

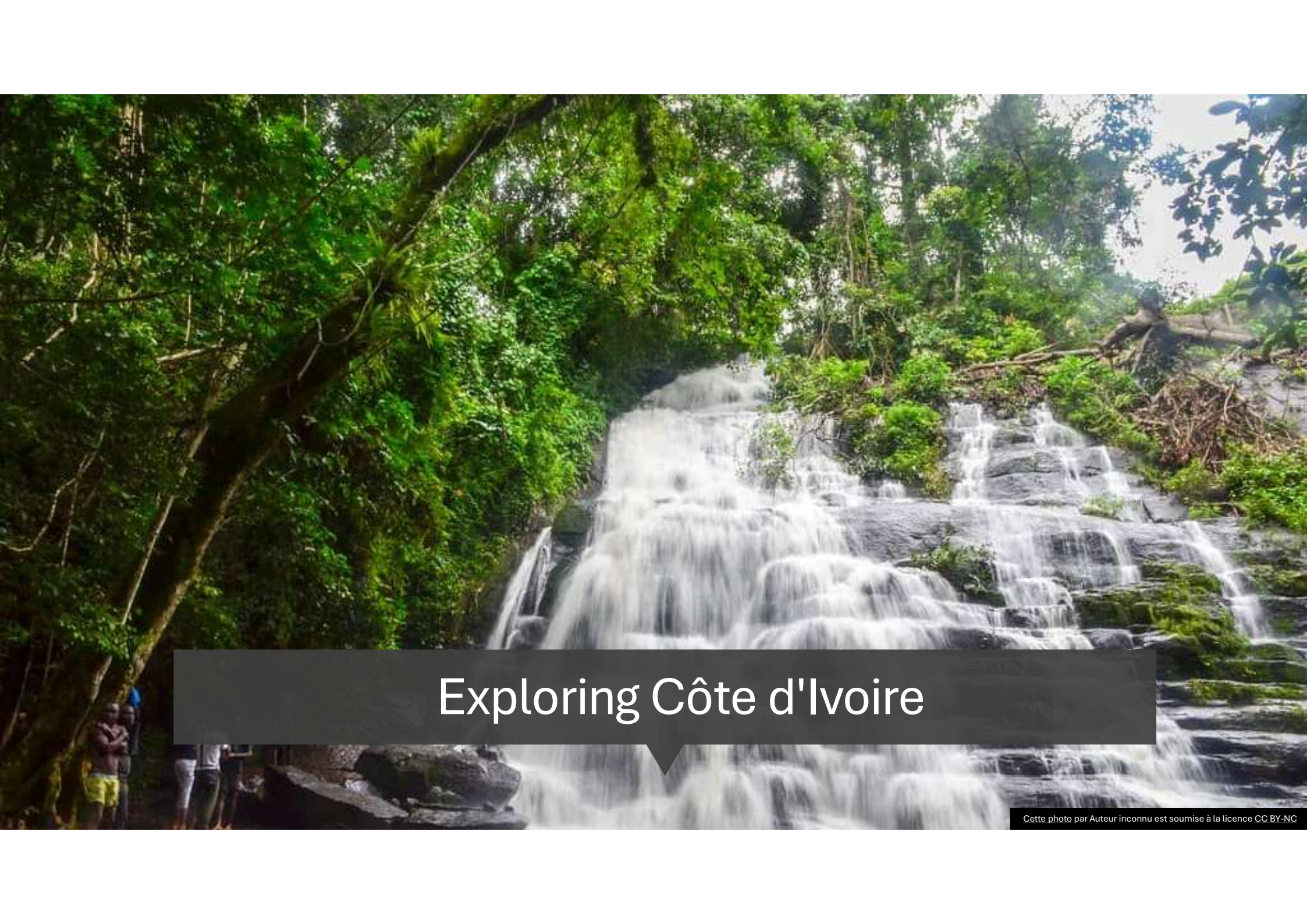
Exploring Côte d'Ivoire and
my experience in Japan

コートジボワール

Côte d'Ivoire
(Ivory Coast)

Presented by
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フォファナ・ヤコウバ



A wide waterfall cascading over mossy rocks in a lush tropical forest. The water is white and frothy as it falls over several tiers of dark, wet rocks. The surrounding forest is dense with vibrant green foliage, including large trees and hanging vines. In the bottom left corner, a few people are visible, standing near the base of the waterfall, providing a sense of scale. A dark grey banner with white text is overlaid across the middle of the image.

Exploring Côte d'Ivoire

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A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a spherical object covered in colorful beads. The beads are arranged to form a map of Kenya, with the top of the map in yellow and orange, the middle in blue, and the bottom in green. The person is wearing a patterned garment with geometric designs in red, yellow, and black. The background is a blurred green landscape.

