

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

Côte d'Ivoire monthly briefing June 2024

Côte d'Ivoire summary 25 June 2024

Mines, oil and energy minister Mamadou Sangawofa Coulibaly announces on 12 June that government will revise the Mining Code which was passed into law in 2014. South Korea and Côte d'Ivoire sign a \$1 billion loan agreement during the Korea-Africa Summit held on 4 and 5 June. The government announces a new structure for the gathering and distribution of statistics, replacing the Institut national de la statistique (national statistics institute) with the Agence nationale de la statistique (ANS) (national statistics agency). Tensions between Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso persist despite efforts from both sides to portray otherwise.

Mines minister announces new Mining Code

Mines, oil and energy minister **Mamadou Sangawofa Coulibaly** on 12 June announced that the government would be revising the **Mining Code**. The revisions have taken some time to materialise; the senate approved them as far back as May 2023 and Coulibaly participated in a workshop during the **Mining Indaba** in **Cape Town (South Africa)** in February 2024 to present the new revised Mining Code.¹

The Mining Code was introduced in 2014 and has overseen an expansion of **Côte d'Ivoire's** extractive sector, particularly oil and gold. The momentum behind these revisions was the wish to balance the interests of investors, the state and the communities living near extraction operations. This translates into three principal government policy demands - increased state revenue, local content in the extractive sector, and addressing the fast-growing problem of illicit artisanal gold mining.²

To this end, Coulibaly presented several revisions without going into the specifics. These include increasing state participation, the details of which will be available on publication of the revised Mining Code, the introduction of legislation regarding local content, and the creation of a national central desk where the state will buy gold extracted from artisanal goldmines. Coulibaly said that the government believes the latter will “*significantly reduce illegal gold extraction*”.³

Other measures include the creation of a comprehensive legal framework that will govern artisanal gold mining and measures that will address the complicity of local administrators and/or traditional leaders in facilitating illicit mining.⁴ In order to add value in-country and create employment, the government wishes to see more local transformation of extracted products including gold refineries, and greater participation of local investors.⁵ The government also envisages the modernisation of the mining cadastre and the creation of a one-stop digital platform, where investors can apply for a mining permit online, thus reducing processing time.

Côte d'Ivoire obtains a \$1 billion loan at Korea-Africa summit

President **Alassane Ouattara** (2010-present) led an Ivorian delegation to the first **Korea - Africa Summit**, which took place on 4 and 5 June in **Seoul (South Korea)**.⁶ Both the government and the Ivorian business community were prominently represented at the summit. **Chambre de Commerce**

¹ FAAPA, 7 Jun 2024

² Ministère de mines, pétrole et énergie, Abidjan, 14 June 2024; Abidjan.net, 14 June 2023; L'Avenir, 6 Jun 2023

³ L'Avenir, 6 Jun 2024

⁴ L'Avenir, 13 Jun 2024

⁵ FAAPA, 7 Jun 2024

⁶ Présidence de la République de Côte d'Ivoire, 2 Jun 2024

et d'Industrie (chamber of commerce and industry) president **Faman Touré** and **General Confederation of Enterprises in Côte d'Ivoire (CGECI)** (confédération générale des entreprises de Côte d'Ivoire) president **Ahmed Cissé** represented the private sector.⁷ Finance minister **Adama Coulibaly**, economy planning and development minister **Nialé Kaba** and commerce, trade and industry minister **Soulemane Diarrasouba** were part of the government delegation.⁸

There are clear parallels between the wishes and ambitions of South Korea and Côte d'Ivoire. Côte d'Ivoire wants to diversify economic relations to include not only traditional partners like **France** and the **European Union (EU)** but also industrial nations such as South Korea and emerging nations like **Turkey**. Côte d'Ivoire also wants to be a middle-income country by 2030. South Korea, which has made the transition Côte d'Ivoire is looking for, wants to enlarge its footprint on the African continent.⁹ Being home to successful globally operating businesses such as **Samsung, LG** and **Hyundai**, South Korea also has something to offer.

At a business forum during the summit, Ouattara invited the South Korean business community to come to Côte d'Ivoire and assess the available opportunities for itself.¹⁰ Areas where investments are welcome include job-creating industries that transform the country's premier commercial agricultural products such as cocoa, coffee, cashew and rubber. While it was not discussed, there is also likely interest from South Korea in Côte d'Ivoire's critical minerals sector.

