

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

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The East African Community (EAC) announces that armed groups and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) government will hold peace talks in January in the eastern region of the country, following three previous meetings in Kenya. Finance minister Nicolas Kazadi says the high cost of fighting the rebellion is weighing on the country's budget; however, higher-than-expected mining revenue has limited its fiscal impact. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) announces on 21 November that, following a visit to Kinshasa from 19 October to 2 November, its team reached a staff-level agreement with the DRC on policies for the completion of the third review of under the Extended Credit Facility (ECF) arrangement. The IMF highlights that the DRC's outlook remains positive and projects economic growth of 6.3% in 2023 despite domestic policy tightening and the global slowdown. The governments of the DRC and Zambia sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the United States for the development of electric vehicle supply chains in their countries. Vice prime minister for environment Eve Bazaiba says the DRC must be compensated if it decides to halt plans for gas and oil drilling in the world's largest tropical peatlands, which store three years of annual global carbon emissions. DRC enters an election year in 2023, with increased political instability creating greater insecurity and uncertainty for investors.

M23 rebels continue offensive despite ceasefire agreement...

The East African Community (EAC) announced on 6 December that armed groups and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) government will hold peace talks in January in the eastern region of the country, following three previous meetings in Kenya.¹ In a statement, the EAC said the meetings will take place in Goma (North Kivu Province) and Bunia (Ituri Province) "to assess progress and begin to address the medium and long-term agenda".² However, the M23 rebel group, currently leading an offensive in eastern DRC, said in a statement that it is not participating in the scheduled discussions.

M23 rebels on 25 November agreed to a ceasefire deal after a summit of African leaders gave the group an ultimatum to stop fighting or face attack.³ Under the agreed ceasefire, which came into force on the evening of 25 November, the M23 group must withdraw from the large swaths of "occupied zones", failing which an East African regional force will intervene.⁴ However, security sources and rebels announced on 1 December that fighting with heavy weapons erupted between government forces and rebel insurgents in the eastern DRC, breaking the five-day-old truce.⁵ The United Nations (UN) peacekeeping mission in DRC, Mission de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour la stabilisation en République démocratique du Congo (MONUSCO) said on 7 December that the M23 rebel group had killed at least 131 civilians and raped more than 27 women and girls in the DRC in November.⁶ In the latest attack,

¹ East African Community, 6 Dec 2022

² East African Community, 6 Dec 2022

³ The East African, 25 Nov 2022

⁴ The East African, 25 Nov 2022

⁵ The East African, 1 Dec 2022

⁶ Bloomberg, 8 Dec 2022

the M23 rebels had kidnapped 60 people and injured eight civilians. The attacks reportedly took place on 29-30 November in the villages of **Bambo** and **Kishishe** in the eastern **Rutshuru** (North Kivu) territory amid clashes between the M23 and rival groups.⁷ The M23 called the UN report “fake” and denied the killings took place.⁸ A local resident told **Africa Risk Consulting (ARC)** that the M23 are “thugs” and “cannot be reasoned with”:

“These rebels only understand force. A regional force should already have been deployed against them. I find it ridiculous that the regional force will only act once the M23 has attacked civilians.”⁹

Conflict has ravaged the eastern DRC since the 1990s when violence in the aftermath of the 1994 **Rwandan** genocide spread across the border. Escalating tensions between the DRC and Rwanda have raised the possibility of renewed fighting between the two countries. Tensions reached an all-time high in June after a resurgence of violence in the eastern DRC at the end of May. The DRC accused Rwanda of supporting the M23 rebel group, which staged its largest offensive since 2013 between 23 and 27 May, igniting fresh diplomatic and security tensions.¹⁰ Rwanda denied the accusations, and instead accused the DRC of supporting armed groups that wish to topple its government (*see ARC Briefing DRC June, July, Aug, Oct & Nov 2022*). However, Congolese and UN experts claim the rebels have backing from Rwanda.¹¹ The Rwandese government has also accused the DRC of using an ethnic **Hutu**-dominated rebel group with links to the genocide, **Forces Démocratiques de Libération du Rwanda (FLDR)**, to fight the M23. The M23’s leadership is mainly made up of members of the DRC’s **Tutsi** community, who claim to be defending the people of Rwandan heritage in the country and fighting ethnic Hutu rebel groups accused of the 1994 genocide.