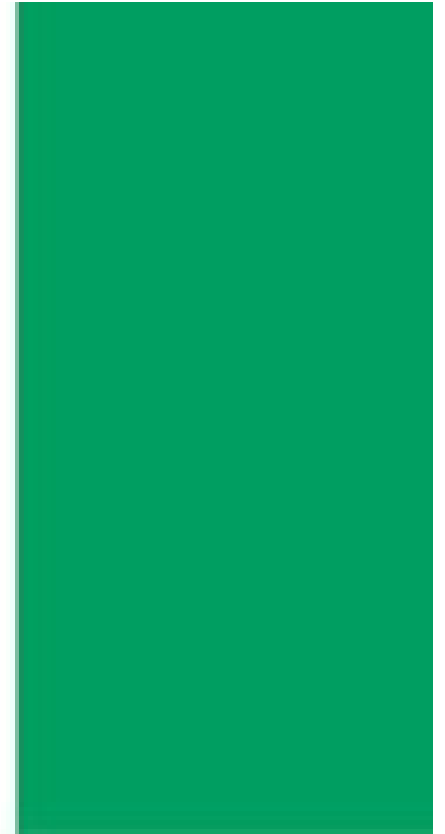
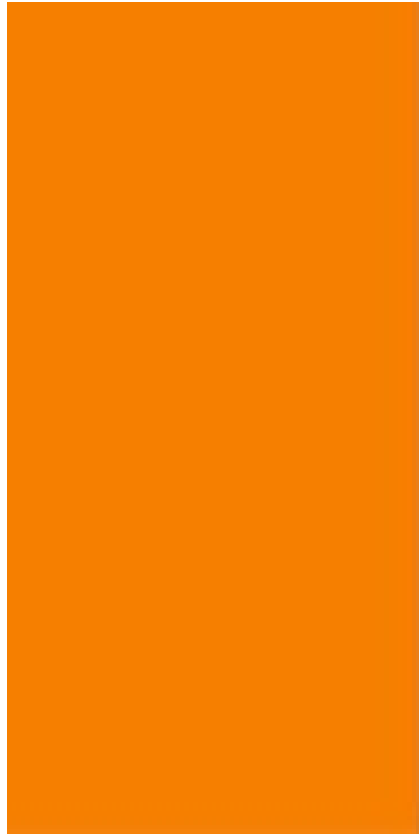
National Symbols

コジボール

Coast (place) of ivory

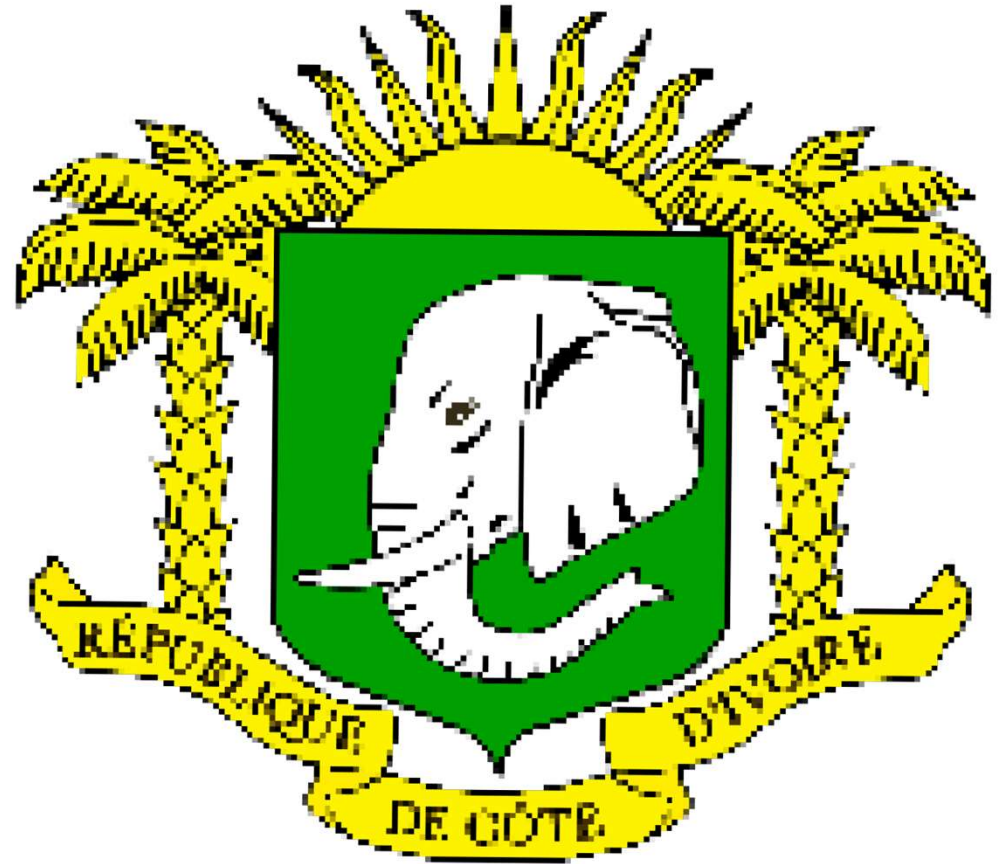


The Flag
(Not Ireland,
similar but
inverted in
color order)

