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THE CENTRAL AFRICA REPORT



Detailed Report Focusing on Security, Domestic News and
Developments that Impact the Central African Region

*Angola – Cameroon – Central African Republic – Chad- Republic of Congo –
Democratic Republic of the Congo – Equatorial Guinea – Gabon – São Tomé and
Príncipe*

JUNE 30 – JULY 13, 2014

About MS Risk

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 - Special Assignments
- Crisis Response
 - Crisis Response
 - Business continuity management
 - Hostile operations support to commercial interests
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References are always available.

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The Central Africa Report ~ Summary

June 30 – July 13, 2014



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Cameroon

- **12 July 2014** – Boko Haram militants have carried out a hit-and-run attack on a military post located in northern Cameroon.

Central African Republic

On the Ground Reporting

- **12 July 2014** – On Saturday, former CAR president Michel Djotodia, who also led the rebel Seleka militia that swept him to power early last year, was renamed head of the movement.
- **8 July 2014** – In the wake of emerging reports indicating that fresh fighting in the CAR has killed at least twenty civilians, France's defence minister, who is currently on an official visit to the CAR, has urged rival factions to reach a truce.
- **7 July 2014** – At the start of a visit to the former French colony, France's defence minister warned Monday that violence in the CAR was becoming "more serious."
 - Catholic Church officials reported Monday that rebel fighters and armed Muslim civilians have killed "many" people in an attack on a church compound in the central region of the country.
- **5 July 2014** – Police officials have reported that Ugandan troops have killed at least fifteen former rebels from the CAR after mistaking them for fighters of the notorious Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

Domestic News

- **11 July 2014** – On Friday, key political and religious groups in the CAR threatened to boycott upcoming peace talks in neighbouring Republic of Congo, stating that their country's future should be resolved at home.
- **9 July 2014** – In the wake of death of twenty-six civilians, who were seeking shelter at a church, interim CAR President Catherine Samba Panza has accused militias of "barbaric and criminal" acts.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Regional Reporting

- **6 July 2014** – Ugandan troops have killed forty-one gunmen in a major battle with tribal gunmen that occurred near the border with the DRC.

International Developments

- **9 July 2014** – The White House announced Tuesday that the US will expand its sanctions on groups in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- **2 July 2014** – Diplomats have confirmed that the UN Security Council has decided to place sanctions on Ugandan rebel group, Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), which has members that are active in the eastern DRC.

Central Africa Report ~ Security Summary

Angola – MS Risk advises against all but essential travel to certain regions of Angola. Specifically, we advise against all but essential travel to the provinces of Cabinda, Lunda Norte and Lunda Sul. There is currently a low threat from terrorism.

Cameroon – MS Risk advises against all travel to the North and Far North Regions of Cameroon.

Central African Republic – MS Risk advises against all travel to the Central African Republic

Chad - MS Risk advises against all travel to the following areas: areas within 30 kilometers (18 miles) of the border with Libya, Nigeria, Niger and the Central African Republic; areas bordering Lake Chad, including the regions of Kanem and Lac to the west of the towns of Mao and Bol; areas within 30 kilometers (18 miles) of Cameroon from Lake Chad as far as Léré; the regions of Sila, Wadi Fira, Ennedi and Tibesti; the region of Ouaddaï except the town of Abéché; the region of Borkou except within 30km of the town of Faya Largeau. MS Risk also advises against all but essential travel to all remaining parts of the country, including the towns of Faya Largeau in Borkou region and Abéché in Ouaddaï region. Currently, MS Risk does not have any travel advisory for the capital city, N'Djamena.

Republic of Congo - MS Risk currently advises against all travel to the Likouala province. This is due to a large influx of displaced people coming in from neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The UNHCR currently estimates that there are around 110,000 refugees in Likouala province. MS Risk also advises against all but essential travel to the Pool region. There is currently a low level of terrorism in the Republic of the Congo.

Democratic Republic of the Congo - MS Risk advises against all travel to eastern and north-eastern DRC, including Goma. The only exception to this is the town of Bukavu, to which MS Risk advises against all but essential travel. MS Risk currently advises against all but essential travel to the remainder of the DRC. There is currently a low threat from terrorism.

