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# EXERCISE BENIN 2004



# YELLOW COUNTRY STUDY

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## YELLOW COUNTRY BOOK

### IDENTIFICATION

**Conventional Name:** Republic of Yellow  
**Conventional Short Form:** Yellow  
**Nationality Noun:** Yellow  
**Nationality Adjective:** Yellowese  
**Language:** The official language is French.

#### Overview

YELLOW gained its independence from France in 1960 at the same time as BLUE and ORANGE. All three countries comprised a former French colony. YELLOW is now a democratic socialist state; free elections were established in 1973. Relations with France are good although they made a troubled start in 1960. There are now regular cultural exchanges between the two countries, and many students receive higher education in France. Yellow seeks cordial relations with all its neighbours.

The most troublesome area is in the western Hizan-Kogede (locally called Za-Tanta) province where its border meets those of BLUE and ORANGE. The Chawomba tribe, that is seeking an ethnically pure, autonomous region, accounts for some 80% of this area (see map). They are culturally and historically linked to the inhabitants of Abomey in BLUE, and many of the families are inter-linked by marriage. The controlled border between the two countries makes this a potentially explosive issue.

*NB – see the separate GREEN SPECIAL REPORT for further detailed information on this issue.*

Oil deposits were found near Hizan-Kogede in 1975 and international consortiums are developing the oil fields. Current production as well as the unfair distribution of the profits has not yet been sufficient to dramatically improve YELLOW's economy that still relies on Western donor economic aid programmes. Natural gas reserves have recently been found but have so far not been exploited.

