

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

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CAMEROON

1. Official name:

United Republic of Cameroon
République Unie de Cameroun

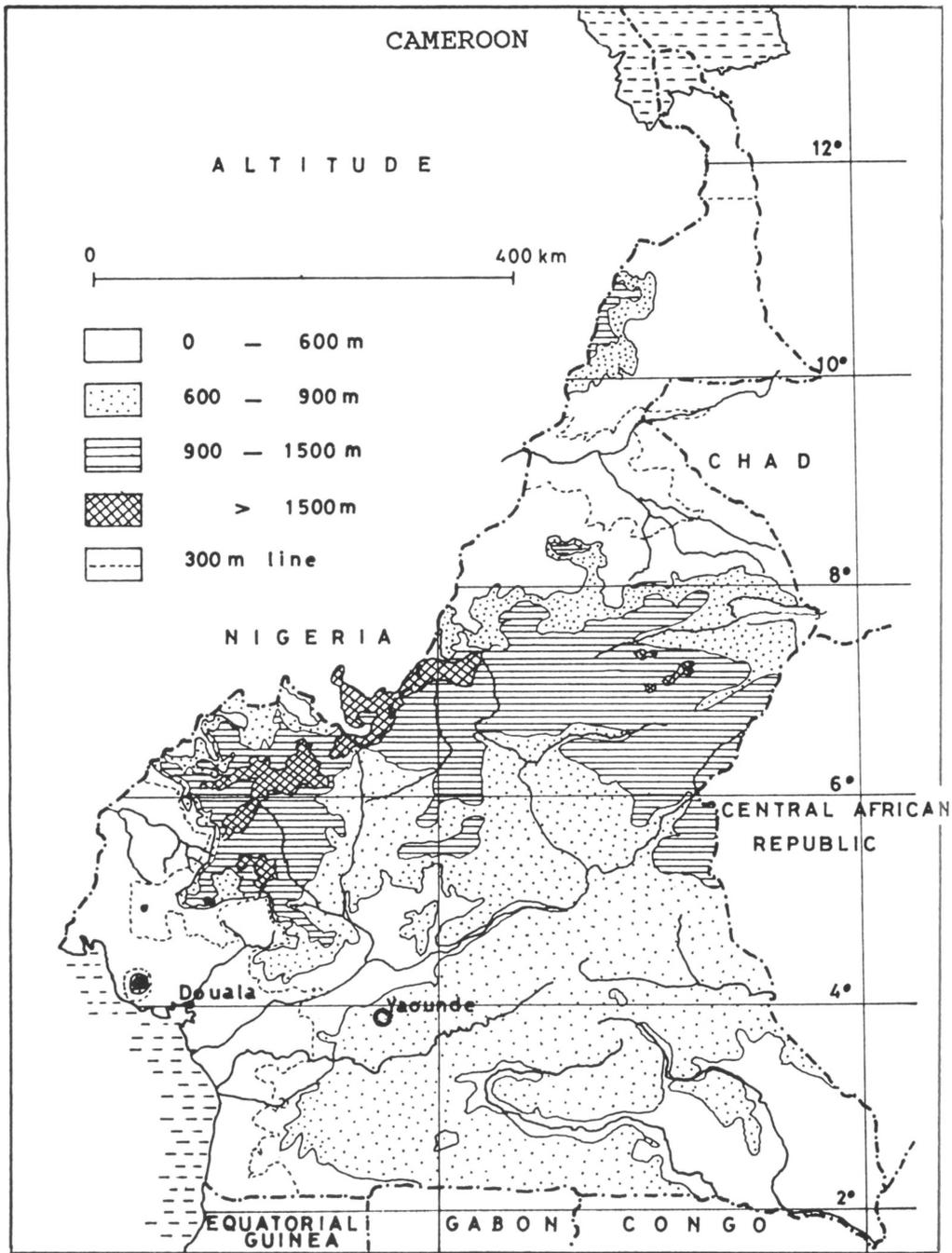
2. Geography:

2.1. Situation: Cameroon is situated between 2°N and 13°N, 8°30'E and 16°E in the Gulf of Guinea. The country has a triangular form.

2.2. Total area: 475 000 km².

2.3. Natural regions: the unbroken volcanic mountain arc, running northward from Mount Cameroon (4070 m) and then eastward in the Adamaoua Massif, divides the country into three zones. South Cameroon is characterized by equatorial rainforest and derived savannas. North of this lies a zone of wooded savannas, occupying the plateau of Adamaoua. The narrow northern part is a part of the Sahel zone (thorny steppe). West Cameroon is characterized by the plains and basins of the Cross river.

2.4. Climate: the seasonal movement of the Intertropical front, which is the major controlling factor, causes the great variety in weather conditions. The southern region has an equatorial climate with two rainy seasons while northwards, a progressively longer single dry season occurs. The mountain range causes cloudy weather, storms and squalls.



3. Population:

3.1. Total population: 11.5 mln (1989), urban population: 47%.

3.2. Population density: 24 per km² (1989).

3.3. Population growth rate: 3.2% (1980-1987).

3.4. Capital: YAOUNDE, 650 000 inh.; largest city: DOUALA, 1 029 700 inh. (1986).

3.5. Languages: Cameroon is officially bilingual: 80% French, 20% English. The country can be divided in four linguistic families: Bantu, semi-Bantu, Sudanese and Afro-Asiatic languages. Fulfulde is mainly spoken in the north. In the south there are more than seventy different languages. Important vernacular languages in Cameroon are Arabic, Bakoko, Bamileke, Bassa, Boulou, Choa, Douala, Ewondo, Fang, Hausa and Pidgin English.

