

AFRICA REVIEW

AN UP-TO-DATE GEOGRAPHICAL, HISTORICAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SUMMARY OF THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES

Prepared by : F. Pauwels, P. Van Damme, D. Theeten, C. De Keyser, S. Hoste, P. Wymeersch, D. Beke

BURUNDI

1. Official name: Republic of Burundi
Republika y'Uburundi

2. Geography:

2. 1. Situation: Burundi is located in East Africa, between 2S and 4S, 29E and 31E. It is landlocked between Zaïre in the west, Rwanda in the north and Tanzania in the east and south.

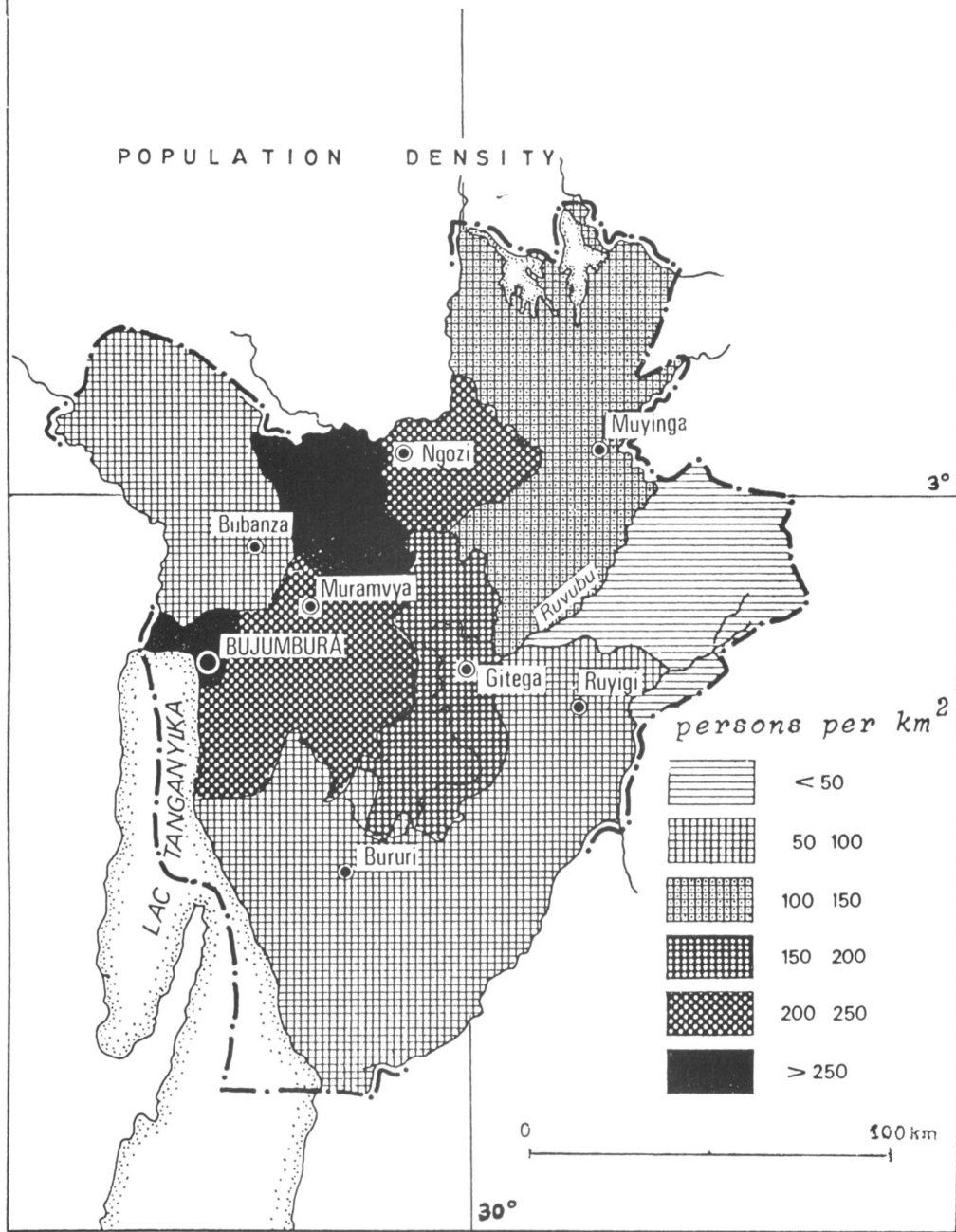
2. 2. Total Area: 27,834 km².

2. 3. Natural regions: there are four main regions: the Imbo Region in the northwest; the mountainous region with altitudes over 2500 m which divide the Zaïre-Nile watershed; the Central Plateaux and the East and Southeastern plateaux.

2. 4. Climate: high altitude tropical climate with short but well marked dry season from mid-June until mid-September. The extreme variability of rainfall during the crop season forms a constant threat of crop failure and famine.

