



ECCAS

ECCAS: Conclusion

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Last updated 03 December 2024 using IFs v8.22

ECCAS: Conclusion

Chart 38: Policy recommendations

Recommendations

- Promote FDI in high-growth sectors like agriculture, manufacturing, and renewable energy.
- Strengthen regional integration by facilitating cross-border investment and trade to create a more attractive investment climate.
- Improve conflict resolution mechanisms with better funding and training for MARAC and FOMAC.
- Diversify economies to reduce reliance on extractive resources and mitigate corruption.
- Enhance healthcare by building new facilities and training more professionals.
- Improve transportation networks for efficient agricultural product movement to markets.
- Modernize irrigation systems for year-round crop production.
- Expand secondary education access, especially in rural areas.
- Align curricula with labour market needs and promote critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
- Encourage development of value-added products to boost exports and create skilled jobs.

Chart 38 summarises the policy recommendations for ECCAS.

Despite progress, ECCAS continues to face significant challenges, including insufficient crop production, a persistent supply-demand gap in agriculture, and a reliance on imports that undermine self-sufficiency. These issues are compounded by low electrification rates, especially in rural areas, which hinder development and exacerbate inequality.

While ECCAS has made strides in increasing agricultural output, the region still struggles to meet its growing demand, resulting in a substantial shortfall in domestic supply. The manufacturing sector, though improving, remains below the African average, with only a few countries like Gabon and Equatorial Guinea showing significant contributions. Additionally, ECCAS's trade balance, heavily dependent on exports from a few resource-rich countries, highlights the region's vulnerability to external market fluctuations.

The analysis indicates that, although ECCAS is on a path of gradual improvement, the progress is not transformative enough to address the region's deep-rooted structural challenges. Without significant and aggressive interventions, ECCAS will likely fail to achieve its targets for inclusive and sustainable development by 2043. The region's future hinges on closing the agricultural supply-demand gap, boosting manufacturing capacity and improving access to electricity, particularly in rural areas, to foster long-term growth and stability.

Thus, rigorous and targeted socio-economic policy interventions in the areas of demographics and health, education, agriculture, infrastructure, manufacturing, trade, financial flows and governance need to be undertaken to improve the region's current development trajectory.

Specifically the region should:

1. Promote investment in key sectors by focusing on attracting FDI in sectors with high growth potential, such as

agriculture, manufacturing and renewable energy.

2. Strengthen regional integration by facilitating cross-border investment and trade to create a more attractive investment climate.
3. Strengthen conflict resolution mechanisms by improving the effectiveness of the Central African Early Warning Mechanism (MARAC) and the Central African Multinational Force (FOMAC) by providing adequate funding, training, and intelligence resources.
4. Address resource dependence by diversifying national economies to reduce reliance on extractive resources, which can exacerbate corruption and conflict.
5. Strengthen healthcare infrastructure by building and equipping new healthcare facilities, as well as training more healthcare professionals.
6. Enhance transportation networks by improving roads and transportation systems to facilitate the efficient movement of agricultural products to markets.
7. Improve irrigation systems by expanding and modernising irrigation infrastructure to ensure year-round crop production and reduce reliance on rainfall.
8. Expand access to secondary education by increasing the availability of secondary schools, especially in rural areas, to ensure that more children can complete their education.
9. Develop relevant curricula to ensure that curricula are aligned with the needs of the labour market and promote critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
10. Develop value-added products by promoting the development of value-added products to increase export earnings and create higher-skilled jobs.

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Cite this research

Tumi Mkhize-Malebo (2025) ECCAS. Published online at futures.issafrica.org. Retrieved from <https://futures.issafrica.org/geographic/recs/eccas/> [Online Resource] Updated 03 December 2024.



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