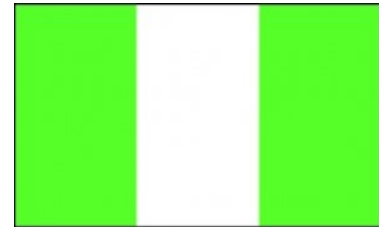




Nigeria

Joined the Commonwealth 1960 - visited by the Queen in 2003



Nigeria is a West African nation lying on the Gulf of Guinea

Pop: (2013) 173,615,000 Capital: Abuja Area: 923,768 sq km

Nigeria is one of the most populous countries in Africa. Several major rivers, including the Niger and its tributary, the Benue, are navigable and drain to the Gulf. The Niger forms a delta over 100km wide. In the north-east, rivers drain inland to Lake Chad. The coast is low lying with lagoons, sandy beaches and mangrove swamps. Inland, the land rises to over 1,800m to the Jos Plateau with peaks of over 2,000m.

The tropical hot and humid climate of the coast gives way to a more temperate climate inland until savanna and more arid conditions are found in the north. The vegetation is hardwood rainforest in the south and savanna baobab and tamarind in the north. A programme of tree planting in the north is helping prevent the spread of the Sahara. Wildlife abounds, especially in the north. Yankari National Park is an important stopover for over 600 species of migratory birds.

Oil and natural gas account for over 90% of all export earnings. This is very vulnerable to global fluctuations in price but government attempts to diversify the economy are slow to take off.



Shell Oil's refinery on the Niger delta