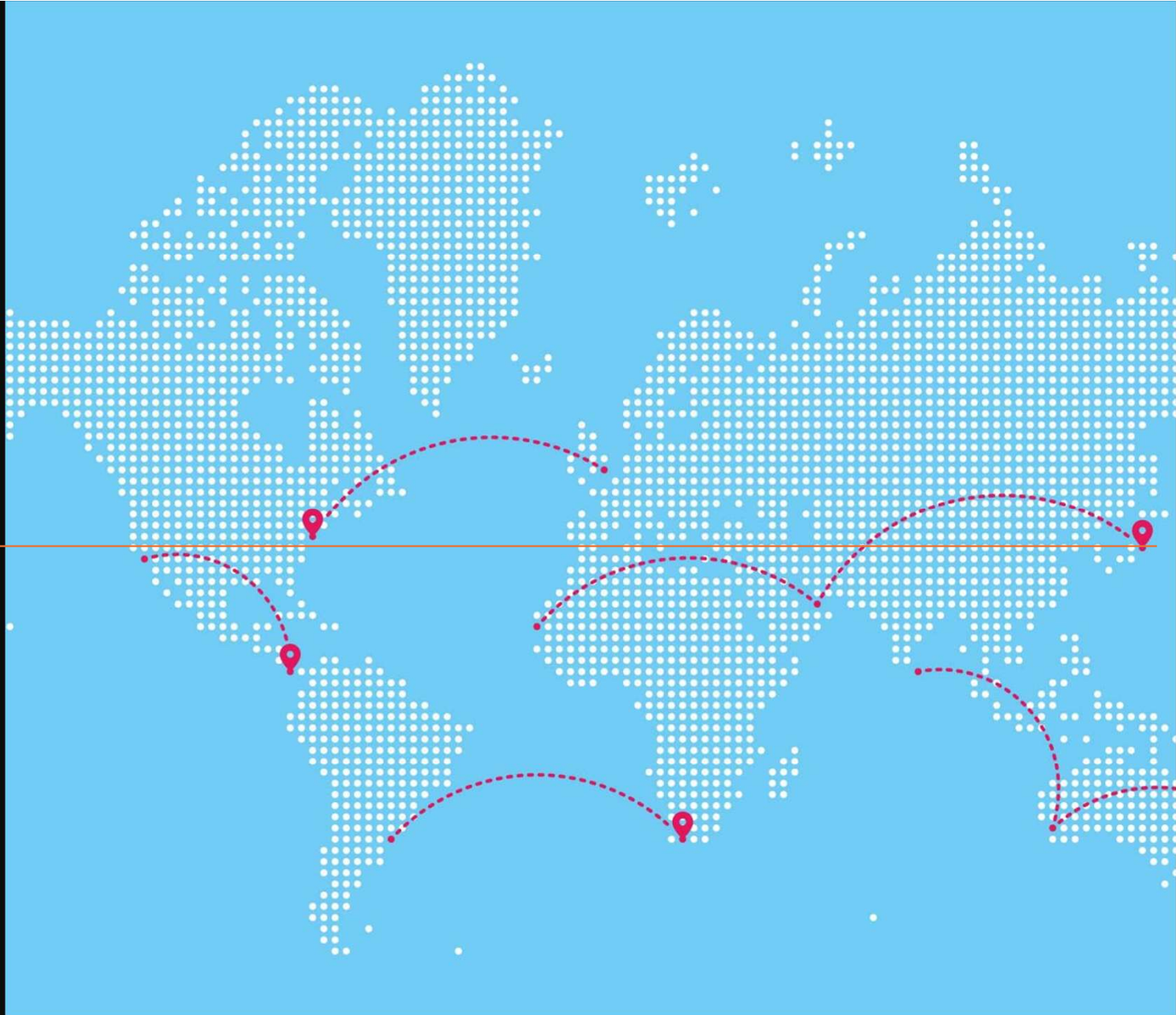


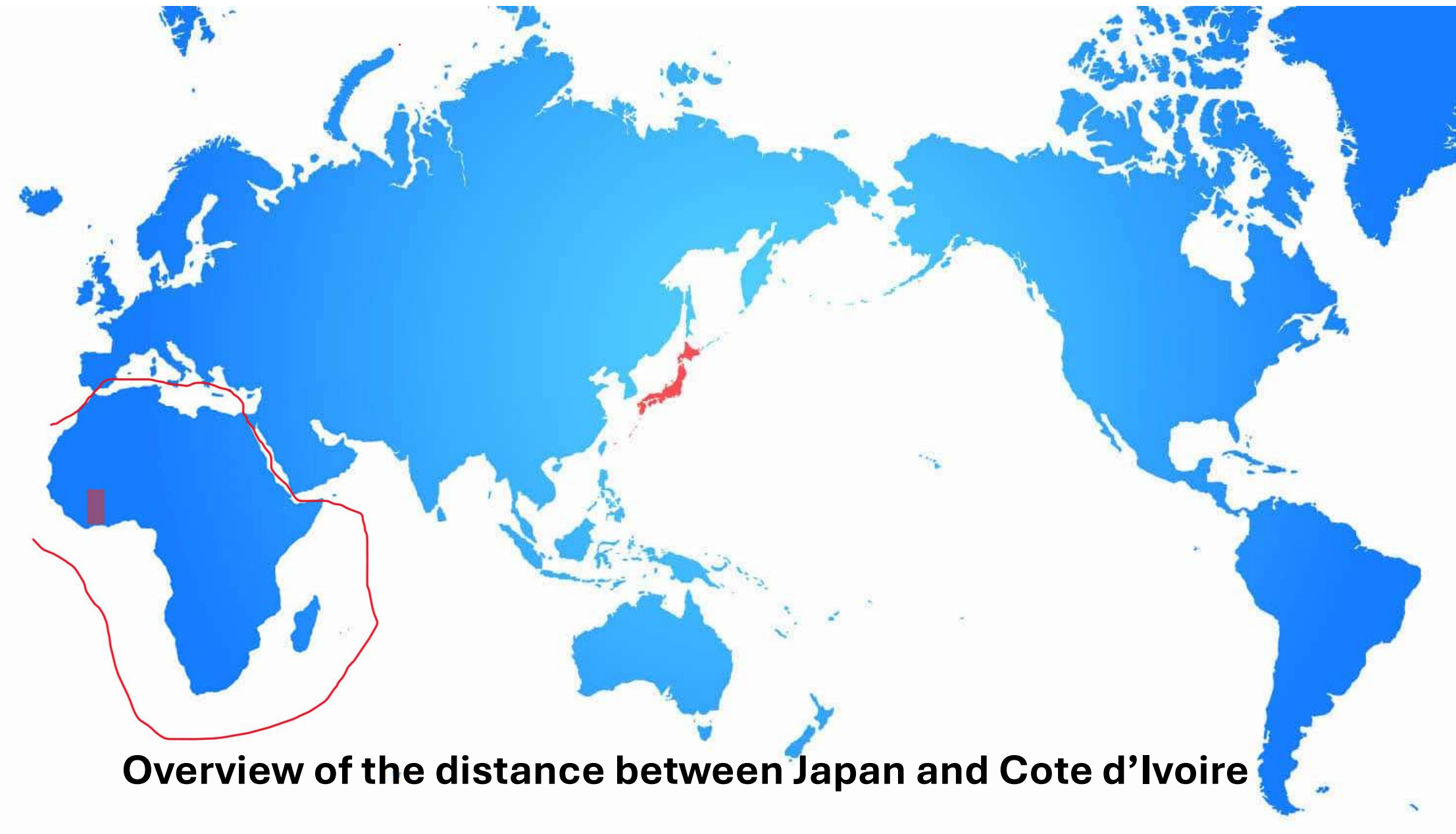
Coat of arms

- **Coat of Arms:** *Elephant head* (strength and memory), *rising sun* (hope), *palm trees* (prosperity).
- **National Anthem:** “*L’Abidjanaise*” – symbolizes unity and patriotism.
- **Motto:** *Union – Discipline – Work*
- **National Animal:** 🐘 *Elephant*
- **Symbolic Tree:** 🌴 *Palm Tree*



Geography & Overview





Overview of the distance between Japan and Cote d'Ivoire

Location: West Africa (Nishi Afrika)

Capital city: Yamoussoukro

Largest city and economic center: Abidjan

Area: 322,462 square kilometers (Japan 377,975 km²)

Climate: Tropical dry and rainy season

Temperature: Average min: 20-24°C
Average max: 30-36°C

From CI-Japan: about 24 hours of flight without stopovers or layovers

But no direct flight currently, so stopover in Ethiopia, Korea or France or Emirates depending on your route.





Population and Demography

- **Population:** about **30 million people** (2025 estimate).
- **Density:** around **90 inhabitants per km²**, mostly concentrated in the south.
- **Age structure:** a **very young population** —More than **75%** of the total population is under 35 years old.
- **Life expectancy:** about **58–61 years**.
- **Urbanization:** nearly **52% of Ivorians live in cities**, mainly in **Abidjan**, the economic capital.
- **Migration:** Côte d'Ivoire hosts many **foreign residents** (from Burkina Faso (3 millions), Mali (3 millions), Guinea, Ghana, etc.), making it one of **West Africa's most cosmopolitan countries**.