Equatorial Guinea - There are currently no travel advisories for Equatorial Guinea

Gabon - There are currently no travel advisories for Gabon.

São Tomé and Príncipe - There are currently no travel advisories for Sao Tome and Principe. However due to the current political situation, coupled with fears of a possible military coup, MS Risk advises all travellers to the country to remain vigilant and to monitor reporting on the political situation.

Angola

Security Summary ~ MS Risk advises against all but essential travel to certain regions of Angola. Specifically, we advise against all but essential travel to the provinces of Cabinda, Lunda Norte and Lunda Sul. There is currently a low threat from terrorism. We advise that all international companies and organizations operating throughout Angola have strict security rules and regulations for their staff.

Luanda

There is a high level of crime in Luanda. Muggings, particularly to steal mobile telephones and other valuables, as well as armed robberies can occur in any area at any time during the day and night. It is advised that you avoid wearing jewelry or watches in public places. Do not change or withdraw large sums of money in busy public areas. Areas that are popular with foreigners are particularly targeted. You should avoid walking around Luanda, especially after dark.

Theft from slow-moving or stationary cars is common, especially in central Luanda. It is advised to keep valuables out of sight and do not use mobiles or laptops while in traffic. When driving, we warn if another car signals you to pull over. Thieves use the pretext of a minor traffic incident to get you out of your car in order to either steal the vehicle or rob you. A high proportion of the civilian population is armed.



If you choose to travel outside Luanda, and the provincial capitals, it is advised that you do so in the company of persons or organizations experience in local conditions as conditions can be difficult. There is a widespread of poverty, social exclusion and disease.

Cabinda Province

MS Risk advises against all but essential travel to Cabinda Province. There are regular violent incidents, including rape, murder and kidnappings that involve foreigners and Angolans. Groups claiming responsibility for these attacks have declared their intention to continue attacks against foreigners.

Lunda Norte and Lunda Sul

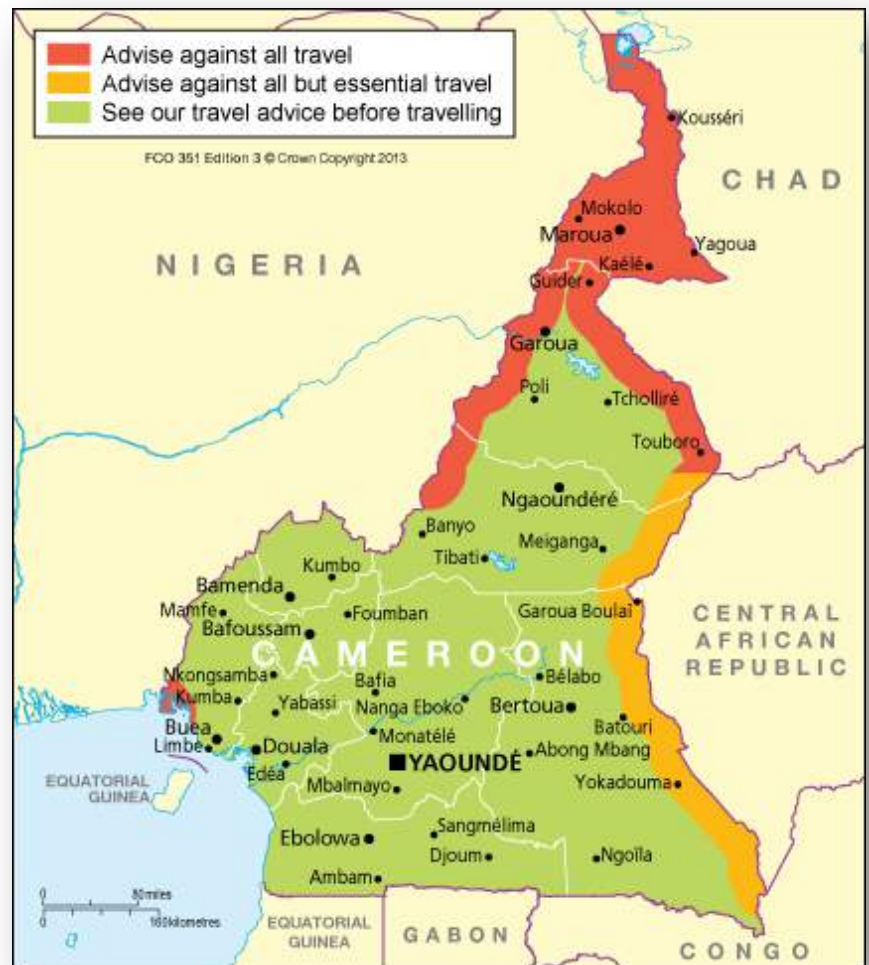
MS Risk advises against all but essential travel to the provinces of Lunda Norte and Lunda Sul. Angolan authorities are sensitive to the presence of foreigners in the diamond producing areas. Consequently all travellers to the region may be subjected to movement restrictions or detention by security forces.

