

SIERRA LEONE



Environmental Features:

Area: 71,740 square km. (A bit smaller than South Carolina)

Location: Western Africa Bordering the North Atlantic Ocean

Land Boundaries: Between Guinea and Liberia

Coastline: North Atlantic Ocean, 402 km.

Terrain: Coastal belt of mangrove swamps, wooded hill country, upland plateau, mountains in the east

Climate: Tropical; hot, humid; summer rainy season (May to December); winter dry season (December to April)

Land Use: 7% arable land; 1% permanent crops; 31% permanent pastures; 28% forests and woodlands; 33% other

Irrigated Land: 290 sq. km.

Environmental Concerns: Rapid population growth pressuring the environment; overharvesting of timber, expansion of cattle grazing; and slash-and-burn agriculture have resulted in deforestation and soil exhaustion; civil war depleting natural resources; overfishing

International Agreements Concerning Environment to Which Sierra Leone is a Signatory: Biodiversity; Climate Change; Desertification; Endangered Species; Environmental Modification, Law of the Sea; Marine Life conservation, Nuclear Test Ban; Wetlands

Natural Resources: Diamonds, titanium ore, bauxite, iron ore, gold, chromite

Government & Politics

Capital: Freetown

Government Type: Constitutional Democracy
Chief of State: President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah (Both Chief of State and Head of Government)

Legislative Body: Unicameral House of Representatives (80 seats-68 elected by popular vote, 12 filled by paramount chiefs elected in separate elections-five year terms)

Political Parties: All People's Congress (APC); Citizens United for Peace and Progress (CUPP); Coalition for Progress Party (CPP), Democratic Center Party (DCP); Democratic Labour Party (DLP), Democratic Party (DP), National People's Party (NPP), National Republican Party (NRP); People's Progressive Party (PPP); Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP)

Voter Eligibility: 18 years of age, universal

Independence: April 27, 1961 (from the UK)

Legal System: Based on English law and customary laws indigenous to local tribes; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction

Judicial Branch: Supreme Court; Appeals Court; High Court

Political Pressure Groups and Leaders: Trade Unions and Student Groups

Other concerns:

HIV/AIDS-adult prevalence rate: 2.99%

HIV/AIDS-People living with HIV/AIDS: 68,000

HIV/AIDS-deaths: 8,200

Number of Health Personnel: 363

Human Rights violations: Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have documented many atrocities (See

<http://www.amnesty.org/ailib/aireport/ar99/afr51.htm> and <http://www.humanrightswatch.org/>)

Access to Clean, Safe Water: Total: 57%; urban: 75%; Rural: 46%

Access to Clean Sanitation: Total: 66%; Urban: 88%; Rural: 53%

Legal Sources Regarding Sierra Leone

1. Diane Marie Amann, *Message as Medium in Sierra Leone*, 7 ILSA J. INT'L & COMP. L. 237 (2001).
2. Babafemi Akinrinade, *International Humanitarian Law And The Conflict In Sierra Leone*, 15 NOTRE DAME J.L. ETHICS & PUB.POL'Y 391 (2001).
3. Sean D. Murphy, *U.S. Support For Sierra Leone Peace Agreement Involving Amnesty*, 94 Am. J. Int'l L. 369 (2000).
4. Jeana Webster, *Sierra Leone -- Responding To The Crisis, Planning For The Future: The Role Of International Justice In The Quest For National And Global Security*, 11 Ind. Int'l & Comp. L. Rev. 731 (2001).