- **Population growth rate:** about **2.5% per year**, reflecting rapid demographic expansion.

Ethnic diversity

Over **60 ethnic groups**, grouped into **five major cultural areas**:

Akan (East & Centre): Baoulé, Agni – known for agriculture and traditions like the Goli dance.

Kru (Southwest): Bété, Dida – strong artistic and musical heritage.

Northern Mande (Northwest): Malinké, Dioula – known for trade and Islam.

Southern Mande (West): Gouro, Dan – famous for masks and dances like Zaouli and Tematé.

Voltaic (Northeast): Sénoufo, Lobi – known for discipline, farming, and the Boloye dance.

Official language: French (administration, school, family)
Dioula serves as a common lingua franca across the country.

Unfortunately no African language spoken or taught at school due to the variety of languages and



The Map

(Ghana, Burkina Faso,
Liberia, Guinea, Mali,
Atlantic Ocean or Gulf
of Guinea)



RELIGION AND BELIEFS



RELIGION

Islam: 42.5%
(Mostly from the north)



Moderne Mosque of Yamoussoukro



Islam: 42.5%

Religion: Ancient Mosque in Kong (in the North), 1741

Arrival via trans-Saharan trade: Since 11th century, Muslim traders from Mali and Ghana (the Ghana Empire and later the Mali Empire) began trading with the peoples in the north of Côte d'Ivoire. These traders brought not only goods but also Islam.



The Basilica of Our Lady of Peace of Yamoussoukro, with its dome rising 158 meters and a total height of 172 meters including the cross, is the tallest Christian church in the world.

