

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

Côte d'Ivoire Monthly Briefing August 2026

Côte d'Ivoire Summary 20 August 2026

President Alassane Ouattara (2010-present) and his Mauritanian counterpart, Mohamed Ould Cheikh El Ghazouani (2019-present), meet on 11 August to discuss closer cooperation, specifically in the area of regional security. Mines, oil and energy minister Mamadou Sangafowa-Coulibaly confirms Côte d'Ivoire will build its second oil refinery in the port city of San Pedro. Its capacity will be triple that of the existing refinery in Abidjan and should meet both domestic and regional demand for oil products, increase energy self-sufficiency, create jobs and ultimately help bring down energy prices for Ivorian households. Transport officials from Mali and Côte d'Ivoire meet in Abidjan to confirm and reinforce the efficient flow of goods and merchandise between Mali and Côte d'Ivoire, worth at least \$1.75 billion.

Mauritania and Côte d'Ivoire agree on deepening their cooperation

Mauritania's President **Mohamed Ould Cheikh El Ghazouani** (2019-present) arrived in Côte d'Ivoire on 11 August for a 24-hour [visit](#), holding talks with President **Alassane Ouattara** (2010-present) at the presidential palace in **Abidjan** on a variety of areas of cooperation, with a main issue on [security](#). Also present at the meeting [was](#) Ouattara's younger brother, vice prime minister and defence minister **Téné Birahima Ouattara**.

Both countries share a border with **Mali**, where there exists a constant threat of Islamist extremism and terrorism and from where refugees have crossed the border into their countries. Mauritania [is host](#) to an estimated 300,000 refugees from Mali; Côte d'Ivoire hosts far fewer but has a significant refugee population from similarly affected **Burkina Faso**. Even though they are members of two different regional configurations - the **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)** in Côte d'Ivoire's case and the **Arab Maghreb Union (UMA)** in Mauritania's case - they share similar security concerns, including cross-border crime and the threat of terrorism.

Significantly, both Côte d'Ivoire and Mauritania have succeeded in halting the threat of terrorist violence in their countries, even though both were affected in the recent past. Mauritania has [not seen an attack](#) since 2011 and Côte d'Ivoire not since 2021, owing to a combination of human intelligence, law enforcement, development programmes and – in the case of Mauritania – engaging mosques to prevent radicalisation of (especially) its young population.

The two presidents at a press conference after their meeting [concluded](#) that there was “a convergence of views” between them on what the most pressing problems of the **West African** region are, with security at the top of the list. The two agreed to hold regular consultations on the regional security situation.

San Pedro to host Côte d'Ivoire's second oil refinery

Mines, oil and energy minister **Mamadou Sangafowa-Coulibaly** [confirmed](#) on 26 July that the site for the country's second oil refinery was going to be the port city of **San Pedro**, in the west of Côte d'Ivoire. The choice for San Pedro has come about as a result of a [government drive](#) to geographically diversify economic activity, decongest **Abidjan** where there is a [shortage](#) of land still [available](#) for industrial purposes, and meet rapidly growing domestic demand by increasing the output of petrol products. The country currently has one [60-year-old refinery](#) in **Vridi**, the port and industry area in Abidjan.

More broadly, the reasons for a second refinery include the ongoing discovery and exploitation of offshore [oilfields](#) like **Baleine** and **Caloa** and a drive to [achieve](#) energy sovereignty, the need to create jobs at the future refinery and many adjacent industries (transport, logistics, maintenance, new industries). The government also wishes to [lower](#) prices of oil products for Ivorian households, which becomes possible when more of these are produced domestically. There is also the [regional market](#) to consider, where neighbouring countries like **Guinea** and **Liberia** have no refinery capacity and face growing demand, while landlocked **Mali** and **Burkina Faso** continue to rely on supplies through coastal ports like **Dakar (Senegal)** and Abidjan for their fuel supplies.

The new refinery, which will take at least four years to build, will [take in](#) crude from the Baleine offshore oilfield, which is jointly run by **Italy's ENI** and state-owned **Petroci**. Its [capacity](#) is projected to be 170,000 barrels per day, triple the existing facility in Abidjan. The new \$5 billion project is the result of a memorandum of understanding that the state-owned **Société ivoirienne de raffinage (SIR)** signed with the **United States (US)**-based **Yaatra Ventures**. It replaces an [earlier effort](#) former president **Laurent Gbagbo's** government (2000-2010) attempted with the **Venezuelan** operator **Arevenca**, which had to be abandoned in 2009.

Adjacent to the refinery, the state enterprise responsible for oil stocks, **Société de gestion des stocks pétroliers de Côte d'Ivoire (GESTOCI)** [will build](#) a storage facility capable of holding 40,000 cubic metres, contributing to the [transformation](#) of San Pedro from the world's premier cocoa exporting port to what should ultimately become a regional energy platform.

Côte d'Ivoire and Mali meet for talks on logistical improvements

In a bid to further streamline the flow of goods between Côte d'Ivoire and Mali, Mali's shippers council, **Conseil Malien des Chargeurs (CMC)**, president **Bakissima Sylla** visited Abidjan to [meet](#) with **Autonomous Port of Abidjan** director **Kassoum Traoré**. Abidjan's seaport is one of the most important [ports of entry](#) for goods destined to landlocked Mali; it is also a major [export hub](#) for commercial goods from Mali, including lithium and cotton.

