

## **AFRICA REVIEW**

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

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## **RWANDA**

1. Official name: Republic of Rwanda  
Republika y'Urwanda

2. Geography:

2.1. Situation: in the heart of Central Africa between 140'S and 248'S,  
28°50'E and 30°54'E.

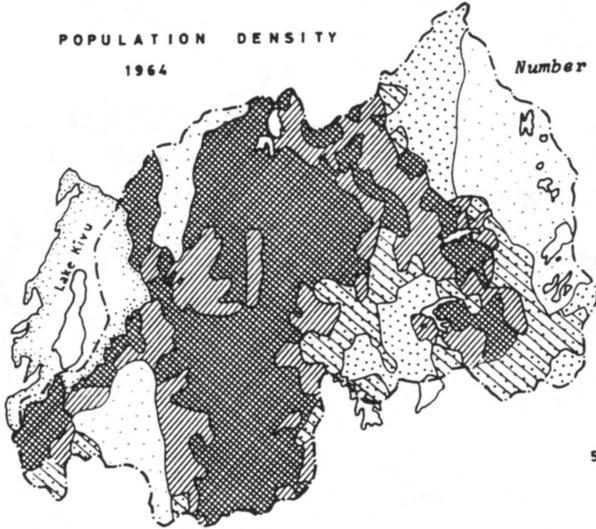
2.2. Total area: 26.338 km.

2.3. Natural regions: a dissected highland country declining from west to east (average altitude 1500 m). The edge of the plateaux rises in the west to 3000 m and divides the watersheds of the Zaire and the Nile. In the northwest lies a range of volcanoes, culminating in the Karisimbi peak at 4507 m.

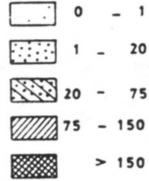
2.4. Climate: tropical with a well-marked dry season of about 3 months between June and August. While annual rainfall amounts vary only slightly, the rainfall in some months can be very uncertain particularly in September at the time when crops are sown. The failure or inadequacy of the rains often lead to food scarcity or even famine.

RWANDA

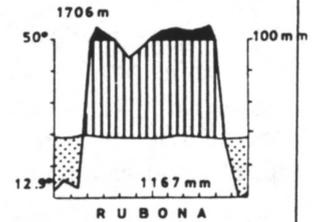
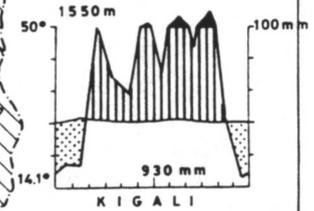
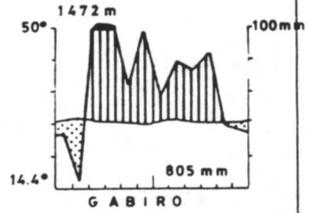
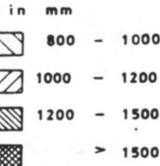
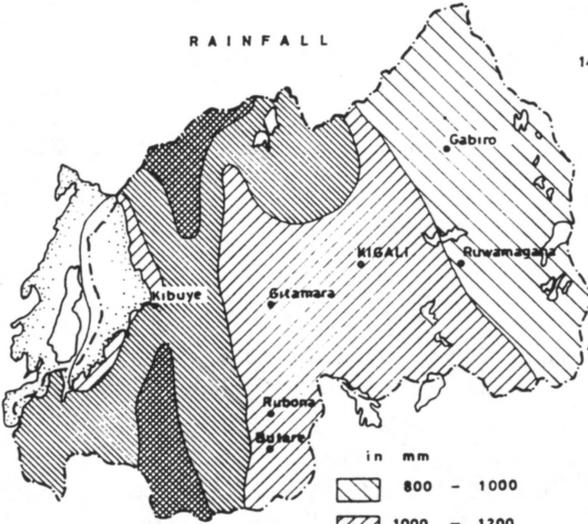
POPULATION DENSITY  
1964



Number of persons per km<sup>2</sup>



RAINFALL



0 100 km

### 3. Population:

3.1. Total population: 6.7 mln (1988), urban population: 5%.

3.2. Population density: 260 per km<sup>2</sup>. (1988).

3.3. Population growth rate: 3.3% (1988).

3.4. Capital: KIGALI, 118.000 inh. (1978).

3.5. Languages: Kinyarwanda, French (official), Swahili.

3.6. Religion: Christians 45%, traditional beliefs 44%, small Islamic community

### 4. History:

The Twa pygmies are believed to have been the autochthonous population. Hutu (agriculturalists) and Tutsi/Hima (pastoralists) immigrated. The latter (from Nilotic origin) conquered the country between the 13th and 15th century. Rwanda was one of the kingdoms of interlacustrine Africa and ruled by divine kings (Bami) under one of the five cyclical and dynastical names (Mutara, Kigeri, Mibambwe, Yuhi, Cyirima).