Participants in the latest ceasefire agreement reportedly reiterated the need for a cessation of hostilities, humanitarian access and the release of child soldiers.¹² This was announced at the end of the third session of the “**Inter-Congolese dialogue**”, which brought together for eight days in **Nairobi** (Kenya) representatives of about 50 armed groups, the government and civil society.¹³ Former Kenyan president and a facilitator of the Nairobi negotiations, **Uhuru Kenyatta** (2013-2022), said participants were pleased with the progress they had made:

“We are not saying that we have finished everything, but we have passed certain stages. I hope that when we meet again in Goma we can report on the progress on the points we agreed on here.”¹⁴

... as finance minister claims conflict is depleting budget surplus

Finance minister **Nicolas Kazadi** says the high cost of fighting the rebellion in the eastern region of the DRC is weighing on the country’s budget.¹⁵ Kazadi said in an interview on the sidelines of the **Africa Financial Industry Summit in Lome (Togo)** on 29 November that the DRC’s budget for “exceptional security expenses” has increased more than ten-fold due to the conflict with the M23 militant group, which has displaced more than 200,000 people.¹⁶ Kazadi added that the government has also spent more than \$400m subsidising high energy costs as a result of the conflict in **Ukraine** after budgeting only \$80m. However, the **International**

⁷ MONUSCO, 7 Dec 2022

⁸ Bloomberg, 8 Dec 2022

⁹ ARC Source, local resident

¹⁰ Reuters, 27 May 2022

¹¹ Bloomberg, 26 Oct 2022

¹² Africa News, 6 Dec 2022

¹³ Africa News, 6 Dec 2022

¹⁴ Channel Africa, 6 Dec 2022

¹⁵ Bloomberg, 3 Dec 2022

¹⁶ Bloomberg, 3 Dec 2022

Monetary Fund (IMF) stated on 21 November that windfall from DRC's mining activity, which led to a current account surplus through the first six months of 2022, has compensated for much of the unexpected expenditure, resulting in little impact on macroeconomic stability.¹⁷ The DRC is the world's largest producer of cobalt and the continent's largest source of copper.

Kazadi highlighted that the unforeseen costs from the conflict will not impact the budget for next year's election, and electoral expenditure should not affect the exchange rate of the Congolese franc to the **United States (US)** dollar.¹⁸ Kazadi said a ratings upgrade by US-headquartered credit ratings agency **Moody's Investors Service (Moody's)** in November and a positive review by the IMF (see below) demonstrate that the DRC economy is on a positive trajectory. Moody's upgraded the DRC's long-term local and foreign currency issuer ratings to B3 from Caa1 on 11 November and changed its outlook to stable from positive (see *ARC Briefing DRC Nov 2022*). Kazadi said the positive appraisals by Moody's and the IMF is "an encouraging sign", even though "the road is still long in terms of our ambitions".

Kazadi also said that the government is hopeful that the renegotiation of a \$6.2 billion minerals-for-infrastructure with **China** will lead to the construction of more road links connecting the east and west of the resource-rich country which is the continent's second-largest by landmass.¹⁹ The 2008 deal with China included \$3 billion in infrastructure projects; however, Kazadi said only a fraction has been constructed and the government is requesting that China meet the remaining \$2 billion on the contract:

*"We are barely at about \$1 billion in investments made under conditions that have not been deemed satisfactory by the Congolese party, both in terms of the control process and the cost."*²⁰

IMF reaches staff-level agreement with DRC on third review

The IMF announced on 21 November that its team had reached a staff-level agreement with the DRC on policies for the completion of the third review under the **Extended Credit Facility (ECF)** arrangement.²¹ The agreement followed a visit to **Kinshasa** from 19 October to 2 November led by IMF mission chief **Mercedes Vera Martin** and is subject to approval by the IMF management and consideration by the Executive Board, which is expected this month. Completion of the review will make available to the DRC SDR152.3m (about \$200m) for balance-of-payment support.

