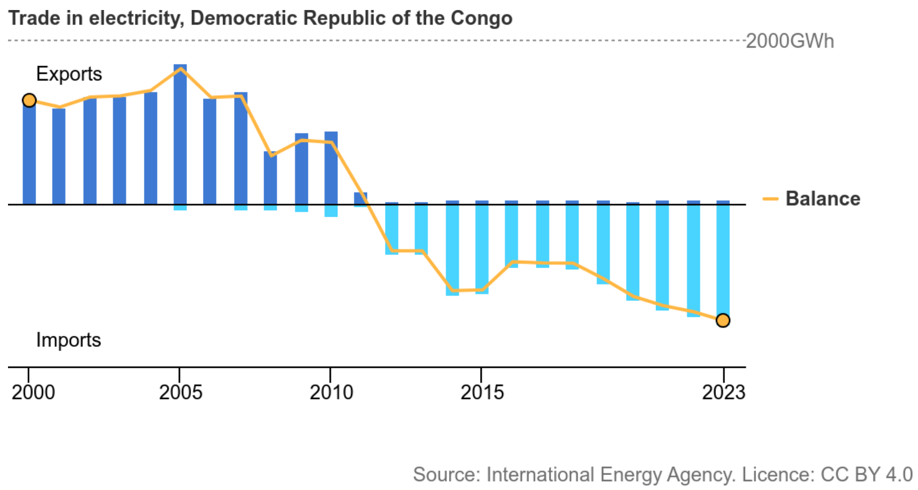
Additional information

Power Pool Memberships

The DRC is a member of three regional power pools, providing frameworks for electricity trade, though actual cross-border flows remain limited compared to potential:

- Southern African Power Pool (SAPP): Primary interconnection through Zambia, facilitating trade with southern African markets
- Central African Power Pool (CAPP): Headquartered in Brazzaville, includes connections with the Republic of Congo and theoretical linkages to Cameroon and Gabon
- East African Power Pool (EAPP): Through Rwanda and Burundi connections in eastern DRC provinces

In 2022, the DRC imported 10.9% of its electricity consumption, totalling 1,387 GWh, while exporting 59 GWh as per Internation Energy Agency report of 2022.



Existing Interconnections

- Zambia Connection (via Copperbelt): The dual circuit line interconnecting the Zambian and DRC electric grid systems is being upscaled from a single circuit line operational since 1956 to increase carrying capacity from 250 MW to 550 MW firm. This interconnection primarily serves the mining regions of Katanga/Lualaba in DRC and the Copperbelt in Zambia, with power flows varying seasonally based on hydropower availability and mining demand. The DRC has historically been a net exporter to Zambia, although severe droughts affecting the Kariba Dam have periodically reversed the flow.
- Republic of the Congo (Brazzaville): Currently, the only high-voltage interconnection between the Congo and the DRC is a 220 kV transmission line spanning 60 km. The Inga hydropower facilities supply Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire in the Republic of Congo, with the DRC being a consistent net exporter. The "Boucle de l'Amitié Énergétique" (Energy Friendship Loop) project aims to create an improved transmission loop between Inga,

Kinshasa, Brazzaville, Pointe-Noire, and potentially extending to Angola, though implementation has faced delays.

- Rwanda and Burundi (Ruzizi Cascade): The DRC is interconnected with Rwanda and Burundi from the Ruzizi 2 hydropower plant in Kivu province (East of DRC). The existing Ruzizi I (29.8 MW, commissioned in 1959) and Ruzizi II (44 MW, commissioned in 1989) hydropower plants are shared facilities between the three countries under the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL) framework, with power distributed according to pre-agreed allocation formulas.

Interconnection Projects Under Development

- Kalumbila-Kolwezi Interconnector (Zambia-DRC): The Kalumbila-Kolwezi Interconnection Project (KKIP) received approval from Zambia's Energy Regulation Board in May 2025, involving the construction of a 330 kV high-voltage line stretching approximately 190 km with a thermal limit of 700 MW and a total project cost estimated at $250-270 million. Financial close was targeted for mid-2025, with the International Finance Corporation serving as the lead arranger, followed by a 30-month construction period. This private sector-led project will significantly enhance transmission capacity between the copper-rich regions of both countries, facilitating participation in the SAPP regional power market.

