

Côte d'Ivoire



General statistics

Population: 20,617,068 (2009 estimate)
Area: 322,460 Km²
Independence: 7 August 1960 (France)
Capital: Yamoussoukro
Other/previous name: Basse Volta
Government: Semi-presidential republic
Administrative language: French
Currency= West African CFA franc (XOF)
GDP: 37,123 billion USD
GDP per capita: 1,685 USD
Calling code: +225
Motto: "Union – Discipline – Travail" (Unity – Discipline – Labour)
Anthem: L'abidjanaise



Minerals: Diamonds, manganese, iron ore, cobalt, bauxite, copper, gold, nickel, tantalum, silica sand, clay, oil and gas

Côte d'Ivoire is bordered by Burkina Faso, Guinea, Liberia, Mali and Ghana.

History

Côte d'Ivoire is commonly known in English as Ivory Coast. Prior to its colonization by Europeans, Côte d'Ivoire was home to several states, including Gyaaman, the Kong Empire, and Baoulé. There were two Anyi kingdoms, Indénié and Sanwi, which attempted to retain their separate identity through the French colonial period and after Côte d'Ivoire's independence.[7] An 1843–1844 treaty made Côte d'Ivoire a "protectorate" of France and in 1893, it became a French colony as part of the European scramble.

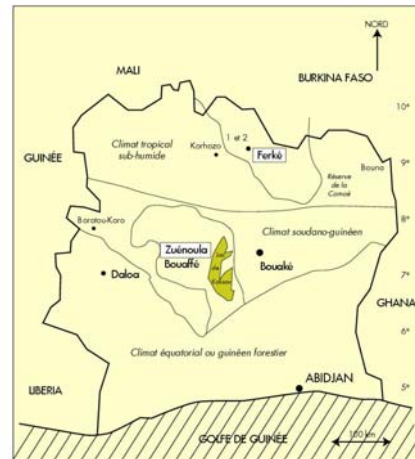
Côte d'Ivoire became independent on 7 August 1960. From 1960 to 1993, the country was led by Félix Houphouët-Boigny. It maintained close political and economic association with its West African neighbours, while at the same time maintaining close ties to the West, especially to France. Since the end of Houphouët-Boigny's rule, Côte d'Ivoire has experienced one coup d'état, in 1999, and a civil war, which broke out in 2002.[8] A political agreement between the government and the rebels brought a return to peace.[9] Côte d'Ivoire is a republic with a strong executive power invested in the President. Its de jure capital is Yamoussoukro and the biggest city is the port city of Abidjan. The country is divided into 19 regions and 81 departments. It is a member of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, African Union, La Francophonie, Latin Union, Economic Community of West African States and South Atlantic Peace and Cooperation Zone.

The official language is French, although many of the local languages are widely used, including Baoulé, Dioula, Dan, Anyin and Cebaara Senufo.

The main religions are Islam, Christianity (primarily Roman Catholic) and various indigenous religions. Through production of coffee and cocoa, the country was an economic powerhouse during the 1960s and 1970s in West Africa. However, Côte d'Ivoire went through an economic crisis in the 1980s, leading to the country's period of political and social turmoil. The 21st century Ivoirian economy is largely market-based and relies heavily on agriculture, with smallholder cash crop production being dominant.[1]

Climate

Ivory Coast has a tropical climate with four seasons in the coastal and central regions and two seasons in the northern savannah region. The coastal and central region has (1.) a long dry season from December to May and (2.) a short dry season from July to October as well as (3.) a long rainy season from May to July and (4.) a short rainy season from October to November. The savannah region has a long dry season from November to May and a wet season from June to October. The prevailing winds are the SW Monsoon and the northeastern Harmattan which is a dry dust-laden wind from the Sahara Desert. Average temperature ranges in Abidjan are from 22 degrees Celsius (72 degrees Fahrenheit) to 32 degrees Celsius (90 degrees Fahrenheit) all year.



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