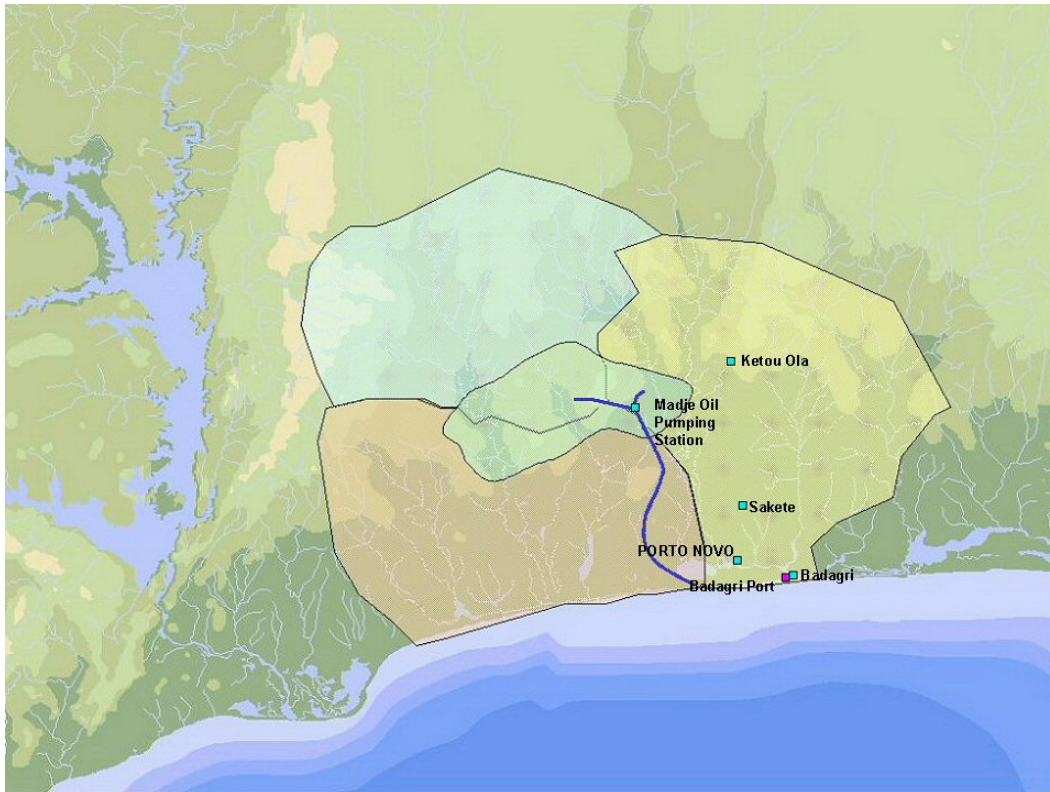
### GEO-STRATEGIC OVERVIEW

#### Background

YELLOW has had a chequered history in the past 100 years. In 1897, France became the regional colonial masters. For 63 years, the French administered the region by breaking it into three administrative regions centred roughly on Abomey – YELLOW, BLUE and ORANGE following the 1930 Chawombas rebellion. The French finally left in 1960, and the three administrative regions split into three separate, independent countries. The capital of YELLOW is the southern city of Porto-Novo. The road to democracy was not smooth initially, but the country has since enjoyed a long period of established stable, democratic rule. There is a clear separation between the legislature, the executive and the judiciary. The weakest

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element is arguably the judiciary that has all its judges drawn from the same Barendi tribe. The country enjoys substantial oil and phosphate reserves that are being mined.



## PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

### Overview

Situated in Western Africa, YELLOW has a common border with BLUE to the northwest and with ORANGE in the southwest. It borders NORTHLAND to the north and EASTLAND to the east. To the south it has a coastal region on the Gulf of Guinea. The coast of YELLOW is a network of shallow lagoons but with no deep-water port. There is a very large lagoon near the capital – Porto Novo. The southwest border region with ORANGE is primarily wet marshland. Agricultural lowland expands North of the coastal area to thin forest areas in the north. The River Oueme runs due south from NORTHLAND down the west side of YELLOW to the coast at Lake Nokoue north of Cotonou that borders ORANGE. YELLOW has a 12 nm sea boundary in the Gulf of Guinea. YELLOW claims an Exclusive Economic Zone extending 200 nm out to sea.

### Country Data

<b>Total Area:</b>	15,125 sq km
<b>Land Area:</b>	15,100 sq km
<b>Comparative Area:</b>	About half the size of Belgium
<b>Water Area:</b>	750 sq km

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<b>Time Zone:</b>	A (GMT+1)
<b>Boundaries:</b>	520Km
<b>Boundaries Coastline:</b>	50 km
<b>Lowest Point:</b>	0 m
<b>Highest Point:</b>	465 m

### Climate

The weather varies from tropical to savannah. The dry season extends from November to April and also occurs in August. Rainfall occurs almost exclusively in the other months, and the annual rainfall averages 1,300 mm (51 in). It is hot and humid in south with temperatures ranging from 23<sup>o</sup> – 32<sup>o</sup> C. The north is semi-arid and temperatures varying from 18<sup>o</sup> – 38<sup>o</sup> C.

### Natural Resources

Oil deposits, marble, gold, and phosphates. The majority of known reserves are still to be mined.

### Land Use

Yellow land use consists of arable farming (22.%), and orchard crops (4%), the other 74% is not cultivated (1998 est). 100 sq km of the farmland is irrigated.

### Environmental Current Issues

The rain forest near the coastal strip has largely been cleared. Woods form a large part of YELLOW vegetation. Deforestation rates are higher than the average for Africa. Among the various animals found in YELLOW are elephants, buffalo, antelope, panthers, monkeys, crocodiles, and wild ducks. Poaching threatens wildlife populations. Access to safe water has increased in urban areas since 1980, but visitors are still advised to boil drinking water.

## **INFRASTRUCTURE**

### Roads

There is a total of 678 km of road in YELLOW, of which 135 km is paved. Most of the roads are dirt tracks, but are suitable for most lorries and 4-wheel drive cars. There are 10 km of dual carriageways around Porto-Novo.

### Rail

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Two rail tracks exist in Blue, one links Porto-Novo with Hizan-Kogede (in Orange) and the other Porto Novo to Pobe. The rail track is narrow 1.0 m gauge single track. There are four aged diesel locomotives and 92 freight cars, plus 22 passenger cabins available. Levels of serviceability and maintenance are poor, and time schedules are very unreliable. In February 2002, the government stated a priority to upgrade and expand the rail network over the following 15 years, and is setting aside expected oil revenue to support the project. Germany has won the primary contract to develop the rail network, and new diesel locomotives will probably be ordered from France.

### Waterways

Most of the river network is navigable in relatively small sections. These are important as a means of communications for the local people living in the countryside. The River Oueme has long open expanses and is navigable for relatively large riverboats over long sections, although not over its complete length in the country.