According to the genealogy, fourthly of them ruled since the Tutsi invasion. The symbol of power and authority was the sacred drum (Karinga). Clientship (Ubugake) between Tutsi and Hutu played an important role on economical, social and political levels. The administration was based upon hierarchy and the country was ruled by political specialists, the army and the Queen Mother. The ritualists (Abiru) were magico-religious specialists from the court; they took care of the continuity of kingship. The Tutsi were the leading ethnic group till 1959 when the Hutu revolted. Rwanda was a part of the German colonial territory from 1899 to 1917 and became a mandate under Belgian administration from 1920 until independence in 1962.

### 5. Nature of political system:

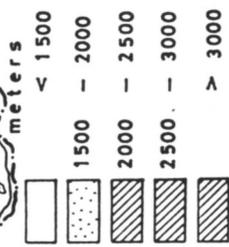
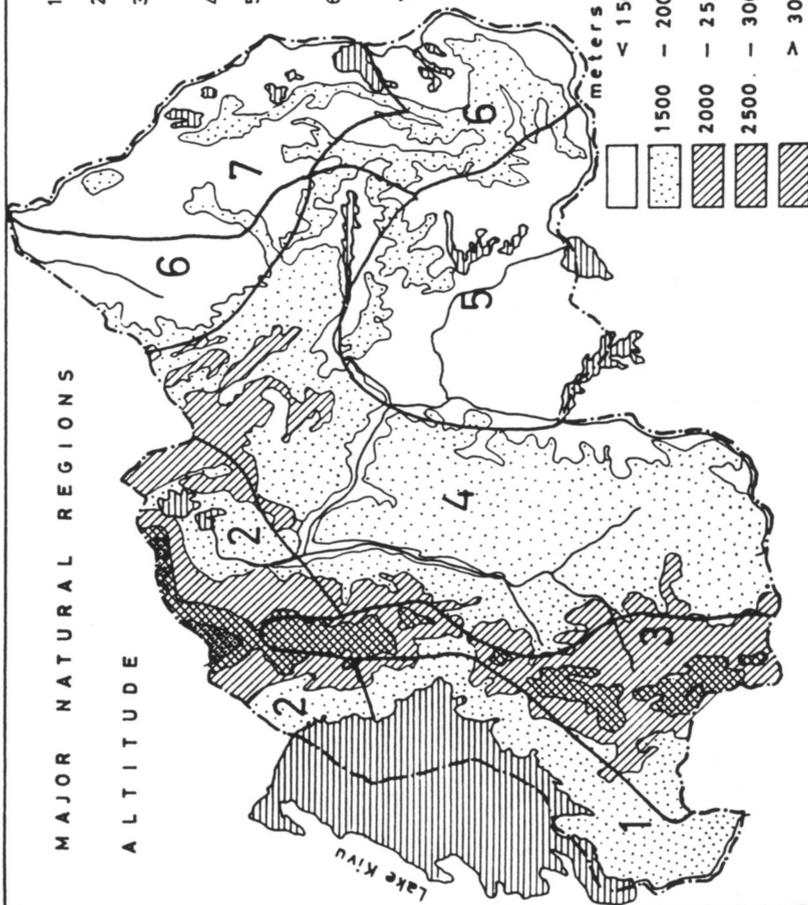
The president is both Head of State and President of the sole legal party, the "Mouvement révolutionnaire national pour le développement" (MRND). He is elected for a five-year term and can be re-elected provided he is not over

R W A N D A

MAJOR NATURAL REGIONS

ALTITUDE

- 1 Lake Kivu Escarpment
- 2 Bugoyi Bulera Region
- 3 Highlands of the Zaire Nile Divide
- 4 Central Plateaux
- 5 Southeastern Lake and Swamp Region
- 6 East and Northeast savannas
- 7 National Park



60 years old. In case of the President's death or incapacity to hold office, the secretary-general of the "MRND" acts as interim-president until a new one is elected (within 90 days). The president nominates his ministers and presides the Council of Ministers.

Legislative power resides by the President and the National Development Council (elected for five years by universal suffrage). The Council may veto the president's decisions by a vote of four-fifths of its members.

#### **6. Economy:**

GDP: agriculture: 45%, industry: 22%, services: 34% (1985).