SIERRA LEONE

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Economy:</u></p> <p>Gross Domestic Product: \$2.7 billion (2000) GDP Growth Rate: 4.2% (2000) Inflation Rate: 15% Per Capita Income: \$510 Labor Force: 1.369 million Population below the Poverty Line: 68% Major Industries: Mining (diamonds); small-scale manufacturing (beverages, textiles, cigarettes, shoes); petroleum refining Agriculture: rice; coffee; cocoa; palm oil; peanuts Main Exports: Diamonds; rutile; cocoa; coffee; fish \$65 million (2000) Main Export Partners: Belgium (38%); United States (6%); Italy (4%), UK (4%) Main Imports: Foodstuffs; machinery and equipment; fuels and lubricants; chemicals \$145 million (2000) Main Import Partners: UK (34%); US (8%); Italy (7%); Nigeria (5%) Foreign Debt: \$1.28 billion Economic Aid Recipient: \$203.7 million Currency Exchange Rate: leones per US dollar 1,653.39</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>People:</u></p> <p>Population: 5,426,618 (2001) Age Distribution: 0-14 years: 44.73% (male 1,190,207; female 1,237,326); 15-64 years: 52.12% (male 1,351,455 female 1,477,155); 65 years: 3.15% (male 84,364 female 86,111) Population Growth Rate: 3.61% (2001) Sex Distribution: Overall: 0.94 male(s)/female (2001); At birth: 1.03 male(s)/female; Under 15 years: 0.96 male(s)/female; 15-64 years: 0.91 male(s)/female; 65 years and over: 0.98 male(s)/female (2001) Life Expectancy: Total Population: 45.6 years; Male: 42.69 years; Female: 48.61 years (2001) Infant Mortality Rate: 146.52 deaths/1,000 live births Languages Spoken: English (Official, regular use limited to literate minority), Mende (in the South), Temne (in the North), Krio (English-based Creole, spoken by the descendants of freed Jamaican slaves) Religious Practiced: Muslim 60%, indigenous beliefs 30%, Christian 10% Ethnic Make-up: 20 native African tribes 90% (Temne 30%, Mende 30%, other 30%), Creole 10% Literacy Rate: Total Population: 31.4% Male: 45.4%; Female: 18.2% (2000)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Military:</u></p> <p>Branches: Army Eligible Manpower: Males age 15-49: 1,161, 790 (2001) Eligible Manpower Fit for Military Service: Males age 15-49: 563,631 (2001) Military Expenditure: \$46 million Military Expenditure as a percentage of GDP: 2.2%</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Communication and Transportation:</u></p> <p>Telephone Lines in Use: 17,000 (1997) Cellular Telephones in use: 650 (1999) Radio Stations: AM 1, FM 9 (1999) Television Stations: 2 (1999) Televisions: 53,000 (1997) Internet Users: 2,000 (2000) Railways: 84 km. Highways: 11,300 (904 paved) Major Ports: Bonthe, Freetown, Pepel Merchant Marine: 1 ship (2000) Airports: 11 (1 paved) (2000) National Airlines: 0 Heliports: 1 (2000)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Transnational Issues:</u></p> <p>International Organizations to Which Sierra Leone Belongs: ACP, AFDB, C, CCC, ECA, ECOWAS, FAO, G-77, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICFTU, ICRM, IDA, IDB, IFAD, IFC, IFRC, ILO, IMF, IMO, Intelsat (nonsignatory user), Interpol, IOC, ITU, NAM, OAU, OIC, OPCW (signatory), UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WCL, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO, WTOO, WTO</p> <p>International Disputes: Civil War has caused tensions with neighboring Guinea and Liberia because of massive refugee movements.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">General Materials and Sources for this Presentation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bundu, Abass, "Democracy by Force?: A Study of International Military Intervention in the Conflict in Sierra Leone from 1991-2000," Universal Publishers, 2001. 2. Ferme, Mariane C., "Underneath of Things: Violence, History, and the Everyday in Sierra Leone," University of California Press, 2001. 3. Hirsch, John L., "Sierra Leone: Diamonds and the Struggle for Democracy," Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2000. 4. CIA World Factbook: http://www.cia.gov 5. Official Site of the Sierra Leone Government: http://www.sierra-leone.gov 6. United Nations Peacekeeping: http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/unamsil/body_unamsil.htm 7. Hiskett, Mervyn, "The Development of Islam in West Africa," Longman Studies in African History, London, 1984. 8. Africa and the Spread of Islam: http://salam.muslimsonline.com/~azahoor/islaf 9. AIDS and Africa: http://www.time.com/time/2001/aidsinafrica/ 10. Sierra Leone News: http://www.sierraleone.com/