

The Federal Republic of Nigeria

Geography

Nigeria is located in western Africa on the Gulf of Guinea and has a total area of 923,768 km² (356,669 mi²),^[27] making it the world's 32nd-largest country (after Tanzania). It is comparable in size to Venezuela, and is about twice the size of California. It shares a 4047 km (2515-mile) border with Benin (773 km), Niger (1497 km), Chad (87 km), Cameroon (1690 km), and has a coastline of at least 853 km.^[28]

The highest point in Nigeria is Chappal Waddi at 2,419 m (7,936 feet).

Nigeria has a varied landscape. From the Obudu Hills in the southeast through the beaches in the south, the rainforest, the Lagos estuary and savannah in the middle and southwest of the country and the Sahel to the encroaching Sahara in the extreme north.

Nigeria's main rivers are the Niger and the Benue which converge and empty into the Niger Delta, the world's largest river deltas.

Nigeria is also an important centre for biodiversity. It is widely believed that the areas surrounding Calabar, Cross River State, contain the world's largest diversity of butterflies. The drill monkey is only found in the wild in Southeast Nigeria and neighboring Cameroon.



Map of Nigeria

Government and politics

The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria provides for the operation of three tiers of government, at the Federal, State and Local levels. There are 36 States in

Nigeria, which form the second tier of the administrative structure in Nigeria. The local government is the third tier of the administrative structure in Nigeria. There are 774 local government areas (LGAs) in the country.

Ondo is one of the states in Nigeria and its capital is Akure. It contains eighteen Local Government Areas, the major ones being Akoko, Akure, Okitipupa, Ondo and Owo. The majority of the state's citizens live in urban centers. The ethnic composition of Ondo State is largely from the Yoruba subgroups of Akoko, Akure, Ikare, Ilaje, Ondo city and Owo.

Ondo State contains the largest number of public schools in Nigeria – over 880 primary schools and 190 secondary schools.

AKure City Profile

Population Data and expected growth by 2015 horizon

Akure is the capital city of Ondo state, which is one of the thirty six states of Nigeria. While the 1991 census put the population of Akure at 324,000, the current population of the city is put at 495,000 people. It is projected that by 2015, Akure will be inhabited by about 1.8 million people. The projected figure is expected to result from the impact of industrial growth. The state has recently been classified as an oil-producing state while Akure has been classified as a Millennium Development City. All these factors are expected to greatly influence the population growth of the city.

Ecosystem and Climate

The climatic condition of Akure follows the pattern of southwestern Nigeria where the climate is influenced mainly by the rain-bearing southwest monsoon winds from the ocean and the dry northwest winds from the Sahara Desert. High temperatures and high humidity also characterize the climate. There are two distinct seasons, the rainy and dry seasons. The rainy season lasts for about seven months [April to October]. The rainfall is about 1524mm per year. The atmospheric temperature ranges between 28°C and 31°C and a mean annual relative humidity of about 80 per cent.

The soil is made up of ferruginous tropical soils. Crystalline acid rocks constitute the main parent material of these soils. The main features include a sandy surface horizon underlain by a weakly developed clayey, mottled and occasionally concretionary sub-soil. The soil is however sensitive to erosion and occasional water logging as a result of the clay sub-soil. The soils have an

exceptional clayey texture, but combine good drainage and aeration with good properties of moisture and nutrient retention.

Main Characteristics of the City

Akure, being the capital city of Ondo state, is made up of different categories of people and organisations, both governmental and non-governmental, including State and Federal Ministries, Banks, manufacturing firms, service sector, educational institutions (including 1 University, 1 College of Agriculture, and several elementary and high schools). As such, different categories of people and households are found within the city, including very rich, middle class and the poor households.

Current and Future Challenges in the 5 areas of concern of the CFF program:

Urban Poverty: Urban poverty remains a current as well as future challenge in Akure. As a growing city, there is the problem of rising cost of living, which will make it difficult for low-income households to cope, financially. The city is inhabited by different categories of people including the jobless, landless, homeless as well as those with very low income.

Urban Food Security

Urban food insecurity is an emerging challenge in Akure, as the city continues to experience rapid population growth. As the city is growing rapidly, food production cannot meet up with food demand and as such, there is “food gap”. This is likely to be a major challenge in the future, as the population is expected to continue to grow at a more rapid rate between now and 2015.

Urban Environment

Akure as a city is currently experiencing environmental challenges in the area of pollution, waste disposal and sanitation. Environmental issues is expected to be a major challenge in foreseeable future as the city continues to grow in population, together with the expected rapid industrial growth..

Empowerment of Urban Farmers

Urban farmers are sparsely located in different areas of the city. Enlightenment programme on urban agriculture, together with empowerment of urban farmers in terms of access to production

resources will remain major issues to be addressed for the problem of poverty and food insecurity to be solved now and in the future.

Participatory City Governance

Participatory governance is a major factor for sustainable development. Participatory city governance is a challenge for Akure as a city. The challenge of involving all stakeholders of the city in decision making and governance remains a challenge now and probably some years to come.

Other major challenges

Other major challenge faced by Akure as a city is that of security. As a growing city, there are increasing waves of criminal activities. This challenge may continue into the future unless some drastic but innovative measures are taken to address it.

By the year 2015, it is expected that Akure would have experienced social, economic and demographic changes. As such, more challenges are expected to face the city.

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For more information about the city of Akure,

Visit: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Akure