- Ruzizi III Hydropower Project (DRC-Rwanda-Burundi): The $625-700 million Ruzizi III Hydropower Plant Project involves the construction of a run-of-river dam, a 206 MW power plant, and associated 220 kV transmission lines to be shared among the three countries. This flagship public-private partnership project has secured financing from the African Development Bank, the World Bank, the European Investment Bank, KfW, and private developers (Industrial Promotion Services and Scatec). However, implementation has experienced delays beyond the originally projected 2024 completion date. The project will provide baseload power to eastern DRC provinces currently isolated from the national grid.

- Western Power Corridor (Westcor) - Inga to Southern Africa: Long-planned transmission infrastructure to export power from the proposed Inga III hydropower development (4,400-11,000 MW) to Angola, Namibia, Botswana, and South Africa through high-voltage DC transmission lines covering thousands of kilometres. The project remains in planning stages pending Inga III financing and construction, which has been repeatedly delayed due to complexity, financing challenges, and governance concerns.

1.4 Market Structure

National Electricity Market Structure

The DRC's electricity market operates as a highly centralised, vertically integrated monopoly with minimal liberalization and limited competitive market dynamics. Of the total installed capacity in DRC, estimated at 3,649 MW, Société Nationale d'Électricité (SNEL) has a generation capacity of about 2,416 MW or 95% of total capacity, making SNEL the dominant state-owned utility responsible for generation, transmission, and distribution across most of the country. The market structure is characterised by extreme supply-demand imbalances, chronic underperformance of existing infrastructure, negligible private sector participation until recently, and geographic fragmentation with isolated grids serving mining enclaves disconnected from the national network.

Market Participants

1. Generation Sector

- SNEL (Société Nationale d'Électricité)

Operates approximately 95% of installed capacity. The Inga Hydropower Complex on the Congo River forms the backbone, comprising Inga I (351 MW installed, ~170-200 MW operational, commissioned in 1972) and Inga II (1,424 MW installed, ~600-800 MW operational, commissioned in 1982), totalling 1,775 MW, which represents nearly 50%

of the national capacity. SNEL also operates Zongo II (150 MW, completed 2018 by Sinohydro with government financing), N'Seke (~50-80 MW near Kinshasa), Mwadingusha (~71 MW in Katanga, built in the 1930s), and multiple smaller plants totalling 200-400 MW, plus limited diesel backup (20-25 MW).

- Independent Power Producers.

Virunga Power SARL operates in North Kivu, with Matebe (13.8 MW, operational since 2015) and Mutwanga (0.38 MW). The company serves over 4,000 customers and has expansion plans exceeding 60 MW.
Congo Energy Solutions Limited (CESL), trading as Nuru, is developing a portfolio of solar-hybrid metrogrids in eastern DRC. Nuru currently operates a 1.3 MW solar-hybrid metrogrid in Goma and is expanding this site with an additional 3.7 MW expected to come online from mid-2026. Alongside the Goma projects, Nuru is also developing metrogrids in Kindu and Bunia as part of a 13.7 MWp portfolio of late-stage solar-hybrid metrogrids. Overall, the company has a pipeline of more than 40 MWp of additional projects under development across the DRC.

- Pay-as-you-go solar companies

There are a number of companies providing distributed solar home systems totalling several megawatts across thousands of households using mobile money integration, however, specific statistics cannot be verified.

- Shared Regional Facility

Includes Ruzizi I (29.8 MW, commissioned in 1959) and Ruzizi II (44 MW, commissioned in 1989), jointly owned by the DRC, Rwanda, and Burundi under the CEPGL framework, and operated by Energy of the Great Lakes (EGL). The landmark Ruzizi III project is under development and will feature an installed capacity of 206 MW, with an expected annual production of 1,140 GWh.

- Mining Sector Captive Generation

First Quantum Minerals (Canada) operates the Sentinel and Kansanshi mines, utilising diesel generation, and is developing over 50 MW of solar capacity. Glencore (Switzerland) operates Mutanda and Kamoto Copper Company, utilising captive diesel and direct SNEL contracts, while exploring solar options. China Molybdenum (CMOC) operates Tenke Fungurume and is developing the Nzilo II hydro project. The 200 MW Nzilo II project, located on the Lualaba River, will supply power to CMOC mining operations, complementing solar generation at night. Ivanhoe Mines (Canada) operates the Kamoa-Kakula Copper Complex, relying on Zambian imports and local generation, while planning utility-scale solar projects. Total mining sector capacity encompasses 200-400 MW of diesel, 50-150 MW of solar (operational/developing), and growing hydropower interest.

