

Guinea

Total population (July 2000 estimate): 7,466,000

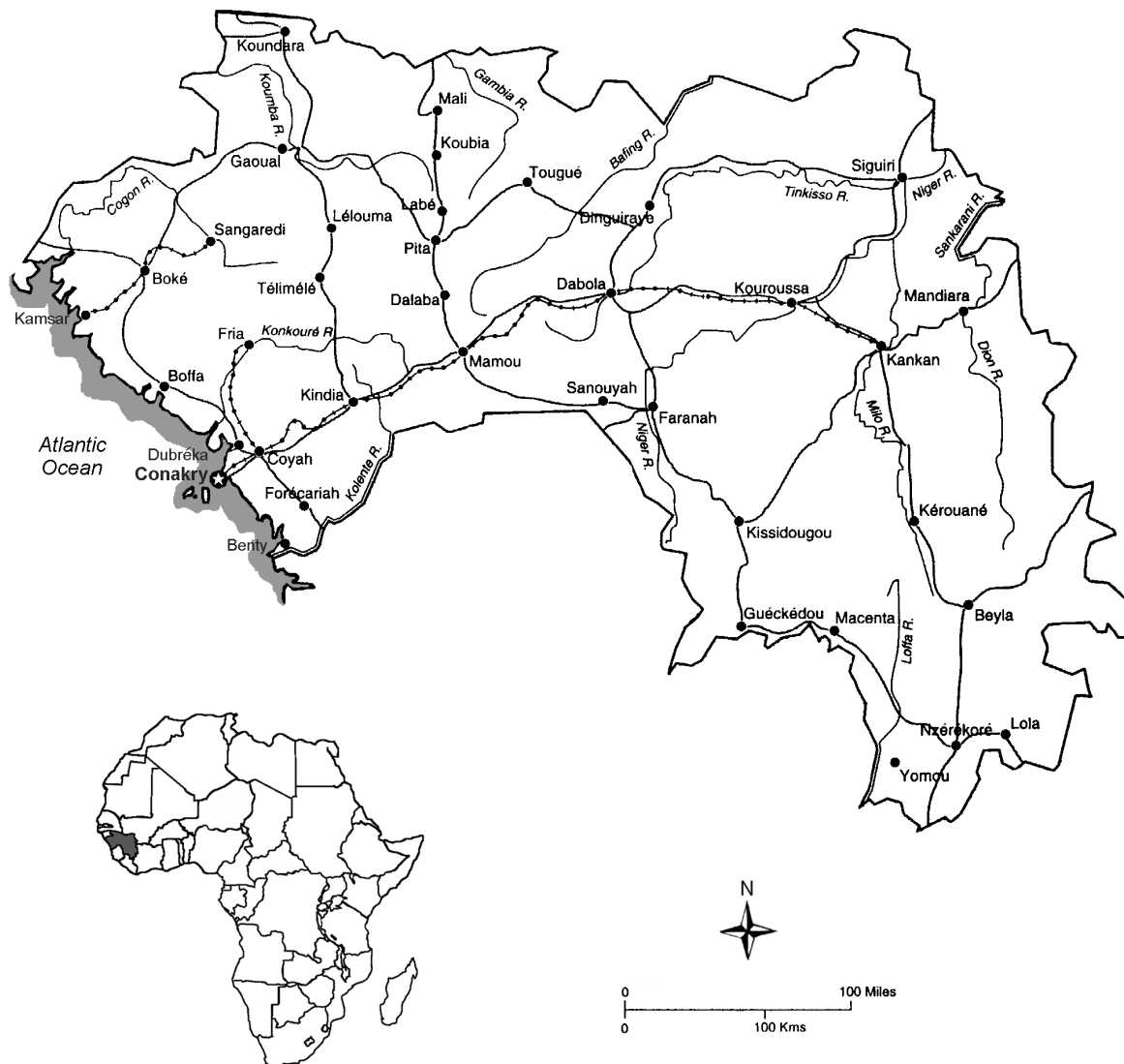
Area: 245,857 km²

Annual population growth rate (2000): 1.95%

Life expectancy at birth (1998): 46.9 years

People not expected to survive to age 40 (1998): 37.8% of total population

GDP per capita (1998): US \$1,782



Guinea consists of a coastal plain, a mountain range along the coast and the Guinea Highlands in the interior. The climate is generally tropical with high rainfall in the south and along the coast (up to 4,000 mm precipitation per year) while the northern parts of Guinea receive about 1,200 mm annually.

Guinea's economy is largely founded on agricultural production and the export of bauxite. Additional mineral exports are diamonds and gold, much of which is extracted by the approximately 40,000 artisanal miners (International Labour Organization 1999).

In 1999, the agricultural sector of Guinea accounted for 24% of the GDP. Approximately 80% of the population is involved in agricultural production, mainly at a subsistence level. Main crops are cassava, rice, plantain, citrus and bananas. Export crops include oil palm products, pineapple, cotton and coffee.

Geological outline

The geology of the country is dominated by the Archean Man Craton and the Paleoproterozoic Birimian domain (Wright *et al.* 1985). Neoproterozoic and lower Cambrian sediments with a basal tillite and sandstones, marls and quartzites cover wide parts of northern Guinea (Villeneuve 1989).

AGROMINERALS

Phosphates

No phosphates have been reported from Guinea to date. The nearest phosphates are those of the Neoproterozoic Namel Group in southern Senegal. These rocks continue into northern Guinea.

Limestone/dolomite

Only limited information is available on the distribution, chemical nature and volume of limestone and dolomite resources of Guinea. Limestone deposits occur in the Siguiri area (in the Paleoproterozoic Birimian). Metamorphosed limestone occurrences were reported from the Kankan-Konsankoro area and from the Tougue area. Coulibaly (1992) describes the distribution and volume of limestones in Guinea: the Lebekene limestone occurrences in the Mali area of northern Guinea (12 million tonnes), the Sougeta (Kindia) deposit (10 million tonnes), and the Kourouni (Sigiuri) deposit (8 million tonnes).

Agromineral potential

The potential for agromineral use is difficult to assess without detailed soil and other agricultural data. Potentially, phosphates could be discovered in northern Guinea, in the continuation of the Senegal Namel phosphates. The limestone resources should be investigated for their suitability for acid soils.

References:

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Villeneuve M 1989. The geology of the Madina-Kouta basin (Guinea-Senegal) and its significance for the geodynamic evolution of the western part of the West African Craton during the Upper Proterozoic period. *Precambr. Res.* 44:305-322.

Wright JB, Hastings DA, Jones WB and HR Williams 1985. *Geology and mineral resources of West Africa*. Allen and Unwin, London, UK, 187pp.