

Burkina Faso



General statistics

Population: 15,746,232 (2009 estimate)

Area: 274, 200 Km²

Independence: 5 August 1960 (France)

Capital: Ouagadougou

Other/previous name: Haute Volta

Government: Semi-presidential republic

Administrative language: French

Currency= West African CFA franc (XOF)

GDP: 18,739 billion USD

GDP per capita: 1,304 USD

Calling code: +226

Motto: "Unité-Progress-Justice" ("Unity, Progress, Justice")

Anthem: Une Seule Nuit (One Single Night)



Minerals: Copper, iron, manganese, gold, phosphates, limestone, marble, pumice

Burkina Faso is a landlocked country bordered by Ghana, Niger, Mali, Benin, Togo and Côte d'Ivoire

History

Formerly called the **Republic of Upper Volta**, it was renamed on August 4, 1984, by President Thomas Sankara to mean "the land of upright people" in Mòoré and Dioula, the major native languages of the country. Figuratively, "Burkina" may be translated, "men of integrity," from the Mòoré language, and "Faso" means "father's house" in Dioula. The inhabitants of Burkina Faso are known as *Burkinabè* (/bər'ki:nəbeɪ/ bər-KEE-nə-bay).

Burkina Faso was populated between 14,000 and 5000 BC by hunter-gatherers in the country's northwestern region. Farm settlements appeared between 3600 and 2600 BC. What is now central Burkina Faso was principally composed of Mossi kingdoms. These Mossi Kingdoms would become a French protectorate in 1896. After gaining independence from France in 1960, the country underwent many governmental changes until arriving at its current form, a semi-presidential republic. The president is Blaise Compaoré.

Burkina Faso's capital is Ouagadougou. It is a member of the African Union, Community of Sahel-Saharan States, La Francophonie, Organization of the Islamic Conference and Economic Community of West African States.

Climate



Climatic zones in Burkina Faso. Source NAPA 2007

Burkina Faso lies in the Sahelian zone and experiences high temperatures and unpredictable and variable rainfall. Climatically it can be split into 3 zones from North to South, comprising the Sahelian zone in the North of the country with rainfall less than 600mm/year, the North Sudanian with rainfall from 600-900mm/year and the South Sudanian zone where rainfall is greater than 900mm/year. Data presented in the NAPA, based on climate records extending to 1902 shows that the dry zone has been extending southwards during the last century. The length of the growing season varies from less than 60 days in the north to 160 days in the south, with large inter-annual variation.

Climate variability is already a major constraint on food security and poverty reduction efforts due to the high dependence on the primary sector, which accounts for 86% GDP. Droughts, floods, heatwaves and dust storms are the major climatic hazards in Burkina Faso, and these contribute to problems such as desertification, land degradation and migration away from the central area of the country.

Mining code (link to download. Need to register)

Cadastral map (please contact us)

Mining ministries contact details (please contact us)