Religion:

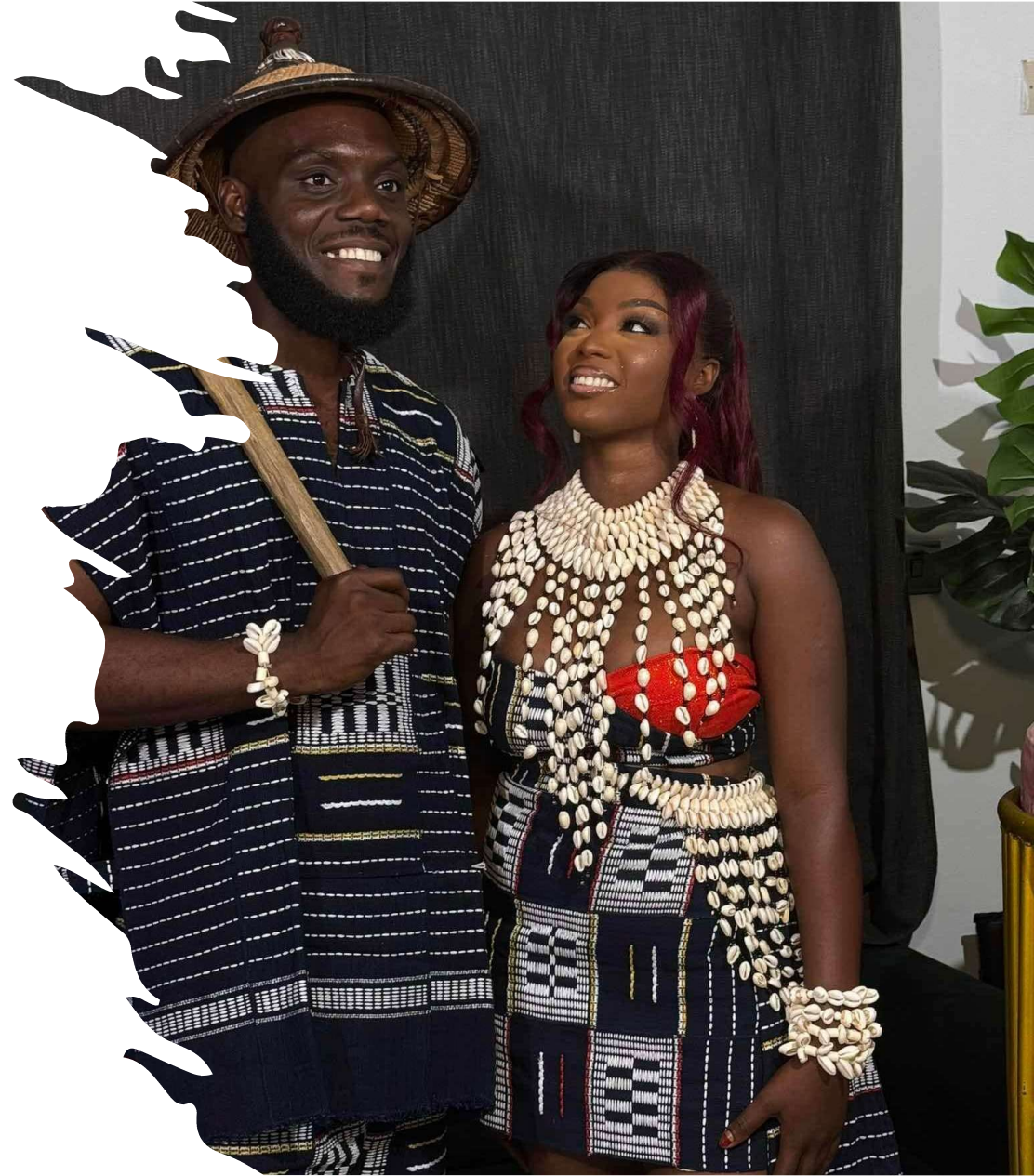
Christianity: 39.8%

Arrival of European missionaries:

The first Christian missionaries came with **French commercial and colonial expeditions**, particularly from the **1840s–1850s**.

Catholic and Protestant missionaries settled in coastal areas in the south and major towns.

Traditional beliefs:
sacred masks or
dances





The Wombele mask is a powerful Senufo (people from the north) judicial mask that combats evil spirits. Its fearsome hybrid animal appearance symbolizes its supernatural role.

Traditional dance: Boloye



The **Boloye** is a traditional Senufo dance in Côte d'Ivoire, known as the “**panther dance**” for its acrobatic and energetic movements. It is performed during festivals, harvest celebrations, and important social ceremonies to showcase agility and cultural heritage.



TRADITIONAL DANCE: Zaouli

Zaouli is a vibrant dance of the **Guro people** from central-western Côte d'Ivoire, performed at community events and festivals with elaborate masks and fast, rhythmic movements.



TRADITIONAL DANCE: TEMATE

Tematé is a traditional dance of the Dan people in western Côte d'Ivoire, performed at festivals, ceremonies, and communal celebrations. It features dynamic, coordinated movements that express the community's cultural heritage and social values.



TRADITIONAL DANCE: GOLI

Goli is a traditional dance of the Baoulé people in central Côte d'Ivoire, performed during rituals such as births, marriages, and harvest celebrations. Dancers wear expressive masks and perform symbolic movements that connect the community to their ancestors and spiritual beliefs.