The presence of diamonds also increases the threat of crime and banditry, particularly on roads that lead to and from these areas. Armed hold-ups do occur from time to time.

Cameroon

***Executive Summary** ~ Following a deadly attack on a border police station, Cameroonian officials have partially closed a border crossing between Cameroon and Chad. Traffic has been authorized on the bridge, which straddles the Logoon River between Chad and Cameroon however local officials are warning that waiting times to cross the bridge may be long.*

With the kidnapping of two Italian priests and one Canadian nun during the early morning hours of 5 April 2014, MS Risk advises against all travel to the North and Far North regions of Cameroon. The threat of kidnapping and hostage taking remains high at this time, with further such incidents likely to occur. While officials in Nigeria have requested Cameroon to increase security along the shared border between these two countries, the border regions continue to be porous and remain a safe haven for Boko Haram militants seeking shelter from the ongoing military operation in northern Nigeria.



The killing of a Cameroonian police officer on 19 August has prompted officials in Cameroon to close its border with the Central African Republic (CAR). The death of the officer occurred after a number of Seleka fighters crossed over the border into Cameroon, where they were stopped by officers patrolling the border region. Despite being escorted over the border, the fighters returned and attacked the police. It is currently not known how long the border will be closed. Consequently MS Risk advises against all travel to the border regions with the CAR as it is highly likely that militant groups and pro-Seleka fighters may be patrolling the areas and may at times

attempt to cross into Cameroon. On 14 May 2013, the Government of Nigeria declared a state of emergency in the states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe. Both Adamawa and Borno border Cameroon's far North, North and Adamaoua provinces. It is possible that military operations there might have an impact across the border in Cameroon. MS RISK advises against all travel to the Bakassi Peninsula as well as within 20km of the border with Nigeria in the Ndian Division of the South West Province. We also advise against all travel to within 40km of the border with Chad in the North and Far North Provinces. This is due to a heightened risk of banditry and armed poachers in Bouba Ndjidda National Park in the North Province. There is currently a travel advisory north of Maroula in the Far North Province resulting from the heightened threat of armed banditry and other threats associated with the borders of Chad and Nigeria. The Government of Cameroon is expected to cut fuel subsidies in the near future, which may cause strikes and civil unrest throughout the country. Finally, there have been attacks on commercial shipping vessels in the Gulf of Guinea, including the coastline of Cameroon around the port of Douala. Vessels travelling throughout this area have been advised to exercise extreme caution.

On the Ground Reporting

- **12 July 2014** – Boko Haram militants have carried out a hit-and-run attack on a military post located in northern Cameroon. According to local media reports, on Friday armed militants opened fire on soldiers stationed in the border town of Bonderi, which is located in Cameroon's Far North region. One Cameroonian soldier and a number of militants were wounded in the exchange of gunfire, which lasted for about half-an-hour. The militants reportedly later fled back to Nigeria following the cross-border raid. This is the second such attack by Boko Haram militants in the region over the past few days. On July 8, militants attacked a border post in the town of Zina, taking away vehicles, guns and ammunition.

