

AFRICA REVIEW

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

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LIBERIA

1. Official name: Republic of Liberia

2. Geography:

2.1. Situation: Liberia lies on the west coast of Africa, between 4°30'N and 8°30'N, 11°45'W and 7°30'W.

2.2. Total area: 111 369 km².

2.3. Natural regions: a coastal lowland with tidal estuaries and narrow lagoons, dominated by mangrove and forest, extends some 30-100 km². Inland areas consist of low hills (120-350 m). The central area consists a low plateau, followed by low mountains, trending SW-NE and by the Guinean Highlands in the northwest. All the rivers originate in these highlands and have parallel courses, running directly into the sea.

2.4. Climate: tropical, rainfall plays a dominant role. There are two maxima, separated by a short dry period of 4 weeks. During this period the Harmattan, a dry dust-loaden wind reaches the coast and humidity drops from the usual 85% to 30%.

3. Population:

3.1. Total population: 2.2 (1986), urban population: 37%.

3.2. Population density: 22.7 per km².

3.3. Population growth rate: 3.4% (1980-1985).

3.4. Capital: MONROVIA, 220 000 inh. (1982).

3.5. Principal Languages: English (official language), Liberian English, Bassa, Kissi, Kpellé, Gala and Vai.

3.6. Religion: traditional religions, Islam 20%, Christians 6%.

4. History:

In 1816, the American Colonization Society imitated the

* Every issue of AFRIKA FOCUS will provide a survey of two or three African countries. The choice will be related, if possible, to articles in the issue.

British example by giving former black American slaves the opportunity to return to Africa, where they settled in Cape Mesurado (Monrovia). After frequent troubles with the inland tribes and slave-traders, treaties were signed in 1821 between local leaders and representatives of black settlers and the number of colonists increased steadily. A constitution was declared in July 1847. The boundaries were fixed in agreement with France and Britain (1885-1910).

5. Nature of political system:

The new Constitution of 6 January 1986 contains provisions for the division of political power into three independent branches: the executive, the legislature and the judiciary. Both, although the Constitution allows a multi-party system, the political life is completely dominated by the People's Redemption Council of Master-Sergeant Samuel Doe. Samuel Doe, who came to power by a military coup in 1980, was elected President in 1986.

6. Economy:

GDP: agriculture: 37%, industry: 28%, services: 36% (1985).
Employment: agriculture: 74%, industry: 9%, services: 16% (1980).

6.1. Mining:

Iron ore is by far the major mining product, followed by diamonds. Liberia is among the top 10 world producers for both products. Minor production of gold. Other minerals present are: bauxite, lead, columbite, manganese.

6.2. Agriculture:

3% of the total area is arable land or cultivated with permanent crops (1984). The agricultural sector comprises subsistence agriculture (rural population) and big concessions, mainly to rubber companies. There's a dual agriculture strategy: (1) to establish large crop plantations (10 000 acres of cacao, coffee, oilpalm and coconut palm are planned) and (2) to improve traditional farming by increasing the rice production. Rice and cassava are the main food crops, followed by maize, yams, sugar-cane, sweet potatoes, bananas and pulses. Rubber is by far the most important tree crop. Avocado, papaya and mango production has been encouraged.

6.3. Livestock:

2% of the total area is permanent pasture (1984). Livestock is unimportant as most of the country is tsétsé-fly infested.

6.4. Forestry and woodland:

34% of the total area (1984). Since 1972, over 30 concessions have been granted to exploit the forest reserves. Some 260 species of economic value are found in Liberia of which sipo (*Entandromorpha utile*), makoré (*Mimusops heckelii*),

obéché (*Triplochiton scleroxylon*), mahogany (*Khaya spp.*), *Azelia africana* and *Tarrietia utilis* are the most important.

6.5. Fishery:

Is very important because of the poor animal protein production. Besides farm fishponds and lagoon fishing for domestic consumption, industrial fisheries have an annual catch of 12 000 t (tuna and cray fish), which is partly exported.

6.6. Industry:

Rubber processing and some chemical and metallurgical plants are the only activities besides transformation of agricultural products. Liberia also has important revenues from the merchandise fleet under its flag (largest in the world).