2. Transmission and Distribution

SNEL owns the national transmission grid, which has high losses (10-15%) and limited reach. Copperbelt Energy Corporation (CEC), a Zambian-based company, owns and operates the DRC-Zambia interconnection line, which has been operational since 1956 and has been upgraded from a 250 MW to a 550 MW capacity. Enterprise Power DRC (EPDRC) is developing the Kalumbila-Kolwezi Interconnector Project (KKIP), a 330 kV line approximately 190 km long, designed for a 700 MW thermal limit.
Distribution is dominated by SNEL, with mini-grid operators (Virunga Power, Nuru/CESL, others) reaching hundreds of thousands in off-grid areas, and PAYG solar providers (Bboxx, ENGIE, d.light) serving distributed customers.

Electricity Trading and Market Mechanisms

The DRC has no competitive wholesale electricity market. All electricity trading occurs through:

1. Administrative Allocation:
   - SNEL allocates available generation capacity through centralised dispatch, prioritising critical loads (government facilities, hospitals) and mining operations with power purchase agreements
   - Chronic supply shortages mean allocation is effectively rationing rather than market-based
   - No spot market, day-ahead market, or competitive bidding mechanisms exist domestically
2. Bilateral Contracts:
   - Large mining companies (First Quantum, Glencore, CMOC, Ivanhoe) negotiate direct Power Purchase Agreements with SNEL. These contracts typically specify capacity allocations, tariffs (often subsidised relative to the cost of service), and payment terms
   - Contract enforcement is weak, with frequent disputes over non-payment and non-delivery
   - Mining sector is increasingly developing captive generation to reduce SNEL dependence

3. Regulated Tariffs:
    - Retail tariffs administratively set by Electricity Sector Regulatory Authority (ARE), established under Law No. 14/011 of 2014
    - Tariffs are heavily politicised and generally below cost-recovery levels
    - Tariff structure includes residential, commercial, and industrial categories with cross-subsidisation
    - Collection rates are extremely low

Level of Market Liberalization
The DRC's electricity sector exhibits minimal liberalization, despite legal frameworks theoretically allowing for private participation. Legislation since 2014, as well as recent Ordinance No. 25/025 (2025), continues to advance market liberalization, encouraging private investment, streamlining licensing, and increasing independent generation. Although SNEL's grid still dominates, regulatory reforms have eased entry and expanded the scope for renewable and mini-grid operators, particularly for attribute-eligible projects.

Environmental Attribute Products and Certificate Systems
- I-REC(E) Standard (Primary System)

DRC is now an authorized I-REC(E) country, with Energy Peace Partners as the issuer. I-RECs and P-RECs are issued from eligible renewable energy projects primarily driven by voluntary demand from international sustainability purchasers.

- Support Schemes and Oversight

P-RECs have been issued from projects in the DRC since 2020, primarily from an off-grid mini-grid solar project owned by Nuru Solar Mini-grids and Virunga Energies ' run-of-river hydro projects. Total issuance volumes remain modest, but they are growing. The Mwinda Fund managed by ANSER and new PPP frameworks are catalyzing I-REC(E)-eligible project growth, especially in solar and rural electrification.

1.5 Responsible Government Department

Institutional Framework
1. **Ministry of Energy and Hydraulic Resources (Ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources Hydrauliques / MERH)**

The Ministry of Energy and Hydraulic Resources is responsible for coordinating the development and management of the energy sector. It serves as the primary contact point for project financing, requiring developers to contact either the Ministry or SNEL for signing memoranda of understanding. Approval from the Ministry of Energy is also necessary for the implementation of energy projects in the DRC.

Role in I-REC Certification: The Ministry provides policy oversight and approval for renewable energy projects that may generate I-RECs; however, it does not directly issue or regulate I-REC certificates.