The summit also provided another opportunity for Côte d'Ivoire to secure more financial support for its continued development. To this end, it obtained a CFA 600 billion (\$1 billion) loan that will be used in development projects between 2024 and 2028.¹¹ The South Korean foreign minister **Cho Tae-yul** was on hand to sign the convention covering the loan for his country while Adama Coulibaly and Kaba signed the convention on behalf of Côte d'Ivoire.¹²

Government dissolves the national statistics institute and creates another structure

Government spokesperson **Amadou Coulibaly** announced on 12 June that during the **Conseil des Ministres** (council of ministers) meeting that day the decision was made to dissolve the **Institut national de la statistique** (national statistics institute) and replace it with the **Agence nationale de la statistique (ANS)** (national statistics agency).¹³ Next to the ANS, two other institutions were established - the **Fonds national de développement de la statistique** (national statistics development funds), tasked with the mobilisation of financial support for the national statistics system, and the **Conseil national de la statistique** (national statistics council), which will be the policy-making arm of the national statistics system.¹⁴

The ANS, like its immediate predecessor, is in charge of the technical side of gathering, processing and publishing data and putting it at the disposition of policymakers in government, state enterprises and private entities.

The government considers the accurate gathering of data for inclusion in statistics a vital tool for designing its policies. It is especially important when devising policies relating to efforts to reduce poverty, which in part determines the allocation of financial resources and the direction of state investments. Coulibaly said that the government intends to have a more efficient and better-performing national statistics system in place, once the new entities are in place.¹⁵

⁷ Abidjan.net, 7 Jun 2024

⁸ Koaci.com, 4 Jun 2024

⁹ Agence Ecofin, 3 June 2024; connectionivoirienne.net, 7 Jun 2024

¹⁰ L'Info Express, 4 Jun 2024

¹¹ RFI, 4 Jun 2024; Sika Finance, 3 Jun 2024

¹² Sika Finance, 3 Jun 2024

¹³ Koaci.com, 13 Jun 2024

¹⁴ Koaci.com, 13 Jun 2024; Abidjan.net, 12 Jun 2024

¹⁵ Abidjan.net, 12 Jun 2024

A **United Nations** report published in the first half of the 2000s noted that there is no comprehensive legal framework in place governing the gathering of data in Côte d'Ivoire and that there is a lack of coordination among the various elements of the country's national statistics system. The report also flagged the dearth of human resources. The comprehensive shakeup of the entire system, including, **École normale supérieure des statistiques et de l'économie appliquée**, the institute that trains public administration officials including statisticians, may address these and other issues.

Tensions with Burkina Faso persist

Communities from the Ivorian and **Burkinabe** side of the border were present on 6 June after the conclusion of another border tracing exercise between the two countries.¹⁶ While this widely publicised local event is clearly another effort to ease tensions between the two countries, a spate of incidents – especially in the first half of 2024 – has led to a further deterioration of relations.

Tensions between the two countries emerged after the September 2022 coup that brought Captain **Ibrahim Traoré** to power. Côte d'Ivoire objected strongly to this renewed power grab and was a leading voice in the demand for sanctions against the Traoré-led junta. Since then, both countries have reported cross-border incursions on each other's territory, have arrested armed personnel they allege had crossed the border without permission and are still holding several of their security forces in detention.¹⁷ In the latest of such incidents, an Ivorian military column was alleged to have entered Burkina Faso on 16 May.¹⁸

On 19 April, the defence ministers of both countries met at the border to ease tensions and improve relations.¹⁹ However, a few days later Traoré accused Côte d'Ivoire of harbouring dissidents that were destabilising Burkina Faso without offering any evidence for his assertion.²⁰ There is reportedly no direct contact between Traoré and Ouattara, even though the two governments are said to be negotiating the release of their respective security personnel. As such, it is unclear at which level these negotiations take place is unclear.