6.7. Weights, measures and currency:

kg, meter

1 Liberian Dollar (Lib \$) = 100 cents

1 US \$ = 1 Lib \$ (parity with US \$, US banknotes, Liberian coins)

7. Trade:

Total exports amount to 435.6 mln US \$ (1985) of which minerals and metals represent 63%. Main clients are the EEC and the USA

Total imports amount to 293 mln US \$ (1985) of which food represents 25% and machinery and transport equipment 26%. Main suppliers are the EEC, the USA, Japan and Sweden.

8. Miscellaneous:

Literacy: 30% (1980).

World Bank classification: Liberia belongs to the lower middle-income economies with a GDP per capita of 470 US \$ (1985). Membership of international organisations:

ILO, IMF, OAU, UN, WHO, African Development Bank, Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (recipient), Economic Commission for Africa, Economic Community of West African States, World Bank.

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

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1050 Brussel

Tel. 02/648.13.49

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B.P. 1800

Abidjan, Ivory Coast

TOGO

1. Official name: Republic of Togo
République du Togo

2. Geography:

- 2.1. Situation: Togo is situated on the coast of the Gulf of Guinea, between 6°N and 11°N, 0°E and 1°30'E.
- 2.2. Total area: 56 785 km².
- 2.3. Natural regions: the coastal zone is a small strip of land with lagoon lowland. Hereafter follows a wide, slowly undulating laterite plain of 50 km, with a maximum altitude of 200 m. It is followed by tableland of 200 to 400 m height at both sides of the Mono river. More to the north the 700 m high Togo mountains intersect the country from SSW to NNE. The highest point is 1020 m. After going down, the Otitief-land rises to the Gambagamountains. Finally the land descends in the direction of Burkina Faso.
- 2.4. Climate: little variation in temperature, a moderate precipitation in the south with two rainy seasons: one in April-June the other in September-November. An average precipitation in the north with 1000 mm rain and one rainy season: May-October. Tree savanna with oilpalms on the tableland. Dry savanna with thorn-bush in the north.

3. Population:

- 3.1. Total population: 3.0 mln (1985), urban population: 23%.
- 3.2. Population density: 48 per km².
- 3.3. Population growth rate: 3.3% (1980-1985).
- 3.4. Capital: LOME, 250 000 inh. (1980).
- 3.5. Principal Languages: Basari, Ewe, Kabre, Kotokoli, Moba and French (official language).
- 3.6. Religion: 35% Christian (mainly Roman Catholic), 15% Islam, 50% traditional religions.

4. History:

At the end of the 19th century the Germans signed a treaty with the chef Mlapa and Togo became a "Schlutzgebiet". During World War I British and French soldiers occupied the country. During the period 1919-1946 Togo was a French mandatory. Togo became independent in 1960.

5. Nature of political system:

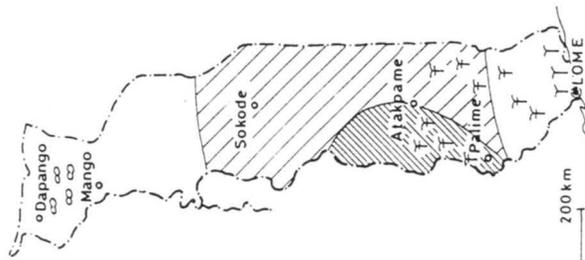
The Republic of Togo is a presidential republic. The constitution was adapted on 30 December 1979. It creates a single-party system. The political life is dominated by the Presi-

T O G O



ELEVATIONS

in metres



MAIN CASH CROPS

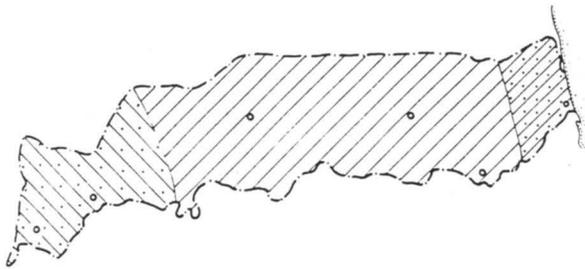
▨ cocoa and coffee

▧ cotton

⌘ oil palm

⌘ coconut

∞ groundnut



MAIN FOOD CROPS

LIVESTOCK

▨ millet sorghum and rice

▧ livestock cattle sheep goats

▧ yams and rice

▧ manioc and maize

▧ livestock sheep and goats

dent, who nominates the members of the Council of Ministers, presides over the government and can dissolve the National Assembly after consulting the party ("Rassemblement du Peuple Togolais"). The President is elected by universal adult suffrage for a seven-year period and can be reelected. The actual President is General Gnassingbe EYADEMA who came to power on 13 January 1967 and was reelected in December 1996.

