CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

LEGAL & TAX FRAMEWORK FOR INVESTMENT — JULY 2026 EDITION

A landlocked Central African country and a member of **OHADA** and **CEMAC**, the Central African Republic (CAR) holds notable natural resources — **diamonds, gold and timber** — and significant agricultural potential. The country operates within the **CEMAC monetary zone** (BEAC, XAF — fixed EUR parity), applies **OHADA** business law and the **SYSCOHADA** accounting framework. A notable structural asset: the **France–CAR tax treaty in force** (since 13/12/1969, covering income, inheritance and registration) provides a structuring framework for French investors. This factsheet summarises the macroeconomic, tax and legal data relevant to an investment entry decision; as the CAR is not covered by the reference international tax databases (notably PwC), the tax figures were verified directly against the official General Tax Code.

POPULATION
~5.5 M
2025 est. (UN / Worldometer)

CURRENCY
CFA FRANC XAF
BEAC/CEMAC — fixed parity 1 EUR = 655.957 XAF

GDP GROWTH
~2.7%
2025e · ~2.6-3.1% projected 2026 (World Bank / IMF)

INFLATION
~3.5%
2025e (World Bank)

GDP PER CAPITA
≈ $579
2025 (Worldometer / IMF)

HEAD OF STATE
F.-A. TOUADÉRA
Faustin-Archange Touadéra — President, re-elected 28/12/2025, inaugurated 30/03/2026

CAPITAL
BANGUI
Economic and administrative hub

BUSINESS FRAMEWORK
OHADA / CEMAC
17 OHADA states · CEMAC/BEAC (XAF zone)

RESOURCES
DIAMONDS & TIMBER
Diamonds, gold, timber — main sources of foreign currency

NATURAL RESOURCES AND LANDLOCKED STATUS: THE KEY DATA

A landlocked Central African country with no access to the sea, the Central African Republic draws most of its foreign currency earnings from **diamond and gold** extraction, complemented by **timber** exports. **Agriculture** remains the backbone of employment, with food-crop and processing potential. This narrowly diversified economy is underpinned by a harmonised **OHADA** legal framework, a source of predictability for investors. The **France–CAR tax treaty** (in force since 13/12/1969, per BOFiP) covers income, inheritance and registration — a structuring tool for French investors.

A HARMONISED BUSINESS-LAW FRAMEWORK

- **OHADA** — the CAR applies all 9 OHADA Uniform Acts (companies, security interests, debt recovery, insolvency, arbitration, etc.). Disputes may be referred to the **CCJA** (Common Court of Justice and Arbitration), whose awards are enforceable across the 17 member states.
- **CEMAC monetary zone** — CFA franc **XAF**, fixed parity **1 EUR = 655.957 XAF**, managed by the **BEAC**. Cross-border financial flows are subject to strict CEMAC foreign-exchange rules (Regulation 02/18): mandatory repatriation of export proceeds, licensed intermediaries, declaration obligations.
- **Revised SYSCOHADA accounting** — the mandatory OHADA accounting framework, readable across the 17 member states.
- Also a member of the **African Union**, the **AfCFTA**, **OAPI** (intellectual property) and **CIMA** (insurance).

COMMON OHADA COMPANY FORMS

FORM	MIN. CAPITAL
SA	XAF 10,000,000 (OHADA standard)
SAS	Freely set by the by-laws
SARL (LLC)	Freely set by the by-laws
Branch	Tied to the foreign company (OHADA time limit)

One-stop registration via the RCCM. Investment promotion: ACIP — Central African Investment and Placement Agency (acip-rca.org).