3.6. Religion: traditional beliefs 39%, Christian 40%, muslim 21%.

4. History:

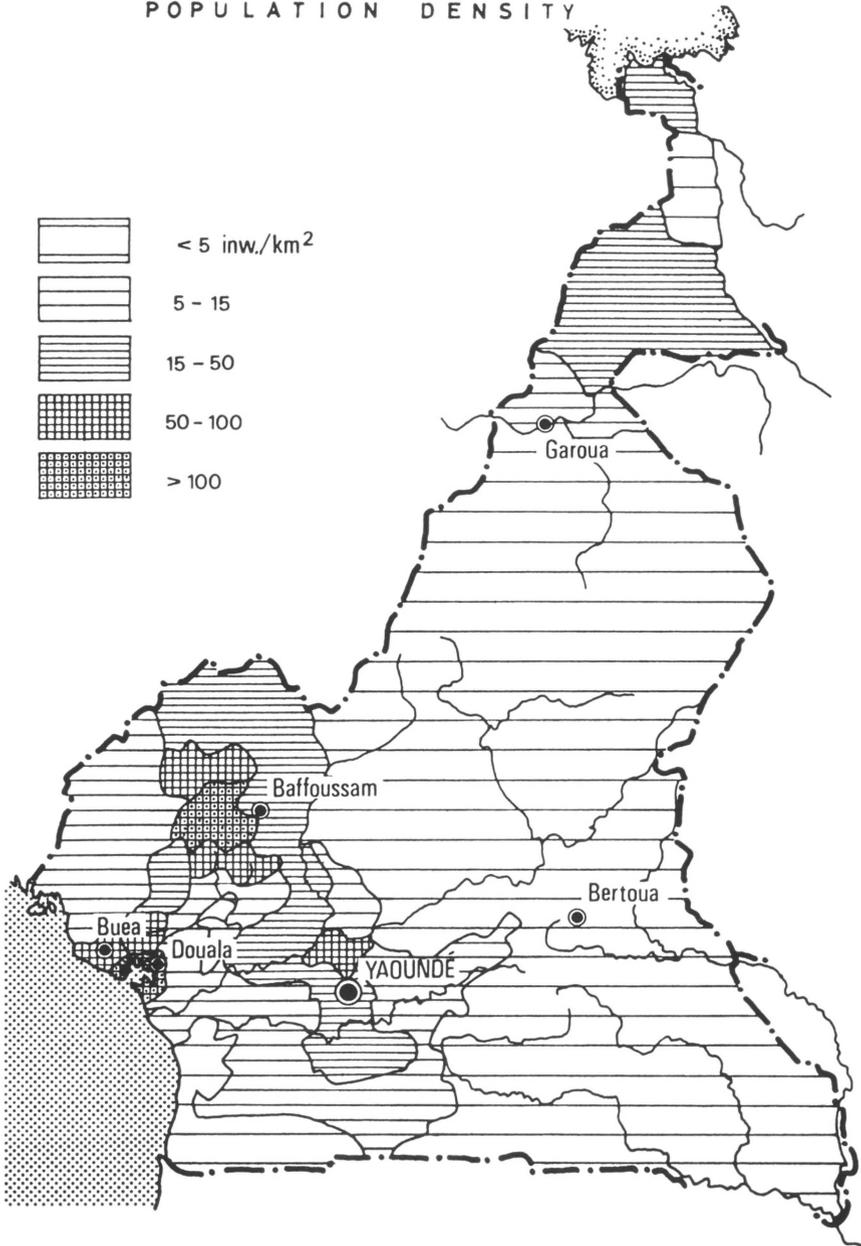
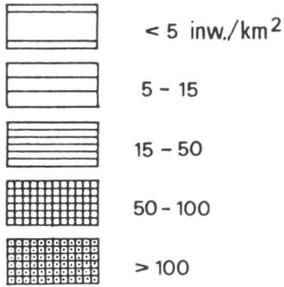
In the precolonial period, numerous migrations of different peoples took place and they melted together to constitute new unities. The ethnic groups in the north are called "Kirdi" by the muslims. In fact they are divided in several small ethnic groups such as the Fali, Bata, Moundan etc. All of them are acephalous. In the beginning of the 18th century, after the Kanem civilization, the Fulani invaded the north of Cameroon and were the founders of the "Lamidat", such as Maroua, Rey Bouba, Midif, Bogo etc. The hereditary head or "Lamido" was surrounded by several ministers chosen among the local peoples who were settled in the region long before their invasion.

More to the south, important ethnic groups are the Pahouin, Bamileke, Bassa, Bakota, Bamoun etc. The Bamoun kingdom, with its famous capital at Foubam, was ruled by the "Mfon", the king. He was assisted in his political tasks by the "Mfonte", the chiefs of the submitted and allied ethnic groups. Among the Bamileke of the grasslands, the mother of the chief, the "Mafo", took part in the political life after the coronation of her son, as it is often the case among matrilineal peoples.

CAMEROON



POPULATION DENSITY



After the conference of Berlin (1885) the country became officially a German protectorate. In 1916, the German protectorate ended when French-British-Belgian troops occupied the country. The country was divided by the League of Nations into a French mandate (the eastern region) and a British mandate (two separated smaller western regions) in 1920. After the Second World War the mandates became UN trust territories. The withdrawal of the French trusteeship in 1959 accelerated the decolonization in West Cameroon. A referendum was held in February 1961 and the northern province of West Cameroon preferred adhesion to Nigeria, while the southern province chose the connection with East Cameroon. In October 1961, the Federal Republic of Cameroon was established. Cameroon became a unitarian republic in 1972.