### Pipelines

The main oil pipeline runs from the Hizan-Kogede oil fields to the southern port terminal at Cotonou in ORANGE. A recent pipeline link has been established at Madje to take oil from Abomey in BLUE.

### Airfields

There is only one airfield with a hard runway in YELLOW; that is Porto-Novo International airport. The main runway is 3,000m (10,000 ft) long and can take aircraft up to 92,000 kg all up weight (AUW).

### Civil Airlines

The national airline 'AIR YELLOW' was formed in 2002 as a technical and financial co-operative venture with British Airways. A small fleet of two Boeing 737 aircraft are on lease from British Airways, who also provide the flight crews.

### Ports

There is no deep-water port in YELLOW, and access to the inland lagoons on the southern coast is difficult. However, there is one small seaport at Badagri used by the fishing community and military patrol vessels.

### Merchant Marine

YELLOW has no merchant marine.

### Telecommunications

The Yellow telecommunications situation is outlined in the following table:

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Type	Detail	As at
<b>Radio stations</b>	1 x AM, 3 x FM, and 1 x shortwave	2000
<b>Televisions</b>	1 TV broadcast station in Porto-Novo broadcasted also in Bohicon. TV not available in much of the country	2003
<b>Telephones</b>	<i>Domestic:</i> system of open-wire, microwave radio relay <i>International:</i> International cellular networks, satellite earth station - 1 Intelsat (Atlantic Ocean); submarine cable	2001
<b>Mobile Telephones</b>	2,200 users	2002
<b>Internet Service Provider</b>	2	2002

## SOCIOLOGY

### Population Data

Detail	Number	As at
<b>Population</b>	1,041,490	2003
<b>Population Growth</b>	2.95 percent per year	2003
<b>Birth Rate</b>	43 per 1000 population	2003
<b>Death Rate</b>	13 per 1000 population	2003
<b>Migration rate</b>	8 per 1000 population	2003
<b>Infant Mortality Rate</b>	86 per 1,000 live births	2002

In Yellow the population density is 66 persons per sq km, but is much higher in the coastal region where it rises up to 150 persons per sq km. 35% of the population live in urban areas. The main cities are: Porto-Novo (150,000), the Capital, Hizan-Kogede (28,000), Kétou (20,000), and Sakété (18,000).

There are 5 major ethnic tribal groups in YELLOW.

### Age Structure

Age:	%
0-14	46%
15-64	51%
65 and over	3%
	(2002 est)

### Median Age

The median age of the population was estimated in 2002 as being 16.4 years, with the age for males being 15.9 years and for females 16.9 years.

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### Sex Ratio

At birth the sex ratio is 1.03 male/female, for the under 15 year olds the sex ratio is 1.02 males/female, after this age the ratios start to change, for those in the age group 15 to 64 years the ratio is 0.95 males/female and for those 65 or over the ratio is 0.72 male/female. For the population as a whole the ratio is 0.97 male/female (2003 est).

### Population Characteristics

<b>Life Expectancy:</b>		<b>Literacy:</b>	
<b>Total</b>	51.08 Years	<b>Total</b>	40.9%
<b>Female</b>	56.84 Years	<b>Female</b>	26.5%
<b>Male</b>	45.35 Years	<b>Male</b>	56.2%

*NB - Literacy is defined as being able to undertake basic reading and writing functions at the age of 15.*

### Education

Although the YELLOW government intends to make education compulsory for all 5 to 15 years old, around 60 percent of the entire population is considered to be illiterate. Many of the schools outside the towns and cities are being run by religious organisations, primarily Christian. Over the past 8 years, an intensive effort has been made by the government to open more schools in the major centres of population, and now 62% of all children under 13 living in towns and cities are now in school. There is a shortage of qualified teachers despite a concerted drive to attract them from neighbouring countries. Overall, literacy for males is more than double that for females.

### Health

President Malinga has declared that universal health care should be one of his government's main objectives. However medical facilities are very limited. There is a shortage of doctors, and easy access to trained medical staff is not available to all the population. Thus, some of the more remote tribes still rely on traditional witch doctors and local medicines. Medicines and equipment are also in short supply. There are four hospitals; these are located at Porto-Novo Hizan-Kogede, Kétou, and Sakété. Only the hospital at Porto-Novo can be regarded as having a full range of medical facilities. Health receives 4.2 per cent of the state budget. However, under the current conditions this allocation barely meets the minimal requirements.