Mali is Côte d'Ivoire's premier commercial client on the continent. In 2024, the [value](#) of goods leaving Côte d'Ivoire for Mali was an estimated \$1.75 billion, principally consisting of petrol products that are either exported or re-exported. Notably, the ongoing conflict in Mali and the Malian junta's intermittent hostility towards Côte d'Ivoire has not affected the size of the trade.

To illustrate the point, Sylla [thanked](#) Ouattara for keeping the Ivorian transport corridors open to goods in and out of Mali. At the end of March 2026, the Ivorian authorities ended the requirement that goods destined for Mali or Burkina Faso coming into Abidjan had to be cleared by the customs authorities of these countries first before being inspected by the Ivorian authorities. As of 31 March, this extra step is no longer required, thanks to the availability of [digital platforms](#) that now do that part of processing documents. Without mentioning concrete future measures, Traoré and Sylla said they would continue to work towards an ever more seamless transit of goods between the two countries, with the port of Abidjan as its principal hub.

As a private sector contribution to this, the **France**-headquartered **Africa Global Logistics** [announced](#) in April the opening of a new multimodal transport corridor, which links Abidjan to Bamako through a railway connection via **Bobo Dioulasso** in Burkina Faso, in close collaboration with the customs services of all three countries. Like Mali, landlocked Burkina Faso is another [major client](#) for goods coming through Côte d'Ivoire, with a value of close to \$817m in 2024.

Planner

8-10 Sep 2026 (**Côte d'Ivoire**) **Salon international de l'énergie, de l'électricité et des technologies en Côte d'Ivoire** (power and electricity expo)

5 – 7 Oct 2026(**Côte d'Ivoire**) **Journées foncières d'Abidjan** (Abidjan land days) exchanges at state level on securing legally enforceable land rights and land ownership

3 – 6 Nov 2026 (Côte d'Ivoire) Africa Agri Forum

18-22 Nov 2026 (Côte d'Ivoire) Second edition of **Salon Internationale des Ressources Extractives et Energétiques (SIREXE)** (international exhibition of extractive and energy resources)

Chronology

18 Aug 2026 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Sika Finance*. **Société Ivoirienne des Tabacs (SITAB)**, the Ivorian tobacco company, reports a stable net profit of 18 billion FCFA (\$31.8m) in Q2 2026 despite increased business activity;

17 Aug 2026 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *News Abidjan*. Gendarmerie reports it cleared 1,114 illegal gold-mining sites and arrested 1,531 people between January and July 2026 as part of intensified efforts to combat illegal mining;

13 Aug 2026 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Fratmat*. During an official visit to Côte d'Ivoire, **World Health Organisation (WHO)** director general **Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus** commends the country's health sector progress and pledges support to establish it as a regional health hub;

10 Aug 2026 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Sika Finance*. **Canada's** development finance institution, **FinDev Canada**, invests \$46.2m in Côte d'Ivoire's **NSIA Banque** to expand financial inclusion and strengthen the bank's climate resilience;

10 Aug 2026 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Sika Finance*. **Australian** company **Skylark Minerals** acquires 100% control of the **Vavoua gold project** in Côte d'Ivoire, consolidating its ownership of the mining asset;

6 Aug 2026 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Sika Finance*. Government approves three projects with a combined capacity of 735 MW to strengthen electricity supply and improve the reliability of the national grid;

5 Aug 2026 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Fratmat*. **Coffee-Cocoa Council (CCC)** completes its purchase of 100,000 tonnes of cocoa beans at a guaranteed price of 2,800 FCFA (\$5) per kilogramme, a measure introduced to support producers amid a collapse in global cocoa prices;

4 Aug 2026 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *Fratmat*. The heads of the **Port Autonome d'Abidjan** and the **Conseil Malien des Chargeurs** (Malian shippers council) meet to strengthen cooperation on improving the transit of goods from Côte d'Ivoire to Mali, with a focus on making logistics more efficient for the landlocked country;

31 Jul 2026 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Abidjan Net*. Côte d'Ivoire awards outgoing **Agence Française de Développement (AFD)** (French development agency) director **Adrien Hays** National Order in recognition of his four years of support for the country's development, during which the AFD mobilised €934m (\$1.09 billion) in financing and signed nearly €500m (\$585m) in new sovereign loan agreements;

27 Jul 2026 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Fratmat*. Foreign minister **Nialé Kaba** holds talks with **Canada's** ambassador **Sandra Choufani** on enhancing bilateral cooperation as Côte d'Ivoire seeks to expand its international presence;

27 Jul 2026 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Sika Finance*. Côte d'Ivoire confirms that its second oil refinery will be built in **San Pedro**, with a capacity of 170,000 barrels per day;

27 Jul 2026 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Sika Finance*. Côte d'Ivoire's state-owned **PETROCI Holding** takes over operations of the **Espoir** oil field, strengthening the government's role in managing the country's hydrocarbon resources;

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