5. Nature of political system:

The President is elected for five years. He appoints a Prime Minister and other Ministers (who cannot be members of the legislature). The legislature is the unicameral 180-member National Assembly elected by universal suffrage for five years. The "Rassemblement démocratique du peuple camerounais" (**RDCP**) is the only legal party. The opposition parties are the Cameroon Democratic Front (**CDF**), including several factions of the "Union des populations Camerounaises" (**UDPS**), and the Social Democratic Front (**SDF**). President Paul Biya took office on 6 Nov. 1982.

Voting qualifications: universal adult suffrage over 21.

6. Economy:

GDP: agriculture: 21%, industry: 37%, services: 42% (1985).

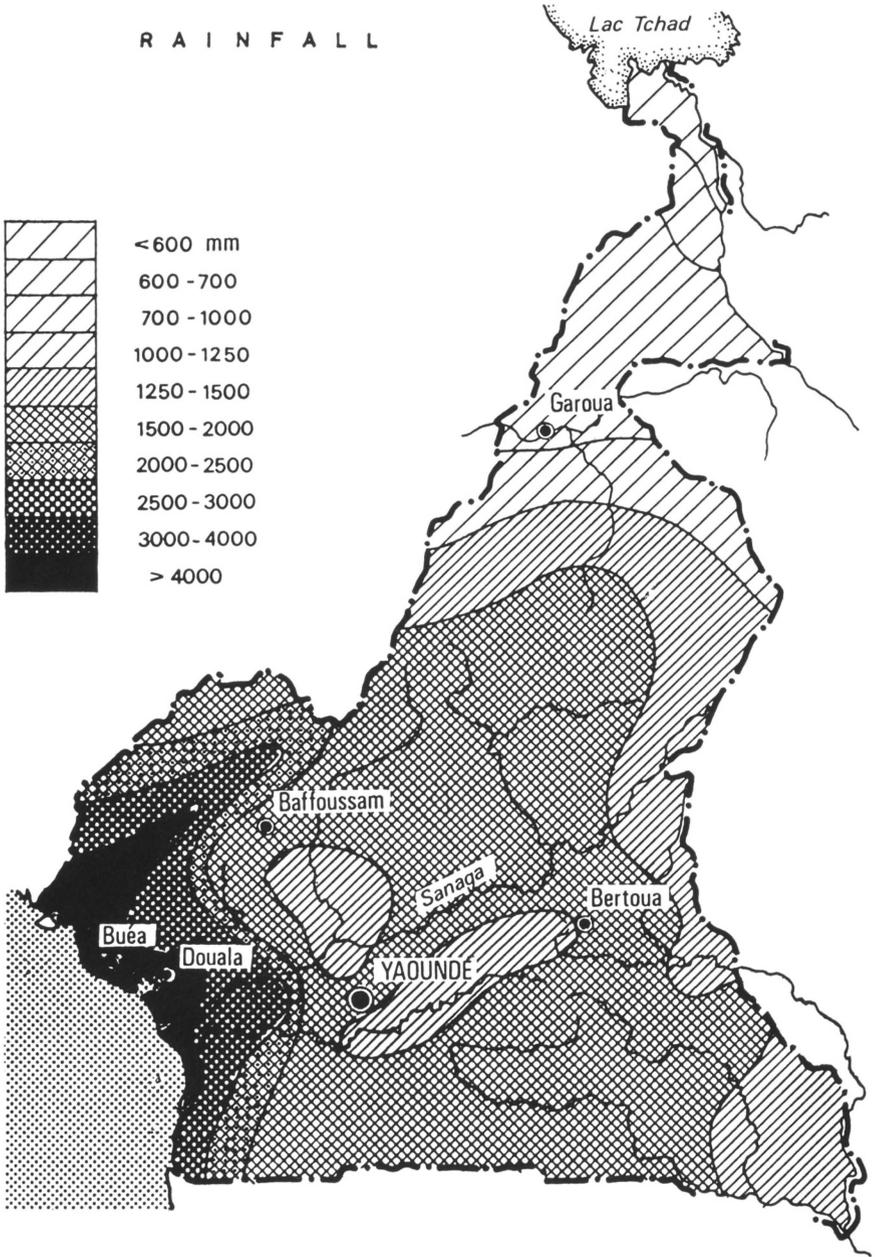
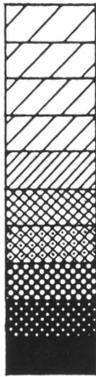
Employment: agriculture: 70%, industry: 8%, services: 22% (1980).

6.1. Mining: Petroleum exploitation has started in 1978. Large iron and bauxite reserves have been localized. The electrical production of aluminium is decreasing.

6.2. Agriculture: 13.5% of the total area is arable land or cultivated with permanent crops (1984). The major food crops are cassava, sweet potatoes, taros, plantains and, although less important, millet, sorghum, maize and rice. Most of these crops are grown in North and Mid Cameroon. The quickly growing vegetable production is mainly situated in West Cameroon and supplies Douala. Since bread has become a basic food for the population, the wheat production has been stimulated seriously in the Adamaoua region, where some 50 000 ha have been planted. The most important cash crops for export are cocoa (120 000 t), coffee (mainly arabica, 90 000 t), bananas (90 000 t), cotton (40 000 t), oilpalm, rubber (**Hevea**)

