



ICAO

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

Twenty-Seventh Meeting of the AFI Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APIRG/27)

5 to 6 November 2024

Agenda Item 3: Implementation of air navigation goals, targets and indicators, including the priorities set in the Regional Air Navigation Plan

3.5. Other Air Navigation initiatives

Aviation Infrastructure improvement in DRC within the Framework of the Second Phase of the Priority Air Safety Program (PPSA)

(Presented by DRC (Regie des Voies Aériennes- RVA))

SUMMARY	
The aim of this information paper is to present the progress made by the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) under the second phase of the Priority Air Safety Program (PPSA), with the support of the African Development Bank (AfDB).	
REFERENCE(S)	DR Congo CNS/ATM Project APIRG/25 Conclusion 25/30 Global Air Navigation Plan: Doc 9750 Annex 14 Doc 7474
<i>Strategic objectives</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ safety ○ capacity

1 INTRODUCTION

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has launched the RD Congo CNS/ATM project with the aim of implementing air traffic management systems, including ADS-B stations and associated services and equipment. Within this framework, a program has been drawn up, named Programme Prioritaire de Sécurité Aérienne (PPSA).

This program, supported by the African Development Bank (AfDB), is divided into two phases. The first phase enabled the acquisition of essential equipment such as ATM and communication systems (namely TOPSKY ATC and AMHS), as well as the installation of ADS-B stations and the training of personnel from the Régie des Voies Aériennes (RVA) and the Civil Aviation Authority of the DRC (AAC/RDC).

Currently, the second phase of the PPSA is underway, focusing on the modernization of airport infrastructures across the country. The airports concerned include Mbuji-Mayi, Kolwezi, Kisangani, Kinshasa, Kindu, Goma and Lubumbashi. This phase also includes the installation of new communications, navigation and surveillance facilities.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1. The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is making significant efforts to modernize its airports to meet international safety and service standards. Among notable projects, Mbuji-Mayi airport is undergoing a major transformation with the rehabilitation of its runway, the construction of a new terminal and a control tower, while Kindu airport benefits from advanced facilities such as a DVOR/DME and a technical building.

2.2 Kolwezi is on the bring to become international airport with new infrastructure, and Kisangani/Bangoka is preparing for certification with a terminal building nearing completion. The airports of Kalemie, Kinshasa/N'djili, Lubumbashi/Luano and Goma are also ongoing major upgrades.

2.3 At the same time, radio navigation equipment are being installed at several airports, and a modern simulator has been set up to train technical staff, thereby strengthening the DRC's capacity to provide airport and air navigation services.

2.4 Monitoring and evaluation measures have been put in place to ensure the long-term success of airport modernization initiatives in the DRC, guaranteeing continuous improvement and adaptation to changes in the aviation sector.

2.5. Details of these achievements are given in the appendix to this information paper.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

The meeting is invited to take note of ongoing progress in the modernization of airport infrastructure and air navigation in DR Congo.

Appendix

Modernization of Airport Infrastructure and Air Navigation Services in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

1. MBUJI-MAYI: Airport modernization

Considered as an en-route alternate airport, Mbuji-Mayi is currently undergoing a complete overhaul of its infrastructure and equipment. Major initiatives underway include:

- Runway rehabilitation and extension: lengthening of the runway from 2,000 m to 3,000 m, as well as improvements to the apron, runway safety area (RESA) ends and taxiways.
- Construction of a new control tower: to improve air traffic management.
- Establishment of a fire-fighting brigade: to enhance the safety of flight operations.
- Construction of a new terminal: to provide better facilities for passengers.
- Installation of a power plant: to ensure a reliable energy supply for the airport.
- Supply and installation of a DVOR/DME: completed in 2021 to improve air navigation.
- Construction of a photovoltaic field: contributing to the airport's renewable energy.
- Installation of an ILS system: to ensure more accurate and safer approaches.

These improvements are designed to make Mbuji-Mayi a modern and efficient airport, meeting international safety and service standards.