TAX REGIME — THE ESSENTIALS

TAX	RATE	NOTES
Corporate income tax (CIT)	30%	Standard rate. 20% for agricultural activities. Source: CAR General Tax Code (2017, updated 2023, finances.gouv.cf).
VAT	19%	Standard rate. Registration threshold: turnover ≥ XAF 30,000,000. Source: CAR GTC (2017, updated 2023).
Minimum tax (IMF)	3%*	*The CAR General Tax Code sets a 3% turnover-based minimum tax for taxpayers not subject to corporate/personal income tax. The exact rate applicable to companies subject to CIT remains to be verified case by case against the text in force.
Import advance levy	5%	5% of the customs value (in force since 2007); 5% of the pre-tax price on domestic-market transactions.
Withholding (non-residents)	15-20%	Dividends, interest, royalties: 15–20% range — exact rate by category to be confirmed against the text in force. Services: ≈15% (final).
Tax treaties	FR · CEMAC	France (in force since 13/12/1969 — income, inheritance, registration). CEMAC multilateral convention. Network beyond this very limited. Source: BOFiP.

Source: CAR General Tax Code (2017, updated 2023, finances.gouv.cf) · BOFiP (France–CAR treaty). As the CAR is not covered by the reference international tax databases (notably PwC), rates were verified directly against the official GTC where possible.

ATTRACTIVE SECTORS

- **Diamonds & gold** — the main source of foreign currency; specific oversight of the extractive sector.
- **Timber** — a major export; a high-potential forestry value chain.
- **Agriculture** — the backbone of employment; food-crop and processing potential.
- **Energy & infrastructure** — significant needs, notably for opening up the country.

INVESTMENT INCENTIVES

- **Investment Code** — targeted tax and customs exemptions for new projects.
- **Business-formalities one-stop shop** — centralises registration, tax ID, RCCM and social security.
- **ACIP** (acip-rca.org) — Central African Investment and Placement Agency: information, guidance and follow-up for investors.

FOREIGN-EXCHANGE REGULATION

- **Strict CEMAC framework (Regulation 02/18).** Cross-border financial flows must go through licensed banks (domiciliation requirement, BEAC declarations). The XAF is pegged to the EUR at a fixed parity (655.957).
- **Mandatory repatriation.** Repatriation of export proceeds is mandatory. Transfer of dividends and disposal proceeds is possible under proof of the underlying flows and payment of the taxes due.
- **Good practice.** Structure financing in foreign currency from day one; keep full documentary traceability of each flow — all the more important for a landlocked country.

SECURING THE INVESTMENT

In an environment with a high need for structuring, the predictability of the OHADA framework — CCJA arbitration, harmonised security interests — is a decisive securing factor, complemented by a France–CAR tax treaty in force since 1969.

THE UGGC ANGLE — OHADA LEVERS

§ **CCJA arbitration** — awards enforceable across the 17 OHADA member states; a predictable dispute resolution mechanism.

§ **Security interests (Uniform Act)** — mortgage, pledge, autonomous guarantee, security agent; essential for securing extractive and forestry project financing.

§ **France–CAR treaty** — in force since 1969 (income, inheritance, registration): structure flows through French vehicles to activate this benefit.

§ **CEMAC FX & repatriation** — Regulation 02/18: structure dividend repatriation and cross-border flows via a licensed BEAC bank from day one.

UGGC Africa supports you in the Central African Republic through its pan-African platform — africa@uggc.com.

Disclaimer. This country factsheet is provided for general information, as at July 2026; it does not constitute legal or tax advice and cannot bind UGGC Africa. As the Central African Republic is not covered by the reference international tax databases (notably PwC), rates were verified directly against the official General Tax Code where possible; some points (notably the detail of withholding rates by category and the exact minimum-tax rate applicable to companies subject to CIT) remain to be confirmed case by case. Any investment decision should be the subject of a tailored analysis.

Sources: CAR General Tax Code (2017, updated 2023, finances.gouv.cf) · IMF · World Bank (Macro Poverty Outlook CAR) · Worldometer / UN (population, 2025) · BOFiP (France–CAR treaty, in force 13/12/1969) · BEAC (CEMAC Regulation 02/18) · OHADA (ohada.com) · ACIP (acip-rca.org) · uggcafrica.com.