CAMEROON

RAINFALL

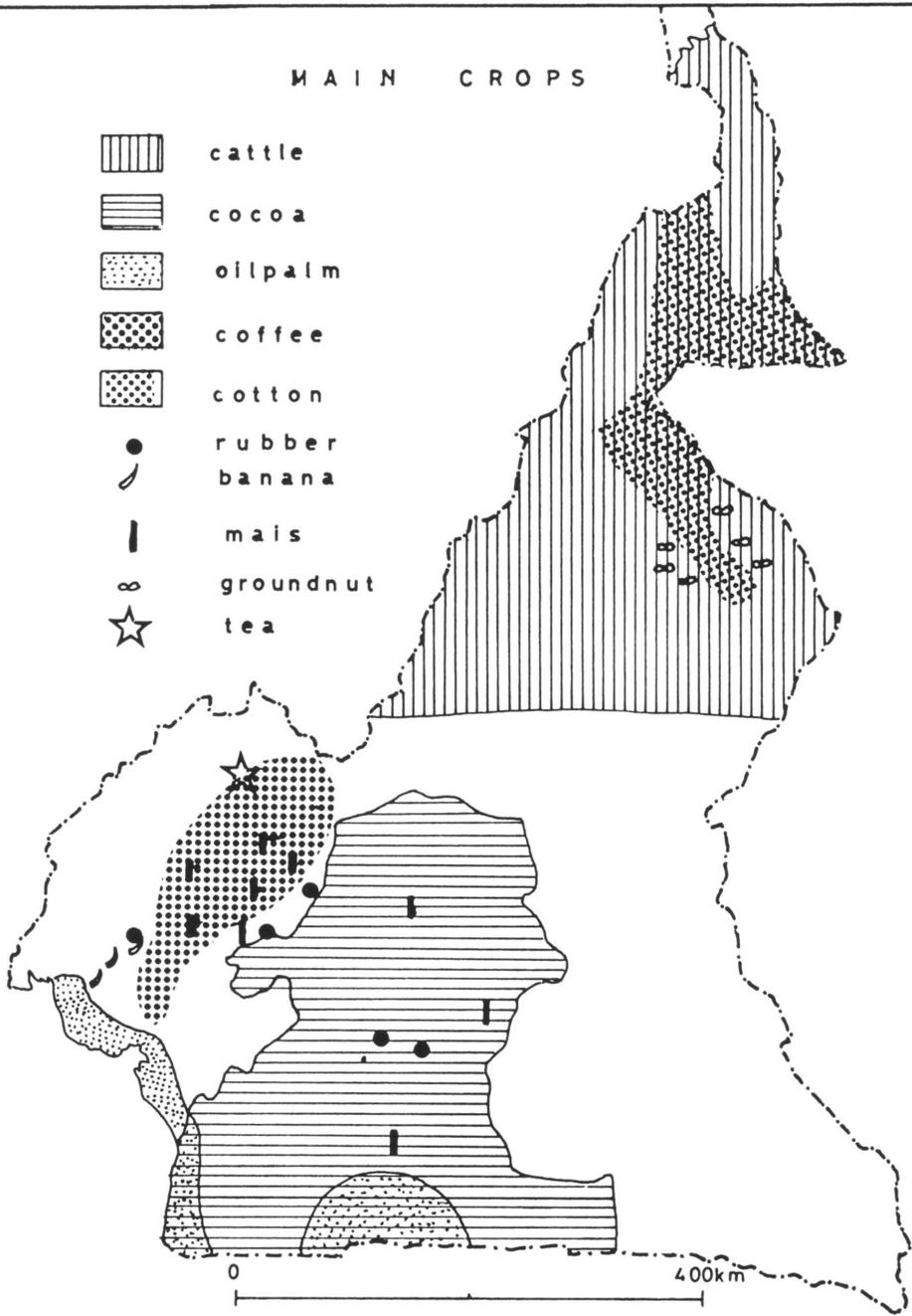


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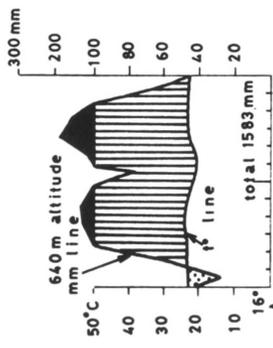
CAMEROON

MAIN CROPS

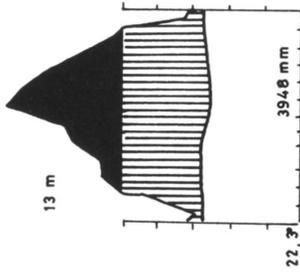
-  cattle
-  cocoa
-  oilpalm
-  coffee
-  cotton
-  rubber
-  banana
-  mais
-  groundnut
-  tea