Central African Republic

Security Summary ~ MS Risk advises against all travel to the Central African Republic (CAR). Despite French troops deploying into CAR in early December, the situation throughout the country has continued to deteriorate. There have been reports of rebel activity, banditry and hostage-taking across the country. The situation in the capital, Bangui, remains fragile with reports of continued isolated killings, looting and gunfire. There is also an underlying threat from terrorism. Attacks can be indiscriminate, including in places that are visited by foreigners. The official curfew in the CAR is from 8PM to 5AM.

Despite the French military intervention, Operation Sangaris, being launched in early December, security throughout the CAR remains unstable. MS Risk strongly advises you not to travel around Bangui after dark. At other times, it is advised that you take extreme care, and travel in groups if possible. There are armed patrols at night in Bangui and you may encounter several roadblocks, both official and unofficial, that are likely to be manned by armed personnel. We advise that you take particular care when approaching these.



Crime

Incidents of theft and robbery occur regularly. Armed gangs are known to operate in the outlying areas of Bangui. You are advised to take personal security precautions and be vigilant in public places at all times. Avoid carrying valuables or wearing jewelry in public. Do not walk alone at night and avoid any isolated or poorer areas.

On the Ground Reporting

- **12 July 2014** – On Saturday, former CAR president Michel Djotodia, who also led the rebel Seleka militia that swept him to power early last year, was renamed head of the movement. According to a source close to the Seleka, “as well as the continuation of Djotodia, the former second- and third-in-command, Nourredine Adam and Mohammed Moussa Dhaffane, were reappointed during the general assembly.” In January 2014, under strong international pressure for his failure to rein in rogue-ex rebels, Djotodia fled power, a move that effectively opened the door for elections to take place, which have since led to the formation of an interim government led by President Catherine Panza Samba. Djotodia is currently subject to US and UN sanctions, as is Seleka’s second-in-command Adam, and former president Francois Bozize. The Seleka rebel group, which is still engaged in violence in the central and northern regions of the country, has been plagued by infighting since it was forced from Bangui in January.
- **8 July 2014** – In the wake of emerging reports indicating that fresh fighting in the CAR has killed at least twenty civilians, France’s defence minister, who is currently on an official visit to the CAR, has urged rival factions to reach a truce. During an interview on the CAR’s state radio, Jean-Yves Le Drian stated “there is no future for the Central African Republic if there is no ceasefire” between mainly Muslim former rebels and mostly Christian vigilantes, who are both accused of carrying out atrocities against the civilian population. The Defence Minister was initially scheduled to arrive in the south-central town of Bambari on Tuesday however he was forced to call off the planned visit after a peacekeeping official stated that fighters of the mainly Muslim Seleka coalition had killed twenty civilians who had been sheltering at Catholic Church facilities in the town. An official with the African Union (AU) force in the CAR also indicated that another twenty-five people were wounded in an attack that took place Monday evening. According to the official, “the assailants torched tents and opened fire on the civilians who were there. The toll is still provisional and could rise because the humanitarian workers don’t have any easy task on the ground where gunfire could still be heard this morning.” The attacks have been confirmed by the Seleka who indicated Tuesday that they were targeting Christian vigilantes whom they believed were sheltering among the civilians, adding that the attack was in reprisal for a June 23 attack on a camp near Bambari, which killed 17 people. According to Seleka military spokesman Ahmed Nejad, “there have been more provocations and attacks by the anti-balaka since their June 23 attack.” While Le Drian has noted that the presence of French and African troops, along with European peacekeepers, in Bangui “has enabled security to become almost good,” he did note that the situation in the eastern regions of the country “remains tense,” stressing that there is currently a need to prevent “clashes between groups who look only for hatred and vengeance.” On Monday, Le Drian held lengthy private talks with President Samba Panza. While the details of that meeting have not been released, prior to the meeting Le Drian had indicated that he intended to talk to the transitional president about restoring “a security chain” of police, the judiciary and prisons as the country was now “...dealing more with criminal groups than with soldiers.”