### HIV / AIDS

HIV / AIDS is widespread and a major medical concern. In 2001, the government started a major advertising campaign to promote the use of condoms and safe sex. This appears to have had some success in the major cities and towns, but little has been heard of the campaign in the countryside where two thirds of the population live. The adult prevalence rate is estimated (2001) at 3.6% of the population. There are now over 36,000 people with HIV / AIDS in the country. Up to July 2001, there have been 13,000 deaths attributed to HIV / AIDS.

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### Ethnic Groups

Yellow has 5 African ethnic groups that make up 98% the remaining 2% are Europeans, which number around 3,500.

The five African ethnic groups in YELLOW are the Zamba (7%), Arwe (12%), Barendi (17%), Kinabali (43%) and the Chawomba (21%). The Barendi forms the most educated upper class of society, and is the tribe of PM Malinga.

### Religions

The main religious groups in Yellow are Animist / Voodoo (51%), Christian (29%) and Muslim (20%).

### Languages

French is the official language of YELLOW. However, most people speak their local tribal language. English is taught in high schools.

## **GOVERNMENT**

### Background

At the end of colonial regime in 1960, Yellow gained independence as a Marxist, single-party State led by a ruthless dictator, Michel Oroba. Oroba died of syphilis in November 1967, and there followed a power struggle between those that sought a modern democracy, and the former henchmen of Oroba supported by the military that wished to retain a dictatorship. Civil war broke out in March 1968 and continued inconclusively until February 1970 when both sides decided to end the fighting under the auspices of the United Nations (UN). During that period, some 180,000 people died, and many thousands fled to neighbouring countries. It took 3 years of discussions before a constitution was presented to the people in the country's first referendum and national election on 28 March 1973 in which 17 political parties sought office. Milton Malinga, a 38 years old former graduate from the Hautes Etudes Commerciales (HEC) in Paris, was elected as President for a 6 years term of office.

Under the 1973 constitution, the President may seek re-election after his 6-years term is complete, and there is no limit on the number of terms that he may serve. Except for a period between 1985 and 1991, Malinga has remained as President continuously to this day. After his re-election on 1 March 2003, Malinga stated that this would be his last term in office, and that he would retire in 2009. The Democratic Union of Socialists (DUS) is the largest party and holds 29 of the 40 seats in the National Assembly (NA). Its leader Eduna Sarubu is the Prime Minister. The other major political party is the Committee for Revolutionary Action (CRA) that holds 8 seats. The remaining 3 seats are split between two minor parties, one being the Independantist Party (PIVERT) with one seat.

### Capital

Porto-Novo is the official capital and the seat of government

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### Administrative Divisions

YELLOW is divided into 3 administrative provinces, East, West and South

### Independence

Independence was gained from France on 1<sup>st</sup> August 1960.

### National Day

The Yellow National day is 1<sup>st</sup> August.

### Constitution

The present constitution was ratified on 28<sup>th</sup> March 1973.

### Legal System

The legal system is based mainly on the French civil law model, but modified in areas such as inheritance and family rights, to take account of African regional issues.

### Polling System

The universal suffrage and voting age is 18.

### Executive Branch

Head of State: President Milton MALINGA (since 1 March 2003);

Head of Government: President Milton MALINGA (since 1 March 2003).

*Note - the president is both the chief of state and head of government.*

Cabinet: Council of Ministers appointed by the president.

Elections: President elected by popular vote for a six-year term.

### Legislative Branch

The legislative branch is the Unicameral National Assembly or Assemblée Nationale comprising 40 seats. Members are elected by direct popular vote to serve six-year terms. The president has the authority to dissolve the National Assembly at any time should the political situation demand such action.

### Judicial Branch

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The Judicial Branch of Yellow is comprised of the Constitutional Court or Cour Constitutionnelle, the Supreme Court or Cour Supreme and the High Court of Justice.

### Political Parties and Leaders

The main political parties and leaders are:

Democratic Union of Socialists (DUS) - Eduna SARUBU, the current Prime Minister,  
Committee for Revolutionary Action (CRA) - Alexandre PITIFOUL,  
African Development Party (ADP) - Pierre SEFOUTU,  
Happiness and Freedom Party (HFP) - Taka ZANY, and  
Green Independence Party of YELLOW (PIVERT (Y)) – Miki BLOTO.