2. **Electricity Sector Regulatory Authority (Autorité de Régulation du secteur de l'Électricité / ARE)**

ARE is a dedicated administrative authority vested by law with classical regulatory powers, in combination with the Ministry of Water Resources and Electricity, to promote, supervise, assist, regulate, and investigate breaches of the law on electricity. It was created under Law No. 14/011 of 17 June 2014 relating to the electricity sector and is governed by Decree No. 16/013 of 21 April 2016, which establishes its organisation and functioning. Some of its primary responsibilities include:
- Electricity sector regulation and oversight
- Tariff setting and regulatory assistance
- Development of standard concession contracts and procedure manuals

Role in I-REC Certification: ARE currently has no formal role in I-REC certification or oversight. The I-REC market operates independently under international standards. ARE is not yet fully operational and does not serve as the official regulator for energy attribute certificates.

3. **National Agency for Electrification and Energy Services in Rural and Peri-urban Areas (Agence Nationale**

de l'Électrification et des Services Énergétiques en Milieu Rural et Périurbain / ANSER)

ANSER is responsible for rural electrification. It was created as a dedicated body for rural electrification to supervise rural electrification projects, but without regulatory powers, and is governed by Decree No. 16/014 of 21 April 2016. ANSER focuses on isolated rural areas, as well as suburbs and lightly urbanised areas.

Its primary Responsibilities include:

- Planning, overseeing and financing off-grid electrification
- Mini-grid promotion
- Rural energy access expansion

Role in I-REC Certification: ANSER has no direct role in I-REC certification. It may coordinate with renewable energy developers who participate in the I-REC market but does not issue or regulate certificates.

4. Société Nationale d'Électricité (SNEL)

SNEL traditionally had the responsibility for generating, transmitting, and distributing electricity in the DRC and remains the largest power company, operating approximately 95% of the country's installed capacity, although it is no longer a monopoly since the 2014 liberalization of the electricity sector.

Role in I-REC Certification: SNEL has no regulatory role in the I-REC certification process. As a state-owned utility, SNEL could potentially register renewable energy production facilities for I-REC issuance; however, it is not involved in the certification or regulation of the system.

Regulatory Framework

The electricity sector is governed by Law No. 14/011 of June 17, 2014, relative to the electricity sector in the DRC. This law aims to guarantee fair competition between operators and protect users' rights. It applies to activities related to the production, transmission, distribution, import, export, and marketing of electricity implemented by any operator.

I-REC Relevance: The electricity law does not explicitly address I-RECs or energy attribute certificates. The I-REC market operates under international standards rather than domestic legislation.

1.6 Existing/Planned Legislation

Existing Legislation

1. **Law No. 14/011 of 17 June 2014 (Electricity Sector Law)**

The objectives of this law include consolidating laws related to the generation, transmission, distribution, trading, and use of electricity, promoting competition in the sector, and enhancing energy efficiency and environmentally sound policies. Additionally, it aims to increase access to energy in rural areas and secondary cities. The law created a National Electrification Agency and a National Electrification Fund. With the 2014 Electricity Act, DRC expected to increase electricity access by liberalising the power sector, ending SNEL's monopoly, and opening the market to independent power producers. Some of its provisions include:

- Market liberalization and promotion of competition
- Energy efficiency and environmental policy objectives
- Rural and peri-urban electrification mandate
- Applies to production, transmission, distribution, import, export and marketing of electricity, but does not apply to plants with installed capacity less than or equal to 50kW

Impact on I-REC(E): The 2014 Electricity Law does not explicitly mention energy attribute certificates, renewable energy certificates, or I-RECs. The law's focus on promoting energy efficiency and "environmentally sound policy" provides general policy support for renewable energy development. Still, there are no specific provisions that either mandate or restrict the use of environmental attribute products.

Supporting Decrees and Regulations

- Decree 15/009 of April 25, 2015, on tax and customs relief measures applicable to the production, import and export of electrical energy

- Decree No. 18/052 of 24 December 2018 relating to operating titles
- Decree 18/024 of December 24, 2018, on the procedures for awarding, modifying concessions/licenses in the sector
- Decree 08/053 of December 24, 2018, on conditions for electric export and import
- Order of 27 December 2018 relating to standard specifications in the electricity sector
- Decree No. 16/013 of 21 April 2016 governing the establishment, organisation and functioning of ARE
- Decree No. 16/014 of 21 April 2016 governing the establishment, organisation and functioning of ANSER

2. Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) - 2021

The DRC's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) from 2021 sets a greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction target of 21% below business-as-usual (BAU) levels with the government unconditionally committing to reducing emissions by 2% and the remaining 19% reduction conditional on the country receiving adequate international support.