6. Economy.

GDP: agriculture: 30%, industry: 24%, services: 47% (1985).
Employment: agriculture: 73%, industry: 10%, services: 17% (1980).

6.1. Mining:

Phosphate mines and limestone quarries are exploited. Iron ore, copper, chromium, bauxite and dolomite reserves are difficult to exploit because of transport difficulties.

6.2. Agriculture:

25% of the total area is arable land or cultivated with permanent crops (1984). The domestic production of staple food is not sufficient so that rice and wheat have to be imported. The low yields per ha are caused by primitive agricultural methods, the lack of water, the lack of mechanical means, fertilizers and knowledge. Principal food crops are cassava, maize, millet, yam and rice. Export crops are cocoa, groundnuts, coffee, cotton, oilpalm and coconutpalm.

6.3. Livestock:

3.5% of the total area is permanent pasture (1984). Livestock has a social value more than an economical one, certainly in the centre of the country and in the savanna. Pigs are concentrated in the south.

6.4. Forestry and woodland:

26.5% of the total area (1984), but decreasing through slash and burn cultivation, mainly in the south. Many valuable hardwood species are found. Little reforestation of 200 ha per year, mainly teak (*Tectona grandis*). For domestic uses construction wood is imported.

6.5. Fishery:

Inshore fishing is under development, but only from October until December. Fishery in the lagoons of the lowland during the whole year. Other possibilities could be the ponds and storage lakes in the interior. Lack of good fishery methods, refrigerators and processing plants thwart a good development.

6.6. Industry:

Most industries transform agricultural products (factory for cassava starch, breweries, sugar refineries, oil- and grain-mills, textile industry). There is a petroleum refinery, a clinker and cement factory, steelworks and a steelrolling-mill.

6.7. Weights, measures and currency:

kg, meter

1 CFA Franc (CFA Fr) = 100 centimes
1 US \$ = 448.25 CFA Fr (Nov. 1984)

7. Trade:

Total exports amount to 242 mln US \$ (1985). Products are phosphate, cocoa, coffee, palmkernels, copra and cotton. Main clients are the EEC, Yugoslavia, Poland, the USSR, the USA, Ivory Coast and Nigeria.

Total imports amount to 321 mln US \$ (1985). Main suppliers are the EEC, Sweden, Austria, the USA, Japan and China.

8. Miscellaneous:

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

Membership of international organisations:

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

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

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1150 Brussel

Tel. 02/770.17.91

Belgian Embassy in Togo: rue de l'Ocam Prolongée 165

B.P.7643

Lomé, Togo

ZAIRE

1. Official name: Republic of Zaïre
République du Zaïre

2. Geography:

- 2.1. Situation: in central Africa, between 5°20'N and 13°27'S, 12°15'E and 31°15'E.
- 2.2. Total area: 2 345 409 km².
- 2.3. Natural regions: the country comprises the greater part of the Zaïre river basin. Broad plateaux, between 500 m and 1000 m in altitude, surround the Zaïre basin. High mountains are restricted to a narrow eastern zone: the region of the Rift Valley.
- 2.4. Climate: Zaïre has equatorial and tropical climates with a long rainy season. Because of the cold offshore Benguela current Bas Zaïre has an abnormally long dry season and conditions are cooler than those of the interior. There is generally very little variation in the annual rainfall from one year to another, but there can be noticeable variability in the amount of rain falling during the rainy season.

