

Information for business cooperation

1. Name of country: Burundi

2. Population: 8.3 millions

3. Area: 27,834 sq km

4. Overview on the Burundian economy:

a. Number of chambers of commerce and industry: 1, named Federal Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Burundi.

b. Role of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry: suggesting, initiating and supporting actions that lead to conducive business environment throughout Burundi, voicing the interests of the private sector to the Government, investors and other organizations; significantly contributing to the improvement of the business climate and to the overall economic improvement in Burundi.

c. Kinds of crop that can be grown in the country: There are two types of crops cultivated: food crops (beans, bananas, sweet potatoes, cassava, maize and sorghum) and cash crops (coffee, tea, cotton, and quinquina). Agriculture generates value-added estimated at about 58% of gross domestic product and produces most the foreign exchange coming into the country. It should be noted that coffee (Arabica and Robusta accounts for nearly 90% of the country's export earnings. The tea produced in Burundi is high quality. Cotton constitutes the third traditional product for export.

d. Animal wealth available in the country: There is a huge potential for animal wealth especially for domestic animals. However livestock rearing is not well integrated into farming and remains extensive in nature. At the present time, research is proceeding with strategies for reconstituting livestock herbs and the genetic improvement of animal breeds and by involving the foreign investors.

e. Water resources: Burundi is boarding the Lake Tanganyika which is known in the world to be a lake containing a lot of fishes of different varieties. The national production is estimated to 15,000 tones. The traditional fishing system still contributes to 90% and the development of the industrial fishing should enable the country to have an exportable surplus.

f. Kinds of mineral wealth available in the country: Burundi has considerable mining deposits to be mentioned considering their reserves and contents:

- **Mining deposit of nickel of which the considerable reserves contain also very interesting associated metals by the content (copper, cobalt, platinum metal group).**

- **Deposit of Iron-Titan-Vanadium.**
- **Deposit of Bastnaesite.**

The actual mining exports include: gold, cassiterite, Colombo-tantalite and wolframite. There are also some interesting deposits of non metallic mines such as phosphate, carbonate, kaolin, feldspaths, peat and limestone. Burundi has also some deposits of precious and half precious stones which can be interesting for the international market.

Recent seismic and magnetic surveys have indicated that there may be oil under Lake Tanganyika and the Rusizi river.

g. Trade Liberation

Burundi has adopted the trade liberalization policy especially by abolishing a number of restrictions to imports by instituting the freedom of fixing prices and by observing the right to negotiate with the private sector, the price structure of a very limited number.