

Angola

Geography

Location: Southern Africa, bordering the South Atlantic Ocean, between Namibia and Zaire.

Map references: Africa.

Area:

total area: 1,246,700 sq km.

land area: 1,246,700 sq km.

Land boundaries: total 5,198 km, Congo 201 km, Namibia 1,376 km, Zaire 2,511 km, Zambia 1,110 km.

Coastline: 1,600 km.

Maritime claims:

exclusive fishing zone: 200 nm.

territorial sea: 20 nm.

Climate: semiarid in south and along coast to Luanda; north has cool, dry season (May to October) and hot, rainy season (November to April).

Terrain: narrow coastal plain rises abruptly to vast interior plateau.

Natural resources: petroleum, diamonds, iron ore, phosphates, copper, feldspar, gold, bauxite, uranium.

Land use:

arable land: 2%.

permanent crops: 0%.

meadows and pastures: 23%.

forest and woodland: 43%.

other: 32%.

Environment:

current issues: population pressures contributing to overuse of pastures and subsequent soil erosion; desertification; deforestation of tropical rain forest attributable to the international demand for tropical timber and domestic use as a fuel; deforestation contributing to loss of biodiversity; soil erosion contributing to water pollution and siltation of rivers and dams; inadequate supplies of potable water.

natural hazards: locally heavy rainfall causes periodic flooding on the plateau.

Note: Cabinda is separated from rest of country by Zaire

People

Population: 10,069,501 (July 1995 est.)

Age structure:

0-14 years: 45% (female 2,208,307; male 2,274,533).

15-64 years: 53% (female 2,641,259; male 2,685,543).

65 years and over: 2% (female 136,573; male 123,286) (July 1995 est.)

Population growth rate: 2.68% (1995 est.)

Birth rate: 45.05 births/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Death rate: 18.1 deaths/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Net migration rate: -0.15 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Infant mortality rate: 142.1 deaths/1,000 live births (1995 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:
total population: 46.28 years.
male: 44.18 years.
female: 48.49 years (1995 est.)

Total fertility rate: 6.42 children born/woman (1995 est.)

Nationality:
noun: Angolan(s).
adjective: Angolan.

Ethnic divisions: Ovimbundu 37%, Kimbundu 25%, Bakongo 13%,
mestizo (mixed European and Native African) 2%, European 1%,
other 22%.

Religions: indigenous beliefs 47%, Roman Catholic 38%,
Protestant 15% (est.).

Languages: Portuguese (official), Bantu and other African
languages.

Literacy: age 15 and over can read and write (1990 est.)
total population: 42%.
male: 56%.
female: 28%.

Labour force: 2.783 million economically active.
by occupation: agriculture 85%, industry 15% (1985 est.)

Government

Note: Civil war has been the norm since independence from Portugal on 11 November 1975.

Names:

conventional long form: Republic of Angola.

conventional short form: Angola.

local long form: Republica de Angola.

local short form: Angola.

former: People's Republic of Angola.

Capital: Luanda.

Administrative divisions: 18 provinces (provincias, singular - provincia); Bengo, Benguela, Bie, Cabinda, Cuando Cubango, Cuanza Norte, Cuanza Sul, Cunene, Huambo, Huila, Luanda, Lunda Norte, Lunda Sul, Malanje, Moxico, Namibe, Uige, Zaire.

Independence: 11 November 1975 (from Portugal).

National holiday: Independence Day, 11 November (1975).

Legal system: based on Portuguese civil law system and customary law; recently modified to accommodate political pluralism and increased use of free markets.

Suffrage: 18 years of age; universal.

Flag: two equal horizontal bands of red (top) and black with a centered yellow emblem consisting of a five-pointed star within half a cogwheel crossed by a machete (in the style of a hammer and sickle).

Economy

Overview: Subsistence agriculture provides the main livelihood for 80%-90% of the population but accounts for less than 15% of GDP. Oil production is vital to the economy, contributing about 60% to GDP. Angola has rich natural resources - notably gold, diamonds, and arable land, in addition to large oil deposits.

Transportation

Railroads:

total: 3,189 km; note - limited trackage in use because of landmines still in place from the civil war; majority of the Benguela Railroad also closed because of civil war.

Highways:

total: 73,828 km.

Inland waterways: 1,295 km navigable.

Pipelines: crude oil 179 km.

Ports: Ambriz, Cabinda, Lobito, Luanda, Malogo, Namibe, Porto Amboim, Soyo.

Airports:

total: 289.

Defence Forces

Branches: Army, Navy, Air and Air Defense Forces, National Police Force.