

# Djibouti

Total population (July 2000 estimate): 451,000

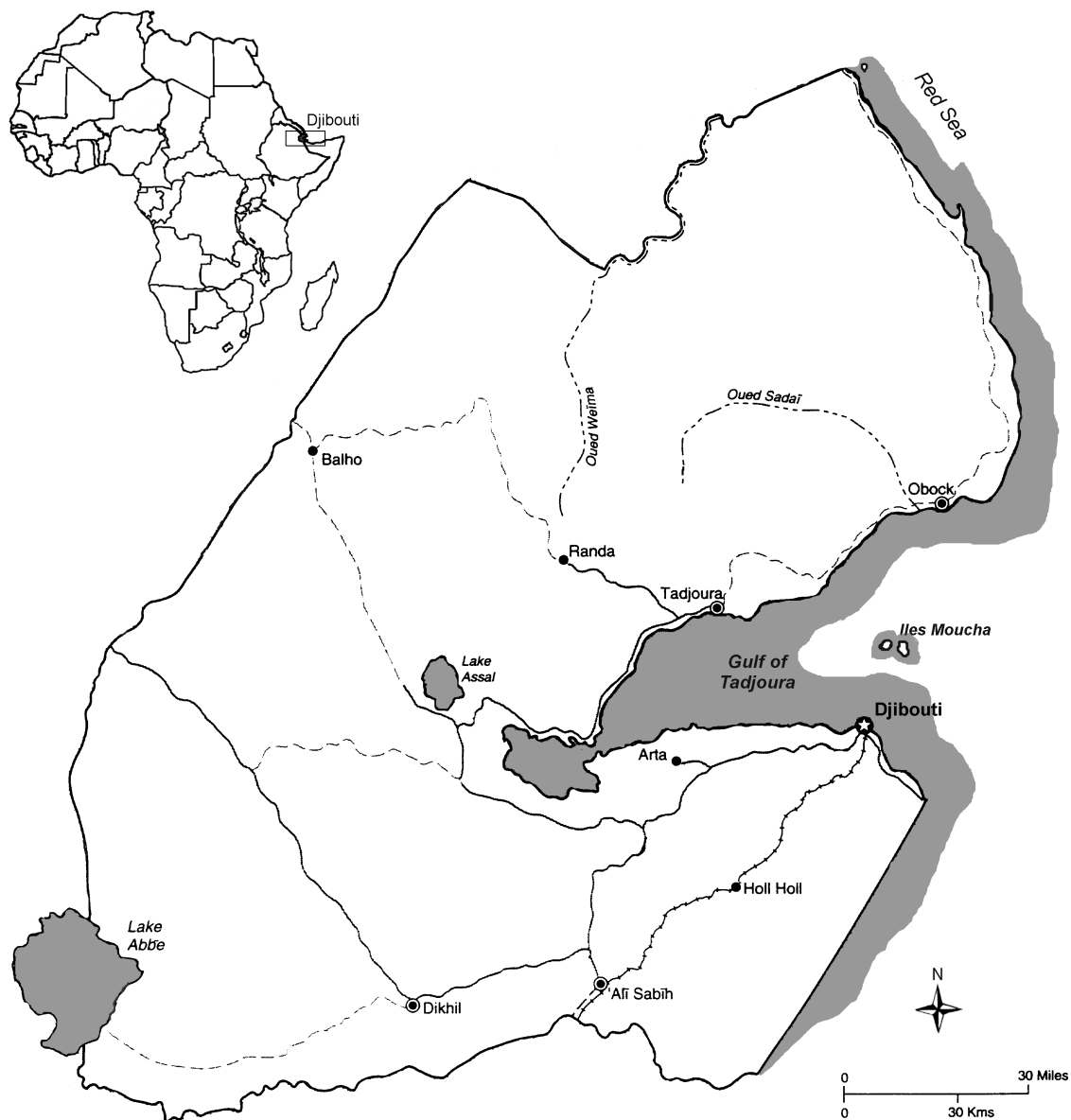
Area: 22,000 km<sup>2</sup>

Annual population growth rate (2000): 1.45%

Life expectancy at birth (1998): 50.8 years

People not expected to survive to age 40 (1998): 32.8% of total population

GDP per capita (1998): US \$1,266



Djibouti is a small country in the Horn of Africa, located between Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Somalia at the southern end of the Red Sea. It consists of the port city of Djibouti and a small hinterland of semi-desert to desert. Annual precipitation ranges from 150 to 350 mm.

The economy of Djibouti is dominated by the service and trade sector. The port of Djibouti is currently the sole maritime entry point of goods into Ethiopia. The share of the agricultural sector is very small.

The mineral industry is also very small, mainly confined to the extraction and use of construction materials and dimension stone.

### **Geological outline**

Most of Djibouti is underlain by Quaternary volcanic rocks. Lower Cretaceous limestones occur in the south of the country at the border with Ethiopia and Somalia and coral reef limestones occur along the coastal area.

### **Agromineral potential**

The potential for agromineral development in this very small and climatically extreme country is very limited. Small occurrences of perlite, pumice and scoria have been reported, but have not been developed. Rock mulching practices using the locally available volcanic scoria and pumice resources as in neighbouring Ethiopia (see chapter Ethiopia, Woldeab *et al.* 1994) may be tested to see whether evaporation could be reduced substantially.

### *Reference:*

Woldeab A, Assefa A, Yematawork A, Abera S, van Straaten P, Groenevelt P and W Chesworth 1994.  
Report on the results of the Ethiopia-Canada Agrogeology Project - Rock Mulch. Unpubl. Report,  
University of Guelph, Guelph, Canada, 76pp.