Martin stated that the DRC's gross domestic product (GDP) is showing resilience, with growth forecasted at 6.6% in 2022 anchored by higher-than-projected mining production.²² The IMF forecasts domestic inflation to exceed 12% by the end of 2022 due to higher global energy and food prices exacerbated by the conflict in Ukraine and supply chain bottlenecks. The DRC's current account also reached a surplus in the first half of the year, driven by strong exports. By the end of October, the country's gross international reserves reached about two months of imports, well above the objective at the start of the ECF arrangement.²³ The IMF projects the DRC's fiscal balance at 1.1% of GDP, in line with programme commitments, despite the escalating conflict in the eastern provinces, increased outlays in ministries and public institutions and arrears repayment to fuel distributors.

¹⁷ Bloomberg, 3 Dec 2022; International Monetary Fund, 21 Nov 2022

¹⁸ Bloomberg, 3 Dec 2022

¹⁹ Bloomberg, 3 Dec 2022

²⁰ Bloomberg, 3 Dec 2022

²¹ International Monetary Fund, 21 Nov 2022

²² International Monetary Fund, 21 Nov 2022

²³ International Monetary Fund, 21 Nov 2022

The IMF highlighted that the DRC's outlook remains positive and projects growth at 6.3% in 2023 despite domestic policy tightening and the global slowdown, which is expected to weigh on growth.²⁴ In the medium term, the outlook remains favourable, supported by proactive reform efforts and expanding mining production. However, the IMF warns that the domestic economy is still highly vulnerable to shocks that have created a challenging backdrop for economic policymaking. These include higher inflation, the conflict in the eastern provinces, volatile international commodity prices, global slowdown in growth and tighter external financing conditions.²⁵ The IMF encourages DRC authorities to remain vigilant and sustain key reforms to address structural obstacles to growth, including

*“prudent policies to bring down inflation, strengthen fiscal and foreign exchange buffers [to] reinforce macroeconomic stability and enhance resilience”.*²⁶

US signs MoU with DRC and Zambia for cobalt supply chains

The governments of the DRC and **Zambia** signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on 13 December with the US for the development of electric vehicle supply chains in their countries.²⁷ The MoU was signed on the sidelines of the **US-Africa Leaders Summit** in **Washington D.C.** by US secretary of state **Antony Blinken**, DRC foreign minister **Christophe Lutundula** and his Zambian counterpart, **Stanley Kakubo**.²⁸ While the exact details of the agreement are still unknown or unclear, it reportedly involves the refining of cobalt, which is a critical mineral used in the manufacture of electric vehicle batteries.²⁹

The DRC and Zambia are the two largest cobalt producers in the world and there has been a serious concern in the US that 80% of global cobalt refining takes place in China after being imported from the two African countries.³⁰ Both countries have long called for support to develop and bolster refining capacity. While **Beijing** has supported such refining initiatives in **Indonesia** and **Zimbabwe**, it has thus far avoided similar pressure from the DRC and Zambia.³¹ While the MoU is not binding, the **US State Department** says it reflects a new “*whole government*” strategy by the **Joseph Biden** (2021-present) administration to counter Chinese influence in the critical mineral sector by involving several US government agencies including the **US Exim Bank**, the **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)** and the **Development Finance Corporation (DFC)**.³²

DRC calls for compensation to cease oil drilling in peatlands

DRC's vice prime minister for environment, **Eve Bazaiba**, says the DRC must be compensated if it decides to halt plans for gas and oil drilling in the world's largest tropical peatlands.³³ Bazaiba was speaking at the launch of a global peatlands mapping programme at the **COP27** international climate conference in **Egypt** on 17 November, which focussed on the role played by global carbon emissions in climate change.

DRC's tropical peatlands reportedly store three years of annual global carbon emissions and the country is home to one in five species found on the planet.³⁴ The resource-rich African country has drawn widespread criticism and a plea from the US special presidential envoy for climate

²⁴ International Monetary Fund, 21 Nov 2022

²⁵ International Monetary Fund, 21 Nov 2022

²⁶ International Monetary Fund, 21 Nov 2022

²⁷ United States State Department, 13 Dec 2022

²⁸ United States State Department, 13 Dec 2022

²⁹ China Global South Project, 14 Dec 2022

³⁰ China Global South Project, 14 Dec 2022

³¹ China Global South Project, 14 Dec 2022

³² United States State Department, 13 Dec 2022; China Global South Project, 14 Dec 2022