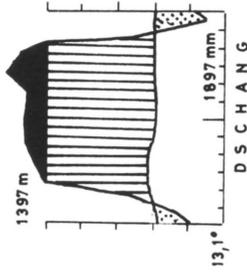
CAMEROON
CLIMATIC DIAGRAMS



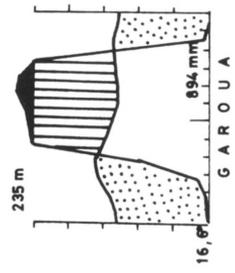
mean daily minimum of the coldest month



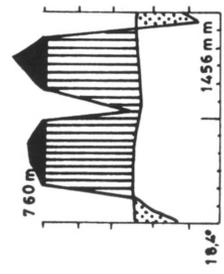
DOUALA



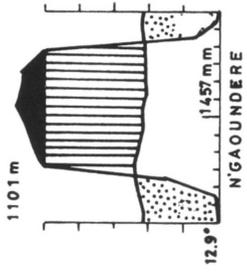
DSCHANG



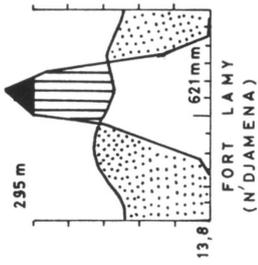
GAROUA



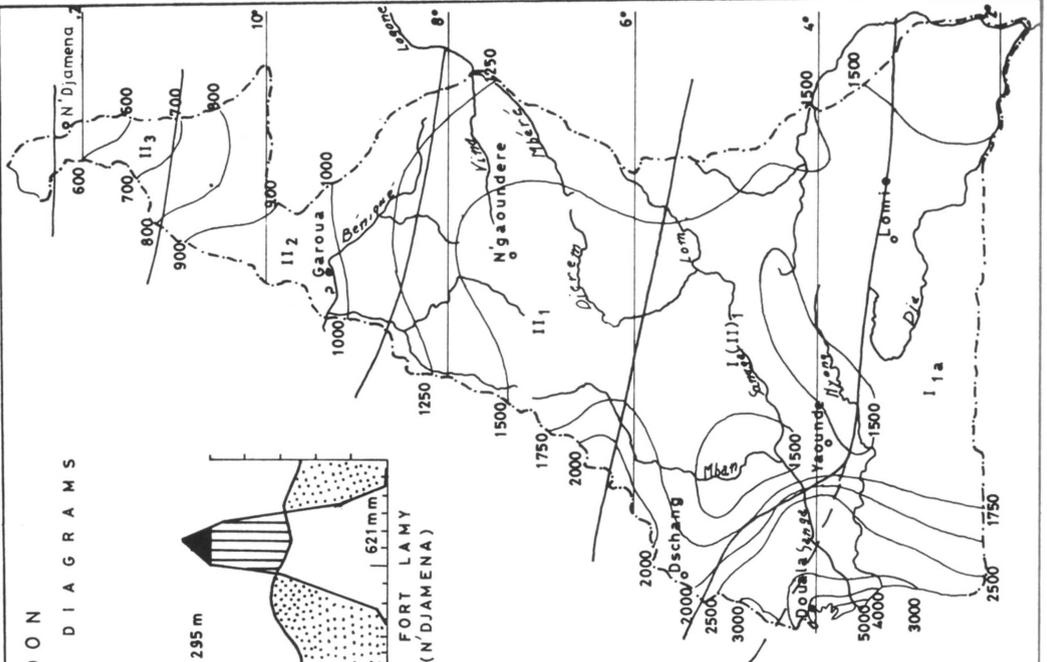
YAOUNDE



NGAOUNDERE



FORT LAMY
(N'DJAMENA)



and tobacco. The production of sugar cane and groundnuts ($\pm 200\ 000$ t) and tea is chiefly used for local consumption.

6.3. Livestock: 17.5% of the total area is permanent pasture (1984). Livestock is growing more important each year. The total number of heads has doubled since 1960. The northern steppe region is very suitable for extensive cattle breeding and almost 2/3 of the total number (3.2 mln) is found there. Two breeds, both Zebu-types, are widespread: the 'Mbororo' and the 'Peuhl', the latter giving a higher beef output. Trypanosomiasis is still a major problem in Cameroon. Besides cattle, there are sheep (2.25 mln), goats (2.4 mln), pigs (1.2 mln) and poultry (about 11 mln).

6.4. Forestry and woodland: 55% of the total area (1984). Tropical forests represent 47%. Mangroves are found in the coastal zone and on the borders of the Chad Lake, while bushwood is typical for the north of the Adamaoua massif. Approximately 20% of the removed volume (1.3 mln) is classified as industrial wood. Around 50% is exported in log form, 10% as sawn timber. The species, in order of importance, are: azobé (*Lophira alata*), sapele (*Entandrophragma cylindricum*), doussié (*Azalia bipidensis*), obeché (*Triplochyton scleroxylon*), sipo (*Entandrophragma utile*), acajou (*Khaya* spp.) and maobi (*Baillonella toxisperma*).

6.5. Fishery: Annual catch is estimated around 70-75 000 t, approximately 30% from the Atlantic. The main coastal fishing centre is Kribi. Shrimps are industrially deepfrozen for export.

6.6. Industry: Next to the aluminium factories and the petroleum refineries, there is an important food industry: cocoa, oilmills, fisheries, canneries, breweries, flour mills, a sugar refinery, paper mills and tobacco manufactures. Timber, veneer, furniture and soap factories export their products to neighbouring countries. There is also some chemical, mechanical and cement industry.

6.7. Weights, measures and currency:

kg, meter

1 CFA Franc = 100 centimes

1 US \$ = 283.9 CFA (March 1990)

7. Trade:

Total exports amount to 924 mln US \$ (1988). Main clients are the EEC (68%), the USA and Ivory Coast.

Total imports amount to 1 271 mln US \$ (1988) and comprise machinery and transport equipment (38%), other manufactures (41%), food (17%). Main suppliers are the EEC (71%), the USA (12%), Guinea, Ivory Coast and Senegal.

8. Miscellaneous:

World Bank classification: Cameroon belongs to the lower middle-income economies with a GDP per capita of 810 US \$ (1985).

Membership of international organisations:

GATT, ILO, IMF, OAU, UN, UNESCO, WHO, African Development Bank, Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (recipient), Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa, Economic Commission for Africa, French Monetary Area, Islamic Conference, Islamic Development Bank, World Bank.

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

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Belgian Embassy in Cameroon: Immeuble de Mban
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Yaoundé

NAMIBIA

1. Official name: Republic of Namibia

2. Geography:

2.1. Situation: on the west coast of South Africa between 17°S and 29°S.

2.2. Total area: 823 620 km².

2.3. Natural regions: the coastal zone of Namibia, between 80 km and 130 km wide (15% of the total area) is a desert area. The central plateaux or highlands with altitudes of 1000- 2000 m (50% of the total area) and the Kalahari, slightly higher in the north than in the south but averaging 1000 m, have a hot steppe vegetation.