2. KINDU: Strategic national airport

Located at the crossroads of several international and national routes, including UM215, UM216 and UR984, Kindu airport is one of the main national airports. It can also be used as an en-route alternate airport, thanks to its facilities. Recent improvements include:

- Installation of a DVOR/DME and a Cat I ILS: to optimize air navigation and ensure safer approaches.
- Construction of a firefighting brigade: to enhance the safety of flight operations.
- Establishment of a technical building: designed to provide maintenance and technical support for airport facilities. It includes radio channels, advanced technical resources, as well as premises dedicated to monitoring NavAids status. The aim is to guarantee uninterrupted services, while optimizing operational efficiency and responsiveness when needed.
- Refurbishment of the control tower: ensuring better air traffic management and aerodrome movement management.
- Installation of runway lighting: enabling night-time operations and enhanced safety.

The aim of these developments is to make Kindu a modern airport, capable of meeting the requirements of airlines and passengers while ensuring the safety of operations.

3. KOLWEZI: Transition to an International Airport

Kolwezi airport is currently being transformed from a national to an international airport. Work in progress includes

- Rehabilitation of the current runway and construction of a second runway: to increase airport capacity.
- Construction of a new terminal building with telescopic gangway: to enhance passenger comfort and facilitate boarding.
- Expansion of the main tarmac: to increase apron capacity.
- Construction of a new control tower: to optimize air traffic management and aerodrome movement management.
- Construction of a fire fighting station: to enhance safety and improve response to aerodrome emergencies.
- Construction of airport fence: to ensure the safety and security of airport facilities and aircraft.
- Construction of a VIP terminal: designed to welcome dignitaries and distinguished visitors in conditions of comfort and safety.

These initiatives are designed to modernize Kolwezi airport and prepare it for international traffic, while guaranteeing high standards of safety and service.

4. KISANGANI/BANGOKA: Airport modernization

With the aim of certifying our international airports, work is underway to reduce deficiencies and meet the standards required for an international airport. Significant progress include:

- Construction of a new terminal: nearing completion, it now awaits inauguration.
- Resurfacing of the runway: work is in its final stages, ensuring improved safety and handling capacity.
- Construction of a new taxiway and a second apron: these projects are also nearing completion, improving the flow of ground operations.

These efforts are designed to ensure that Kisangani/Bangoka airport complies with international standards, reinforcing its strategic role in the aviation network.

5. KALEMIE: Modernization of the provincial airport

The new territorial division has enabled each provincial capital to have an airport that meets regulatory standards. Initiatives underway in Kalemie include :

- Construction of a new building: this will house the control tower, the technical block, the administrative building and the terminal, thus grouping together the airport's essential functions.
- Rehabilitation of the runway: this upgrade improves safety and aircraft handling capacity.

These efforts are designed to ensure that Kalemie airport meets modern requirements and strengthens its role in provincial development.

6. KINSHASA / N'DJILI: Ongoing improvements.

N'djili International Airport has recently benefited from several improvements such as:

- Installation of a new DVOR/DME: to optimize air navigation and enhance approach safety.
- Expansion of the runway shoulders: work is ongoing to improve runway safety and functionality.

These initiatives testify to the DRC's commitment to modernizing its airport infrastructure and complying with international standards.

7. LUBUMBASHI / LUANO: En route to Certification

Lubumbashi/Luano airport has benefited from some major recent improvements:

- Rehabilitation of the runway: this upgrade aims to ensure safe and efficient airport operations.
- Installation of a new DVOR/DME since 2022: this installation enhances air navigation, contributing to safer approaches.

These developments illustrate the efforts being made to modernize airport infrastructure and improve the services offered to users.

8. GOMA: Airport improvements

Goma airport has recently benefited from a major upgrade:

- Installation of a new DVOR/DME since 2021: this facility enhances air navigation capabilities, ensuring more accurate and secure approaches.

These improvements demonstrate our commitment to modernizing airport infrastructure and meeting international safety standards.

9. Other achievements :

Efforts have been made to install radio equipment at the following airports:

- Mbandaka: installation completed in 2023
- Gbadolite
- Isiro
- Gemena: installation completed in 2023
- Muanda
- Kananga: installation completed in February 2023
- Matadi

In addition, a modern technology simulator has been installed to train personnel on the following systems:

- VHF radio
- DVOR

- DME

- ILS

These initiatives are designed to enhance staff skills and ensure optimum operation of air navigation services, while meeting international safety standards.

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