*Note: There are approximately 12 additional minor parties that register at national elections.*

### Political Pressure Groups

There are no recognised political pressure groups operating in YELLOW.

### News Media

Freedom of the press is part of the 1973 Constitution. However, there has been some tightening of Government controls since the Chawomba ethnic groups increased their “rebellious” activities. There is an independent national daily newspaper ‘Le Rapporteur’ with a total daily circulation of around 12,000 (2001). Other minor publications exist.

### International Organization and Treaty Participation

YELLOW subscribes to, and is a member of, the following organisations and treaties: ACP, AfDB, BTWC, CWC, ECA, ECOWAS, Entente, FAO, FZ, G-77, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICt, ICFTU, ICRM, IDA, IDB, IFAD, IFC, IFRCs, ILO, IMF, IMO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, ITU, MIPONUH, MONUC, NAM, OAU, OIC, OPCW, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNMEE, UPU, WADB (regional), WAEMU, WCL, WCO, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WtoO and the WtrO.

### Extremism and Organised Crime

The Chawomba are located in the western enclave referred to as GREEN. This tribe extends into a larger area encroaching into BLUE and in two enclaves in ORANGE. The tribe is demanding an ethnically pure, autonomous region (*NB: see separate Green Region PIVERT Report*). The PIVERT leadership controls an armed, extremist group called the Force de Liberte (FL) whose ‘operations’ are the cause of regional de-stabilisation and which exacerbate the recent refugee flows. The government of YELLOW does not recognise the ‘GREEN STATE’ or the Chawomba’s claim for autonomy, and is actively attempting to pacify this troublesome area. The PIVERT has a recognised political party in each of the three regional countries to act legally within their respective constitutions.

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The Chawomba have been linked to most of the regional criminal groups, some having international links, and have been used by those groups for a variety of illegal functions including; armed robbery, gunrunning, contraband smuggling and customs evasion.

### International Disputes

Although YELLOW maintains correct and formal relationships with its closest neighbours, it still has some disputes with BLUE and ORANGE that are mitigated by its vital need to export oil.

**Dispute with BLUE.** YELLOW has an on-going dispute with BLUE over the Hizan Kogede province. At the time of colonisation, this area became part of YELLOW; however, the indigenous population is ethnically and culturally linked to the province of ABOMEY in BLUE. The Chawomba tribe that dominates the Abomey province has exerted pressure on the YELLOW government through the PIVERT (Y) party to recognise their claim that the Hizan Kogede be integrated into the Abomey Province. The BLUE government has initially remained silent on this issue giving the Chawomba tacit approval for its stand. The on-going oil exploitation in the Hizan-Kogede region serves to exaggerate the issue; a great deal of interests could be at stake.

**Dispute with Orange.** YELLOW has informally accused the ORANGE government of providing covert financial and military support to the Chawomba activists, in particular to the PIVERT's armed wing, the FL.

## ECONOMY

### Overview

The economy of YELLOW remains underdeveloped and subsistence agriculture and commerce are the main economic activities in YELLOW; the majority of the population depends on subsistence agriculture. Food and cash crop production employs the majority of the labour force and contributes about 32% to the gross domestic product (GDP). Coffee and cocoa are traditionally the major cash crops for export, but cotton cultivation increased rapidly in the 1990s. Despite insufficient rainfall in some areas, the YELLOW government has almost achieved its goal of self-sufficiency in food crops (corn, cassava, yams, sorghum, millet, and groundnut). Small and medium-sized farms produce most of the food crop, with the average farm size being one to three hectares. Commerce is the most important economic activity in YELLOW after agriculture, and Porto-Novo and Ketou are important regional trading centres.

In the industrial sector, oil is the most important commodity. The first foreign oil companies entered Yellow in search of oil more than 30 years ago, leading to several oil discoveries in mid-1975. A consortium comprising of ESSO Exploration and Production Yellow (40%), Société Shell Jaune de Recherche et d'Exploitation (40%), and Elf Hydrocarbons Yellow (20%) is leading the development of the Hizan-Kogede oil field, where commercial oil reserves of roughly 700 million barrels have been discovered.