3. National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2022-2026

The NAP for DRC was developed by the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development, aligning with the National Climate Change Policy, Strategy and Action Plan, the National Strategic Development Plan, and the Nationally Determined Contribution. The NAP identified urgent and priority adaptation actions in the water resources, forestry, and agriculture sectors, as well as in the country's coastal zones.

Planned and Developing Legislation

1. Regulatory Procedures and Guidelines (In Development)

Procedures and guidelines are yet to be drafted for the 2014 Electricity Act, constraining the private sector to rely on the concessions, leases, management contracts, and licenses established by the 2014 law. Several implementation texts are still being drafted. There is currently no public indication that I-RECs or environmental attribute products are being explicitly considered in these developing regulations.

2. Mini-Grid and Off-Grid Regulations (Under Development)

Since the liberalization of the electricity sector in the DRC with the 2014 Electricity Law, a few local distribution concessionaires and individual mini-grid projects have emerged, but this has been done in a sub-optimal and heterogeneous manner primarily because of the lack of precise national regulation in the sector.

Potential Impact on I-REC(E): Off-grid and mini-grid renewable energy projects are prime candidates for I-REC issuance. Clear regulations in this subsector could facilitate I-REC market development by:

- Establishing metering and verification standards
- Creating transparent licensing procedures
- Defining roles and responsibilities for renewable energy tracking.

1.7 Environmental and Renewable Electricity Legislation

The DRC has limited specific legislation targeting environmental protection in the electricity sector and renewable energy development. While the country has established climate commitments through international frameworks and possesses significant renewable energy potential, the domestic legal framework for renewable electricity remains underdeveloped. Environmental regulation is primarily focused on forest conservation and REDD+, rather than the electricity sector.

1. Forest and Land Use Legislation

The majority of environmental legislation in the DRC focuses on forest conservation rather than renewable electricity:

REDD+ Framework (Established 2013):

- A national REDD+ strategy was established in 2013 to implement a country-wide REDD+ framework
- Carbon credits belong to the Congolese state, and private operators must seek authorisation to sell them before reporting transactions

- In January 2022, the DRC met the REDD+ environmental Excellence standard (TREE) and issued REDD+ carbon credits with government full ownership rights through the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development

Impact on Renewable Electricity: The REDD+ framework establishes a precedent for state ownership of environmental attributes, though this has not been extended to renewable electricity certificates. The focus on forest carbon rather than energy sector emissions reflects thecountry's emission profile, where about 75% of the DRC's GHG emissions came from LULUCF (land use, land-use change, and forestry) in 2018, while the energy sector contributed about 1%.

2. Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) - 2021

The NDC represents a policy commitment under the Paris Agreement but has not been transposed into binding domestic legislation. It does not create enforceable obligations or mechanisms for tracking renewable electricity.

3. National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2022-2026

The NAP focuses on adaptation measures and does not establish requirements or frameworks for tracking, disclosure, or verification of renewable electricity.

1.8 Existing/Planned Certificate or Support Systems

I-REC(E) System (Operational since 2019)

The DRC was authorised to issue International Renewable Energy Certificates (I-RECs) in late 2019, with Energy Peace Partners (EPP) approved as the issuer.

Planned Registry and Standard Developments

- National Carbon Registry: It has been indicated that by the end of 2025, the DRC's national carbon market regulator intends to establish an official carbon registry, expected to facilitate the tracking of carbon credits.
- Regional Standard Integration: The country participates in SADC and ARSO standardisation schemes, which enhance cross-border recognition and quality assurance for environmental certificates, including integration into the ACAP Eco Mark program and ISO/IEC-accredited schemes.

Support Schemes and Policies

- Mwinda Fund: A new $500 million program launched in 2025 finances solar home systems, mini-grids, and clean cooking solutions, and explicitly supports renewable generation. Funding comes from both the government and the private sector and is expected to significantly boost I-REC(E) eligible capacity.
- Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs): The DRC supports PPPs in the renewable energy sector, making it easier for private actors to develop projects and participate in certificate programs.

Restrictions and Risks

- No significant legislative restrictions on registry use or standard adoption are reported.

