

# Cote d'Ivoire

(also known as Ivory Coast)

## Geography

Location: Western Africa, bordering the North Atlantic Ocean, between Ghana and Liberia

Area:

total area: 322,460 sq km

land area: 318,000 sq km

Land boundaries: total 3,110 km, Burkina 584 km, Ghana 668 km, Guinea 610 km, Liberia 716 km, Mali 532 km

Coastline: 515 km

Maritime claims:

continental shelf: 200 nm

exclusive economic zone: 200 nm

territorial sea: 12 nm

Climate: tropical along coast, semiarid in far north; three seasons - warm and dry (November to March), hot and dry (March to May), hot and wet (June to October)

Terrain: mostly flat to undulating plains; mountains in northwest

Natural resources: petroleum, diamonds, manganese, iron ore, cobalt, bauxite, copper

Land use:

arable land: 9%

permanent crops: 4%

meadows and pastures: 9%

forest and woodland: 26%

other: 52%

Irrigated land: 620 sq km (1989 est.)

Environment:

current issues: deforestation (most of the country's forests - once the largest in West Africa - have been cleared by the timber industry); water pollution from sewage and industrial and agricultural effluents

natural hazards: coast has heavy surf and no natural harbors;  
during the rainy season torrential flooding is possible

## People

Population: 14,791,257 (July 1995 est.)

Age structure:

0-14 years: 48% (female 3,506,147; male 3,534,751)

15-64 years: 50% (female 3,619,759; male 3,820,999)

65 years and over: 2% (female 142,366; male 167,235) (July 1995 est.)

Population growth rate: 3.38% (1995 est.)

Birth rate: 46.17 births/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Death rate: 14.95 deaths/1,000 population (1995 est.)

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

note: since 1989, over 350,000 refugees have fled to Cote d'Ivoire to escape the civil war in Liberia; if a lasting peace is achieved in Liberia in 1995, large numbers of refugees can be expected to return to their homes

Infant mortality rate: 93.1 deaths/1,000 live births (1995 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:

total population: 48.87 years

male: 46.52 years

female: 51.29 years (1995 est.)

Total fertility rate: 6.61 children born/woman (1995 est.)

Nationality:

noun: Ivorian(s)

adjective: Ivorian

Ethnic divisions: Baoule 23%, Bete 18%, Senoufou 15%, Malinke 11%, Agni, foreign Africans (mostly Burkinabe and Malians, about 3 million), non-Africans 130,000 to 330,000 (French 30,000 and Lebanese 100,000 to 300,000)

Religions: indigenous 25%, Muslim 60%, Christian 12%

Languages: French (official), 60 native dialects; Dioula is the most widely spoken

literacy: age 15 and over can read and write (1988)

total population: 34%

male: 44%

female: 23%

## Government

Names:

conventional long form: Republic of Cote d'Ivoire

conventional short form: Cote d'Ivoire

local long form: Republique de Cote d'Ivoire

local short form: Cote d'Ivoire

former: Ivory Coast

Capital: Yamoussoukro

note: although Yamoussoukro has been the capital since 1983, Abidjan remains the administrative center; foreign governments maintain presence in Abidjan

Independence: 7 August 1960 (from France)

National holiday: National Day, 7 December

Constitution: 3 November 1960; has been amended numerous times, last time November 1990

Suffrage: 21 years of age; universal

Flag: three equal vertical bands of orange (hoist side), white, and green; similar to the flag of Ireland, which is longer and has the colors reversed - green (hoist side), white, and orange; also similar to the flag of Italy, which is green (hoist side), white, and red; design was based on the flag of France

## Economy

Overview: Cote d'Ivoire is among the world's largest producers and exporters of coffee, cocoa beans, and palm-kernel oil.

Industries: foodstuffs, wood processing, oil refining, automobile assembly, textiles, fertilizer, beverages

Agriculture: most important sector, contributing one-third to GDP and 80% to exports; cash crops include coffee, cocoa beans, timber, bananas, palm kernels, rubber; food crops - corn, rice, manioc, sweet potatoes; not self-sufficient in bread grain and dairy products

Illicit drugs: illicit producer of cannabis; mostly for local consumption; some international drug trade; transshipment point for Southwest and Southeast Asian heroin to Europe and occasionally to the US

## Transportation

Railroads:  
total: 660 km (25 km double track)

Highways:

total: 46,600 km

Inland waterways: 980 km navigable rivers, canals, and numerous coastal lagoons

Ports: Abidjan, Aboisso, Dabou, San-Pedro

Airports:

total: 40

Defence Forces

Branches: Army, Navy, Air Force, paramilitary Gendarmerie, Presidential Guard, Military Fire Group