BURUNDI

POPULATION DENSITY



3. Population:

3.1. Total Population: 4.7 mln (1985), urban population: 2%, (last official population census was in 1980).

3.2. Population Density: 155 per km² (1981).

3.3. Population Growth Rate: 2.7% (1980-1985).

3.4. Capital: BUJUMBURA, 200 000 inh. (1980).

3.5. Languages: French (official), Rundi (national) and Swahili (commercial)

3.6. Religion: 60% Catholic, 3% Protestant, traditional religions.

4. History:

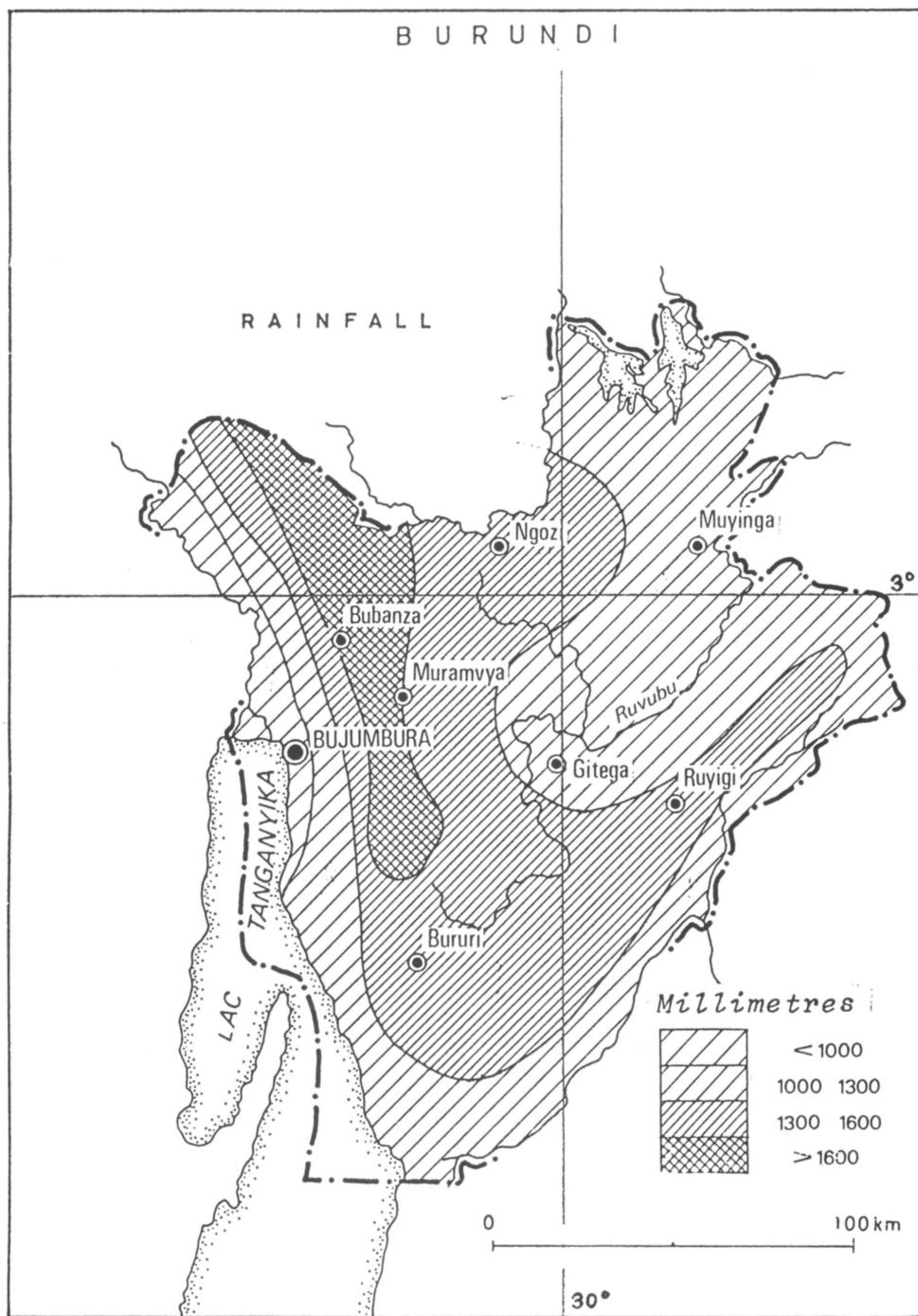
The first inhabitants were the Twa pygmies (hunters). Afterwards the region was conquered by cultivators speaking a Bantu language: the Hutu. The last invaders were peoples of Nilotic origin in search of grasslands for their cattle : the Tutsi and the Hima (pastoralists). Long before the Nilotic invasion, the Hutu had established small kingdoms ruled by the Hinza. But little by little the Ganwa, Pfasoni and Nyaruguru (noble Tutsi) took over the power and ruled Burundi for several centuries through a very sophisticated monarchy.

