

# Burkina Faso national day

## Business climate, investment opportunities blossom in Burkina Faso

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AMBASSADOR OF BURKINA FASO

In order to address the major challenges of its development, Burkina Faso has adopted for the period 2011-2015, the Strategy of Accelerated Growth and Sustainable Development (SAGSD).



This strategy reflects the commitment of the government to boost the development of the country through projects and structuring programs. It also opened doors to take on board the private sector, setting a framework for the full implementation of a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in view to efficiently overcome the poverty and other challenges facing the country.

To this end, the country established in 2011 a strategy for the development of the PPP and this year adopted a law on the legal regime of the partnership.

This legal and institutional framework for contracts complies with the general principles of the PPP, and the expectations of international and national private sectors.

These partnerships aim to optimize the respective performance of the public and private sectors, and achieve as soon as possible and in the best conditions the social projects or those related to the development of infrastructure and public services.

Based on these principles, the government has launched many

important projects, of which agriculture and mining play the key role.

### Business climate

The attractiveness of Burkina Faso is built on the global competitiveness of its economy due to the continuous improvement of the business environment, the rehabilitation of the banking system, and the creation of an integrated and harmonized legal environment.

Indeed, Burkina Faso has adopted since 2004 more than 190 reform measures to improve its business climate and progress in this area has enabled it to be ranked among the top 10 reformers in the world, according to the report Doing Business 2009.

In 2011, commitment and consistency in the implementation of reforms aiming to improve the business environment, and the promotion of private investment has enabled Burkina Faso to be ranked fourth among the five most consistent reformers in the world for the last five years.

During those years, the government has improved the legal framework through:

- an effective liberalization of the economy and the opening of major industries (telecommunications, energy, aircraft, mining, banking, insurance, etc.) to the private sector;

- the adoption of a policy of almost total openness to foreign direct investment (FDI);

- the liberalization of the labor market with the adoption of a Labor Code guaranteeing freedom

- of hiring, employment and dismissal, and which promotes better control of the management of human resources by the investor;
- the adoption of a very attractive Mining Code;

- the revision of the entire legal and regulatory framework on investment (Investment Code), and strengthening the rights and guarantees granted to investors;

- land tenure security through the adoption of the Law on Agrarian and Land Reorganization (RAF); and

- improving legal security with the creation of the Center for Arbitration, Mediation and Conciliation in the capital Ouagadougou, the establishment of commercial courts and the appointment of adjudication judges.

Furthermore, in its efforts to improve security and protection of the investor's fundamental rights, Burkina Faso has joined the main treaties of guarantees and protections (MIGA, ICSID, UNCITRAL, ICC, CCJA of OHA-DA EITI). Moreover, the provisions of common law provide for investors the option of acquiring any kinds of rights useful to their activities, including:

- the nonapplication of discriminatory measures of law or fact in the field of legislation and of regulations that apply to them, regardless of their nationality;
- guaranteeing the acquired rights of whatever nature;

- the ability to acquire the rights of any kind useful to their activities, including the free administration of their business by any investor; and the right to equal protection with regard to commercial property and intellectual property;

- free transfer abroad of: funds due to the repayment of debts contracted abroad in capital and interests, the payment of foreign suppliers for goods and services, which are necessary for the conduct of operations; dividends and capital invested, and the proceeds of liquidation or the production of their assets;

- free access to foreign exchange market rates;
- freedom of exchange; and
- the right to benefit from an incentive customs procedure.

