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**Section:** A

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**Horn Of Africa:** Horn of Africa, region of eastern Africa. It is the easternmost extension of African land and for the purposes of this article is defined as the region that is home to the countries of Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Somalia, whose cultures have been linked throughout their long history. Other definitions of the Horn of Africa are more restrictive and exclude some or all of the countries of Djibouti, Eritrea, and Ethiopia. There are also broader definitions, the most common of which include all the countries mentioned above, as well as parts or all of Kenya, Sudan, South Sudan, and Uganda. Part of the Horn of Africa region is also known as the Somali peninsula; this term is typically used when referring to lands of Somalia and eastern Ethiopia. Northern Somalia was an important link in the Horn, connecting the region's commerce with the rest of the ancient world. Somali sailors and merchants were the main suppliers of frankincense, myrrh and spices, all of which were valuable luxuries to the Ancient Egyptians, Phoenicians, Mycenaeans, Babylonians and Roman. the Horn of Africa denotes the region containing the countries of Djibouti, Somaliland, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Somalia. Regional studies on the Horn of Africa are carried out, among others, in the fields of Ethiopian Studies as well as Somali Studies. Countries and territories

**Countries and territories :** (1) Sovereign states (4)

(2) Unrecognized states (1)

**Population:** 122,618,170 (2016 est.)

<b><u>Area:</u></b>	1,882,757 km <sup>2</sup>
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**Religion:** ( Islam, Christianity, traditional faiths, Judaism (formerly in Ethiopia, most have migrated to Israel

**Capitals:** Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)

Mogadishu (Somalia)

Asmara (Eritrea)

Djibouti (Djibouti)

1. architecture flourished in the Ethiopian region, as attested by the numerous Aksumite influences in and around the medieval churches of Lalibela, where stelae (hawilts) and, later, entire churches were carved out of single blocks of rock. Other monumental structures include massive underground tombs often located beneath stelae. Other well-known structures employing monolithic construction include the Tomb of the False Door, and the tombs of Kaleb and Gebre Mesqel in Axum. Most structures, however—such as palaces, villas, commoner's houses, and other churches and monasteries—were built of alternating layers of stone and wood. Some examples of this style had whitewashed exteriors and/or interiors, such as the medieval 12th-century monastery of Yemrehanna Krestos, which was built in Aksumite style. Contemporary houses were one-room stone structures, two-storey square houses, or roundhouses of sandstone with basalt foundations. Villas were generally two-to-four storeys tall and had sprawling rectangular plans (cf. Dungur ruins). (2) A good example of still-standing Aksumite architecture is the monastery of Debre Damo from the 6th century. Islamic architecture in the region, including such famous structures as the Great Mosque of Kairouan Or

the Cairo Citadel. The sahn is a prominent early feature of Islamic architecture. has a rich and diverse tradition of designing and engineering different types of construction, such as masonry castles, citadels, fortresses, mosques temples, aqueducts, lighthouses, towers and tombs, during the ancient, medieval, and early modern periods in Somalia. It also encompasses the fusion of Somalo-Islamic architecture with Western designs in modern times. In ancient Somalia, pyramidal structures known in Somali as taalo were a popular burial style with hundreds of these dry stone monuments scattered around the country today. Houses were built of dressed stone similar to the ones in Ancient Egypt and there are examples of courtyards and large stone walls, such as the Wargaade Wall enclosing settlements.

**(3)** The peaceful introduction of Islam in the early medieval era of Somalia's history brought Islamic architectural influences from Arabia and Persia, which stimulated a shift in construction from dry stone, and other related materials, to coral stone, sun-dried bricks, and the widespread use of limestone in Somali architecture. Many of the new architectural designs, such as mosques, were built on the ruins of older structures.