The sacred king, Mwami, was surrounded by ministers and ritualists belonging to the four ethnic groups. The kingdom of Urundi was divided in provinces ruled by chiefs from Ganwa and Pfasoni origin, but also by a large number of Hutu. The king ruled the whole kingdom but also his royal domains (Ibigabiro vy'Umwami) together with his several spouses. The queen-mother played an important role in the political life of her son. There was not only a well established administrative structure but also a military structure based on elite troops (Intore). The kings were cyclical and bore the following names: Ntare, Mwezi, Mutaga and Mwambutsa. The symbols of power and authority were the sacred drums : Karyenda and Rukinzo.

In 1899 the kingdom of Urundi was incorporated in the German East Africa. In 1922 it came, together with Ruanda, under Belgian trusteeship. The German and later also the Belgian administration used the principle of the "indirect rule". Multiple interventions in the social and political structures of the kingdom, however, disturbed the

BURUNDI

RAINFALL



traditional relations between Hutu and Tutsi. After 1948, the Trusteeship Council of the UN imposed on the Belgian administration some degree of democratization. This stimulated the creation of political parties and threatened the traditional Tutsi rulers. On the eve of the independence (1962) tensions between the two main political parties and also within the parties, led to severe conflicts between the Hutu majority and the Tutsi.

In 1965, the fragile balance in the governments under the mwami Mwanbutsa IV, was disturbed after the appointment of a Tutsi prime minister, in spite of the fact that the Hutu had obtained a decisive majority in parliamentary elections. An abortive coup organised by a group of Hutu, led to a violent repression and the massacre of the almost entire Hutu political élite, together with thousands of other Hutu.

The monarchy was abolished in 1966 and replaced by a republic under Capt. Micombero. Political unrest and the consolidation of the Tutsi supremacy led to very severe massacres in 1972: between 100.000 and 200.000 Hutu were killed and 200.000 left the country, mainly to Zaïre.

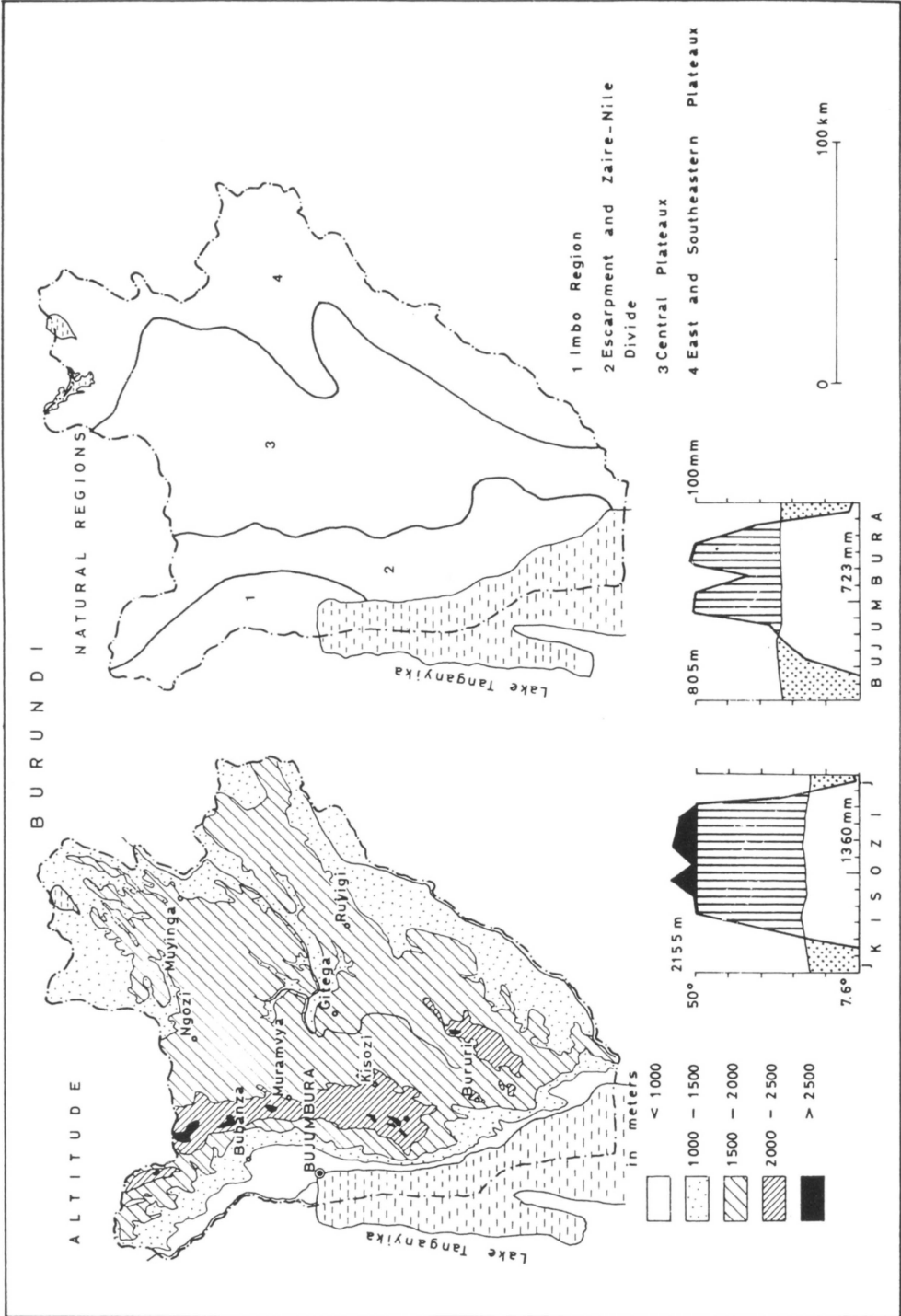
In November 1976, Micombero was overthrown by another Tutsi, Col. Bagaza, who confirmed the one-party system. At his turn Bagaza was deposed, in 1987, by Maj. Pierre Buyoya and the ruling party, the UPROMNA, was temporary suspended. In August 1988 ethnic tensions in the north provoked new massacres. Despite this recent repression by the Tutsi dominated army, Bagaza decided in October 1988 to appoint a Hutu prime minister and an equal number of Hutu and Tutsi in the government.