³³ Bloomberg, 17 Nov 2022

³⁴ Bloomberg, 17 Nov 2022

John Kerry over its plans to tap the area in the **Congo Basin** tropical forest for oil and gas. Responding to those criticisms, Bazaiba said it is not fair for the DRC to continue importing oil at high prices and with poor quality and “*yet we have oil under our feet*”.³⁵ She said if the world wants the DRC to preserve the peatlands,

*“Where is the compensation? That’s a question of ethics and morals.”*³⁶

Scientists across the world have increasingly highlighted the significance of peatlands in slowing climate change because of their ability to store carbon rather than release it into the atmosphere.³⁷ Despite only covering 3% of the earth’s land surface, peatlands store about one third of its soil carbon. A study by **Netherlands**-based climate advisory **Climate Focus** revealed in November that the world’s second-largest tropical rainforest, located in the DRC, was chopped down at a faster rate in 2021, threatening to disrupt its role in cooling the planet.³⁸ The study showed that the pace of deforestation in the Congo Basin increased by 5% in 2021 overall. The lead author of the report, **Marion Ferrat**, said on 10 November that DRC is “*at a crossroads*” and that if the trend continues,

*“we risk losing the largest remaining intact forest in the tropics along with its immense and irreplaceable value for biodiversity, climate, and people”.*³⁹

A report released by the **US Department of Commerce** on 14 December revealed that the DRC has proven reserves of 180 million barrels of crude oil, although estimates of total petroleum reserves exceed 5 billion barrels.⁴⁰ Other independent media estimate that some regions in the DRC could have as much as 16 billion barrels of untapped crude reserves.⁴¹ However, Congolese oil production is currently limited to the **Coastal Basin**, yielding a comparatively low production rate ranging between 20,000 and 25,000 barrels per day of offshore production, all of which is exported.⁴² Exploiting those untapped resources could prove extremely profitable for the DRC and even the US Department of Commerce states in its report that

*“there is room for American firms with onshore and offshore engineering and operational experience in complex and fragile environments to establish a foothold in the DRC”.*⁴³

After the DRC cabinet approved auction of oil blocks in the peats in May, environmental group **Greenpeace Africa** warned that opening the Congo Basin to oil companies would have “*cataclysmic consequences for the global climate and local communities*”.⁴⁴ Protecting the wetlands and the wider Congo Basin tropical rainforest was also the subject of one of the landmark agreements of the **COP26** climate conference in **Glasgow (Scotland)** in 2021. Under the deal with the **Central African Forest Initiative**, the DRC will receive funding totalling \$500m over five years, provided it meets agreed milestones.⁴⁵ However, the DRC seems willing to break the pact, as it could earn billions from the wetlands which possess millions of untapped energy resources. Bazaiba’s views echo arguments by several African leaders who say their developmental plans are being held hostage by developed countries responsible for the majority of global emissions.

³⁵ News24, 20 Nov 2022

³⁶ News24, 20 Nov 2022; Bloomberg, 17 Nov 2022

³⁷ Bloomberg, 17 Nov 2022

³⁸ Climate Focus, 10 Nov 2022

³⁹ Climate Focus, 10 Nov 2022

⁴⁰ United States Department of Commerce, 14 Dec 2022

⁴¹ Bloomberg, 8 Jun 2022

⁴² United States Department of Commerce, 14 Dec 2022

⁴³ United States Department of Commerce, 14 Dec 2022

⁴⁴ Climate Homes News, 3 May 2022

⁴⁵ Bloomberg, 8 Jun 2022

Key issues for 2023

As DRC enters an election year, the government faces both challenges and opportunities. High on its agenda is the need to resolve the conflict with the rebel groups in eastern DRC and address the humanitarian crisis that the conflict has caused. On the economic front, the government needs to contain inflation, which has the potential to create discontent and unrest among its population of roughly 90 million people. Inflation was recorded at 12.19% in October and could accelerate if already high global energy and food prices are exacerbated by the conflict in Ukraine and supply chain bottlenecks.