**Figure1:Horn Of Africian Architecture:**



**Figure 2: (A Remarkable Rail Journey Into The Horn Of Africa“s)**



**Figure 3: (Sumali Government Bans Christmas Celebrations)**



### **(Central Africa )**

***Central Africa defined by the UN Subregion, consists of the following countries Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo Republic Brazzaville, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, São Tomé & Príncipe. This region covers the equator and contains the Congo Basin, with the second largest rainforest in the world. Oil is a leading export of the region. Following the Rwanda genocide of 1994, this region is still challenged to achieve economic and political stability.*** Central Africa is an important forested subregion with approximately 57 percent of its area covered with natural forests. Central Africa contains the largest remaining contiguous expanse of moist tropical forest on the African continent and the second largest in the world (after the Amazon forest). This quasi-uniform forest cover encompasses Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, the Congo, the majority of Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of the Congo as well as a small part of the Central African Republic. The Democratic Republic of the Congo is by far the largest country of this subregion, with more than 226 million hectares of land. Burundi and Rwanda are among the smallest countries of central Africa and the continent. An important characteristic of this subregion is the zonal climate distribution that induces a gradient of ecosystems and hence bio diversity. The lowland evergreen broadleaf rain forest including swamp forests localized for the greater part in the eastern Congo and the western Democratic Republic of the Congo and the semi-deciduous broadleaf forest dominate this subregion and count among the richest in Africa. The montane forests (Rwanda, Burundi, Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of the Congo) are of lower biodiversity but often have a greater number of endemic species (IUCN 1996). Central Africa also includes dry forests in the northern Central African Republic and Cameroon.

Central Africa is rich in natural resources, has played a large part in history and continues to play a role as a reservoir for the export of raw materials to the industrialized nations. In particular, wood and, more recently, petroleum are the main exports. The uses of the forest are multiple, including non-wood forest products collection, and vary from low-impact harvesting to high-intensity commercial logging. Central Africa is not a uniform political or socio-economic entity: more than 70 percent of the population in central Africa is rural, although Gabon and the Congo are the most urbanized. Population densities in certain regions are among the lowest in Africa. However, Rwanda and Burundi are very densely populated, with 90 percent of their population living in rural conditions. In general, central African countries are among the poorest in the world, with the exception of Gabon.

#### **( 1) FOREST RESOURCES:**

Forest resource knowledge is relatively low and most of the central African forest inventories cover only part of the productive forested domain (Cameroon, the Congo, Gabon, Rwanda and the Central African Republic). At the national level, the information regarding forest areas is obsolete where it exists at all and needs to be updated. Central African forests represent the second largest area of rain forest in the world and constitute 35 percent of the African forest area as well as approximately 6 percent of the world forest cover. The Democratic Republic of the Congo contains more than 60 percent of the subregion's forest area. Gabon is the most forested country with 85 percent of its total land area covered by forests. Burundi and Rwanda have the lowest proportion of forest cover (4 and 12 percent, respectively). Despite the lack of accurate statistics, it is clear that the forests of the Congo basin have experienced relatively low annual rates of clearing compared to other tropical forests and compared to