Employment: agriculture: 91%, industry: 2% (1980).

#### **6.1. Mining:**

Cassiterite and wolframite represent 95% of the mineral ore exports. Natural gas reserves under Lake Kivu are said to be "massive".

#### **6.2. Agriculture:**

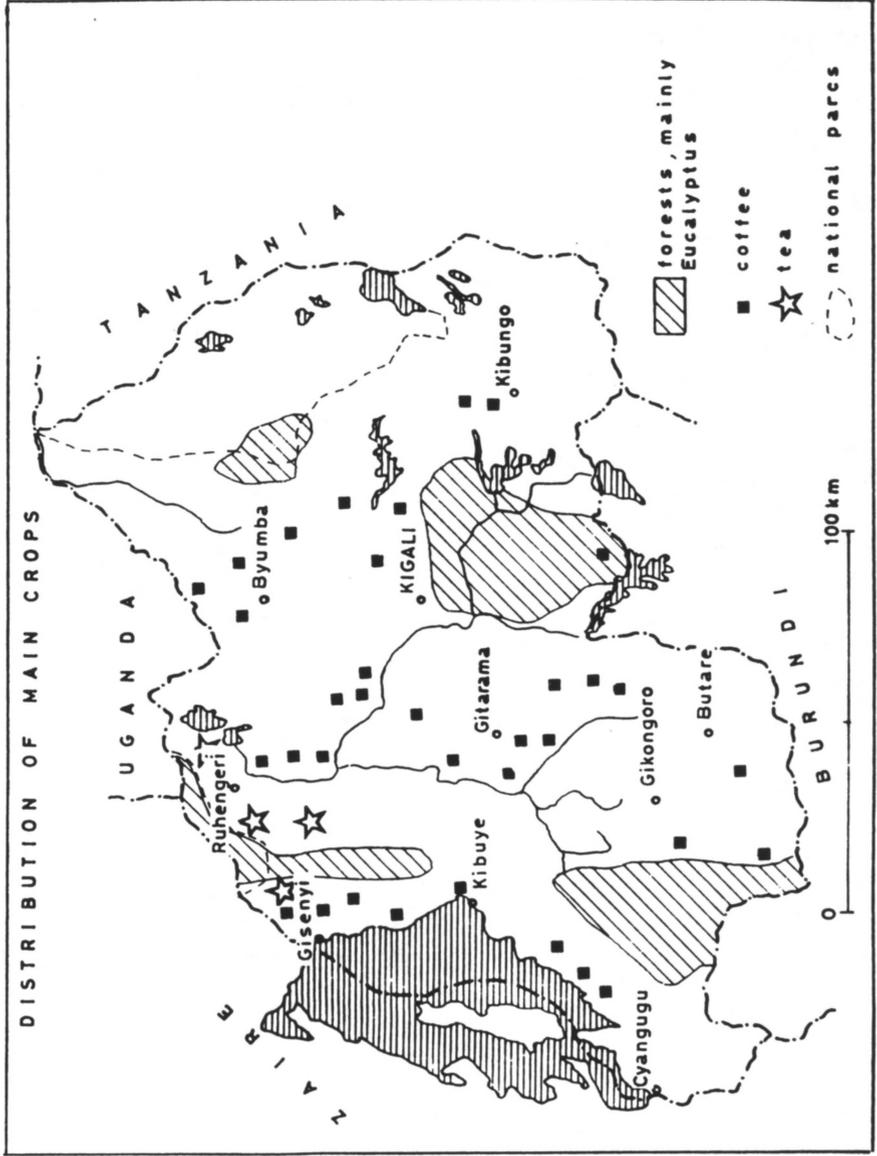
38% of the total area is arable land or cultivated with permanent crops (1984). A wide range of crops is grown because of the special combination of tropical climate and high altitude. Main foodcrops are beans, peas, groundnut, sorghum, millet, potatoes and sweet potatoes, maize, cassava and bananas. These crops are almost entirely cultivated at subsistence level for domestic consumption. Little more than 10% of production is surplus for cash sale. Coffee, tea and barley (for beer production) are the main industrial crops. Export crops are arabica coffee, robusta coffee, pyrethrum and tea.

#### **6.3. Livestock:**

16% of the total area is permanent pasture (1984). As in other African countries cattle raising plays an important role in the social structure. There is, however, hardly any selection, limited value in terms of food production local overstocking. There are about 900 000 goats, 645 000 heads of cattle, 300 000 sheep, 130 000 pigs and a large number of rabbits and poultry.