DRC's vast mineral wealth continues to offer opportunities among burgeoning demand for copper and cobalt. However, while possessing some of the largest reserves of untapped crude in the world, the DRC is under heavy international pressure to protect its peatlands and rainforests from oil drilling and mining. Prime minister **Jean-Michel Sama Lukonde** stated on 22 November that he seeks a review of the 2008 minerals-for-infrastructure contract with China, which includes the **Sicomines** copper-cobalt mining project, ideally by the end of 2022.

The government also needs to manage the devastating effects of recent heavy flooding. Widespread floods and landslides caused by heavy rains in Kinshasa have killed at least 100 people and injured dozens. Poorly regulated rapid urbanisation has made Kinshasa increasingly vulnerable to flash floods after intense rains, which are becoming more frequent due to climate change.⁴⁶ Finding structural solutions to rapid urbanisation will reduce occurrences of such damage; however, this is a long-term project.

DRC has fared well under Tshisekedi's leadership in 2022, as highlighted by the IMF and Moody's. Tshisekedi has also done well to integrate the DRC into the EAC, which has expanded trade opportunities and provided the government access to a regional force to challenge the M23 rebel group. However, if not handled well, tensions with Rwanda could blow up into a regional crisis.

While it may be too early to predict the outcome of the December 2023 election, the run-up to the election is likely to see significant tension given the animosity with former president **Joseph Kabila** (2001-2019) who still holds immense influence in the country and parliament. Business could be in for a bumpy ride in 2023 amid higher insecurity and domestic instability.

⁴⁶ News24, 13 Dec 2022

Planner

Dec 2023 **(DRC)** Scheduled presidential and parliamentary elections;

20 Dec 2024 **Kinshasa (DRC)** End date of peacekeeping mission **Mission de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour la stabilisation en République démocratique du Congo (MONUSCO)**;

Chronology

14 Dec 2022 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *The East African*. President **Félix Tshisekedi**, who is attending the **United States-Africa** summit, declares three days of national mourning as the death toll from floods in **Kinshasa** reaches 141;

14 Dec 2022 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *The East African*. The **M23** rebel group says it met with officials of the national army, the **United Nations Stabilisation Mission in Congo (MONUSCO)**, the **Enlarged Joint Regional Verification Mechanism (EJVM)** and the **East African Regional Force (EACRF)** on 12 December in readiness for peace talks and is waiting “for the next meeting to be held”;

13 Dec 2022 **United States (Washington)** *EWN*. President **Félix Tshisekedi** joins the **United States (US)** in blaming climate change for major floods that have claimed over 100 lives in **Kinshasa**;

13 Dec 2022 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *All Africa*. The **Ugandan** army says its troops killed 11 members of the **Allied Democratic Forces (ADF)** rebel group and captured eight ADF fighters when they tried to enter Uganda from the DRC;

13 Dec 2022 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *Bloomberg*. Widespread floods and landslides caused by heavy rains in **Kinshasa** have killed at least 100 people and injured dozens;

12 Dec 2022 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *Reuters*. Congolese **Nobel** laureate **Denis Mukwege** calls for the **United Nations (UN)** to issue sanctions against **Rwanda** for its alleged support of the **M23** rebel group in eastern DRC;

10 Dec 2022 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *United Nations*. **United Nations (UN)** secretary-general **António Guterres** welcomes the DRC government’s decision to investigate recent deadly attacks allegedly committed by the **M23** rebel group;

9 Dec 2022 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *Vodacom Congo*. The DRC seals parts of **South African** telecommunications company **Vodacom**’s offices and freezes its bank accounts in DRC over a tax dispute relating to an audit for the years 2016-2019 that found Vodacom Congo owed \$243m;

8 Dec 2022 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *The East African*. The **European Union (EU)** council issues fresh sanctions on eight new individuals, including five members of armed groups operating in **North Kivu, South Kivu** and **Ituri** in eastern DRC and **M23** rebel group spokesperson **Willy Ngoma**;

8 Dec 2022 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *Bloomberg*. The **M23** rebel group denies **United Nations (UN)** claims that it killed at least 131 civilians and raped more than 27 women and girls in the DRC in November;

7 Dec 2022 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *African News*. **East African Community (EAC)** announces that armed groups and the DRC government will hold peace talks in January in the eastern region of the country, following three previous meetings in **Kenya**;

