

Africa

• The continent of Africa was the cradle of human life. Each stage in the development of humankind can be traced in the African record. In the nineteenth century, the northern European colonial powers divided the rest of Africa among themselves. Exploitation followed of the continent's wealth and people, with few resources being invested for the continent's own benefit. The domestication of cattle in Africa precedes agriculture and seems to have existed alongside hunter-gathering cultures. It is speculated that by 6000 B.C.E. cattle were already domesticated in North Africa. About a million years ago humans explore northwards out of Africa, beginning the process by which mankind has colonized the planet.

Geographical location

Africa is washed by two oceans and several seas, on its territory, which
consists of 29.2 million square kilometers, there are 55 states. The
geographical position of Africa is such that it is located immediately in
the northern and southern hemisphere. Due to this the climate here is

very diverse.



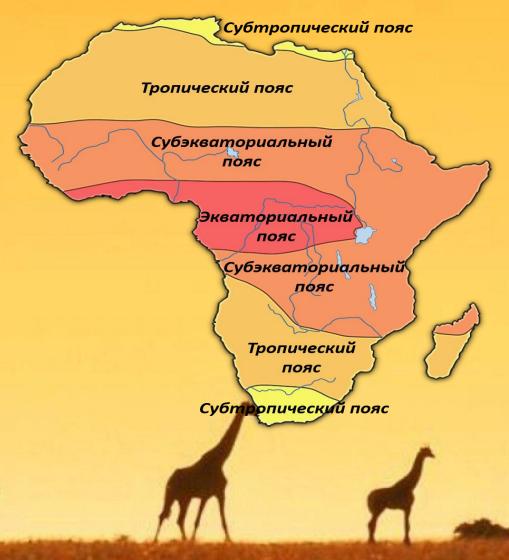
Flora and fauna

 Aardvark, jackal, lion, elephant, wild buffalo, hippopotamus, and various kinds of antelope are still found in some parts of the country. In the great game parks, animals may be seen living in natural surroundings. So extensive is the variety both of smaller mammals and of plants that they have not yet all been identified. The number of different kinds of birds is approximately 900; that of snakes, 200. The number of species of insects is estimated at 40,000, and there are about 1,000 kinds of fish.



Climat

The geographical position of the continent of Africait causes a very dry and hot climate on it. It literally intersects with the line of the equator, from which the cooler, but at the same time more arid climatic zones diverge to the north and south. Also there is a lot of precipitation. In the equatorial belt is the hottest point of Africa -Dallall. To the north and south of the equator are subequatorial zones. There are abundant precipitation during the whole summer, and in the winter period monsoons come here, bringing a drought.

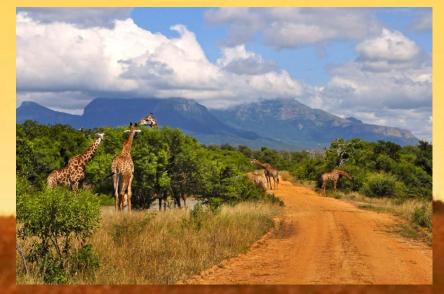




Kruger National Park, Mpumalanga and Limpopo Provinces

• Kruger National Park is one of the world's most famous safari parks. One of the oldest game reserves in South Africa, the park offers visitors the chance to see the "Big Five": lion, leopard, buffalo, elephant, and rhino, as well as an astounding diversity of other wildlife. offers visitors the chance to see the "Big Five": lion, leopard, buffalo, elephant, and rhino, as well as an astounding diversity of other wildlife.





Cape Town, Western Cape

Nature surrounds this multicultural city, which nuzzles
between a rugged range of mountains and the sea. On Table
Mountain's eastern slopes, the magnificent Kirstenbosch
Botanical Gardens lie within a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
Penguins waddle along the golden beaches in False Bay, while
south of the city, Cape Point is home to abundant wildlife and
diverse botanical wonders. One of Cape Town's top
attractions is the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront.