3. Population:

- 3.1. Total population: 32.5 mln (1987), urban population: 39%.
- 3.2. Population density: 13.8 per km .
- 3.3. Population growth rate: 3.0% (1980-1985).
- 3.4. Capital: KINSHASA, 2.5 mln inh. (1980).
- 3.5. Principal Languages: Kikongo, Lingala, Swahili, Tshiluba and French (official language).
- 3.6. Religion: 50% traditional religions, 30% Catholic, 12% Protestant.

4. History:

The first explorations of the Zaïre basin only started after 1880 (Stanley and Livingstone). In 1885 Zaïre became an independent state under sovereignty of the Belgian King Leopold II and in 1908 a Belgian colony until 1960 when it became the independent Republic of Congo. In 1971 it changed its name in Republic of Zaïre under President Mobutu.

5. Nature of political system:

Zaïre is a single-party state. As a result of that the MPR ("Mouvement Populaire de la Révolution") became, in its function of nominating and electing the Head of State, the supreme organ of state. Under the Constitution promulgated on February 1978 executive power rests with the President

automatically chosen in his role of elected Leader of the MPR and approved by the electorate (candidates must be native of Zaïre and over 40 years of age. Not more than two seven-year terms are possible). The National Executive Council is chosen by the President. The legislature is the unicameral National Legislative Council (268 members, elected by universal suffrage for five years, they must be natives of Zaïre and over 25 years of age). A new structure for the MPR was adopted in 1980.

Voting qualifications: universal and compulsory adult suffrage over age 18.

6. Economy:

GDP: agriculture: 31%, industry: 34%, services: 36% (1985).
Employment: agriculture: 72%, industry: 13%, services: 16% (1980).

6.1. Mining:

Copper is the leading mining product. Associated products are cobalt, zinc, silver, germanium and cadmium. Zaïre has ± 60% of the world cobalt production. It is also an important producer of industrial diamonds, although production declined in recent years (12 mln carats in 1975, 6 mln carats in 1982). Other products are manganese, tin and its associates: tantalum, columbite, beryl and wolframite. Further gold and coal. An important reserve of lithium is present in the deposits at Manono.

6.2. Agriculture:

3% of the total area is arable land or cultivated with permanent crops (1984). Most of the arable land is used for subsistence farming with a shifting cultivation system, using slash and burn techniques with long periods of fallow. The distribution of the various kinds of crops depends in some measure on climatic differences, but mainly on cultural customs of ethnic groups. Cassava, maize, rice, bananas, sorghum, millet are widespread. Only small proportions of these foodcrops are marketed. Plantation crops such as coffee, tea, rubber, sisal, oil palm, cotton and cacao are to some extent export products. Other plantation crops as sugar cane and tobacco are marketed in the country.

6.3. Livestock:

4% of the total area is permanent pasture (1984). The presence of tsetse-flies prevents cattle raising in the Zaïre basin. Cattle in the east, pigs around Kinshasa.

6.4. Forestry and woodland:

75% of the total area (1984). Although half the area is covered with forests, its exploitation is limited. The Mamybe region exports limba (*Terminalia superba*), aghatola and tiama. Other timbers are wenge (*Millettia laurentii*), various mahoganies (*Entandrophragma* s p., *Khaya* spp.), samba (*Ceiba petandra*), iroko (*Chlorophora excelsa*), tchitola (*Oxytigma oxyphyllum*) and sapelli.

6.5. Fishery:

Fish as source of proteins is very important in Zaïre. Most of the fishing is done on the lakes and on the rivers. Sea fisheries account for only a small part of the total catch.

6.6. Industry:

The most important industries are mining and metalurgic industry, food processing industries (sugar, vegetable oil, tobacco, textile), chemical industries and wood industry.

6.7. Weights, measures and currency:

kg, meter

1 Zaire (Z) = 100 Makuta = 10 000 Sengi

1 US \$ = 38.48 (Nov. 1984)

7. Trade:

Total exports amount to 1568 mln US \$ (1985). Main export products are minerals and metals, agricultural products (coffee, cacao, cotton, oil palm). Main clients are the EEC, the USA and Japan.

Total imports amount to 1178 mln US \$ (1985). Main suppliers are the EEC, the USA and Japan.

8. Miscellaneous:

Literacy: estimates vary widely, no figure is representative.

World Bank classification: Zaïre belongs to the low-income economies with a GDP per capita of 170 US \$ (1985).