5. Nature of Political System:

The latest constitution, of 1981, was suspended after the coup in 1987. The country is ruled by a Military Committee for National Salvation (CMSN) of 30 members. The Executive Committee of the CMSN, composed exclusively of military people, is headed by president Buyoya. The country is further governed by a council of ministers under a prime minister, appointed by the president. President Buyoya holds the ministry of Defence. The National Assembly was dissolved after the coup and new elections were promised within two years. The sole legal party, the UPRONA, started activities again in 1989.

6. Economy:

GDP: agriculture: 61%, industry: 15%, services: 24% (1985).



Employment: agriculture: 93%, industry: 2%, services: 5% (1980).

6. 1. Mining: Insignificant until recently with small production of tin and cassiterite. The exploitation of important nickel deposits and peat reserves could accelerate the industrial development.

6. 2. Agriculture: 45% of the total area is arable land or cultivated with permanent crops (1984). The main food crops are typical of subsistence agriculture and include maize, dry beans, sorghum, cassava, groundnuts and rice. Cotton, grown below 1000 m, and Arabica coffee and bananas between 1500 and 2000 m, are the main cash crops. Above 2000 m, maize, wheat and peas as well as tea and temperate zone crops are grown. Cotton and tea production are strongly favoured by the government programmes.

6. 3. Livestock: 30% of the total area is permanent pasture (1984). Social standing and prestige dominate over economic value (livestock only considered as a source of food for domestic consumption, not as an income). There are about 600-800 000 heads of cattle, 325 000 sheep, 650 000 goats and 50-55 000 pigs (early 1980s estimates).

6. 4. Forestry and woodland: 2% of the total area (1984).

6. 5. Fishery: Industrial fishing is poorly developed. The total catch varies between 11 000 t (1979) and 19 500 t (1977), mostly in the Tanganyika Lake.

6. 6. Industry: The few factories are concentrated around the capital and are based on the transformation of agricultural products (food industries, breweries, textiles). Also possible is the exploitation of mineral and peat reserves.