#### **6.4. Forestry and woodland:**

19% of the total area (1984). The extent of the natural forest is limited to the Zaire-Nile watershed and the volcanic regions. Reforestation with eucalyptus and pine.



**6.5.Fishery:**

Annual lake catch is about 1000 t, exclusively for local markets. **6.6.Industry:**

Processing of agricultural products: manufacturing of coffee, tea and pyrethrum, brewing of beer and soft drinks, soap factories.

**6.6. Weights, measures and currency:**

kg, meter

1 Franc (R.Fr.) = 100 centimes

1 US \$ = 76.45 R.FR.C (1988)

**7. Trade:**

Total exports amount to 75 mln US \$ (1985), mostly agricultural products. Main clients are the EEC, the USA, Kenya, Japan and Iran.

Total imports amount to 235 mln US \$ (1985) of which food represents 12-15%, machinery and tools 13-14% and transport equipment 11-13%. Main suppliers the EEC, the USA, Kenya, Tanzania and Zaire.

**8. Miscellaneous:**

Literacy: male: 61%, female: 39%.

World Bank classification: Rwanda belongs to the low-income economies with a GDP per capita of 280 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, World Bank.

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1150 Brussel

Tel. 02/763.07.02

Belgian Embassy in Rwanda: rue Nyarugence

B.P. 81

Kigali, Rwanda



## **MADAGASCAR**

**1. Official name: Democratic Republic of Madagascar  
Republika Malagasy**

**2. Geography:**

**2.1. Situation: Madagascar is an island in the Indian Ocean east of Tanzania between 12S and 25S, 43°36'E and 47°13'E.**

**2.2. Total area: 587 041 km.**

**2.3. Natural regions: the major highlands are situated on a central axis running north-south. There are mountains with altitudes up to 2500 m, volcanic as in Ankaratra and Tsaratanana or crystalline as in Adringitra. The lower areas form a narrow zone close to the coast except for the wide terrace plains in the west and partly in the south.**

**2.4. Climate: ranges from humid tropical in the east to semi- desert in the southwest. The altitudes temper the hot tropical climate in the mountain regions. The northwest monsoon brings rain to the northwest of Madagascar, the moisture laden tradewinds bring heavy rains to the eastern littoral regions.**

**3. Population:**

**3.1. Total population: 10.2 mln (1985), urban population: 21%.**

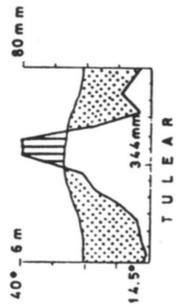
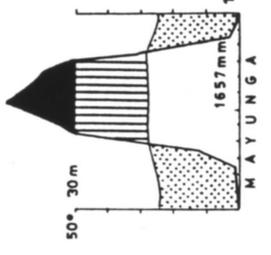
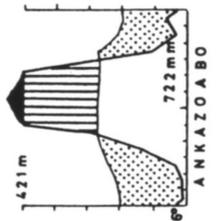
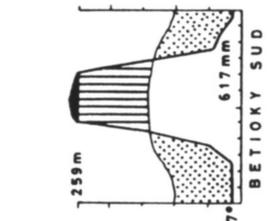
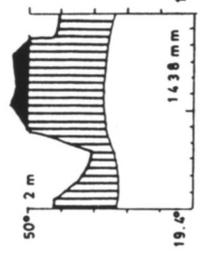
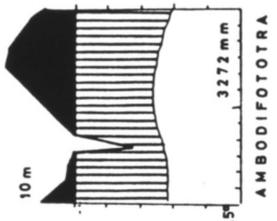
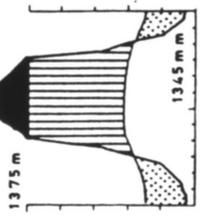
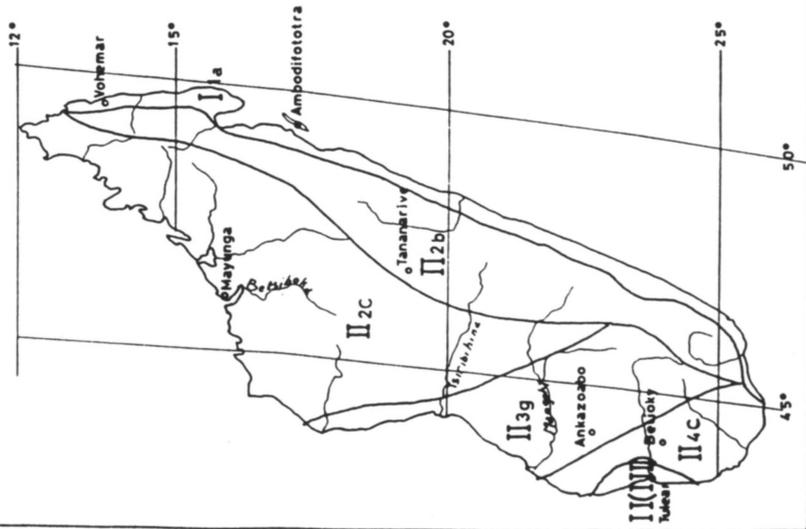
**3.2. Population density: 17 per km.**

