



DR Congo

Introduction

Blessing Chipanda

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Introduction

Chart 1: Political map of DR Congo

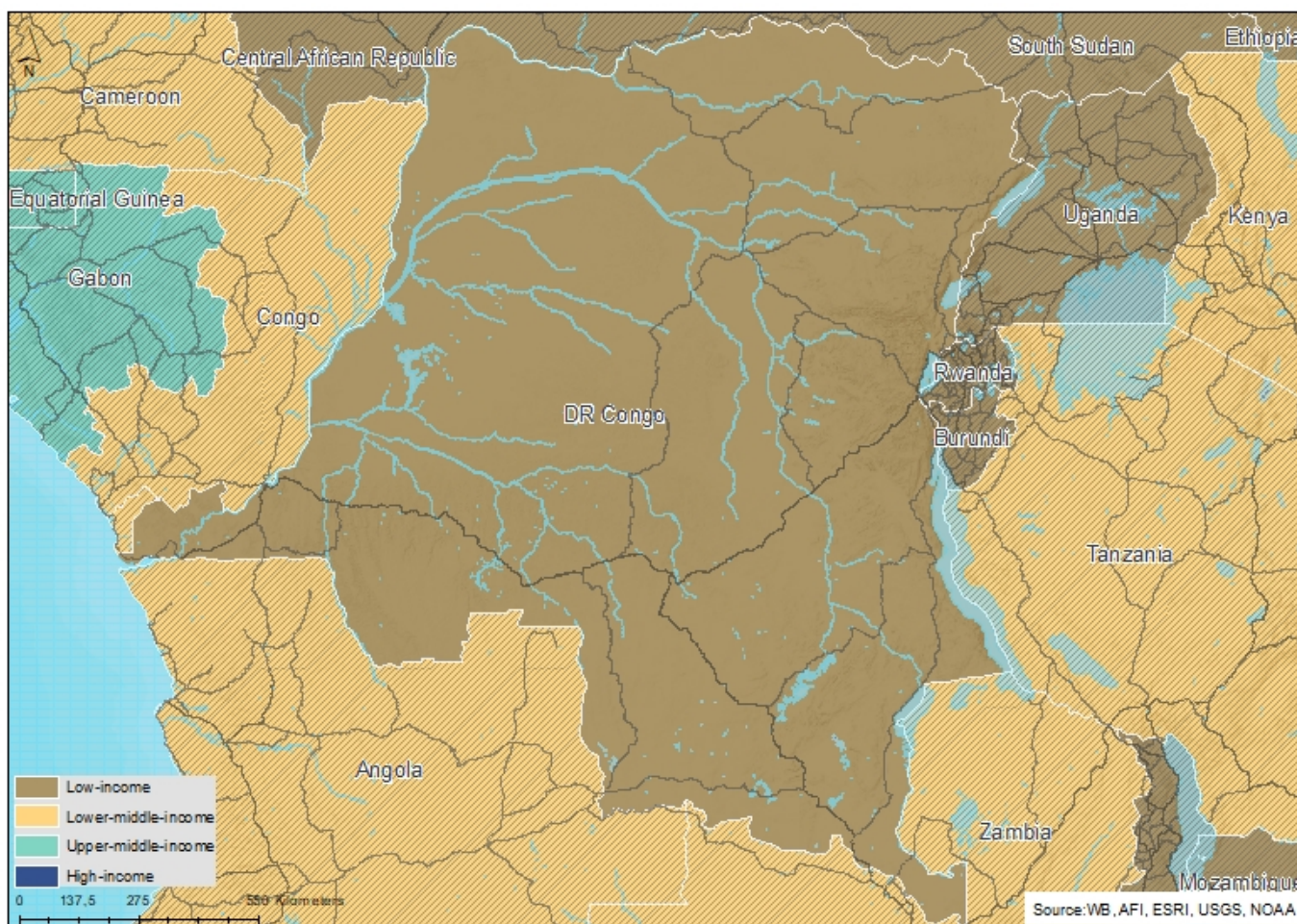


Chart 1 is a political map of DR Congo.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DR Congo) (also known as Congo-Kinshasa and formerly known as Zaïre) is located in Central Africa. The country is bordered to the north by the Central African Republic and South Sudan, to the east by Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Tanzania, to the south-east by Zambia, and to the south-west by Angola. To the west are the DR Congo's short Atlantic coastline, the Angolan enclave of Cabinda and Congo (Brazzaville). Kinshasa is the largest and capital city of the DR Congo.

The DR Congo is the largest country by land area in sub-Saharan Africa, the second largest in Africa and the 11th largest in the world. Its land area covers approximately 2 344 858 km²—an area approximately the size of Western Europe. The country has the second largest **tropical rainforest** (after Brazil) covering more than 992 000 km².

The DR Congo is well known for its abundant and diverse mineral resources (mining is its largest industry), extensive navigable waterways, vast hydroelectric potential and arable land, estimated at 80 million hectares. The **country** possesses about 50% of the global cobalt reserves, 25% of the world's diamond reserves and large reserves of coltan. It is the largest producer of copper in Africa and the world's largest producer of cobalt.

Despite these abundant natural resources, the country remains one of the poorest and least developed in Africa and the world. Most people in the DR Congo have not benefited from this wealth. Since gaining its independence in 1960, conflicts, political instability, authoritarian rule and poor governance have impeded development progress and led to the ongoing humanitarian crisis in the eastern part of the country.

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About the authors

Dr **Blessing Chipanda** joined the African Futures and Innovation (AFI) programme in January 2023. Before joining the ISS he worked as an assistant lecturer/ research assistant at the University of Pretoria, Department of Economics. He is particularly interested in tasks within the wider realm of international trade, development economics, public policy, monetary policy, and econometric modelling. Equally interested in economic and socio-economic activities that impact social welfare. Blessing has a PhD in economics from the University of Pretoria, South Africa.

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