

## **Introduction**

The Great Lakes Region of Central Africa, which stretches from Lake Albert (or Lake Mobutu Sese Seko) to Lake Tanganika, spans five countries and encompasses a large number of ethnic groups. This report provides background to these groups and is broken down as follows: Introduction to the region, including nature of economic activities, length of presence in the region and recent political activities /affiliations where this is relevant or possible to ascertain, and a short definition of the important categories which organise local action such as ethnicity, tribe, clan; an inventory of groups by country, with a summary of the interactions between these groups and with the states in the region which have affected their position in the region and the countries of residence, legislation, uprisings, and attacks on local groups by others.

*Some of the material in the sections is repetitious, because it is assumed that not all readers will be interested in reading the whole report, but in using it for reference purposes instead.*

This report is as accurate as possible and was collected from a variety of sources, but given the wide range of material covered there may be some inaccuracies. All inaccuracies must be considered the fault of the author!