Kgalagadi (Kalahari) Transfrontier Park, Northern Cape

• Among the huge diversity of wildlife, this vast conservation area is home to the famous black-maned Kalahari lion, stately gemsbok with their V-shaped horns, the sprawling nests of sociable weavers, meerkats, and many birds of prey. Other predators such as leopard, cheetah, and hyenas are also found here. Other predators such as leopard, cheetah, and hyenas are also found here.





Stellenbosch, Western Cape

• A mosaic of farms, old oak trees, and white-washed Cape Dutch dwellings, Stellenbosch is one of the best preserved towns from the era of the Dutch East India Company. History buffs can take a walk back in time at the Village Museum, a group of four restored houses and gardens dating from 1709 to 1850. Rupert Museum displays important works by South African artists, and the Botanic Garden at the University of Stellenbosch is another top tourist attraction. In the surrounding area, nature buffs can hike and bike on the wilderness trails in the breathtaking Jonkershoek Nature Reserve.



The Drakensberg, KwaZulu-Natal

• The spectacular Drakensberg, meaning "Dragon Mountains," is one of the most popular vacation destinations in South Africa and home to the country's highest peaks. The region encompasses the World Heritage-listed uKhahlamba-Drakensberg Park, a region of jaw-dropping beauty with jagged basalt buttresses and San rock art, and Royal Natal National Park, home to the awe-inspiring Amphitheatre, magnificent cliff face and source of South Africa's main rivers. Dense forests flourish in the sheltered valleys, and the area is home to more than 800 different species of flowering plants as well as a rich diversity of wildlife. In the summer, the mountain landscapes are lush and fertile with gushing waterfalls and crystal-clear streams. In the winter, snow cloaks the dramatic peaks.







Water pollution and sanitation

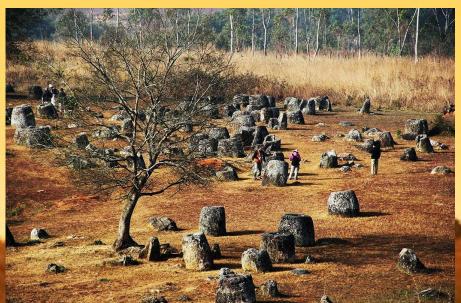
- First of all water pollution is caused by oil transmission n ship ports, water resources poor management, lack of financial resources required for sustainable development and efficient utilization of resources, absence of effective regional and basin development plans and shared management, and under-estimation of the groundwater potential to supplement irrigation and drinking water supplies.
- Energy consumption in sub-Saharan Africa varies dramatically and dominates fuel consumption. According to reports the use of wood for fuel is predominant in both rural and urban locations and accounts for approximately 70% of total energy use. This cause another problem deforestation. In Sub-Sahara region Nigeria consistently leads to commercial energy consumption. Thus, according to data in 2001, Nigeria consumed 0.92 quadrillion Btu (quads), 32% of all energy consumed in the region. Although domestic demand for energy consumption in sub-Saharan Africa is growing rapidly, consumption levels remain well below world averages.



Deforestation causes another problem – biodiversity

• The richness of African biodiversity requires greater protection and a sustainable use that will ensure the income of those who depend on it. There is a need to maximize biodiversity landscape protection, to give priority to biodiversity areas close to areas of high population density, and to give balanced attention to such regions as the arid and semi-arid areas.





Oil pollution.

 Oil pollution is one of the issues that must be specified being a controversial subject of heated discussion among the representatives of the academia. In a number of countries such as Nigeria and Angola, fore example, oil is the principle source of benefits. However it is pretty clear that new technologies used in oil exploration are extremely harmful for the environment. Environmental problems are common and rise heated debates.





Agriculture.

 Increased food insecurity resulting from rapid population growth, degradation of agriculture and arable lands, and mismanagement of available water resources combined with poor economic policies to support food production. Land degradation is also a serious environmental problem. However, Africa owns vast areas of unexploited arable land which could be exploited in the future through the integrated management of land, water and human resources.