2.4. Climate: subtropical with a dry winter and a hot summer. The onset and duration of the rainy season are highly variable.

3. Population:

3.1. Total population: 1.76 mln (1988), urban population: 55%.

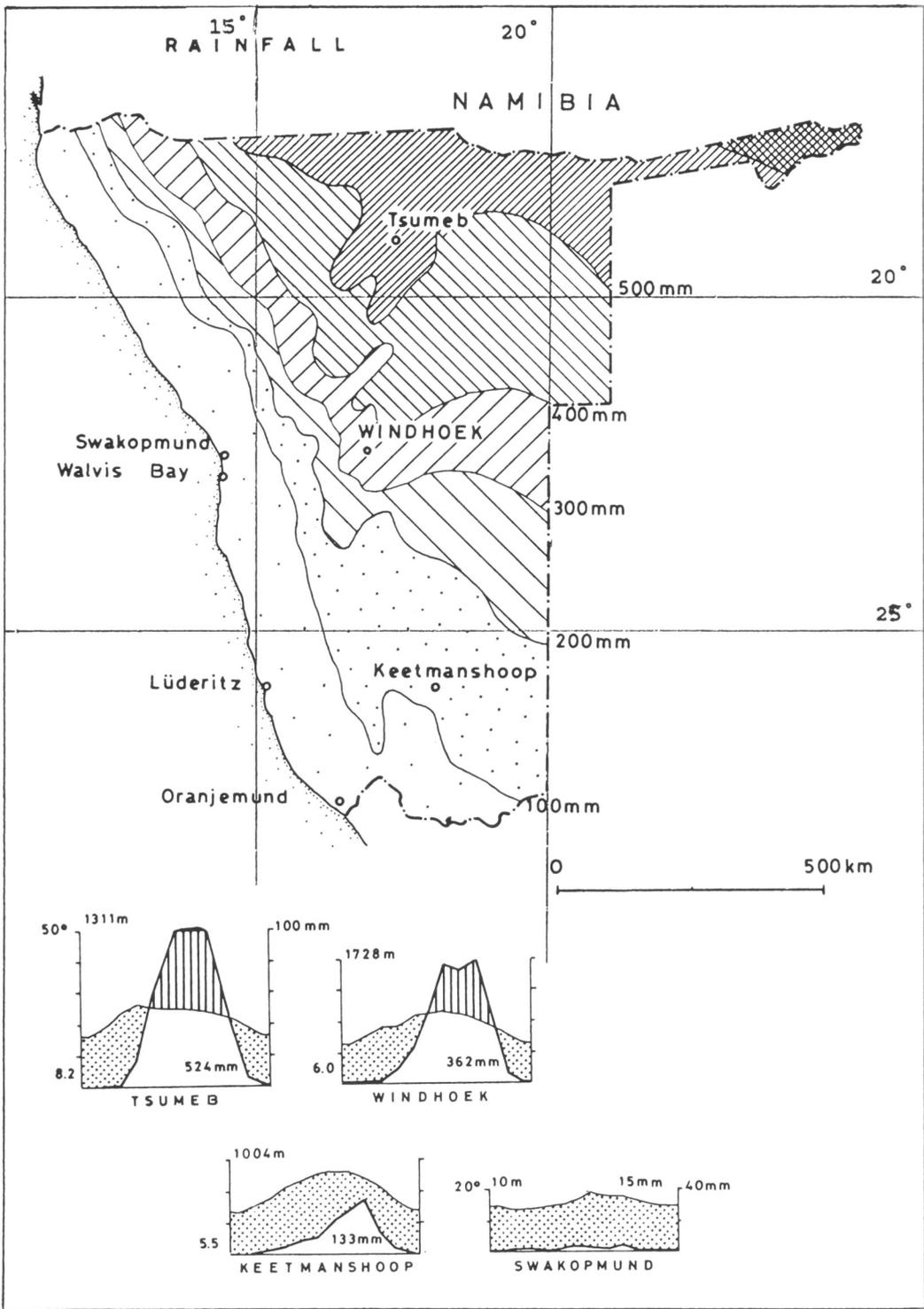
3.2. Population density: 2 per km² (1988).

3.3. Population growth rate: 2.7% (1970-1986).

3.4. Capital: WINDHOEK, 114 500 inh. (1988).

3.5. Languages: English, German, Afrikaans, Herero, Khoisan, Ovambo.

3.6. Religion: 90% Christian, traditional beliefs.



4. History:

The original people of Namibia are the Khoi and the San (by Europeans sometimes called "Hottentots" and "Bushmen"). The San are typical hunter-gatherers divided in several acephalous tribes such as the Kung, Auen, Garin, Huinin and Naron. The biggest social-economical-political unit is the band. The Khoi are hunters but also cattle nomads. They are also divided in several tribes, such as Korana, Nama and Gona. The language of both groups, the so-called Khoi-San languages, are known as "click" languages with five sub-families : Khoi, Xu, hua, nhu and kwadi.

The ethnic groups belonging to the Bantu language family are the Herero and Ambo. They are all acephalous and composed of several unilineal lineages. They immigrated into the country about two centuries ago. The principal economic activities are agriculture and cattle breeding.