Urban dances



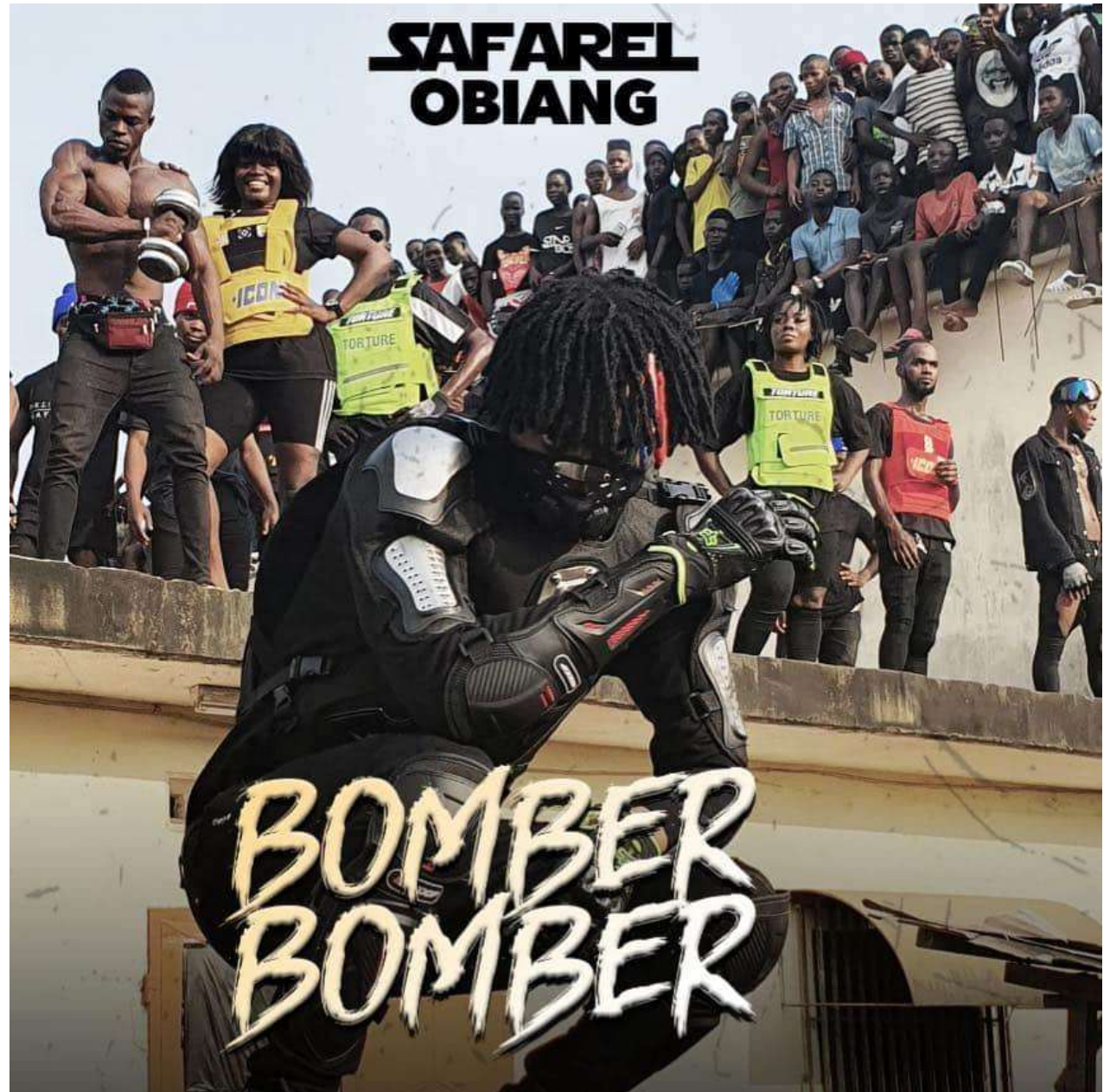
Zouglou is a popular Ivorian music and dance style that started in the **early 1990s among university students in Abidjan**, as a way to voice **social struggles and everyday realities**.

With its **socially conscious yet joyful songs**, often backed by the **tam-tam or djembe**, it grew from campus culture into a powerful symbol of Ivorian youth and identity.

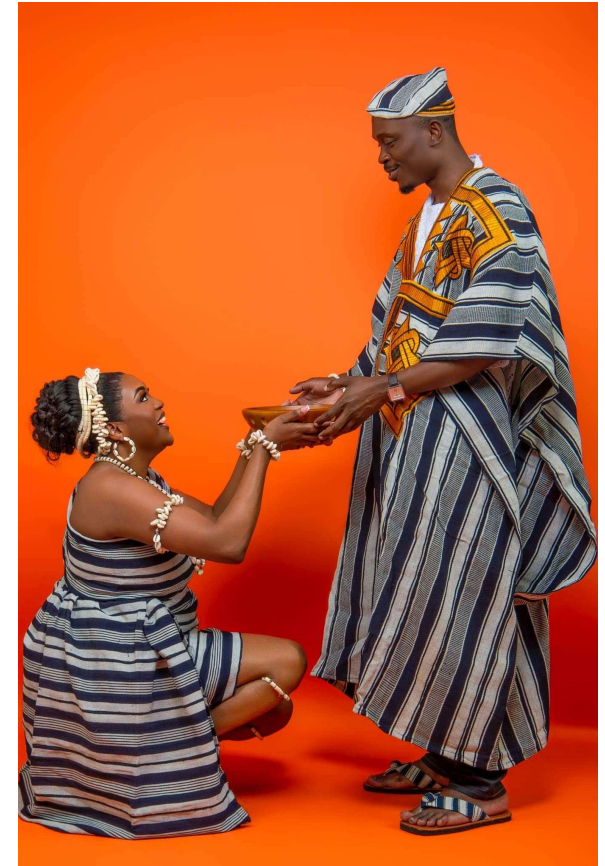


Coupé-Décalé is a modern Ivorian music and dance style, known for its **lively, celebratory energy** and often featuring **acrobatic moves like the disordered “roukaskas.”**

It emerged in the early 2000s and quickly became a symbol of joy and youth culture across West Africa.



