



## MAIN STORIES

### Referendum Result

### Touadéra on the Anniversary of Independence

### Illegal Logging

### Arms Embargo Extended

### Humanitarian Developments

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Central African Republic (CAR) voters overwhelmingly approved a controversial draft constitution that could see President Faustin Archange Touadéra seek a third term in office. On 21 August, the Constitutional Court validated the results of the referendum. The validated results showed that 57.23% took part in the elections. The ‘Yes’ vote was officially given as 95.03%.
- The United States (US) on 22 August called on the CAR to announce a date for local elections and added that Washington held "deep reservations" about the referendum. The State Department added that the validation by the Constitutional Court "undercuts the country's democratic governance."
- Touadéra, on the occasion of the 63rd anniversary of independence on 13 August, expressed his gratitude to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) and to the Russian and Rwandan bilateral forces for the “heavy sacrifices made in defence of human rights, democracy and the sovereignty of the CAR.”
- The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said on 21 August that Haut-Mbomou Prefecture is on the brink of a humanitarian crisis as it has seen its security and humanitarian situation progressively deteriorate since March 2023.
- As of 8 August, 24 people, including 19 civilians, were killed in 47 incidents and accidents involving explosive devices, representing a 110% increase in people killed compared to 2022.
- According to a report by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Ministry of Health, less than half of the country's healthcare facilities are fully operational, and the ratio of doctors to people is 0.6 doctors for every 10,000 people.

# CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)



- According to a report published by Enhancing Africa's Response to Transnational Organised Crime (ENACT), illegal logging, firewood trafficking for charcoal, and timber trafficking contribute to a deforestation rate of about 1% of total rainforest coverage every year. The incursion of the Russian Wagner Group resulted in devastation for both rural residents and the environment in the rainforest regions.
- The UN Security Council on 27 July extended its arms embargo against CAR for one year until 31 July 2024, but lifted certain notification requirements that applied to the transfer and sales of arms to the country's security forces.
- The former President of the National Transitional Council, Ferdinand Alexandre Nguendet and the spokesman of an organisation called Collective of Free Officers of the Central African Armed Forces (Cofac), Rodrigue Charly Mokounambi Kokama were sentenced to 5 years in prison in absentia for calling for armed insurrection and undermining the security of the state.
- War crimes prosecutors will argue before judges at the International Criminal Court (ICC) to put Maxime Mokom, who leads the anti-Balaka movement, a collection of self-defence militias close to former president François Bozizé, on trial over allegations of organising revenge attacks against Muslims.
- According to OCHA, during the first half of 2023, armed confrontations continued in several localities of the country (especially in the northwest, northeast and southwest). A total of 90 incidents against aid workers were recorded.
- Around 20 armed men killed 13 people and wounded two in the village of Diki near the country's border with Chad.
- Between 6 and 9 August, a dozen people including eight civilians were killed on the Bambouti and Mboki axes, Haut-Mbomou prefecture in clashes between Unité pour la Paix en Centrafrique (UPC) rebels and the A Zandé Ani Kpi Gbé militiamen.



## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)



- The National Assembly passed a law on tokenising land and natural resources on 24 July. Among other provisions of the law, it will make it possible to obtain business visas online and allow citizens and foreigners to set up businesses easily and obtain licensing in real estate, agriculture, natural resource exploitation and forestry.
- Bayobab, a subsidiary of JSE-listed MTN Group, successfully secured a significant contract to oversee the management, operation, and maintenance of the national fibre infrastructure within the CAR.
- Speaking at the end of the Russia-Africa Summit, Touadéra praised the “excellent relations of friendship and cooperation” between Russia and the CAR.
- Touadéra rejected a United States (US) ultimatum to sever all ties with Wagner and abandon his controversial constitutional amendment project.
- Touadéra said his country wanted good relations with France, in an interview with AFP and France's TV5 Monde.

