

UGANDA

CAPITAL: KAMPALA—POPULATION: 7,186,000

Uganda lies astride the Equator in central east Africa. It is bounded on the east by Kenya, on the south by Tanganyika and Rwanda, on the west by the Congo (Léopoldville), and on the north by the Sudan. The area of the country is about 93,981 square miles (nearly the size of Oregon), of which about 13,689 square miles are water.

The capital, Kampala, is in the Province of Buganda, on the shores of Lake Victoria. The western, northern, and eastern Provinces make up the rest of the country.

Most of the country lies at an altitude between 3,000 and 6,000 feet, a circumstance which moderates the tropical climate to some extent. Uganda is dotted with lakes, the largest of which is Lake Victoria, the source of the White Nile. Others are Lake George, Lake Edward, Lake Kyoga, and Lake Albert. The famous Mountains of the Moon, the Ruwenzori, form a part of the border with the Congo and rise to peaks of 16,000 feet. The highest mountain in the country is here, Mount Margherita at 16,750 feet. Mount Elgon, an isolated peak on the Kenya border, is over 14,000 feet.

Rainfall varies considerably within the country. In the northeast there is an arid climate with an average of less than 20 inches per year. The parts of Uganda which receive the most rainfall are in the southwest and west, where average precipitation is 50 inches per year and goes as high as 60. The seasons are not well defined, but there are normally two dry spells per year, one from December to February, the other in June and July.

THE PEOPLE

Uganda has a population estimated at over 7 million, and the rate of population increase is calculated at about 2½ percent per year. Africans of three racial groups—Bantu, Nilotic, and Nilo-Hamitic—make up the bulk of the people. Of the three, the Bantus are the largest and include the Baganda, the largest tribal group, with slightly over a million members (or 16 percent of the total African population). The Iteso is the second largest tribe with 525,000 members, followed by the Ankole with 520,000 and the Basoga with 500,000. Other tribes are the Lango, the Acholi, and the Karamojong.

The estimated distribution of the Uganda population by religion is just under 50 percent Christian, 5 percent Moslem, and the rest pagan. The Christian community is approximately divided equally between Roman Catholics and Protestants. The Moslems are for the most part in the north, along the Sudan frontier.

Asians in Uganda, mainly Indians, number about 72,000 and are located in the two major cities of Kampala and Jinja. They are primarily small businessmen, although some have followed the law and others are active in local politics. There are about 11,000 Europeans, mostly English, in Uganda.

The language most commonly understood is probably English, Luganda is spoken in Buganda, and tribal languages and dialects are said to number in the hundreds. Literacy is about 25 percent.

HISTORY

The territory that is now Uganda was first penetrated in 1862 by explorers searching for the source of the Nile River. Protestant missionaries entered the area by 1877, followed by Catholic missionaries in 1879. Not all of the native leaders were friendly toward missionary activities, particularly when they impinged on native politics. Arab leaders and native Moslems posed additional problems for the missionaries. In 1889 control of the nascent British sphere in east Africa was assigned by royal charter to the British East Africa Co., an arrangement strengthened in 1890 by an Anglo-German agreement confirming British dominance over Kenya and Uganda. The high cost of occupying the territory caused the British East Africa Co. to withdraw in 1893 and its adminis-