

The high cost of having China as Africa's partner of choice

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20% of Africa's external debt is owed to China, making it the largest single creditor nation.

In return for investment capital and infrastructure, some countries grant China resource concessions, allow it to take an ownership stake in the infrastructure projects, or secure loans against their natural resources and assets as collateral.

The number of African countries indebted to China and subsequently handing over their assets or resources are in no short supply. Zambia, Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Mozambique, Ethiopia, Sudan, Kenya and Djibouti are just some.

In Zambia, China is already in control of the country's broadcasting company, and the state is preparing to offer its national electricity company to China as security against a loan.

[Madagascar](#) pledged a huge portion of its land as collateral for loans.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in return for the US\$9 billion loan to upgrade road and rail systems that connect routes to extractive industries, China gained rights to extract up to 10 million tons of copper and 420 000 tons of cobalt over 15 years.

In [Djibouti](#), by the end of 2016, 82% of external debt was owed to China and the country handed over control of its port which sits in a strategic location that acts as a main access point for American, French, Italian and Japanese bases in the country.

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