



East African Community



Plans for DRC to join EAC

During the 21st Summit of EAC Heads of State held on 27th February 2021, the 6 EAC Heads of State considered the application by DRC to join one of the **fastest-growing regional economic communities** and directed the Council of Ministers to fast-track a verification mission.

The DRC (2nd largest country in Africa) is widely considered to be the **richest country in the world** by its natural resources. The East African Business Council conducted a study and found out that there was a huge benefit in having DRC as the seventh member of EAC. If successful, the move will create the biggest business integration bloc in East and Central Africa. DR Congo would give the EAC its first port on the African West Coast.

This will also speed up an integration of the African countries into a single market and a **tourist destination continent**. Mountain gorillas, okapi, bonobos, and the Congolese peacock are endemic to DRC. A regional marketing initiative is part of the strategies to market Africa as a single tourist destination under the umbrella of the [African Tourism Board \(ATB\)](#).

<https://eturbonews.com/2988199/democratic-republic-of-congo-apples-to-join-east-african-community/>
<https://www.eac.int/communiqu/1942-communiqu%C3%A9-of-the-21st-ordinary-summit-of-the-east-african-community-heads-of-state>