In 1981, an inter-governmental agreement was reached between YELLOW and ORANGE to construct an oil pipeline between the Hizan-Kogede oilfields and the port at Cotonou in ORANGE. Oil started to flow to the southern terminal in 1986. In 1990, oil was discovered near Abomey in BLUE, and in 1993, an agreement was reached between BLUE, YELLOW

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and ORANGE for the building of a 20 km junction pipeline from the Abomey oilfields to connect with YELLOW's southern pipeline at Madje and thus to allow Blue oil exportation to the southern port of Cotonou. ORANGE gains vital revenues from this pipeline, but is envious of its northern neighbours oil recourses. Total project costs for the development of the oil fields, plus the 118 km export pipeline plus the oil terminal in Cotonou, is projected to have been around \$300 millions dollars.

In 1991 the international oil consortium created the oil research centre in Madje near the pumping station and the pipe lines junction (linking the Abomey (Blue) oil fields to the main pipeline running from Hizan Kogede to the main oil export seaport facility in Cotonou. The centre comprises international personnel numbering about 630. They are experts (scientists, economists, metering, ...) coming from various western countries, including France, Belgium and the UK. Including the families they number about 1500 in and around Madje, all linked to oil industry. A supporting local workforce consists mainly of Chawombas tribes members bring the number of oil related workers to about 3800. Madje's importance has considerably increased during the last 10-15 years as an economic centre of gravity for Yellow and as a growing trade centre. The total investment made by the oil consortium in the Madje-Bohicon region is estimated to about US\$ 42 millions (as of Dec 2002). An international school is located in Madje-Bohicon to teach the foreigners' children, it attracts not only students from Yellow but from Blue as well. Students come mainly from Consortium's personnel and also from foreign governments' expatriates. Yellow economy is mostly based on oil exports and current major population centres of Madje-Bohicon and Hizan Kogede

Oil facilities constitute also a key point for the Chawombas claim of an ethnically pure and autonomous region. There has been signs (June 2003) of growing extremism, of armed activities in and around Madje. Foreign workers reported to their embassies and consulates seeking advice about security and safety in the region. Any interruption of oil extraction and/or pumping to the port of Cotonou would have important consequences for both Yellow and Blue governments.

After oil, phosphates provide the second most important industrial sector. There are an estimated (2001) 22 million metric tons of phosphate reserves. Encouraged by the commodity boom of the mid-1980s, which resulted in a four-fold increase in phosphate prices and sharply increased government revenues, YELLOW embarked on an ambitious programme of large investments in infrastructure while pursuing industrialisation and development of state enterprises in manufacturing. However, following declines in world prices for commodities, its economy became burdened with fiscal imbalances, heavy borrowing, and unprofitable state enterprises.

There is on-going exploration for natural gas deposits, although no conclusive evidence that it is available in substantial quantities has been found yet.

YELLOW turned to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for assistance in 1989. That assistance included the simultaneous implementation of a stringent adjustment effort with the support of a series of IMF standby programmes, World Bank loans, and Paris Club debt rescheduling. Under these programs, the YELLOW Government introduced a series of austerity measures and major restructuring goals for the state enterprise and rural development sectors. These reforms were aimed at eliminating most state monopolies, simplifying taxes and customs duties, curtailing public employment, and privatising major state enterprises. YELLOW has made good progress under the international financial institutions' programmes.

YELLOW is one of 16 members of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). YELLOW is also a member of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA), which groups seven West African countries using the CFA Franc. Historically,

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France has been YELLOW's principal trading partner, although other European Union countries have become important commercial partners to YELLOW's economy.

Growth in real output has averaged a stable 5% over the past three years. Inflation has decreased over the same period of time to 4%. In order to raise growth still further, YELLOW plans to develop its oil industries and implement a new agricultural policy (new products and process). Nevertheless, YELLOW remains reliant on western donor nations for financial support. The Paris Club and bilateral creditors have had to cancel part of YELLOW's external debt.