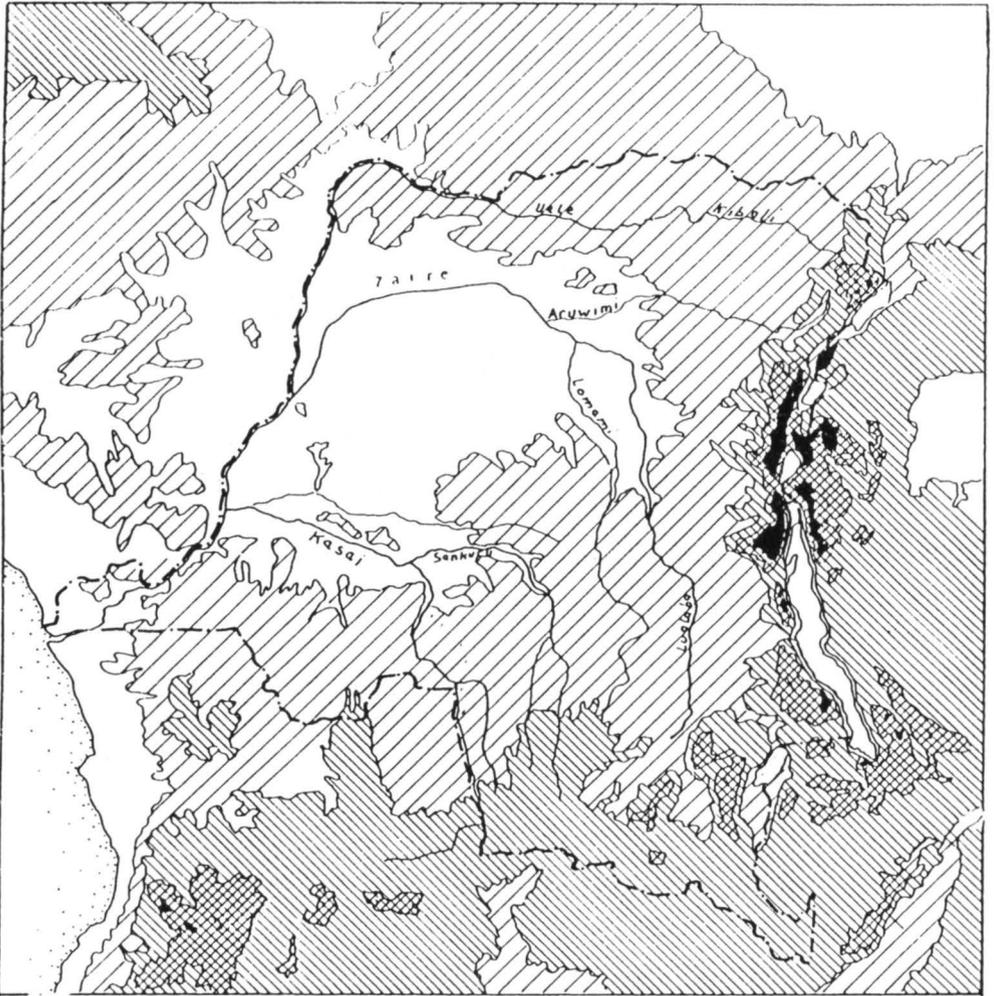
Membership of international organisations:

GATT, ILO, IMF, OAU, UN, WHO, African Development Bank, Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (recipient), Economic Commission for Africa, International Cocoa Organisation, International Tin Council, World Bank.

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

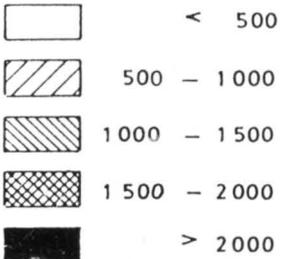
Embassy of Zaïre in Belgium: Maria Bourgondiëstraat 30
1040 Brussel
Tel. 02/513.66.10

Belgian Embassy in Zaïre: Building du Cinquanteenaire
Place du 27 octobre
P.O. Box 899
Kinshasa, Zaïre



