

## **Djibouti (Jibuti)**

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

### **Location and area**

Djibouti is a republic in the Horn of Africa, bounded on the east by the Gulf of Aden, on the southeast by Somalia, on the south and west by Ethiopia, and on the north by Eritrea. It has an area of about 23,200 km<sup>2</sup>. (Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia 2002).

### **Topography**

Djibouti consists principally of arid plateaux. Inland, the terrain is broken by a series of salt-water basins. To the north of the Gulf of Tadjoura, which deeply indents the country's coast, lie several mountain ranges with heights of about 1,500 to 1,830 m. (Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia 2002).

### **Climate**

Djibouti has a hot desert climate. The average annual temperature in the capital city is 30° C. Annual rainfall ranges from 125 mm in Djibouti city to about 380 mm in the mountains. (Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia 2002).

### **Land use**

Droughts and flash flooding are a constant threat. Less than one tenth of the land area is suitable for grazing livestock. Agriculture is limited to a few oasis areas (Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia 2002).

### **Peatlands**

According to the interpreted World Soil Map (Van Engelen & Huting 2002) 55 km<sup>2</sup> of histosols exist in Djibouti and no gley soils.

### **Still to be checked:**

**Gasse, F. & Street, F.A. 1978. Late Quaternary lake-level fluctuations and environments of the Northern Rift Valley and Afar Region (Ethiopia and Djibouti). Palaeogeogr., Palaeoclim., Palaeoecol. 24: 279-325.**