

Could solar power be the future of energy in Congo?

Congo is one of the top five oil producers in Sub-Saharan Africa. But despite its rich energy resources, the electrification rate is low, especially in rural areas, mainly because of a lack of electricity infrastructure. But solar power could be the future as it is also said to be cheaper for households.

How much solar power is available in Kinshasa?

In the area around Kinshasa there is a further 6 gW of solar available at 7 us cents per kW hr. There is also sufficient for the rural areas around Kinshasa, Mbandaka on the Congo river and the main port of Matadi. It can even be exported over the river to Brazzaville.

How much power does DRC need?

Even with new solar and wind DRC could only satisfy between 15 and 55% of total demand. This leaves between 45% and 85% needing off-grid power or 16 gW of installed solar capacity ! Same applies to clean water as only 23% have access.

What is the capital of Congo?

The largest city and capital is Kinshasa with 12 million in an urban area of 600 km<sup>2</sup>. It stands on the Congo river at the head of the Congo navigation system from where a railway carries exports and brings in imports from the port of Matadi.

Is the DRC a hydroelectric country?

This has given it enormous potential for hydro electric power and almost 100% of its grid power is HEP. The DRC is the largest country in Sub Saharan Africa occupying 2,345,000 km<sup>2</sup> with 3.32% as standing water including rivers and lakes. Its sheer size, lush vegetation and landscape has been its problem since independence in 1960.

How much does it cost to produce solar power?

There is 5 gW of wind and 5 gW of solar within 25kms of existing and planned transmission lines. The cost of producing the solar is only 7 us cents per kW hr compared with 8 us cents per kWhr from the Inga 3 dam as estimated by the World Bank.

India's Soleos Energy, in partnership with Melci Holdings, has started building a 200 MW solar park in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The project is set for commissioning by late...

UN invests \$700,000 in 120 kW hybrid solar plant in DR Congo The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has invested nearly \$700,000 to build a 120 kW hybrid solar plant in Mambasa,...

Lubumbashi, DR Congo is a highly suitable location for solar PV generation due to its position within the

tropics, which experience consistent sunlight throughout the year. The average energy production per kW of installed solar in Lubumbashi varies across seasons, with 5.85 kWh/day during Summer, 6.08 kWh/day in Autumn, 6.34 kWh/day in Winter ...

Providing solar energy solutions for households and businesses is crucial to incorporating more Congolese people into electrical grids, but many in poorer, remote regions in the DRC also face the challenge of getting approved for loans or credit which they need to finance solar home systems.

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