ALTITUDE

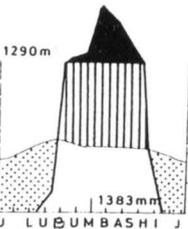
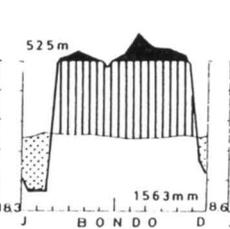
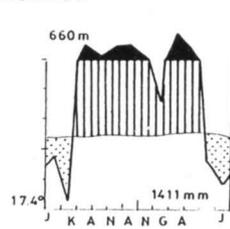
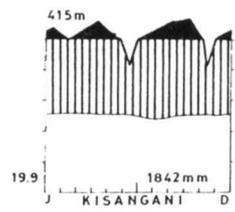
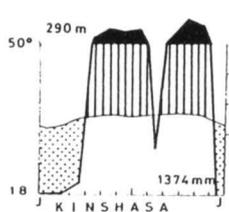
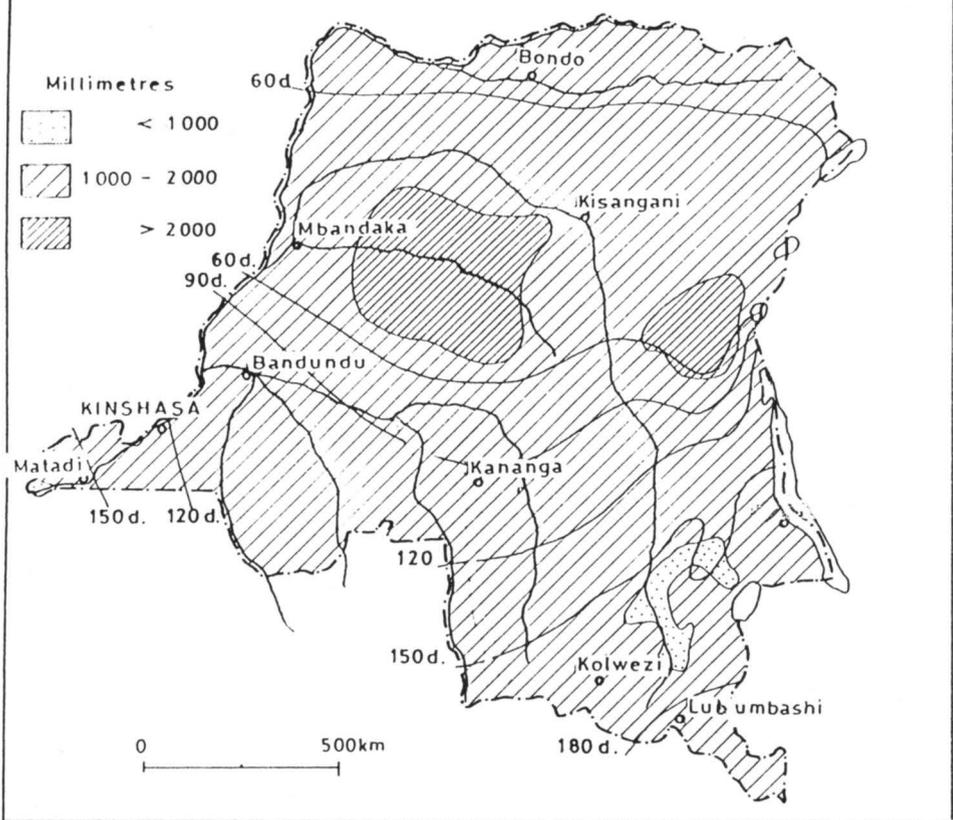
in meters