- 7 July 2014** – At the start of a visit to the former French colony, France’s defence minister warned Monday that violence in the CAR was becoming “more serious.” The statement comes amidst emerging reports that further deadly clashes have erupted. Speaking to reporters shortly after arriving in the capital Bangui on Monday, Le Drian indicated that despite the election of a new leader six months ago, political efforts to end the bloody conflict have stalled, noting that this deadlock has only further inflamed tensions between Christians and Muslims. According to Le Drian, President Samba Panza has not been able to “renew the political process, which has stalled,” warning that clashes between local fighters and international peacekeepers has escalated in recent months. He further noted that while there were fewer direct conflicts between the warring groups and peacekeeping forces, “these clashes are becoming more serious,” adding that local groups are becoming more radical “because people cannot see a future for the whole of the country.” This statement was highlighted by reports, which emerged Monday indicating that several people died in sectarian clashes that occurred in the central town of Dekoa on Sunday. According to a source, at least three people were killed by gunmen in a separate incident that occurred in the northern region of the country. Sources have indicated that gunmen rode into the village of Kouki and shot at residents. Some 34 Muslims were also injured, four of them critically, by a grenade attack on a mosque during Ramadan prayers in a village located near the Chadian border. In a bid to end the deadly sectarian violence, which erupted when the mainly Muslim Seleka alliance seized power in a March 2013 coup, a transitional president was elected, with Catherine Samba Panza being sworn into office in February. Despite the installation of a transitional government, attacks have occurred, prompting the formation of the mostly Christian majority to form “anti-balaka” vigilante militias, which have further added to the turmoil.

 - Catholic Church officials reported Monday that rebel fighters and armed Muslim civilians have killed “many” people in an attack on a church compound in the central region of the country. Sources have indicated that the attack occurred in Bambari, which is located 380 kilometres (236 miles) northwest of the capital Bangui, and came just one day before French Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian was scheduled to visit the town. Church officials have reported that fighters from the Seleka rebel movement, along with armed civilians from the town’s Muslim community, entered St Joseph’s Cathedral around 3 PM, adding that the attackers believed that Christian militia fighters were based inside. Bambari is home to the Seleka’s military headquarters and the town has seen tensions rise in the past months. While officials from the Catholic Church have accused French forces of not stepping in to prevent the attack, a French military spokesman has indicated that French troops had intervened around 4 PM and took up positions between a mainly Muslim crowd, including Seleka fighters, and a large group of Christians when they came under small arms fire.
- 5 July 2014** – Police officials have reported that Ugandan troops have killed at least fifteen former rebels from the CAR after mistaking them for fighters of the notorious Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA). According to a police official in Bangassou, the main town in the area, “fifteen ex-Seleka members were killed in a clash with the Ugandan army in the village of Kono in the Nzako

region” of the CAR on Monday. Sources have indicated that the Ugandan soldiers were hunting down members of the Ugandan rebel group and that during the violence clashes, the former members of the Seleka rebellion fled, leaving behind weapons, equipment, uniforms and shoes. Although no exact toll has been released, sources have indicated that several Ugandan troops were also killed in the violence.