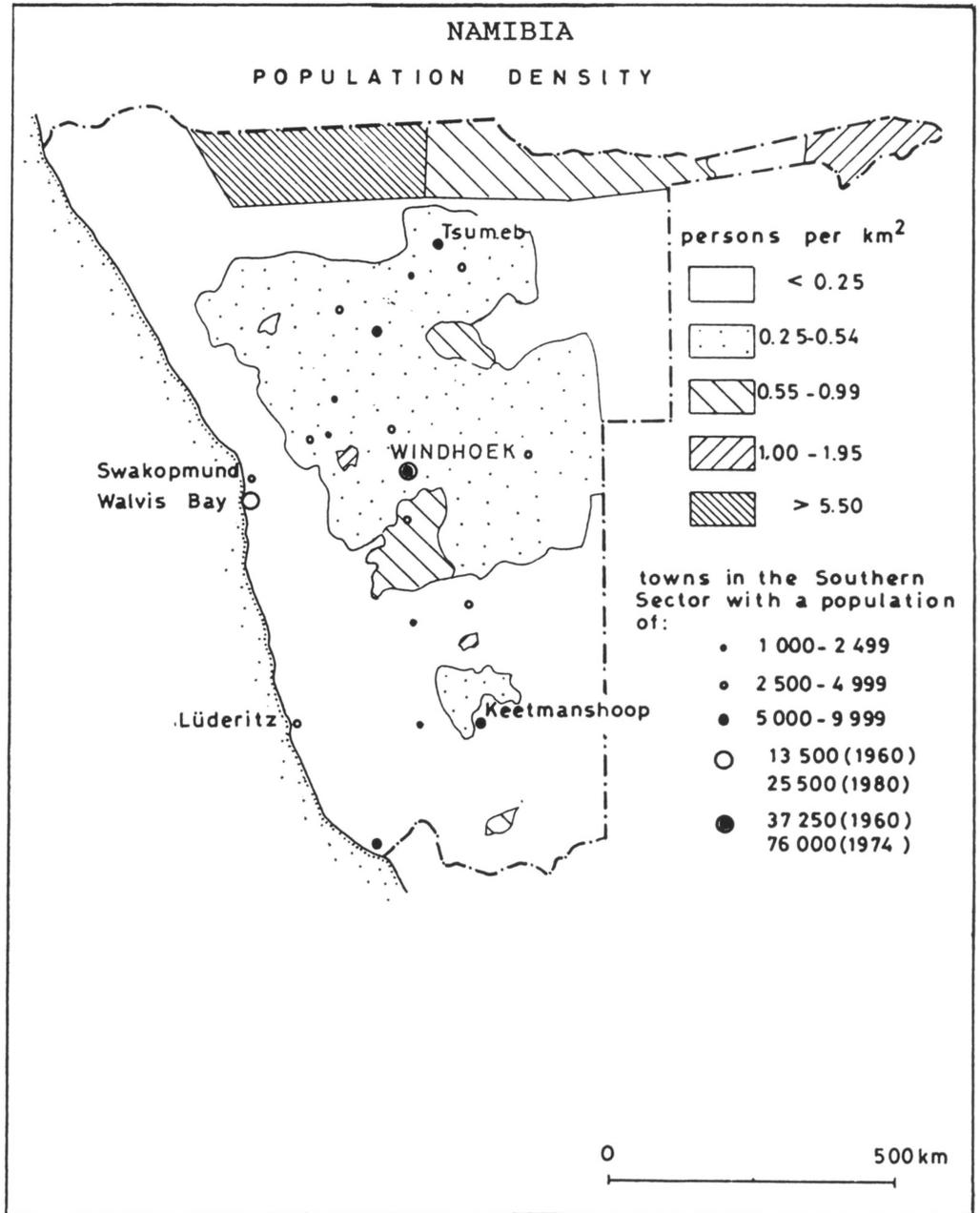
Bartholomez Diaz was the first European who landed on the coast of Namibia on his way to India, at the end of the 15th century. The first Europeans to settle were missionaries, mainly Germans, and hunters in the mid-19th century. Namibia came under German protection in 1884 and later it became a German colony until its occupation in 1915 by the forces of South Africa. The League of Nations (1920) gave South Africa trusteeship over South West Africa. In 1966, the UN decided that South African trusteeship should be ended but South Africa refused to withdraw. Namibia gained its independence from South Africa, after a fierce guerilla-war and international pressure, on 21 march 1990. Free elections were held under UN supervision and gave a landslide victory to the former resistance movement **SWAPO** (South West Africa People's Organisation of Namibia). Its leader Sam Nujoma became Namibia's first president.

5. Nature of political system:

Namibia has a multi-party system. The president is elected for five years (one-time renewable). He is the Head of State and leads the government. The president chooses his Cabinet among the members of the National Assembly. Legislation is referred to the 72-member National Assembly, elected for five years. It also comprises six non-voting members selected by the President following their special 'expertise'. All legislation work is considered and advised by the National Council (formed by two members of each region).