0 500 km

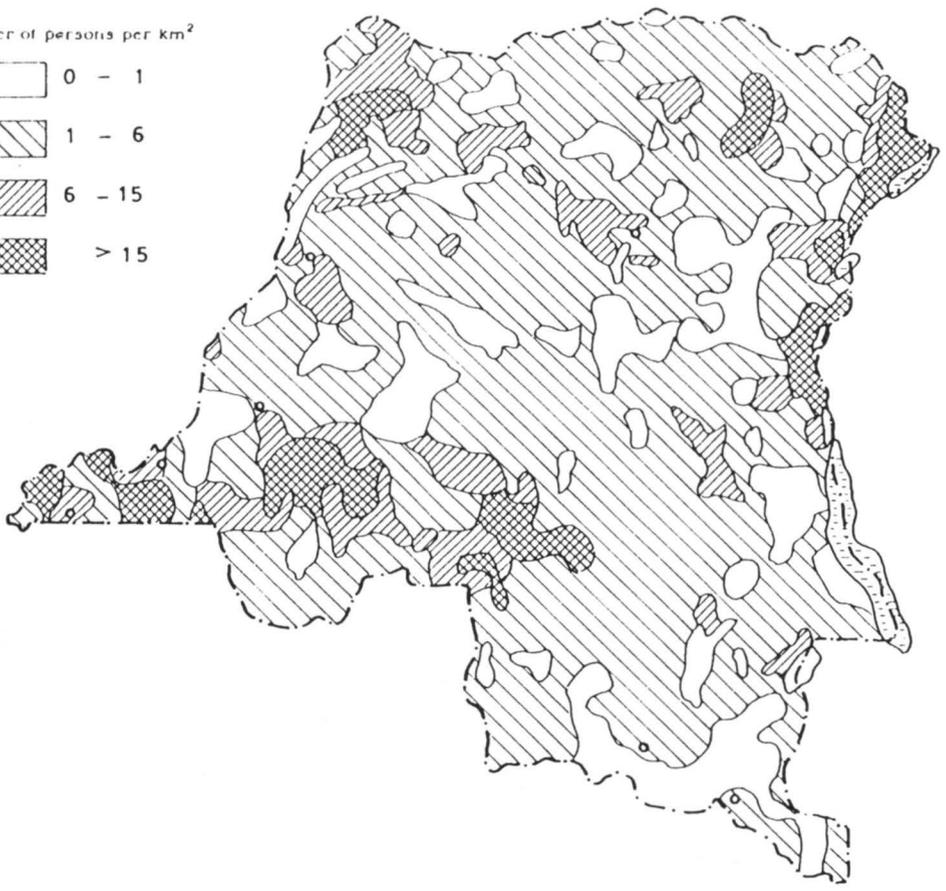
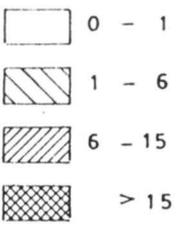


