

# **Gaza Strip**

**Last updated: 31-01-2004**

## **Location and area**

The Gaza Strip is a Palestinian-administered territory in the Middle East, bordered on the south by Egypt, on the west by the Mediterranean Sea, and to the east and north by Israel. The area of the Gaza Strip is 360 km<sup>2</sup>. Currently the Gaza Strip is ruled as an autonomous zone under the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), except for pockets of Jewish settlers that remain under Israeli rule. (Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia 2002).

## **Topography**

The Gaza Strip is largely flat and sandy, with dunes pushing in from the coast, particularly in the south. (Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia 2002).

## **Climate**

Rainfall diminishes from north to south within an annual range of between 150 mm and 400 mm. (Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia 2002).

## **Land use**

The Strip has little fertile soil, with only 13 per cent of the land arable. Agriculture and livestock raising dominated the economy of the Gaza Strip for centuries and continue to support many Gazans. Principal crops grown in the region include citrus fruits, vegetables, and other field crops (Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia 2002).

## **Peatlands**

According to the interpreted World Soil Map (Van Engelen & Huting 2002) no histosols nor gley soils exist in the Gaza Strip.