6.7. Weights, Measures and Currency:

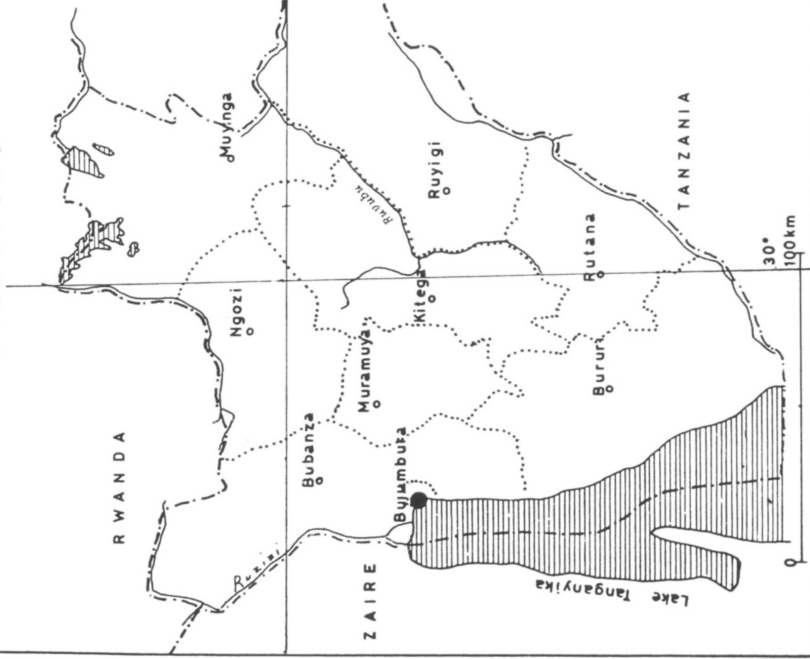
kg, meter

1 Franc (F) = 100 centimes

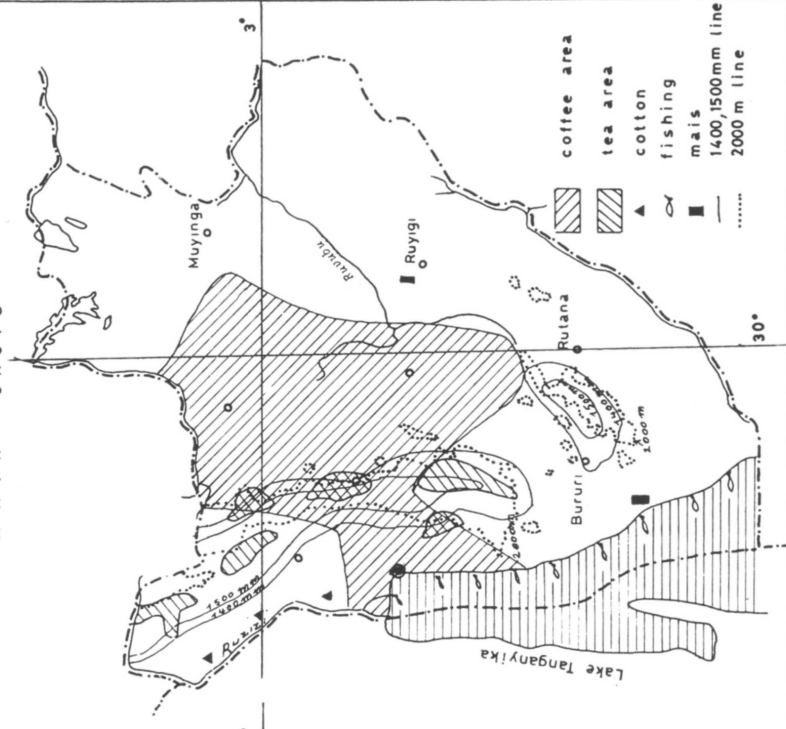
1 US \$ = 179.61 F (March 1990)

BURUNDI

DISTRICTS



MAIN CROPS



7. Trade:

Total exports amount to 110 mln US \$ (1985), of which coffee represents 86%, cotton 4.7%, tea 2.3% and hides 2.2%. Main clients are the EEC and the USA.

Total imports amount to 194 mln US \$ (1985). Main suppliers are the EEC, Japan, Iran and Kenya.

8. Miscellaneous:

World Bank classification: Burundi belongs to the low-income economies with a GDP per capita of 230 US \$ (1985).

Membership of international organisations:

GATT, ILO, IMF, OAU, UNO, UNESCO, WHO, African Development Bank, Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (recipient), Economic Commission for Africa, World Bank.

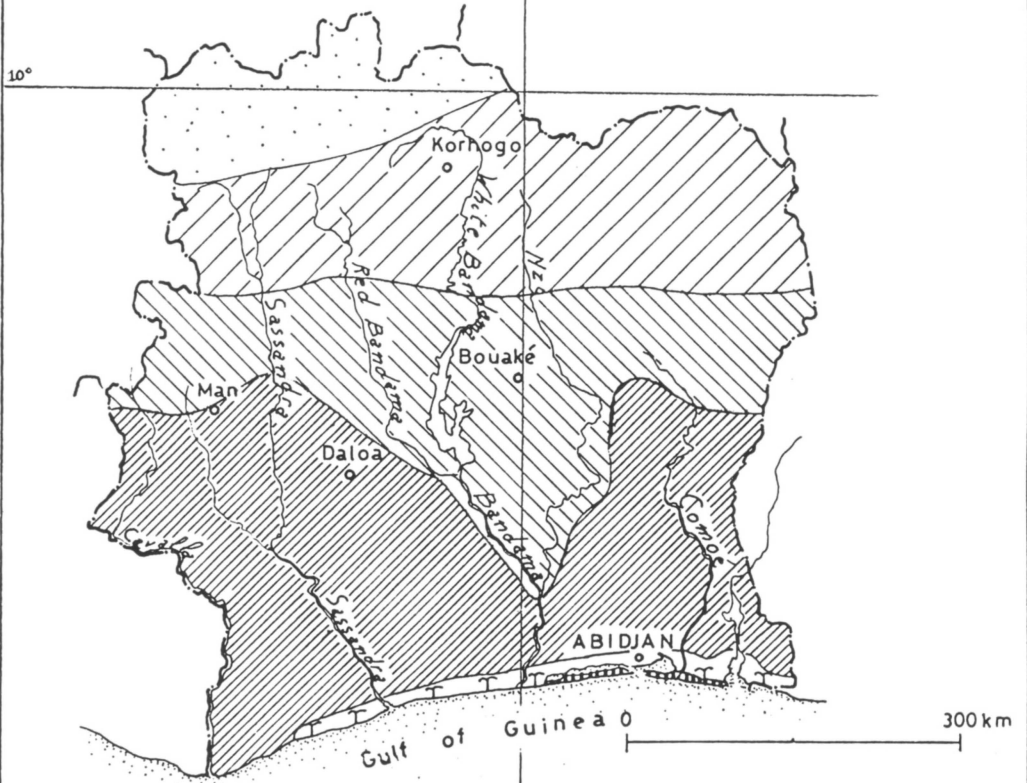
Burundi is a signatory to the Lomé Convention (EEC-ACP).