### Economic Data

	<b>Levels</b>	<b>As at</b>
<b>Real Growth Rate:</b>	5.4 %	2002
<b>Total GDP:</b>	\$2.156 billion	2002
<b>GDP per Capita:</b>	\$2,070	2002
<b>% of GDP Sector Agriculture:</b>	52 %	2002
<b>% of GDP Sector Industry:</b>	15 %	2002
<b>% of GDP Sector Services:</b>	33 %	2002
<b>Inflation Rate:</b>	4.1%	2003
<b>Unemployment Rate:</b>	No data available	
<b>Industrial Production Growth Rate:</b>	4.3%	2002
<b>Budget Revenue by Taxation:</b>	\$0.49 billion	2002

### Currency

The currency of Yellow is the Communaute Financiere Africaine Franc.

*Note - responsible authority is the Central Bank of the West African States.*

### Currency Code

The currency code of the Communaute Financiere Africaine Franc is XOF.

### Exchange Rates

The official Franc Communaute Financiere Africaine Franc (XOF) rate per US dollar over recent years has been - 696.988 (2002), 733.039 (2001), 711.976 (2000), 615.699 (1999), 589.952 (1998).

### Fiscal Year

The Fiscal year is from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March.

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### Debt

The Yellow external debt in 2001 was \$0.4 billion.

### Economic Aid

In 2002 Yellow received \$32.6 million of economic aid from the G8 countries.

### Foreign Trade

#### Export

Primary export commodities are; oil, phosphates, cotton, livestock and textiles. The largest export markets are to France (28%), Orange (19%), BLUE (12%), Italy (11%), India (7%), Ghana (6%), Japan (5%), and Thailand (4%), with other countries making up the remaining 8% (2002 est).

#### Import

YELLOW imports capital goods mainly from France (28%), Orange (17%), Eastern Nation (15%), UK (12%), and Japan (9%), the remaining 19% is imported from other countries.

### Banking System

In 1960, the National Bank of Yellow (NBY) was established to head economic policy for the government. During the great 1986 reforms, private commercial banks quickly followed to supplement and improve the existing banking system based on state monopoly. The system was undermined by poor technology, large unresolved debts among state-owned enterprises, and bank delays in transferring funds incompatible with open market economy. There are now 5 private bank companies in YELLOW.

### Labour Force

The total labour force (age 16-65) was last estimated in 2001 as 374,000. The distribution of labour by sector is:

- Agriculture – 78%
- Oil extraction and related industry – 3.1%
- Commerce and service industries – 8.1%
- Civil Service – 2.3%
- Armed Forces – 3.1%
- Miscellaneous – 5.4%

### Industries and Power Sources

Sector	Levels	As at
Electrical Production	7.3 million kWh	2001

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Electricity production by source:	Fossil fuel: 40% Hydro electric: 60% Other: 0% (2001) Nuclear: 0%	2001
Electricity - consumption	7 million kWh (2001)	2001
Electricity - exports:	0 kWh	2001
Electricity - imports	0 kWh	2001
Oil Production	320,000 barrels per day (BPD)	2002
Oil Consumption	10,000 BPD	2002 (est)
Oil Exports	310,000 BPD	
Oil Reserves	3.6 billion barrels	2002 (est)
Natural Gas Reserves	Over 600 million cu m	2002 (est)

## MILITARY

### Military Overview

The military forces are structured to undertake traditional defence tasks and to defend the border regions. They also support the Gendarmerie with civil defence tasks and internal security when required. There is a small air element that provides communications roles, and a small naval force that undertakes coastal patrols.

Under current legislation, the President serves as the Commander-in-Chief of the Army. A civilian Minister of Defence heads a small Defence Council to advise the President on national security matters. In practice, President Malinga takes little action concerning the army and is only seen in uniform on rare ceremonial days. The Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) is Maj Gen Mike Duralli, who acts as the link between the Operational Commander and the Minister of Defence. The CDS is always the last Operational Commander, thus the incumbent changes every 4-5 years.

### Army

The total Army strength is 4,510 personnel consisting of both full-time and conscript personnel. Conscripts serve for 15 months; however, not all those aged 18 that would normally be called-up have to do time in the military. Students going to university or in other full-time education are automatically exempt. While conscription applies notionally to all 18 years olds of both sexes, in practice only a few women undertake military training. The army is 92% male. Conscription evasion is also widespread, and tribal affiliation seems to have a strong role to play in this; for example, there are very few conscripts from the Barendi tribe, although they form the majority of the officer corps.