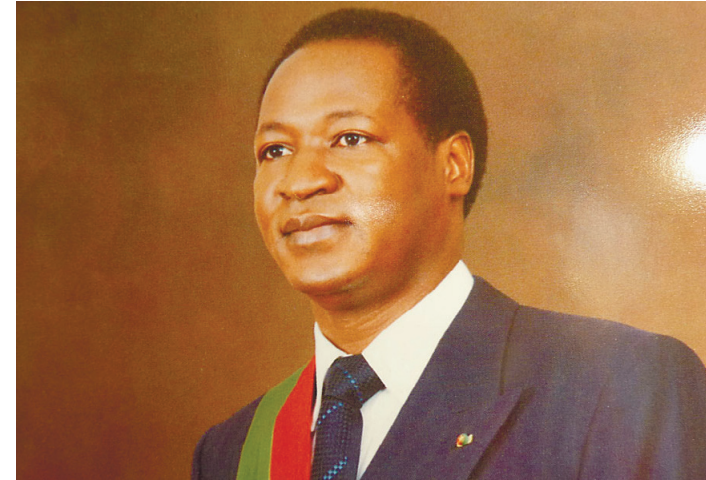
### Investment opportunities

The four key sectors are:

- Agriculture
- Livestock
- Mining
- Energy

The potential in the agricultural sector is as follows:

- surface water: 10 billion cubic meters;
- groundwater: 113 billion cubic meters;
- area of land: 9 million hectares, of which only one-third (3.5 million hectares) is operated annually; irrigable land: 233,500 hectares, of which 26,758 hect-



President Blaise Compaore of Burkina Faso

ares are available (11.5 percent); promising crops: cotton, cereals, fruits, vegetables and oil seeds.

Livestock sector

The livestock sector is the third pillar of the economy. It contributes to more than 18.6 percent (including forestry and fisheries) of GDP and 25 percent of export earnings. Burkina Faso is ranked fourth among the livestock countries in West and Central Africa.

Livestock includes a potential of 25 pastoral furnished areas of 749,982 hectares. Burkina Faso has large populations of cattle, sheep, goats, poultry and pigs.

Mining sector

The mining sector is booming

in Burkina Faso and is a growing contributor to GDP, with 4.1 percent in 2009 and 12.6 percent in 2011.

Research conducted by various companies confirms the special wealth of Burkina Faso in mineral resources, including gold, zinc, manganese, copper and iron. The total expected production from existing mines is estimated to be at least 260 tons of gold.

Energy sector

The energy sector offers huge opportunities not only for Burkina Faso but also for the surrounding countries whose production is far below their needs. The private sector can therefore be involved in the production of



Remembrance: The memorial to the martyrs is located in the new district of the capital Ouagadougou. EMBASSY OF BURKINA FASO

energy through the PPP. The potential areas are:

- building high production capacity solar power plants;
- building thermal power plants;
- realization of hydroelectric structures;
- creation of assembly line production of photovoltaic modules;
- realization of the Nounbriel hydroelectric dams;
- realization of the Samandeni hydroelectric dam for a power output of 60 megawatts to produce 17 gigawatt hours for an estimated cost of 200 billion CFA francs; and
- pre-electrification of countless villages by solar photovoltaic systems.

### Conclusion

There are five main reasons to invest in Burkina Faso:

- political stability that makes the country the most secure for investments promotion;
- legal and tax business-friendly environment;
- important agricultural and mineral resources;
- central position of Burkina Faso at the heart of ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) makes it an ideal hub for any investor to easily cover all the other member countries; and
- a qualified hardworking people committed to the values of peace, integrity and friendship, and success-oriented.

**Congratulations**  
to the People of Burkina Faso



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**Congratulations**

to the People of Burkina Faso  
on the 53rd Anniversary of Their Independence



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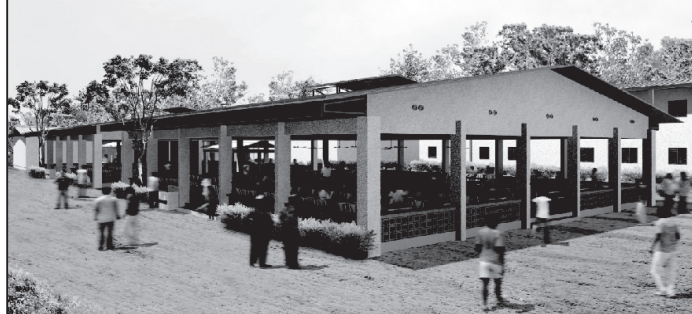
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