

## **SOME BASIC FACTS ABOUT UGANDA**

Uganda achieved independence from the UK in 1962. The dictatorial regime of Idi AMIN (1971-79) was responsible for the deaths of some 300,000 opponents; guerrilla war and human rights abuses under Milton OBOTE (1980-85) claimed at least another 100,000 lives. During the 1990s, the government promoted non-party presidential and legislative elections. Now Uganda is one of the most stable and progressive African countries.

### **Location:**

Eastern Africa, west of Kenya

### **Geographic coordinates:**

1 00 N, 32 00 E

### **Area:**

*Total:* 236,040 sq km

*land:* 199,710 sq km

*water:* 36,330 sq km

### **Area - comparative:**

Slightly smaller than Oregon

### **Land boundaries:**

*Total:* 2,698 km

*border countries:* Democratic Republic of the Congo 765 km, Kenya 933 km, Rwanda 169 km, Sudan 435 km, Tanzania 396 km

### **Coastline:**

0 km (landlocked)

### **Maritime claims:**

None (landlocked)

### **Climate:**

Tropical; generally rainy with two dry seasons (December to February, June to August); semiarid in northeast

### **Terrain:**

Mostly plateau with rim of mountains

### **Elevation extremes:**

*Lowest point:* Lake Albert 621 m

*highest point:* Margherita Peak on Mount Stanley 5,110 m

### **Natural resources:**

Copper, cobalt, hydropower, limestone, salt, arable land

### **Land use:**

*Arable land:* 25.88%

*permanent crops:* 10.65%

*other:* 63.47% (2001)

**Irrigated land**

90 sq km (1998 est.)

**Environment - current issues:**

Draining of wetlands for agricultural use; deforestation; overgrazing; soil erosion; water hyacinth infestation in Lake Victoria; poaching is widespread

**Environment - international agreements:**

*Party to:* Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Endangered Species, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Marine Life Conservation, Ozone Layer Protection, Wetlands

*signed, but not ratified:* Environmental Modification

**Geography - note:**

Landlocked; fertile, well-watered country with many lakes and rivers

**Population:**

27,269,482

*note:* estimates for this country explicitly take into account the effects of excess mortality due to AIDS; this can result in lower life expectancy, higher infant mortality and death rates, lower population and growth rates, and changes in the distribution of population by age and sex than would otherwise be expected (July 2005 est.)

**Nationality:**

*Noun:* Ugandan(s)

*adjective:* Ugandan

**Ethnic groups:**

Baganda 17%, Ankole 8%, Basoga 8%, Iteso 8%, Bakiga 7%, Langi 6%, Rwanda 6%, Bagisu 5%, Acholi 4%, Lugbara 4%, Batoro 3%, Bunyoro 3%, Alur 2%, Bagwere 2%, Bakonjo 2%, Jopodhola 2%, Karamojong 2%, Rundi 2%, non-African (European, Asian, Arab) 1%, other 8%

**Religions:**

Roman Catholic 33%, Protestant 33%, Muslim 16%, indigenous beliefs 18%

**Languages:**

English (official national language, taught in grade schools, used in courts of law and by most newspapers and some radio broadcasts), Ganda or Luganda (most widely used of the Niger-Congo languages, preferred for native language publications in the capital and may be taught in school), other Niger-Congo languages, Nilo-Saharan languages, Swahili, Arabic

**Literacy:**

*Definition:* age 15 and over can read and write

*total population:* 69.9%

*male:* 79.5%

*female:* 60.4% (2003 est.)

**Country name:**

*Conventional long form:* Republic of Uganda

*conventional short form:* Uganda

**Government type:**

Republic

**Capital:**

Kampala

**Administrative divisions:**

56 districts; Adjumani, Apac, Arua, Bugiri, Bundibugyo, Bushenyi, Busia, Gulu, Hoima, Iganga, Jinja, Kabale, Kabarole, Kaberamaido, Kalangala, Kampala, Kamuli, Kamwenge, Kanungu, Kapchorwa, Kasese, Katakwi, Kayunga, Kibale, Kiboga, Kisoro, Kitgum, Kotido, Kumi, Kyenjojo, Lira, Luwero, Masaka, Masindi, Mayuge, Mbale, Mbarara, Moroto, Moyo, Mpigi, Mubende, Mukono, Nakapiripirit, Nakasongola, Nebbi, Ntungamo, Pader, Pallisa, Rakai, Rukungiri, Sembabule, Sironko, Soroti, Tororo, Wakiso, Yumbe

**Independence:**

9 October 1962 (from UK)

**Diplomatic representation in the US:**

*Chief of mission:* Ambassador Edith Grace SSEMPALA

*chancery:* 5911 16th Street NW, Washington, DC 20011

*telephone:* [1] (202) 726-7100 through 7102, 0416

*FAX:* [1] (202) 726-1727

*Chief of mission:* Ambassador Jimmy KOLKER

*embassy:* 1577 Ggaba Rd., Kampala

*mailing address:* P. O. Box 7007, Kampala

*telephone:* [256] (41) 234-142

*FAX:* [256] (41) 258-451

**Telephone system:**

*general assessment:* seriously inadequate; two cellular systems have been introduced, but a sharp increase in the number of main lines is essential; e-mail and Internet services are available

*domestic:* intercity traffic by wire, microwave radio relay, and radiotelephone

communication stations, fixed and mobile cellular systems for short-range traffic

*international:* country code - 256; satellite earth stations - 1 Intelsat (Atlantic Ocean) and

1 Inmarsat; analog links to Kenya and Tanzania