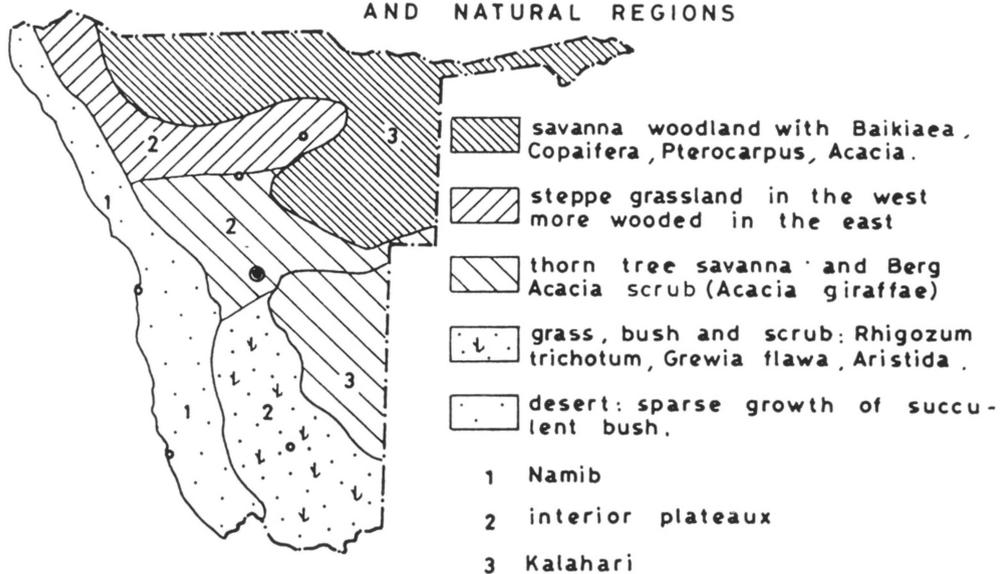
NAMIBIA

POPULATION DENSITY



NAMIBIA

NATURAL VEGETATION AND NATURAL REGIONS

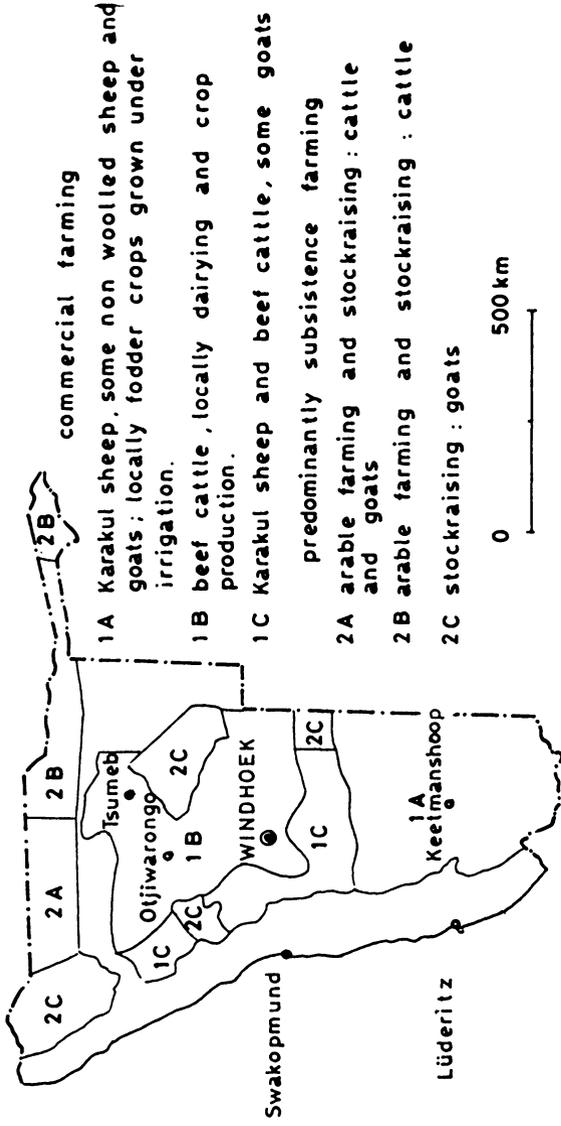


0 500 km



NAMIBIA

MAJOR FARMING REGIONS



6. Economy:

GDP: industry: 26%.

Employment: agriculture: 47.8% (1981).

6.1. Mining: The export of mining products amounts to 54% of the total export value. Diamonds are the most important, they are mined near Oranjemond. Production in 1981: 1.01 mln carats. Large uranium reserves (over 125 000 t). Copper, lead, zinc and by-products are mined at Tsumeb. Other important minerals are tin, cadmium, manganese, lithium, germanium, arsenic, vanadium and tungsten.

6.2. Agriculture: 1% of the total area is arable land or cultivated with permanent crops. Throughout most of Namibia, production at a reasonable level is impossible without irrigation. Only in Kavango and East Kaprivi the rains are sufficiently frequent to ensure good crops in most years. A characteristic aspect of the agriculture is its dualistic structure. In the north, subsistence farming predominates and in the south commercial farming is common. The main crops in the northern sector are millet and sorghum, cowpeas, groundnuts and to some extent maize. In the southern sector maize is the main crop. Other crops are cowpeas, groundnuts, millet and sorghum. Lucerne occupies more than 20% of the irrigated land, wheat is grown as winter crop. Other irrigated crops are vegetables, fruit, tobacco, sunflower etc.

6.3. Livestock: 64% of the total area is permanent pasture (1984). Livestock keeping is the most important economic activity in Namibia. Sheep and goats predominate in the south, with the karakul sheep being of particular importance. Cattle assume importance in the central, the northern and the eastern regions. A great variety of breeds are kept, including Texas Brahman, the Africander and European breeds.

6.4. Forestry and woodland: 22% of the total area (1984). Sparse stands of excellent hardwood are found in the north and in the Caprivi Zipfel. Because of their remoteness and low productivity they are not commercial. Timber exploitation is mainly for firewood and some is cut for mine timber.

6.5. Fishery: Ranks third after mining and agriculture in economic importance. Main fishing ports are Walvis Bay: pilchards and whitefish and Lüderitz: rock lobster.

6.6. Industry: Is associated with mining, fishing and agriculture. 2/3 of the produce are foodproducts.

6.7. Weights, measures and currency:

kg, meter

1 South African Rand (R) = 100 cents

1 US \$ = 2.655 R (Nov. 1990).

7. Trade:

Export products are diamonds, uranium ore, lead, copper, zinc, wolfram and livestock products. Main clients are the EEC, South Africa, the USA. Main suppliers are the EEC, South Africa, the USA.

8. Membership of international organizations.

GATT, ILO, IMF(application), OAU, UN, UNESCO, WHO, African Development Bank, Economic Commission for Africa, Commonwealth, SADCC.

Namibia is a signatory to the Lomé convention (EEC-ACP)

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