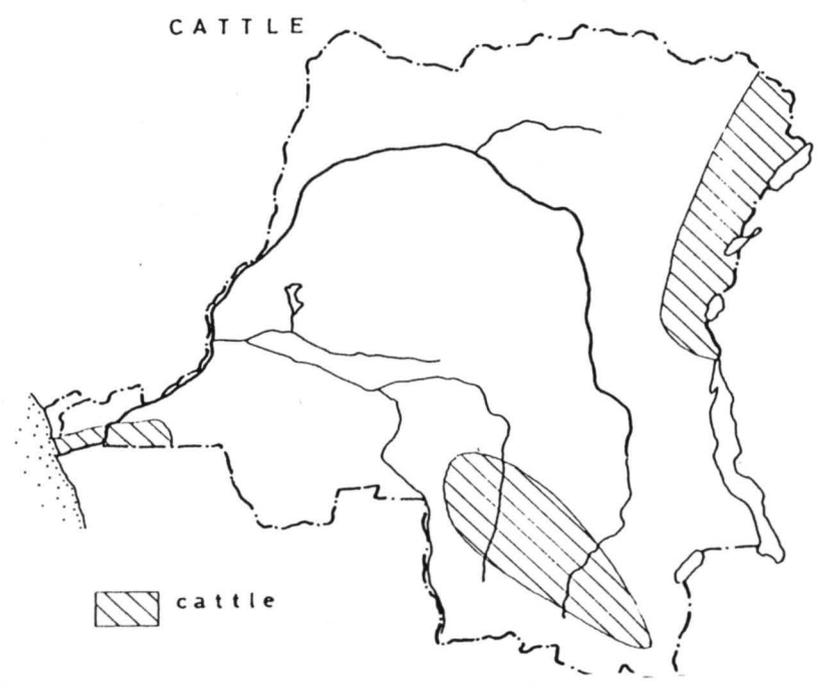
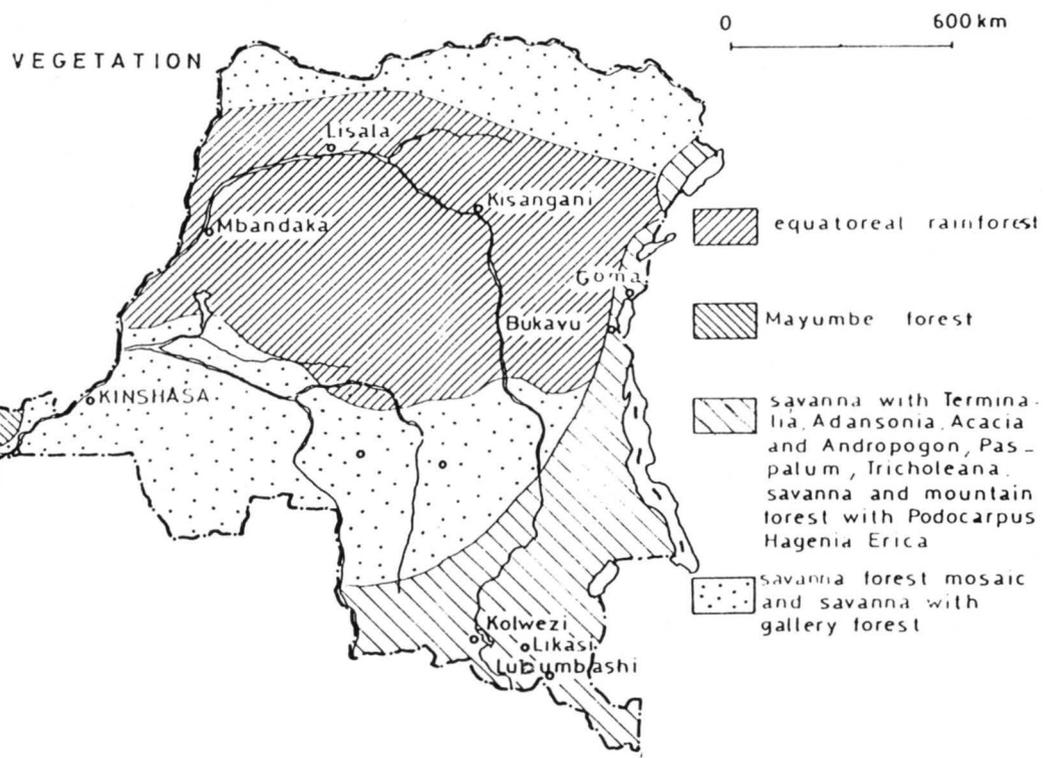
RAINFALL and LENGTH OF DRY SEASON



POPULATION DENSITY

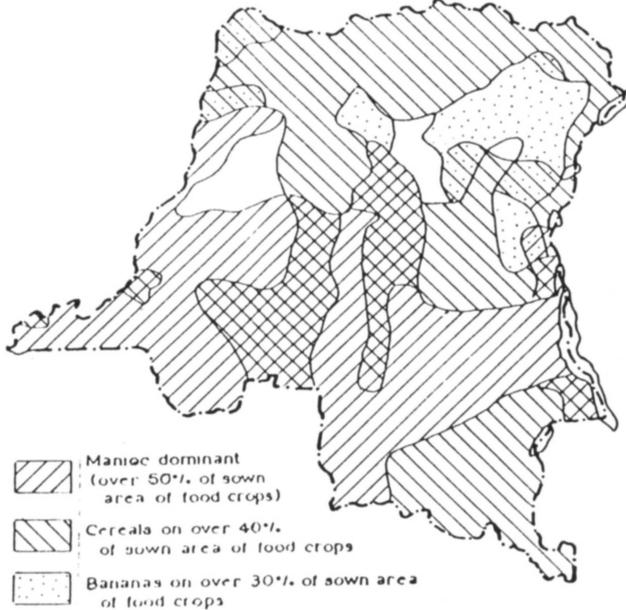
number of persons per km²





Z A I R E

PRINCIPAL FOOD CROPS



PRINCIPAL COMMERCIAL CROPS