1.9 Extent of Engagement with Government

I-REC(E) certificates, including Peace Renewable Energy Credits (P-RECs), have been successfully issued from renewable energy projects in DRC. Energy Peace Partners (EPP) is the designated I-REC(E) issuer for the country, authorised by the I-REC Standard Foundation, and has overseen the first issuance and sale of P-RECs from projects such as Nuru's 1.3 MW solar mini-grid in Goma and Virunga Energie's Mutwanga hydro plant. These certificates have already provided new revenue streams for Congolese developers, with proceeds supporting local electrification and infrastructure such as the installation of solar-powered streetlights.

There has been no formal engagement with the government regarding issuance of I-RECs in the DRC.

1.10 Expected Response from Government

Anticipated Government Position

Based on active engagement, the government and regulatory authorities are anticipated to maintain a supportive stance toward I-REC(E) certification. Key factors driving this expectation include:

- Alignment with National Priorities: I-REC certification supports DRC's renewable energy development goals and climate commitments. It does not demand direct government financial resources or create additional administrative burdens.
- Attraction of Private Investment: Voluntary certification mechanisms enhance project bankability and draw international buyers, supporting objectives for increased private sector participation and energy sector modernisation.
- No Conflict with Existing Policies: I-REC(E) operates independently as a voluntary, market-based mechanism, avoiding interference with regulated tariffs, licensing, or national market operations.
- International Credibility: I-REC(E) certification provides internationally recognised proof of renewable energy generation from DRC, improving the country's global standing in sustainable development and carbon markets.

Institutional Developments and Consultations

EPP has engaged in discussions with national agencies, including ANSER, to register both public and private projects for I-REC(E) issuance. Government stakeholders have responded positively to these initiatives, seeing value in expanding certificate eligibility to a broader set of renewable energy investments in 2025.

1.11 Proposed Restrictions

Based on the DRC's current regulatory environment, market structure, and need to maintain environmental integrity, the following restrictions are recommended for I-REC(E) implementation:

Restrictions and Safeguards

- Eligible Generation Types: Only renewable generation (solar, hydro, wind, qualified biomass) that meets sustainability criteria can issue I-REC(E) and related certificates. Large-scale hydropower plants with documented significant adverse environmental or social impacts may be excluded from eligibility for specific certificate programs, in line with international best practices.
- Registry and System Requirements:
  - Generators connected to both the primary grid and off-grid/mini-grid networks must declare all flows to prevent the risk of double issuance or double counting.
- Restriction on Double Counting:
  - Projects simultaneously seeking carbon credits and I-REC(E)/P-REC certificates are subject to screening for overlap: only non-overlapping renewable impacts may be certified under both systems, in line with DRC's new national registry safeguards and international tracking standard guidance.
  - Existing rules require attestation during registry entry that the attributes are not already claimed under another certificate system, whether domestic or international.
- Participant & Product Exclusions:
  - Projects with unresolved legal, land tenure, or social license disputes may be excluded from attribute certificate eligibility per registry and policy guidance.
  - Any generation linked to fossil, nuclear, or large hydro with unresolved environmental assessment failures is excluded from the I-REC(E) and P-REC systems.

1.12 Any Other Relevant Information

1. Political Disruptions and Market Risks

The DRC remains vulnerable to political instability, regulatory changes, and security risks, particularly in the eastern provinces. Major infrastructure may face disruptions from civil unrest, armed conflict, or abrupt policy changes, which can complicate long-term investment confidence. Bilateral agreements and regional cooperation help mitigate some risks by supporting broader network resilience and harmonised standards.

2. Regulatory Risks and Carbon Market Linkages

Recent reforms have improved transparency and clarified roles, but challenges persist:

- Any updates to certificate issuance and registry procedures may introduce temporary ambiguity for new market entrants.
- The planned National Carbon Registry should reduce double-counting, but procedural integration with energy attribute registries is still evolving.
- Data verification is improving, yet capacity gaps (technical, institutional) and market fragmentation continue to pose risks to robust certificate tracking and recognition at both the domestic and cross-border levels.
- Lessons from early I-REC(E) and P-REC pilots show the importance of international oversight, local community engagement, and flexible verification protocols to uphold market integrity and stakeholder confidence.

1.13 Author

Complete all fields.

Organization Name		ENERGY PEACE PARTNERS	
Signature			
Name (BLOCK CAPITALS)		LINDA WAMUNE, PIUS OUNA	
DATE	19	11	2025

The International Tracking Standard Foundation
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www.trackingstandard.org