Food and Cuisine



Main dish:

Popular dishes include attiéké (cassava couscous), grilled fish, and aloco (fried plantains).



Cuisine:
cassava
couscous),



Cuisine (*fried
plantains*).



Main dish: Alloco
(fried plantains).

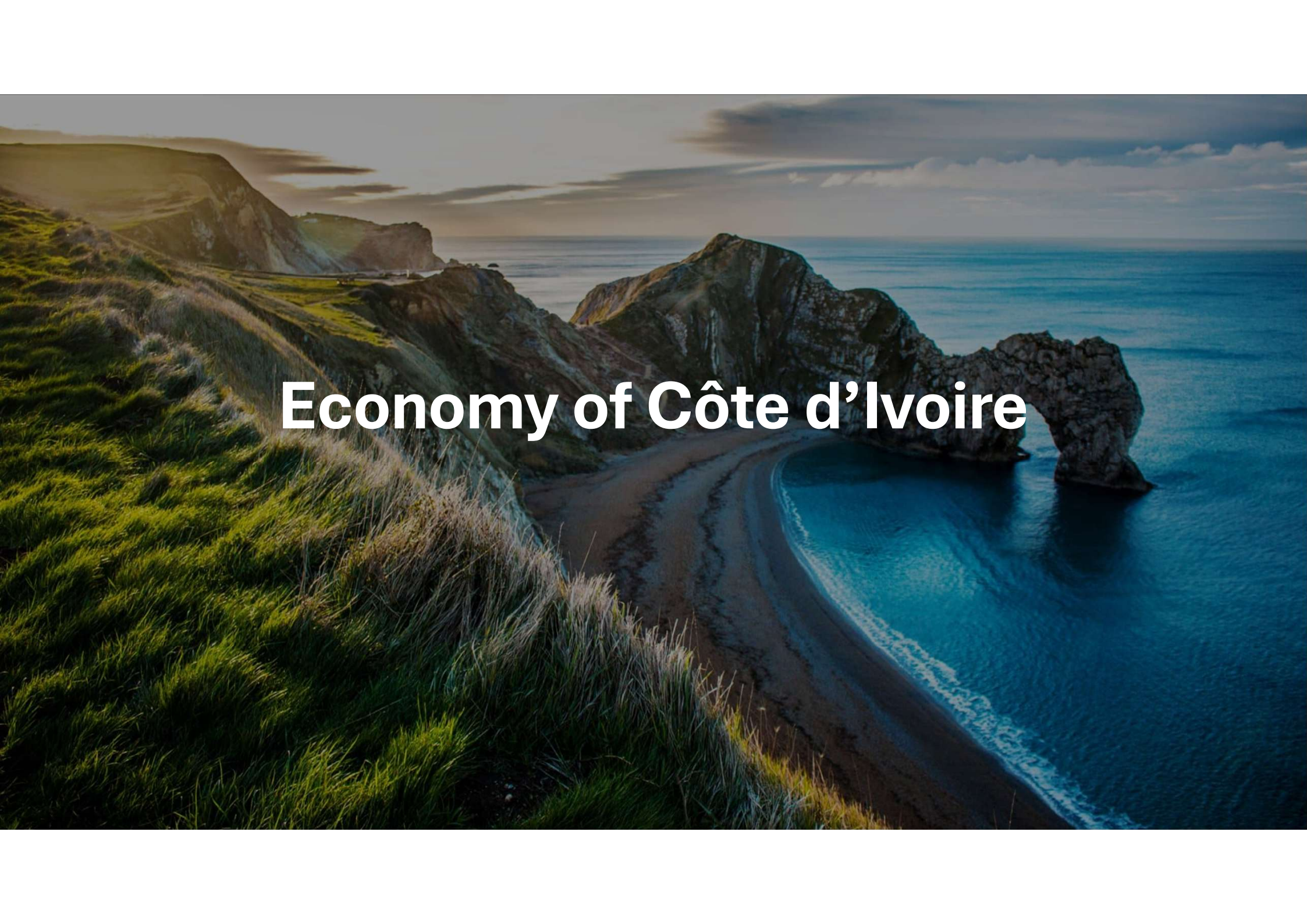


Main Dish (*foutou
banana: Pounded
banana and palm
nut soup*).



Palm nuts



A scenic coastal landscape featuring a grassy cliff in the foreground, a sandy beach, and a large rock formation in the ocean under a dramatic sky. The text "Economy of Côte d'Ivoire" is overlaid in the center.

Economy of Côte d'Ivoire

- **Largest economy in the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU),** representing about **40% of its total GDP.**
- The country has experienced **strong and steady growth** (around **6–7% per year** between 2012 and 2023).

Key Figures (2024):

- **GDP:** about **US\$ 78 billion**
- **GDP per capita:** about **US\$ 2,400**
- **Growth rate:** around **6%**
- **Inflation:** approximately **4%**
- **Currency:** **West African CFA franc (XOF)**

Main Trading Partners:

- **Exports:** Netherlands, USA, France, Malaysia, Nigeria
- **Imports:** China, France, India, Nigeria



- **Challenges:** High youth unemployment · Income inequality · Dependence on raw exports · Need for industrial diversification and sustainable development

1st global producer of cocoa with over 42% (2023) market share followed by **Ghana (12%), Indonesia (11%), and Ecuador (7%).**

About **15% of the country's GDP** and **40% of export revenues**

The processing rate is estimated at around **30–32%**, with a target of 50% by 2025.