Bad relations between Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso complicate the fight against jihadist terrorists or insurgents, who have come across the border and entered Côte d'Ivoire's northern regions on several occasions and may have established a foothold in the **Comoë National Park** that straddles the border between the two countries. These complications were already evident following the departure of Burkina Faso, along with **Mali** and **Niger**, from the regional body the **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)**. Their departure effectively put an end to joint anti-terrorist efforts like the **Accra Initiative**, aimed at preventing terrorist spillover from the **Sahel** into the four coastal states bordering Burkina Faso - Côte d'Ivoire, **Ghana**, **Togo** and **Benin**.

Planner

2025 (Côte d'Ivoire) African Development Bank (AfDB) annual meetings

2025 (Côte d'Ivoire) Presidential elections

Chronology

24 Jun 2024 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Sika Finance*. Local company **Ecocajou** inaugurates a new cashew nut processing plant in **Odienné** that has a capacity of 15,000 tonnes per year;

22 Jun 2024 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Agence Ecofin*. **Australian** mining junior **Aurum Resources** announce the opening of a share purchase plan to raise \$1.99m to accelerate exploration activities at its **Boundiali** gold project in Côte d'Ivoire;

¹⁶ Abidjan.net, 7 Jun 2024

¹⁷ Le Monde, 9 Oct 2023; Jeune Afrique, 28 Mar 2024

¹⁸ Le Monde, 17 May 2024

¹⁹ Fraternité Matin, 21 Apr 2024

²⁰ La nouvelle tribune, 27 Apr 2024

- 21 Jun 2024 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Sika Finance*. Prime minister **Robert Beugré Mambé** reveals that food production, which is all consumer products grown locally, increased by 10% to reach 22 million tonnes in 2023;
- 19 Jun 2024 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Jeune Afrique*. Defence minister **Téné Birahima Ouattara** meets with **China National Aero-Technology Import & Export Corporation (CATIC)** vice president **Hu Guangxi** to discuss the acquisition of combat aircraft;
- 19 Jun 2024 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *APA News*. President **Alassane Ouattara** says he is targeting economic growth of 7% between 2024 and 2027;
- 19 Jun 2024 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Reuters*. President **Alassane Ouattara** says oil output will increase from 60,000 barrels per day to 200,000 barrels per day by 2027, driven by new discoveries and increased investment;
- 16 Jun 2024 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Sika Finance*. Official figures indicate the number of formal jobs in Côte d'Ivoire increased by 117,401 in 2023, a 43.6% increase compared to 2022;
- 15 Jun 2024 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Jeune Afrique*. Emergency services confirm that heavy rainfall has killed at least eight people in Abidjan;
- 13 Jun 2024 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *APA News*. Council of ministers adopts the multiannual budgetary and economic programme which sets the 2025 state budget at 15.31 trillion FCFA (\$25.05 billion), an 11.5% increase compared to the current budget;
- 11 Jun 2024 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Jeune Afrique*. **United States** has reportedly chosen to establish two new military bases in Côte d'Ivoire and **Benin**;
- 10 Jun 2024 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *APA News*. Defence minister **Téné Birahima Ouattara** opens a defence, space and artificial intelligence (AI) exhibition;
- 7 Jun 2024 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *APA News*. Mines, oil and energy minister **Mamadou Sangafowa-Coulibaly** confirms there have been significant power constraints this year due to breakdowns at power stations;
- 6 Jun 2024 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Mining.com*. Mines minister **Mamadou Sangafowa Coulibaly** says the opening of new mines helped the country's gold output hit a record high in 2023 of 51 metric tonnes, with forecasts of 56 metric tonnes in 2024;
- 5 Jun 2024 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Sika Finance*. **Australia's Many Peaks Minerals** announces it has raised \$3.5m to accelerate exploration at two of its gold deposits in Côte d'Ivoire;
- 3 Jun 2024 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Sika Finance*. **South Korea's** foreign affairs minister, **Cho Tae-Yul**, signs a \$1 billion agreement with finance minister **Adama Coulibaly** on the sidelines of the **Africa-South Korea Summit**;
- 31 May 2024 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Fratmat.info*. **African Development Bank (AfDB)** confirms the 2025 annual meetings will be held in Côte d'Ivoire;
- 29 May 2024 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Jeune Afrique*. State-owned mining company **Société d'Etat pour le Développement Minier de Côte d'Ivoire (SODEMI)** announces the discovery of the country's first coltan deposit;

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