Embassy of Burundi in Belgium: Maria-Louisaplein 46
1040 Brussel
Tel. 02/230.45.35

Belgian Embassy in Burundi: Rue de l'Industrie 9
P.O. Box 1920
Bujumbura

5° IVORY COAST

NATURAL VEGETATION



- 
 dense tropical rain forest, with *Entandophragma utile* (sipo), *E. candollei* (kosipo), *E. cylindricum* (aboudikrou), *Tarrietia utilis* (niangon), *Dumoria heckellii* (makore), *Triplochiton scleroxylon* (samba), *Chlorophora* spp. (iroko), *Khaya* spp. (acajou).
- 
 open savanna woodland with gallery forest
- 
 savanna, sudan type, with *Butyrospermum parkii* and *Parkia biglobosa*
- 
 grass savanna
- 
 coastal savanna with coconut palm
- 
 mangroves

IVORY COAST

1. Official name: Republic of the Ivory Coast
République de la Côte d'Ivoire

2. Geography:

2. 1. Situation: Ivory Coast is situated on the west coast of Africa, between 830W and 230W, 430N and 11N.

2. 2. Total area: 322,463 km².

2. 3. Natural regions: the relief is gently sloping with increasing altitudes from the coast to the north. Inland from the coastal zone lies a 300 km wide zone of tropical forest, followed by brush grass savannas in the north. Virgin forests occur along the main rivers, flowing from north to south. A few mountains (peak 1 700 m) lie in the west.

2. 4. Climate: the coastal zone and the rainforest have a hot, wet tropical climate with two relatively dry periods. Rainfall decreases to the north. The grass savannas have a tropical savanna climate with hot, dry winters, often accompanied by the Harmattan (January), stormy weather with temperatures up to 38C and an 8 month rainy season.

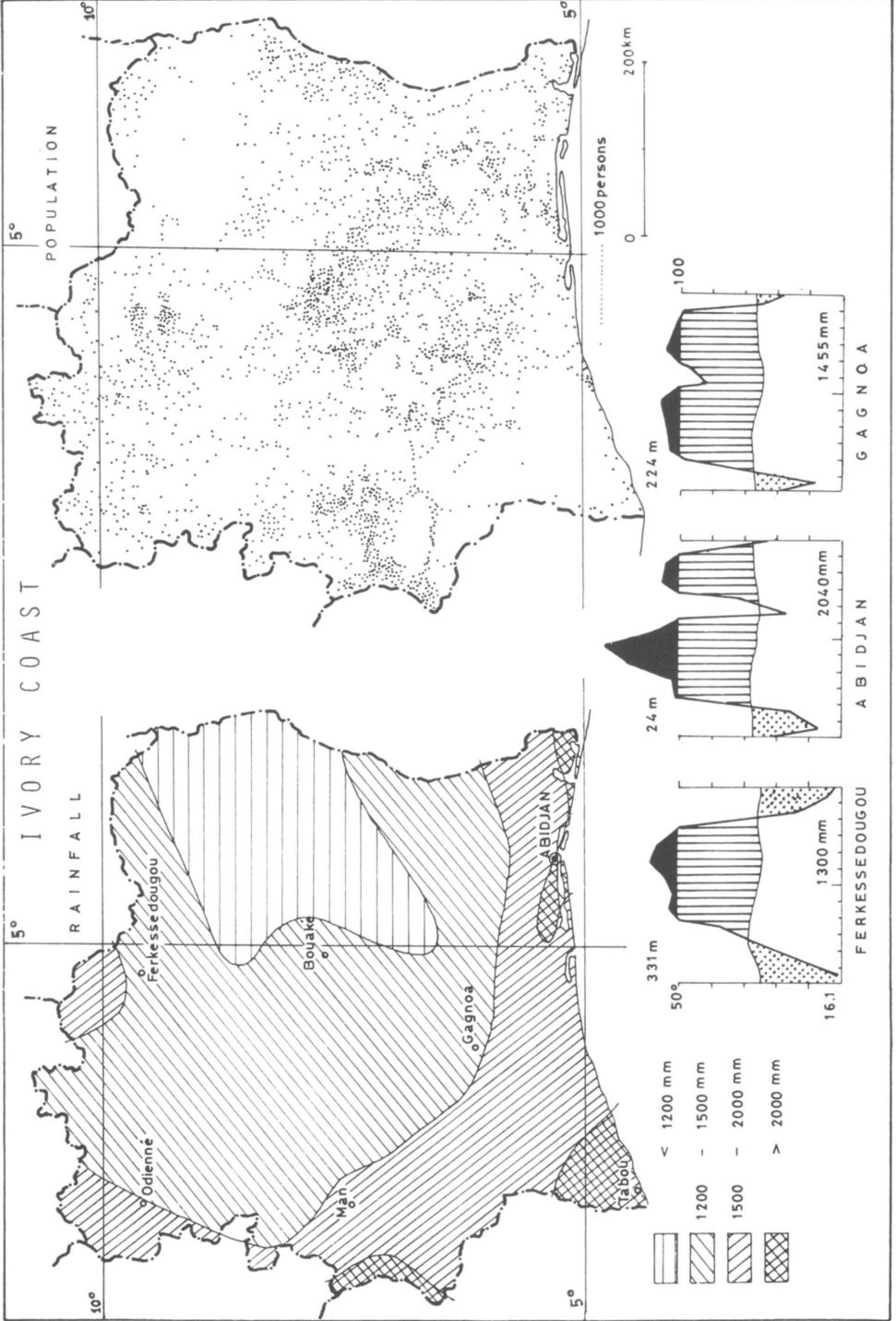
3. Population:

3. 1. Total Population: 10.1 mln (1985), urban population: 45%.

3. 2. Population Density: 24.7 per km².

3. 3. Population Growth Rate: 3.8% (1980-1985).

3. 5. Principal Languages: Agni, Baule, Dan, Ebrie, French (official), Guere, Senufo and Wobe.



4. History:

At the end of the 15th century, the first Portuguese commercial settlements were established along the coast. Consequently, the coastal tribes acquired a growing importance to the detriment of the inland Malinké kingdom. The French influence in West Africa extended and a treaty with the indigenous tribes led to the official status of French Colony in 1893. Ivory Coast became an Overseas Territory with a National Council and Government in 1956 and acquired independence in August 1960.

Under the first president, Félix Houphouët-Boigny, the PDCI (**Parti démocratique de la Côte d'Ivoire**) achieved a virtual monopoly of the political life. In 1990 restrictions on the formation of political parties were abolished and since then 20 political parties obtained a legal status. Nevertheless, later that year presidential and legislative elections confirmed the position of Houphouët-Boigny as president and the supremacy of the PDCI.

5. Nature of the Political System:

Executive power rests with the President, elected by universal suffrage for a five year (renewable) term. He appoints a Council of Ministers responsible to him (and not to the National Assembly, any member of the Council of Ministers renounces his seat while he holds a Ministerial appointment). The National Assembly is the legislature (147 members elected for five years). The President can ask the Assembly to reconsider a measure or to submit it to referendum.

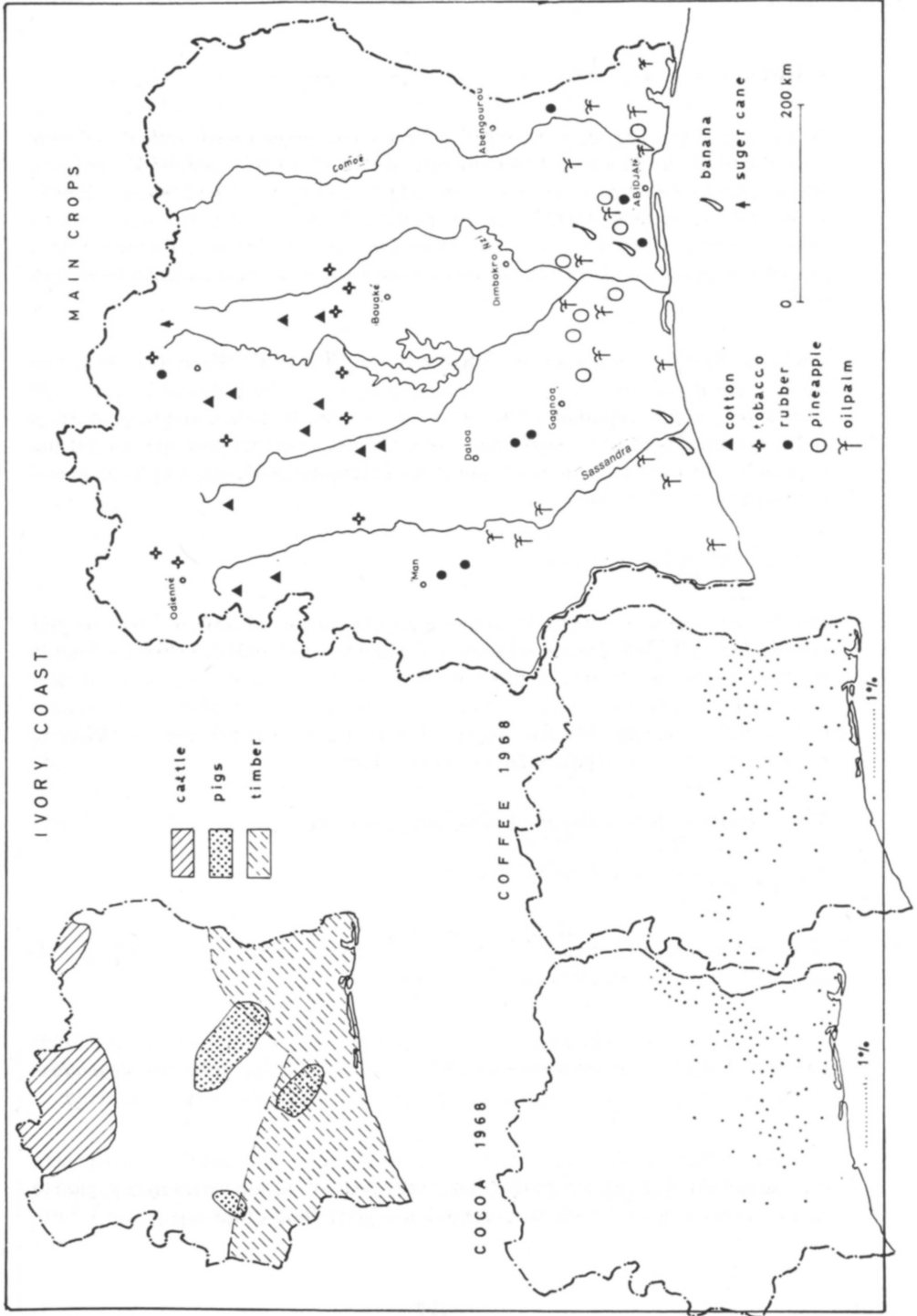
Voting qualifications: universal adult suffrage over 21.