CACAO



CASHEW NUTS

1st global producer of cashew nuts with over **42%** of world production (2024), followed by India (~**16%**), Vietnam (~**13%**), and Brazil (~**4%**).

About 3–4% of GDP and is a major source of income for hundreds of thousands of smallholder farmers.

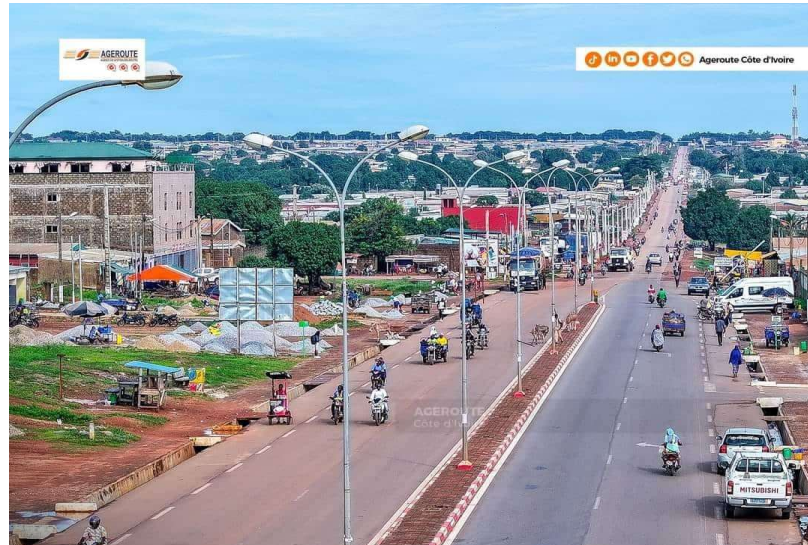
Local processing rate is estimated at around 30%.





Ivorian typical cities: The cities and villages of Côte d'Ivoire are both traditional and modern

In my village...



NATIONAL SPORT: SOCCER



A country of football

**3-time winner of the
Africa Cup of Nations
(AFCON)**

**host country and
winner for the last
edition, scheduled for
January 2024.**

**Recently qualified for
the 2026 World Cup**



Head-to-Head Football History between Côte d'Ivoire and Japan

Total football matches: 4 – 2
wins for Côte d'Ivoire, 2 wins for
Japan.

Date	Match	Score	Competition
24.05.2008	Japan – Côte d'Ivoire	1 – 0	Kirin Cup
04.06.2010	Japan – Côte d'Ivoire	0 – 2	Friendly Match
15.06.2014	Japan – Côte d'Ivoire	1 – 2	FIFA World Cup
13.10.2020	Japan – Côte d'Ivoire	1 – 0	Friendly Match

My experience in Japan



My Perception Before Coming to Japan

- I first learned about Japan at school through **World War II lessons**.
- I watched **Japanese anime**, like **Dragon Ball Z**, which made me curious about Japanese culture.
- I was fascinated by **Japanese vehicles**, such as **Toyota, Honda, and Nissan**.
- In my final year of high school (2010), our **geography program** included Japan's **economy and industrialization**.

My Studies in Japan

- **First visit:** February 2024 – short research stay at **Hokkaido University of Education**, studying **primary school mathematics teaching**.
 - Visited **Sapporo and Hakodate**, fell in love with Japan.
- **Returned 6 months later** to study at **Yokohama National University, Graduate School of International Social Sciences, Department of International and Business Law**.
- Member of the **International Cooperation Laboratory**, enabling **in-depth research on Japan's education, governance, and social systems**.

Courses and Research Topics

- **Aging and Law** – understanding the situation of **seniors in Japan**.
- **Education and Public Governance** – comparing Japanese and Ivorian education systems.
- **World Trade Law** – studying Japan's role in international trade.
- **Japan Development Experience & ODA** – analyzing development strategies and foreign aid.
- **Local and National Governance** – exploring the Diet, public administration, and management systems.
- **Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)** – learning how Japan implements infrastructure and social projects.

Positive Points / Benefits of Japanese Society

- **Discipline and Responsibility:** People are respectful, punctual, and follow rules strictly.
- **Cleanliness and Organization:** Cities, streets, and public spaces are very clean and well-maintained.
- **Safety and Security:** Low crime rates and safe public spaces.
- **Efficiency and Technology:** Public transport is punctual, and services are efficient.
- **Culture and Traditions:** Rich cultural heritage, festivals, cuisine, and arts.
- **Personal Growth:** Exposure to Japanese society enhanced my cultural understanding, adaptability, and appreciation for social harmony.

Difficulties / Challenges

- **Language barrier:** Communicating in English or Japanese can be difficult.
- **Making friends:** Young people may be less open, while seniors are very kind and approachable.
- **Cultural differences:** New customs and routines require adaptation; some social behaviors can be hard to understand.
- **Strictness and rigidity:** Schedules and appointments are very precise, which can create pressure.
- **High cost of living and taxes:** Daily expenses are high, making budgeting challenging.
- **Adapting to structured daily life:** Everything is punctual and organized, requiring careful planning.
- **Being a foreigner / social perception:** At times, I felt the weight of others' stares as a Black person with a beard; some behaviors in public transport, like people rarely sitting next to me on the train, were confusing or uncomfortable.

Thank you!
ありがとうございます

