

Mayotte

(territorial collectivity of France)

Geography

Location: Southern Africa, island in the Mozambique Channel, about one-half of the way from northern Madagascar to northern Mozambique

Area:

total area: 375 sq km

land area: 375 sq km

Land boundaries: 0 km

Coastline: 185.2 km

Maritime claims:

exclusive economic zone: 200 nm

territorial sea: 12 nm

Climate: tropical; marine; hot, humid, rainy season during northeastern monsoon (November to May); dry season is cooler (May to November)

Terrain: generally undulating with ancient volcanic peaks, deep ravines

Natural resources: negligible

Environment:

natural hazards: cyclones during rainy season

Note: part of Comoro Archipelago

People

Population: 97,088 (July 1995 est.)

Age structure:

0-14 years: 49% (female 23,910; male 24,120)

15-64 years: 48% (female 22,824; male 23,935)

65 years and over: 3% (female 1,165; male 1,134) (July 1995 est.)

Population growth rate: 3.8% (1995 est.)

Birth rate: 48.44 births/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Death rate: 10.46 deaths/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Net migration rate: 0 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Infant mortality rate: 77.3 deaths/1,000 live births (1995 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:

total population: 58.27 years

male: 56.04 years

female: 60.57 years (1995 est.)

Total fertility rate: 6.71 children born/woman (1995 est.)

Nationality:

noun: Mahorais (singular and plural)

adjective: Mahoran

Religions: Muslim 99%, Christian (mostly Roman Catholic)

Languages: Mahorian (a Swahili dialect), French

Government

Names:

conventional long form: Territorial Collectivity of Mayotte

conventional short form: Mayotte

Type: territorial collectivity of France

Capital: Mamoutzou

Independence: none (territorial collectivity of France)

National holiday: National Day, Taking of the Bastille, 14 July (1789)

Constitution: 28 September 1958 (French Constitution)

Suffrage: 18 years of age; universal

Flag: the flag of France is used

Economy

Overview: Economic activity is based primarily on the agricultural sector, including fishing and livestock raising. Mayotte is not self-sufficient and must import a large portion of its food requirements, mainly from France. The economy and future development of the island are heavily dependent on French financial assistance. Mayotte's remote location is an obstacle to the development of tourism.

Industries: newly created lobster and shrimp industry

Agriculture: most important sector; provides all export earnings; crops - vanilla, ylang-ylang, coffee, copra; imports major share of food needs

Transportation

Railroads: 0 km

Highways:
total: 42 km

Ports: Dzaoudzi

Airports:
total: 1

Defence Forces

Note: defence is the responsibility of France