6. Economy:

GDP: agriculture: 36%, industry: 26%, services: 38% (1985). Employment: agriculture: 65%, industry: 8%, services: 27% (1980).

6. 1. Mining: Oil reserves were discovered in 1977. At present, two offshore fields produce 25 000 b/d, approaching self-sufficiency level. Other minerals present/exploited to some extent are iron ore, manganese, tantalite, columbite and ilmenite.

6. 2. Agriculture: 11% of the total area is arable land or cultivated with permanent pasture (1984). Agricultural production is very diversified and varies from region to region, according to the climatic conditions. Main food crops are cassava, taro,



bananas, maize and rice. Main cash crops for export are pineapple (1st world exporter in 1984), coffee, cacao (1st world producer in 1984), oilpalm, bananas, cotton and rubber. Development programmes aim at increasing rice and sugar cane production to reach self-sufficiency. Most of the products have government fixed prices to eliminate fluctuations in the farm gate price. Besides the export oriented agriculture, subsistence agriculture is still practised by most peasants.

6. 3. Livestock: 9% of the total area is permanent pasture (1984). Livestock keeping is impossible in many regions, due to the tsétsé fly. There are about 1.2 mln goats, 1.1 mln sheep, 700 000 heads of cattle, 350 000 pigs and 11.5 mln poultry. Ivory Coast has to import quite a lot of meat to cover the domestic demand.

6. 4. Forestry and woodland: 39% of the area (1984). Total annual production amounts to 5 mln m³ (1980). Important commercial species are sipo (*Enthandrophragma utile*), iroko (*Chlorophora excelsa*), mahogany (*Khaya spp.*), makore and tiama. Reforestation has started in 1970 to build up sufficient wood reserves for the future as some of the most wanted species are almost exhausted.

6. 5. Fishery: In the late sixties industrial fishery was developed by constructing a new port and modernization of the existing fleet. Tuna, sardines and shrimps are predominant for the export of canned fish (60 000 t annually), besides fishing for local consumption (30 000 t annually).

6. 6. Industry: Industrial development has boomed since independence. Food industries are still in a leading position (transformation of coffee, cacao, pine apple etc.). Second in line is the chemical industry with the transformation of oil, fats and rubber and the production of pesticides, fertilizers, paints, etc. There are also important textile plants, refineries, timber plants and a building materials industry besides assembly halls for televisions, etc.

6. 7. Weights, measures and currency: kg, meter

1 CFA Franc = 100 centimes, 50 CFAF = 1 FF

1 US \$ = 283.9 CFA Franc (March 1990)

7. Trade:

Total exports amount to 2972 mln US \$ (1985), mainly agricultural products. Main clients are the EEC, the USA, Japan, Mali, Senegal and Burkina Faso.

Total imports amount to 1749 mln US \$ (1985) of which food represents 16% and machinery and transport equipment 22%. Main suppliers are the EEC, the USA and Japan.

8. Miscellaneous:

World Bank classification: Ivory Coast belongs to the lower middle-income economies with a GDP per capita of 660 US \$ (1985).

Membership of international organisations:

GATT, ILO, IMF, OAU, UNO, UNESCO, WHO, African Development Bank, Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (recipient), Economic Commission for Africa, Economic Community of West African States, French Monetary Area, International Cocoa Organisation, West African Economic Community, World Bank.

Ivory Coast is a signatory to the Lomé Convention (EEC-ACP).

Consulate of Ivory Coast in Belgium: Lange Gasthuisstraat 20
2010 Antwerpen
Tel. 03/224.21.11

Belgian embassy in Ivory Coast: Immeuble Nour-al-Hayat 9e ét.
Avenue Chardy
B.P. 1800
Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

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