Domestic News

- **11 July 2014** – On Friday, key political and religious groups in the CAR threatened to boycott upcoming peace talks in neighbouring Republic of Congo, stating that their country’s future should be resolved at home. According to a number of French diplomatic sources, the talks, which are scheduled to occur in Brazzaville later this month, are aimed at bringing together Christian anti-balaka militias and Muslim Seleka rebels in order to negotiate a ceasefire that must be put in place in order for any real political process to be launched. However a statement, which was signed by fifty-nine political parties and the three main religious chiefs, states “the political and religious leaders find it inappropriate to go to Brazzaville to resolve Central Africa’s problems” adding “they call on Congo’s President Denis Sassou N’Guesso to arrange an inclusive meeting on Central African soil between Central Africans to reach a lasting solution to this crisis.” The summit is scheduled to take place in Brazzaville on July 21 – 23.
- **9 July 2014** – In the wake of death of twenty-six civilians, who were seeking shelter at a church, interim CAR President Catherine Samba Panza has accused militias of “barbaric and criminal” acts. In a statement released Wednesday, President Samba Panza indicated “these events show that enemies of peace are persisting on an evil path of violence and inter-communal hatred,” adding “this cycle of reprisal attacks between armed groups in Ouaka (the region around Bambari) – where Christians and Muslims once lived in perfect harmony – is deploy worrying.” Calling on the international community to help stem the violence, the President also stated that civilians on both sides were paying the “price for the weaknesses of the security and armed forces,” some of whom had abandoned their units to fight with the anti-balaka militia. Eleven women were amongst the twenty-six killed in Monday’s attack, which targeted civilians who were sheltering at a church in the central region of Bambari. According to the local Red Cross, some thirty-five people sustained injuries when gunmen torched tents and opened fire on the shelter, which is housing thousands of people at the Saint Joseph Catholic Church. An officer with the African Union’s peacekeeping force MISCA has indicated that the site had been attacked by armed men wearing military uniforms and tunics linked to the majority-Muslim Seleka rebels. In the wake of the attack, the Seleka rebel group has stated that they had attacked the church because they believed that members of the Christian anti-balaka militia were amongst those sheltering their. Both Seleka rebels and Christian vigilantes are accused of carrying out atrocities against civilians during the recent unrest. Over the past year, tit-for-tat violence has claimed thousands of lives and has displaced a quarter of the population.

Chad

Executive Summary ~ MS Risk advises against all travel to the following areas: areas within 30 kilometers (18 miles) of the border with Libya, Nigeria, Niger and the Central African Republic; areas bordering Lake Chad, including the regions of Kanem and Lac to the west of the towns of Mao and Bol; areas within 30 kilometers (18 miles) of Cameroon from Lake Chad as far as Léré; the regions of Sila, Wadi Fira, Ennedi and Tibesti; the region of Ouaddaï except the town of Abéché; the region of Borkou except within 30km of the town of Faya Largeau. MS Risk also advises against all but essential travel to all remaining parts of the country, including the towns of Faya Largeau in Borkou region and Abéché in Ouaddaï region. Currently, MS Risk does not have any travel advisory for the capital city, N'Djamena.

MS Risk advises that you should only undertake travel to those parts of the country to which we advise against all but essential travel if:

- *You are confident that you have in place adequate security precautions to protect you from violent crime;*
- *The correct Chadian authorities are aware of your journey;*
- *You have in place the right permits if required;*
- *And you hold comprehensive travel insurance.*

There is currently a low threat from terrorism.



Armed robberies, particularly from cars, in residential areas of N'Djamena are common, with foreigners sometimes being targeted. MS Risk advises all travellers to the capital city to remain vigilant and to take care particularly in the capital. Keep doors locked and windows closed at all times. Do not carry any large sums of money, jewelry, or other valuables. Avoid isolated or less developed areas of the city and do not travel alone at night.

There have been a number of kidnappings in eastern Chad involving Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) workers and business people. Further such kidnappings are likely to occur. MS Risk advises all travellers to this region of Chad to be vigilant and take care at all times.

