

Ivory Coast: Africa Cup and Anti-terrorism through INTERPOL

January 11, 2024

13 January to 11 February 2024: Ivory Coast: The Africa Cup of Nations: The opening match will be played between Ivory Coast and Guinea-Bissau on January 13, 2024.



*Côte d'Ivoire: **Robert Beugré Mambé**, Prime Minister (since 17 October 2023)*

The Prime Minister said that arrangements will be made to fill the Stadia with students so that the next generation can imbibe the sportsman spirit. He said that success in any field depends on the same qualities of head and heart, that the players in any first-class game show.

He said that the country was determined to make the Africa Cup in *Côte d'Ivoire* a grand success.

The tournament will feature 24 teams, including the host nation, and will be broadcast live on BBC 1.

The stadia are as follows:

Stadium	City	Capacity
Stade de la Paix	Abidjan	60,000
Felix Houphouet Boigny Stadium	Abidjan	33,000
Stade de la Paix	Bouake	40,000
Amadou Gon Coulibaly Stadium	Korhogo	20,000
Laurent Pokou Stadium	San Pedro	20,000
Charles Konan Banny Stadium	Yamoussoukro	20,000

January 10, 2024: Ivory Coast has signed a Police Intelligence Contract with France. The contract is expected to provide Ivory Coast with access to French intelligence databases and expertise, to better monitor and prevent terrorist activities and organized crime.

Some observers have welcomed the Police Intelligence Contract as a positive step towards improving security in the region. But the same technologies could be used to target political opponents or suppress dissenting voices. In response, the French government has assured that the contract will be used only for legitimate security purposes, and that it will be subject to strict oversight and accountability measures.

EARLIER EFFORTS: INTERPOL's Counter-Terrorism Criminal Analysis File (CT CAF) currently holds more than one million entities linked to terrorism (*suspects, bank accounts, ID documents, weapons, means of transportation and communication, etc.*), including more than 85,000 foreign terrorist fighter profiles.



12-17 June, 2023: Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire:

*Training the Officers of NCBs of Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire Côte d'Ivoire
on Biometric Data Collection Equipment*

The CT CAF assists member countries better identify 1. **patterns of terrorist activity**, 2. **modus operandi** and 3. **communication networks** to assist their INTERPOL **National Central Bureaus (NCBs)** in building **stronger CT strategies** and in **detecting new operational leads**.

SUCCESS from FORENSIC ANALYSIS: INTERPOL's RCTN in Abidjan has offered its assistance to NCB **Ouagadougou** (capital of **Burkina Faso**; Population of

Ouagadougou: 2.42 Mn) and to NCB Côte d'Ivoire, to support the investigation of the terrorist suspects through use of Biometric equipment and through use of Biometric data by comparing it with the large databases, maintained by INTERPOL.



Alidouyou (a hamlet) is at the border of Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire
The map shows: 1. River Comoé (Komoe) in the South of Burkina Faso
2. Ferkessédougou in Côte d'Ivoire

On May 24, 2021, **Operation Comoé**, a joint military operation between the armies of Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso, to catch Islamist militia operating in the area in NorthEast of Ferkessédougou, Côte d'Ivoire, and at the **Alidouyou** terrorist base south of **Banfora**, Burkina Faso. The operation resulted in the arrest of **24 suspects** in Burkina and **16 individuals** in Côte d'Ivoire. The 40 persons were then handed over to the Intelligence Services. By using the training on Biometrics and by using

the INTERPOL's databases, the Intelligence Services of the two countries were able to identify 37 of them.

The operation was also successful in cleaning up the bases that served as a refuge for the armed groups, operating in the region to the north of the **Comoé** (or Komoe, name of the river, flowing through the two countries) **National Park**, which straddles Burkina Faso and some neighboring countries.

The militants were believed to be operating in **Burkina Faso**, since 2019, and seeking refuge on the **Ivorian side of the border**. The operation was successful in arresting several armed bandits and destroying the **Alidougou terrorist base** in Burkina Faso.

Members of the Al Qaeda-affiliated **Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin** (JNIM) and the **Islamic State in the Greater Sahara** (ISGS) have proven effective in transforming a range of armed actors — bandits, rebels, militiamen, smugglers, local militants, and poachers — into allied groups and auxiliaries, establishing unity of purpose to subvert state control and facilitate illicit activities. Only sustained and joint operations by a number of countries can eradicate the evil of non-state militias.

The police intelligence contract is part of a broader effort by France to strengthen its security cooperation with African countries. The French government has also been providing training and equipment to African security forces, as part of its efforts to build their capacity to fight terrorism.

----BACKGROUND on the ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE----

The **Republic of Côte d'Ivoire** is a country on the Southern coast of West Africa.

The **districts** of Ivory Coast are the **first-level** administrative subdivisions of the country. There are **14 districts**, including the **two autonomous districts** around the cities of **Yamoussoukro** and **Abidjan**.

The **regions** of Ivory Coast are the **second-level** subdivisions. There are **31 regions**. **Two to four regions** are **combined to make up a district**, the first-level subdivision.

The autonomous districts of Abidjan and Yamoussoukro are not divided into regions.



Departments of Ivory Coast are the **third-level** administrative subdivision. There are **109 departments** of Ivory Coast. Each of the 31 second-level regions of Ivory Coast is divided into two or more departments. *(The autonomous districts also have departments, with a different status.)*

Sub-prefectures of Ivory Coast are the **fourth-level** administrative subdivisions of the country. There are currently **510 sub-prefectures**.

Each **sub-prefecture** is headed by a **Sub-Prefect**, appointed by Cabinet of the National Government. The **Sub-Prefect** implements the programs of the **Department** and works directly with the Mayors and Heads of villages to ensure cooperation and standardization in the entire **sub-prefecture**.

The sub-prefectures contain **more than 8000 villages nationwide**. Where needed, **multiple villages have been combined into 197 communes**. *The two autonomous*

districts contain one or more departments as well as sub-prefectures and communes.

Two areas of the country are not subdivided into sub-prefectures.

First, the urban portion -- the **Autonomous District of Abidjan**—constituting **Abidjan City proper contains no sub-prefectures. The Abidjan City has only communes.**

The more rural areas of the **Autonomous District of Abidjan** are **divided into sub-prefectures.**

Secondly, the portion of the **Comoé National Park** that is located in **Zanzan District** is **not divided into sub-prefectures.**



Republic of Côte d'Ivoire

Population: 29.3 Mn (52nd), Density: 91.1/Km² (139th), GDP: \$202.65 Bn (78th), GDP Per Capita: \$6,960 (138th)

Capital: **Yamoussoukro**, Population: 0.213 Mn

Abidjan: Population: 6.3 Mn, (the sixth most populous city in Africa, after **Lagos, Cairo, Kinshasa, Dar es Salaam, and Johannesburg**).

The military rules, dictatorial regimes and **civil wars** left Ivory Coast divided for several years. After repeated delays, **elections** aimed at ending the conflict were finally held in **October 2010**.

ECONOMY: The country has a diversified economy, with agriculture, forestry, and mining being the major sectors. Ivory Coast is the **world's largest export GDP growth averaging 8% between 2012 and 2019** of **cocoa beans** and a significant producer of **coffee, palm oil, and rubber**. The GDP growth averaged 8% between 2012 and 2019, since the end of the civil war.

Note: Please see the **BACKGROUNDER** on **Felix Houphouet-Boigny** and the **RECENT HISTORY** of Ivory Coast.