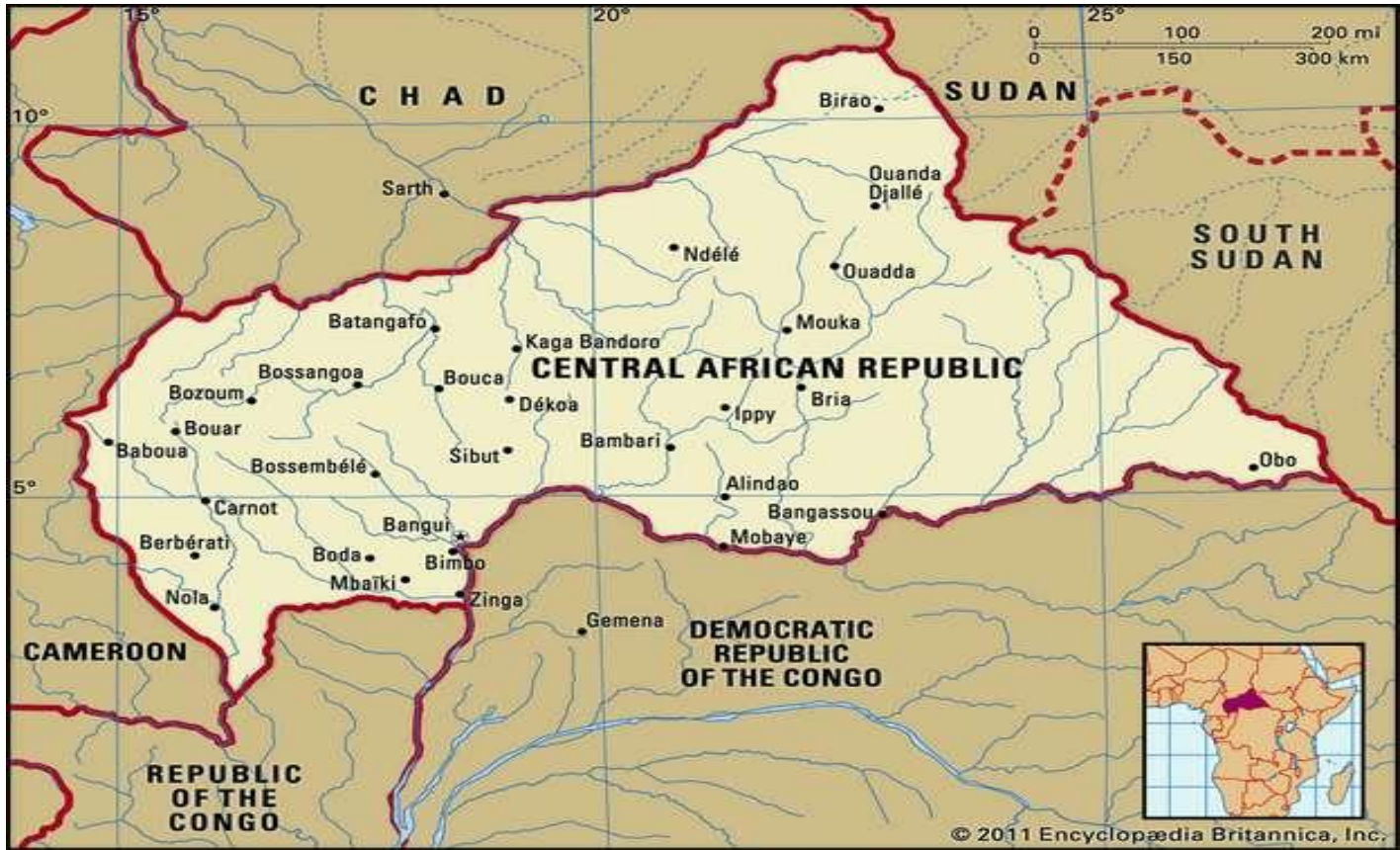
the whole of Africa. Nevertheless, they have been subjected to progressive degradation that is difficult to estimate. The largest areas cleared each year are found in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Cameroon. Because central Africa contains such a large forest resource, reforestation efforts have been minimal. Also, these efforts have consisted primarily of commercial plantations rather than reforestation of logged-over or degraded areas. Approximately 634 000 ha of plantations have been established in central Africa with varying degrees of success. Many plantations in Cameroon, Gabon and the Democratic Republic of the Congo have failed owing to lack of maintenance and poor management. Central African forest volume is estimated at 47 billion cubic metres over bark, which corresponds to an average of 127 m<sup>3</sup> per hectare. In terms of biomass, the estimate is more than 44 billion tonnes because of the high wood density and a high percentage of branches that averages 194 tonnes per hectare. Central African forests come close to constituting two-thirds of the forest biomass reserves on the continent.

## **(2) CONCLUSIONS AND ISSUES:**

**Information about the forest resources of the eight central African countries is mostly based on national expert estimates. Forest inventory data are often unreliable, dated, obsolete, partial or unavailable. At present, data collection in central Africa is mostly done as part of forest management activities. Significant improvement in statistical data collection and analysis at the national level is needed for a better knowledge of forest resources.**

All central African countries have adopted sustainable forest management policies. However, their implementation is generally poor because of lack of resources and institutional weaknesses. In addition, for some of these countries (Burundi, Rwanda, the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo), political and social crises during the last decade have had negative effects on forest sustainability. Nevertheless, significant efforts have been undertaken by national scientific research units in each country to improve the technical and economical management of production forests. Migrant populations, because of economic, social or political reasons, have destroyed forests through settlement, uncontrolled logging and fire. This critical situation can lead to the destruction of infrastructure and to overall instability of the forestry sector. This was the case in Burundi and Rwanda during the last decade where most productive lands were converted to agriculture. Efforts to reforest degraded or clear-cut areas have begun in those two countries as well as the promotion of agroforestry practices.

**Figure 4: (Central African) MAP**



***Figure 5: Economy Of The Central Africa :***



***Figure 6: Central Africian Countries To Monitor Congo Forests:***



**THE END**