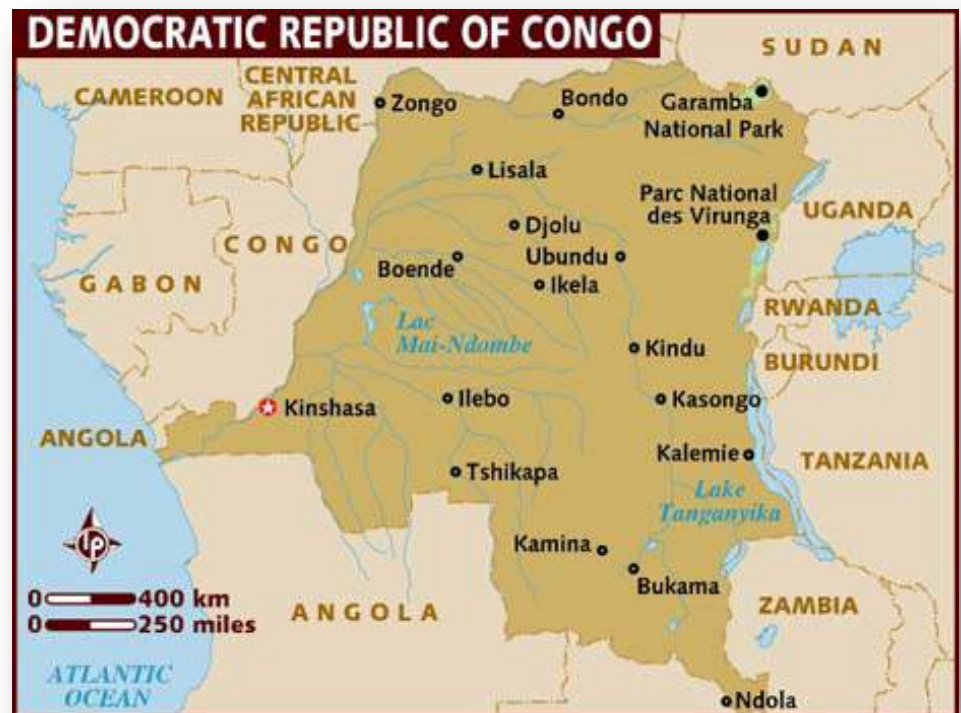
Nearly 350,000 Sudanese and Central African refugees and 100,000 internally displaced persons (IDP) are living in and around camps in eastern Chad. Although the Joint Border Force between Sudan and Chad has partially stabilized the situation, banditry and violent crime in eastern Chad continues to exist. Consequently the border between Chad and Sudan is subject to closures with minimal notice.

The area bordering Libya is also subject to closure and is heavily land-mined. The northern regions of Borkou, Ennedi and Tibesti continue to be unsafe.

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Executive Summary ~ MS Risk advises against all travel to eastern and north-eastern DRC, including Goma. The only exception to this is the town of Bukavu, to which MS Risk advises against all but essential travel. MS Risk currently advises against all but essential travel to the remainder of the DRC. There is currently a low threat from terrorism.

The security situation in eastern DRC, including Goma, remains unstable. Any foreigners in North Kivu, including Goma, are currently advised to keep their security situation under review. During fighting in the region in recent months, shells landed on Goma, causing a number of civilian deaths and injuries. There was also shelling around the border with Rwanda and explosions in the town of Gisenyi on the Rwandan side of the border. Further shelling may occur. You are therefore advised to avoid travelling alone and at night.



In the Katanga Province, there has been unrest and reports of fighting which occurred on 7 January 2014. The current situation remains tense across the province, particularly around the town of Pweto. MS Risk therefore advises all travellers to the region to exercise a high level of caution.

There were shooting incidents in Kinshasa on 30 December 2013. The incidents occurred around the national TV and radio station RTNC, the airport and the main army barracks and Ministry of Defence at Ngaliema. There were also reports of fighting in Lubumbashi, Katanga Province and in Kindu, Maniema Province. While the situation in Kinshasa now appears to be returning to normal, the situation remains to be fragile and security forces continue to be on alert.

Regional Reporting

- **6 July 2014** – Ugandan troops have killed forty-one gunmen in a major battle with tribal gunmen that occurred near the border with the DRC. According to reports, attacks, which occurred in the western district of Bundibugyo, resulted in the deaths of dozens, with sources adding that children are believed to be amongst those killed. Uganda's army spokesman confirmed the incident, stating "there was an attack by tribal gunmen on our barracks in Bundibugyo and we repulsed them, killing so far 41 of the attackers. The operation is on-going." Ugandan police spokesman Fred Enanga also reported that one officer was killed in the neighbouring district of Kasese earlier on Saturday, when unidentified gunmen attacked a police checkpoint.

