

MALI

PROFILE

<i>Independence :</i>	<i>September 22, 1960 (France)</i>
<i>Capital City :</i>	<i>Bamako</i>
<i>Head of State :</i>	<i>Alpha Oumar KONARÉ</i>
<i>Head of Government and Prime Minister :</i>	<i>Abdoulaye Sékou Sow</i>
<i>Minister for External Relations:</i>	<i>Mohamed Alhousseini TOURÉ</i>
<i>Topography :</i>	<i>Landlocked country, vast plains and low-altitude ferrallitic plateaux, a few massifs</i>
<i>Climate :</i>	<i>Desert zone in the north, steppes and savanna in the centre, heavier rain in the south</i>
<i>Main Crops :</i>	<i>Fruit and vegetables, grain, millet, maize, sorghum, rice, cotton, tea, sugar cane, peanuts, tobacco</i>
<i>Main Resources :</i>	<i>Gold, mining potential (uranium, iron, bauxite)</i>
<i>Languages :</i>	<i>French and Bambara (official), Peul and Songhai</i>
<i>Ethnic Groups :</i>	<i>Bambaras, Fulanis, Peuls, Songhais, Malinkes, Tuaregs, Dogons</i>
<i>Religions :</i>	<i>Islam (65%), Animism (30%), Christianity (5%)</i>
<i>Monetary Unit :</i>	<i>CFA franc = 0.02FF</i>