5 Dec 2022 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *Bloomberg*. **Swiss** multinational commodity trading and mining company **Glencore Plc** agrees to pay the DRC \$180m to cover all claims arising from any

alleged acts of corruption by the company between 2007 and 2018, including activities under investigation by the **United States (US) Department of Justice** and the DRC's **National Financial Intelligence (NFI)** Unit and ministry of justice;

5 Dec 2022 **Kishishe (DRC)** *Al Jazeera*. Industry minister **Julien Paluku** says 272 civilians were killed in a massacre in the eastern town of **Kishishe** in the previous week, raising the death toll from a previous estimate of 50;

3 Dec 2022 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *Bloomberg*. Finance minister **Nicolas Kazadi** says the high cost of fighting a rebellion in the eastern DRC is weighing on the country's budget, but higher-than-expected mining revenue has limited its fiscal impact;

2 Dec 2022 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *The East African*. The Apostolic Nuncio to the DRC Monsignor, **Ettore Balestrero**, says **Pope Francis** will in early 2023 visit the DRC and **South Sudan** on an ecumenical pilgrimage of peace;

2 Dec 2022 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *Bloomberg*. According to a settlement agreement, the DRC will pay **Israeli** billionaire **Dan Gertler** more than \$250m to resolve a dispute over two oil blocks;

1 Dec 2022 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *The East African*. The national army accuses **M23** insurgents of killing 50 civilians and breaching a five-day-old truce in the country's restive east;

1 Dec 2022 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *Africa News*. The DRC government criticises **Rwanda's** President **Paul Kagame** for his remarks accusing his Congolese counterpart, **Felix Tshisekedi**, of exploiting the violence in eastern DRC to delay elections;

1 Dec 2022 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *The East African*. Security sources and **M23** rebels say that fighting with heavy weapons erupted between government forces and rebel insurgents in the eastern DRC, shaking a five-day-old truce;

30 Nov 2022 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *The East African*. The DRC government reiterates that it will not offer amnesty to the **M23** group, which continues to defy calls for cessation of hostilities and exit from **Bunagana, Rutshuru** and **Kiwanja**;

25 Nov 2022 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *The East African*. **M23** rebels fighting in the eastern DRC agree to a ceasefire deal after a summit of **African** leaders gave the group an ultimatum to stop fighting or face attack, and in terms of the ceasefire will withdraw from 'occupied zones', failing which an **East African** regional force will intervene;

24 Nov 2022 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *The East African*. The **M23** rebel group says that a ceasefire announced a day earlier "doesn't really concern us" while calling for direct dialogue with the DRC government;

24 Nov 2022 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *Bloomberg*. A summit of **African** leaders orders the **M23** rebel group in the eastern DRC to cease hostilities or face attack by a regional military force;

22 Nov 2022 **New York (United States)** *United Nations*. The **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** strongly condemns the resumption of attacks by the **M23** rebel group in **North Kivu** and its advances toward the city of **Goma** and in other areas, which are worsening security and stability in the region and exacerbating the humanitarian situation;

22 Nov 2022 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *Bloomberg*. Prime minister **Jean-Michel Sama Lukonde** says the DRC wants a mining deal it signed with **China** in 2008 to be reworked, with a view to securing all the funding that was pledged for infrastructure projects and a share of windfall profits, including the **Sicomines** copper-cobalt mining project, ideally by year-end;

21 Nov 2022 **Washington (United States)** *International Monetary Fund*. **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** staff reach a staff-level agreement with the DRC on the third review under the extended credit facility;

21 Nov 2022 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *Reuters*. **Uganda** will send 1,000 troops to the DRC by the end of November to join a regional force mandated to help end decades of instability;

18 Nov 2022 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *Aljazeera*. **Kenya's** former president, **Uhuru Kenyatta**, and **Rwandan** leader **Paul Kagame** agree on the need for **M23** rebels to cease fire and withdraw from captured territories in the eastern DRC;

17 Nov 2022 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *Bloomberg*. Vice prime minister for environment **Eve Bazaiba** says the DRC must be compensated if it decides to halt plans for gas and oil drilling in the world's largest tropical peatlands, which store three years of annual global carbon emissions.

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