

CHAD

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Chad has approximately 6.8 million inhabitants and covers an area of 1.3 million km². Since coming to power in late 1990, after decades of political instability and civil war, President Idriss Deby has successfully managed a difficult transition to political reconciliation, peace and democracy. The country is currently exhibiting signs of stability, and of political, social and economic recovery. The government is awaiting a significant improvement following the construction of the pipeline between the Doba oilfield in southwest Chad and the Kibri seaport in Cameroon. So far, the Chadian economy is heavily reliant on the cotton sector, and agriculture generates 40% of GDP and provides a livelihood for 85% of the population.

The mining sector is still poorly developed. The resources mined in Chad are quite limited, with some small-scale mining of alluvial gold, and production of sand and gravel for the local market. Occasional artisan diamond production is reported from a few locations (Baïbokoum and Guera) but no figures are available.

Chad is a landlocked country, and gold and diamonds appear to have the most development potential, although many other mineral occurrences, both metallic and industrial minerals, are known in the country. Exploration carried out in the late 1980s and early 1990s by UNDP/DRGM confirmed that

the greenstone belts of the Mayo Kebbi and Ouaddaï regions, in the southwest and northeast of Chad, respectively, were similar to, and had the same gold potential as, the Birimian greenstone belts of West Africa. Afko Corea Co. has sold its three mining leases to another Korean company, Global Resources. Global has undertaken a drilling programme in the Gamboke sector. Artisans produced 1,144 oz (35.5 kg) of gold in 2001.

Chad is endowed with petroleum deposits, and two projects were given a start in the period under review. The 5,000 bbl/d produced by the Sedigui oilfield, near Lake Chad, is to be piped 330 km to a small refinery in Farcha, near N'Djamena. This output will cover the needs of the local market and supply a new 12 MW power station, thus doubling the current power production. This project is progressing.

The larger, Doba crude oil project comprises three oilfields, which are reported to contain close to 1,000 Mbbl of oil. Some 300 wells will provide a peak production of 225,000 bbl/d, to be pumped to the Kribi seaport in Cameroon via a 1,050 km long pipeline. The project was eventually launched by a consortium, comprising Exxon (40%) and Chevron (25 %) of the US and the Malaysian company Petronas (35%), with the blessing of the World Bank. The construction of the pipeline is in progress and should be completed by 2003.