Former conscripts are required to undertake 2-weeks annual follow-up military training for a period of 5 years to provide a National Reserve force. This policy, which is actively enforced, provides the government with the ability to mobilise up to 15,000 extra troops in times of crisis.

There is no Air Force or Navy, but elements of the army undertake or support these limited functions. There are no attack aircraft.

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The defence budget is set bi-annually as a percentage of expected tax product – currently 12.7% (FY 2003). Thus current annual defence expenditure is \$58.2 million. Despite this stated aim, fiscal allocations are invariably held-up, and the army generally seems to stumble from one economic crisis to the next. Wages are rarely paid on time, and food and clothing are often given to soldiers and their families in lieu of pay.

The current Operational Commander is B.Gen Koffi WASOULU. The Brigade Headquarters are located at Porto-Novo with a staff of 280. There are 3 motorised infantry battalions located at Porto-Novo (South), Hizan-Kogede (West) and Ola (East). Each battalion has approximately 600 troops plus 400 combat service support staff.

Additionally, there is a mechanised infantry battalion located at Porto-Novo with 600 troops and a further 400 combat service support staff. There is a Special Forces Unit of an estimated 190 personnel based at Hizan-Kogede specifically to counter Chawomba terrorism activity. The infantry battalion based at Hizan-Kogede has an additional major function of supporting the Gendarmerie and Special Forces in their counter-terrorism operations. Ola is also the base for the Reservist Training Camp.

The army's major equipment consists of the following:

- 18 x Sagaie Light Tanks,
- 36 x VAB wheeled Armed Personnel Carriers (APC),
- 27 x 120mm Mortars, and
- 12 x 155mm Howitzers.

All infantry personnel carry Kalashnikov assault rifles, and officers carry 9mm pistols. Additionally, there were rumours that the army is to acquire in 2004 a Man Portable Air Defence system (MANPAD) capability, although the supplier and system type are not known.

The army exercises strictly at battalion level and has only held one coordinated exercise at the brigade level. C2 is exercised via mainly secure radio systems, but there are no automated information systems available.

Intelligence collection activity is almost exclusively reliant on HUMINT and OSINT. There is no IMINT, SIGINT or COMINT capability.

### The Army Air Wing (AAW)

The AAW is commanded by Wg Cdr Pierre OUBERT and is located at Porto-Novo International Airport. The AAW is divided into 3 flights:

**Communications Flight.** This comprises of 4 x SA319 Alouette III and 3 x Jet Ranger helicopters for general communications and internal security tasks. The total strength for this unit is 80 personnel.

**Presidential Flight.** This comprises of 1 long range Boeing 707-320B VIP. This aircraft is operated and maintained by contracted British Airways personnel. British Airways support as well the Air Yellow National carrier:

A French Air Force crew detached to the Yellow armed forces operates and maintains a Fokker F28 Fellowship short-range VIP aircraft.

## RESTRICTED DISTRIBUTION

2 former Yellowese helicopter pilots are currently under fixed-wing training in France, and will become the first Yellow pilots to be assigned to the "Presidential flights".

A total of 120 army personnel provide support to the Air Wing.

### Naval flotilla

This is headed by Lt Cdr Willi UMBA and is based at the fishing port at Badagri. The flotilla comprises 2 x Vosper Thornycroft 'Pallawan' class patrol boats. These boats are capable of speeds up to 60 kts and are lightly armed with machine guns and small arms. They are used for coastal protection and operate in concert with the Customs Authority to fight gunrunning, smuggling and other illegal activities. Each boat has a crew of 11. The total strength of the flotilla is 80 personnel.

### Gendarmerie and Police

The Gendarmerie's role is to protect the administration and provide national internal security. In effect, it is restricted to the main cities plus the north western region where Chawomba activists are operating. The Gendarmerie that reports directly to the Minister of Defence is generally under funded and ill equipped. Management of the police forces is devolved to the provincial administration, with the exception that the government controls the police force in and around the capital.

Both the Gendarmerie and police are armed with 9mm pistols, and are able to communicate and coordinate their activities using short-wave radios.

### Customs

The Customs Service maintains all border crossing ports and has stations at the international airport and seaport. They have become increasingly concerned by illegal trafficking routes towards NORTHLAND and Blue via the River Oueme, and are training specific units to counter this problem.