

20. Africa – Human geography

Population

African population since 1960s has undergone great boom ⇔ end of the colonialism, increase of health care in comparison with the past (fewer children die as infants – lower infant mortality). No other continent has ever such a *high growth rate*.

Africa's population has been increasing since the 1990s at a rate of about 3% annually:

- Kenya, Ivory Coast, Swaziland = 4%
- Mauritius, Réunion, Seychelles, Sao Tomé and Príncipe = 2%

African women are normally bearing 6-8 children during her lifetime, but still 20% of children in tropical Africa die before they reach the age of 5.

Population density

Densely (heavily) populated regions have also an economic importance:

1. *southern Transvaal industrial and mining region of RSA*
2. *Nile valley and delta in Egypt*
3. *Gulf of Guinea coast*
4. *Lake Victoria region*

Southern Transvaal industrial and mining region of RSA

= the only industrial complex (Rand) in Africa comparable with the conurbations of Europe and North America

= provides $\frac{1}{4}$ of Africa's total manufacturing industrial output

= in the past determined by goldfield, coalfield + southern copper belt, good labour and market

= 7 million inh., lot of „gastarbeiters“ from Mozambique, Malawi, Botswana and northern Namibia

- Johannesburg, Pretoria

Nile valley and delta in Egypt

= Nile river = many barrages (small dams) constructed to allow irrigation of adjacent plains.

= 40 million inh.

- Cairo, Alexandria, settlements along Suez Canal

Gulf of Guinea coast

- growing of bananas, rice, cotton, maize, cocoa, millet
- trade with phosphates, oil, rubber, timber, palm oil

= southern Nigeria, Benin, Togo, Ghana, Ivory Coast

- Port Harcourt, Lagos, Ibadan, Porto-Novo, Lomé, Accra, Abidjan

Lake Victoria and Lake Tanganyika region

= 40 million inh.

= southern Uganda – 1 of the most productive agricultural areas in Africa

= Rwanda + Burundi – both are amongst the most densely populated countries in Africa

- Kampala, Kigali, Bujumbura

Migrant labour

People (men) migrate for work:

- from inland, desert regions to coastal areas (Gulf of Guinea)
- from countries of Maghreb (Morocco, Algeria, Libya) to France
- from south-equatorial Africa to Rand in RSA

Keywords:

growth rate, millet, rubber, timber, Maghreb, Rand, migrant labour