**3.3. Population growth rate: 3.2% (1980-1985).**

**3.4. Capital: ANTANANARIVO, 663.000 inh. (1985).**

**3.5. Languages: Malagasy, French (official), English.**

M A D A G A S C A R  
CLIMATIC DIAGRAMS



**3.6. Religion: 40% Christians (1/2 Roman Catholics), traditional beliefs (57%), Muslims.**

#### **4. History:**

Madagascar was an uninhabited island for 1500 years. The first immigrations were of Malaysian-Polynesian origin, while later in history Africans and Arabs also immigrated. About twenty tribes lived in the island. Each tribe was ruled by a divine king. The society was hierarchized in nobles (Andriana) and commoners (Hova). The kingdom was divided in several districts (Toko). The Merina-kingdom is the best known. European influence and colonisation were very limited until the 19th century. Madagascar came under French trusteeship in 1885, became a French colony in 1896 and acquired independence in 1960.

#### **5. Nature of political system:**

The Head of State is the President, directly elected by universal suffrage for a term of seven years. He is automatically chairman of the Supreme revolutionary Council (SRC), of which he names two-thirds of the members by choice and one-third from a list presented by the National People's Assembly.

The 137-member National People's Assembly is elected by universal suffrage for a term of five years and holds two sessions per year.

The President appoints the prime minister and with him the other ministers. There also exists the Military Development Committee (a consultative organ) whose endorsement is essential for any national defence, social or economic programme.

#### **6. Economy:**

GDP: agriculture: 42%, industry: 16%, services: 42% (1985).

Employment: agriculture: 88%, industry: 3%, services: 9% (1980).

##### **6.1. Mining:**

Due to lack of an adequate infrastructure mining is limited to graphite, chromite mica and small quantities of other minerals.

##### **6.2. Agriculture:**

4.5% of the total area is arable land or cultivated with permanent crops (1984). Rice is the main food crop, followed by cassava, mainly cultivated

in the midwest. Maize is grown in the highlands and near the western coast while sorghum is only planted in the south. Export crops are in the first place robusta coffee, and secondly vanilla. Also cloves, sugar cane, cotton, sisal and tobacco.

#### 6.3.Livestock:

58% of the total area is permanent pasture (1984). Cattle raising is not economically developed. Cattle is socially and religiously important. Cattle is almost entirely of the Zebu type of small size and moderate weight. Moderate numbers of sheep and goats are found throughout the island. Pigs are found mostly in the highlands.

#### 6.4.Forestry and woodland:

28% of the total area (1984). The forests are poorly exploited due to a lack of infrastructure. Most exploitations are found in the east. The species used are *Dalbergia melanoxylon*, *Azelia bijuga*, *Symphonia gabonensis*, *Weinmannia* spp., *Cryptocarya* spp., *Brachylenia eugenia*, *Ravensara crassifolia*, *Ocotea usambarensis* and *Canarium schweinfurthii*. Reforestation provides adequate reserves of construction timber and firewood: *Eucalyptus* and *Pinus*.

#### 6.5.Fishery:

Total annual catch is estimated at 55 000 t. Inshore fishing is important (local consumption).

#### 6.6.Industry:

Poorly developed and based on agricultural products.

#### 6.7. Weights, measures and currency:

kg, meter

1 Malagasy Franc (FMG) = 100 centimes

1 US \$ = 1,407.1 FMG (1988)

#### 7. Trade:

Total exports amount to 311 mln US \$ (1985), mainly agricultural products. Main clients are the EEC, the USA, the USSR, Yugoslavia, Japan, Indonesia and Malaysia.

Total imports amount to 323 mln US \$ (1985) of which fuels represent 28%,

food 12%, machinery and transport equipment 27%.

**8. Miscellaneous:**

**Literacy:** 45-50% (1979).

**World Bank classification:** Madagascar belongs to the low-income economies with a GDP per capita of 240 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, World Bank.

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

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