

AISI-Connect National ICT Profile CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CF)

GENERAL DATA	ICT-INFRASTRUCTURE	ICT POLICIES
Capital: Bangui	Fixed lines (K) '98: 10	Competition in local loop: Monopoly
98 Population (M): 3.48	97-98 % Fixed Line Growth: -0.02	Competition in telephone terminals: No
Currency: CFA	98 Mobile Lines (K): 1	Independent regulator: No
Exch rate (/US\$): 638.0	Mobile Line Growth (%):	Private Wireless Data allowed: No
Currency Stability:	Cities with Internet POPs: 1	Independent Internet VSAT Allowed: No
97 GDP US\$/person: 276.0	Local Call National Internet: No	VSAT License Fees:
97 Total GDP (\$B):	Dialup Internet subscribers: 500	Satellite Phone access: No
Local Stock Exchange: No	International Bandwidth (Kbps): 256	Universal Service Obligations:
Personal Safety: 1	Internet Hosts: 1	IAP License Fees (\$/yr):
Political Stability:	Internet domains:	Private Phone Kiosks: No
Tertiary ICT Students:	Dialup Internet Cost 20hrs/mnth (\$):	Public VOIP Allowed: No
ICT Training seats:	64K Local Internet link (\$/mnth):	Business Ownership Rules:
ISDN: No	64K Internat Internet Link (\$/mnth):	Repatriation of Profits Rules:
VPN Services: No	Local phone call cost (US\$/hr):	Restrictions on market entry:
UNDP Human Devel Index:	Monthly tel line rental (\$/mnth):	Export Credit Guarantees:
.	Telephone waiting time/Wait List:	.
.	Internet Access Providers 1	.
.	Mobile Operators:	.
.	Fixed Line Telecom Operators:	.

[Key to table values](#) All figures above in US Dollars (\$)

ICT Profile:

Internet:

The national PTO, SOCATTEL, launched its Internet service in April '96. Three other licenses have been given to private operators, but none have started. IP telephony is being developed by the PTO. Local dialup tariffs are accessible across the country.

Telecommunications:

The **Société centrafricaine de télécommunications** (SOCATEL), also called Centrafrique Télécom, is the sole provider of basic telecommunications services, data communications and Internet. It is 60% owned by the government and 40% by France Câble et Radio (FCR) which assisted in the establishment of SOCATEL's Internet link and the X.25 packet-switching service CENTRAPAC.

The analogue (AMPS) cellular telephony provider is **CARATEL**, a joint venture between Telecel International and other investors.

CAR has a limited but high quality telephone network. It is extremely difficult to obtain new telephone lines. A subsidiary of France Telecom, SOFRECOM, has prepared a network expansion plan, and ITU has supported a consultancy in rural telecommunications.

Communications costs:

Dialup Internet costs 15 000CFA to set up and 10 000CFA / month plus 60CFA/minute (US\$6.9 / hour).

Networking Centres:

The **Office National d'Informatique** is the designated agency for ICT development.

The UNDP-sponsored **SDNP CAR** project, is expected to improve the ICT situation.

There is no national library or system of bibliographic and documentation centres in CAR, however there is a **Centre national de documentation économique et sociale** and the **Inspection Générale d'État of the Ministère de la fonction publique, du travail et de la formation professionnelle** is responsible for the Service de la Documentation et des Archives, which is computerized.

The **Haut-Commissariat à la Présidence de la République** is engaged in a process of reorganizing the scientific and technological information sector within the framework of the **Centre national de documentation scientifique et technique** (CNDST).

The **Ministère de l'industrie, du commerce, du tourisme et de l'artisanat** operates a Cellule de la documentation et des archives.

The **Service de la formation, de la documentation et des archives** is run by the **Office national des postes et de l'épargne**.

The **Service de gestion de la banque de données statistiques** is operated by **Ministère des affaires sociales de la promotion de la femme et de la solidarité nationale**.

The **Institut Facultaire de Technologie** (IFT) of the Université de Bangui has an ICT programme.

Other relevant organizations:

- Organisation nationale interprofessionnelle de formation et de perfectionnement
- Lycée technique

IUGE staff attended the UNITAR/ORSTOM West and Central African Internet training course.

Organisational Activities in the ICT Sector:

Office National d'Informatique The designated agency for ICT development in the country. It has participated in UNESCO's RINAF project, however there is little other evidence of its activities. Mme. Clement Maloma ONI@intnet.cf

SOCATEL This, the national PTO, launched its Internet service as part of its Telecom-Plus value added service in April '96 using a 64Kbps link to Paris. Plans are already afoot to increase the bandwidth to 128Kbps as the current bandwidth is viewed as insufficient to provide a rapid service for the growing user base. Leased line services are also planned, as CompuServe and other companies have already requested these facilities. <http://www.socatel.intnet.cf/> telecomp@intnet.cf

SDNP CAR This recently established UNDP sponsored project is expected to improve the ICT situation as it will be able to assist with ICT development problems. The Co-ordinator is an officer of the Ministry of Planning. M. Youssoufa Silla sdnp-car@intnet.cf

Source:

AISI-Connect database - <http://www2.sn.apc.org/africa> Telecom/GDP stats source: ITU/World Bank. Internet hosts: Network Wizards

If located in Africa and not listed here, [add your organisation to this page.](#)