International Developments

- **9 July 2014** – The White House announced Tuesday that the US will expand its sanctions on groups in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Those targeted by the sanctions could be subject to travel bans or have their assets frozen. The move is aimed at making it easier to target those who are trying to instigate violence and disrupt the on-going peacekeeping efforts that are taking place in the DRC. A statement released by the White House indicated, "the United States continues to be deeply concerned about the situation in the DRC, which has been marked by activities that threaten the peace, security and stability of the country." Many see this announcement as a quiet signal that the US is attempting to stay engaged in a troubled region that the administration has often been accused of forgetting. The decision also comes one week after the Obama administration placed sanctions on the Allied Democratic Forces, a Ugandan militant group that operates in the eastern region of the Congo. It also brings the United States in line with United Nations sanctions that have already been in place. While both measures put in the place by the UN and US are broad, US officials did not state that their sanctions would be applied to those who are "directly or indirectly" involved in the recruitment of child soldiers, sexual violence, obstruction of humanitarian assistance or other provocative actions in the DRC.
- **2 July 2014** – Diplomats have confirmed that the UN Security Council has decided to place sanctions on Ugandan rebel group, Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), which has members that are active in the eastern DRC. Sources have indicated that the sanctions, which were sought by Britain, France and the United States, will include a freeze on assets and a travel ban. A statement released by the UN mission in the DRC indicates that the ADF, which is also known as the ADF-Nalu, has been accused of recruiting child soldiers, sexual abuse of women and children, and taking part in "attacks against MONUSCO peacekeepers."

Republic of the Congo

Executive Summary ~ MS Risk currently advises against all travel to the Likouala province. This is due to a large influx of displaced people coming in from neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The UNHCR currently estimates that there are around 110,000 refugees in Likouala province. MS Risk also advises against all but essential travel to the Pool region. There is currently a low level of terrorism in the Republic of the Congo.

Although crime levels are low in Brazzaville and Pointe Noire, MS Risk advises all travellers to take sensible precautions in order to safeguard yourself and your belongings. We advise travellers to not walk in the streets after dark or to carry large amounts of money or valuables. The chance of being targeted by criminals is higher in the rural areas of the country. On 16 December 2013, there were reports of fighting and sporadic gunfire in Brazzaville. This is believed to have been an isolated incident as a result of resistance during a military arrest.



MS Risk also advises against all but essential travel to the Pool Region. This is due to sporadic rebel activity and armed banditry in the area. There is a very low risk of rebel attacks in the coastal town of Pointe Noire however travellers in vehicles and trains have been robbed by armed criminal gangs around the Pool region. Road travel in the Pool region requires a permit from the Congolese army.

Equatorial Guinea

Executive Summary ~ There are currently no travel advisories for Equatorial Guinea.

Compared with other countries in the region, the level of violent crime is low; however there are regular reports of petty theft which has affected both visitors and expatriates. MS Risk advises all travellers to avoid walking around Malabo and Bata at night and to avoid travelling by road after dark. Although the political situation has been calm in recent years, you should be aware that political events can lead to an increased presence of police, military or security forces on the streets. Consequently you should avoid any political rallies,

demonstrations or large public gatherings. There is a low threat from terrorism; however you should be aware that attacks can occur at any time and place, including those frequented by expatriates and foreign travellers.



Gabon

Executive Summary ~ There is currently no travel advisory for Gabon. There is currently a low threat from terrorism.

Crime is on the rise in Gabon, particularly in Libreville and Port-Gentil. There have been robberies, armed attacks and rapes. Consequently MS Risk advises you to take sensible personal security precautions and maintain a high level of vigilance in public places. Avoid isolated or poorer areas of towns and walking alone at night. There have been a number of car-jackings in Libreville. There have been armed robberies of commercial shipping in the Gulf of Guinea.



São Tomé and Príncipe

Executive Summary ~ There are currently no travel advisories for Sao Tome and Principe. However due to the current political situation, coupled with fears of a possible military coup, MS Risk advises all travellers to the country to remain vigilant and to monitor reporting on the political situation.

Crime rates in Sao Tome and Principe are generally low however burglaries and armed robberies do occur. It is advised that you safeguard all valuables and cash.

Although Sao Tome and Principe is generally peaceful, economic difficulties and political rows over the handling of investments in the islands' development occasionally lead to civil unrest. MS Risk advises all travellers to avoid any demonstrations or large gatherings.

