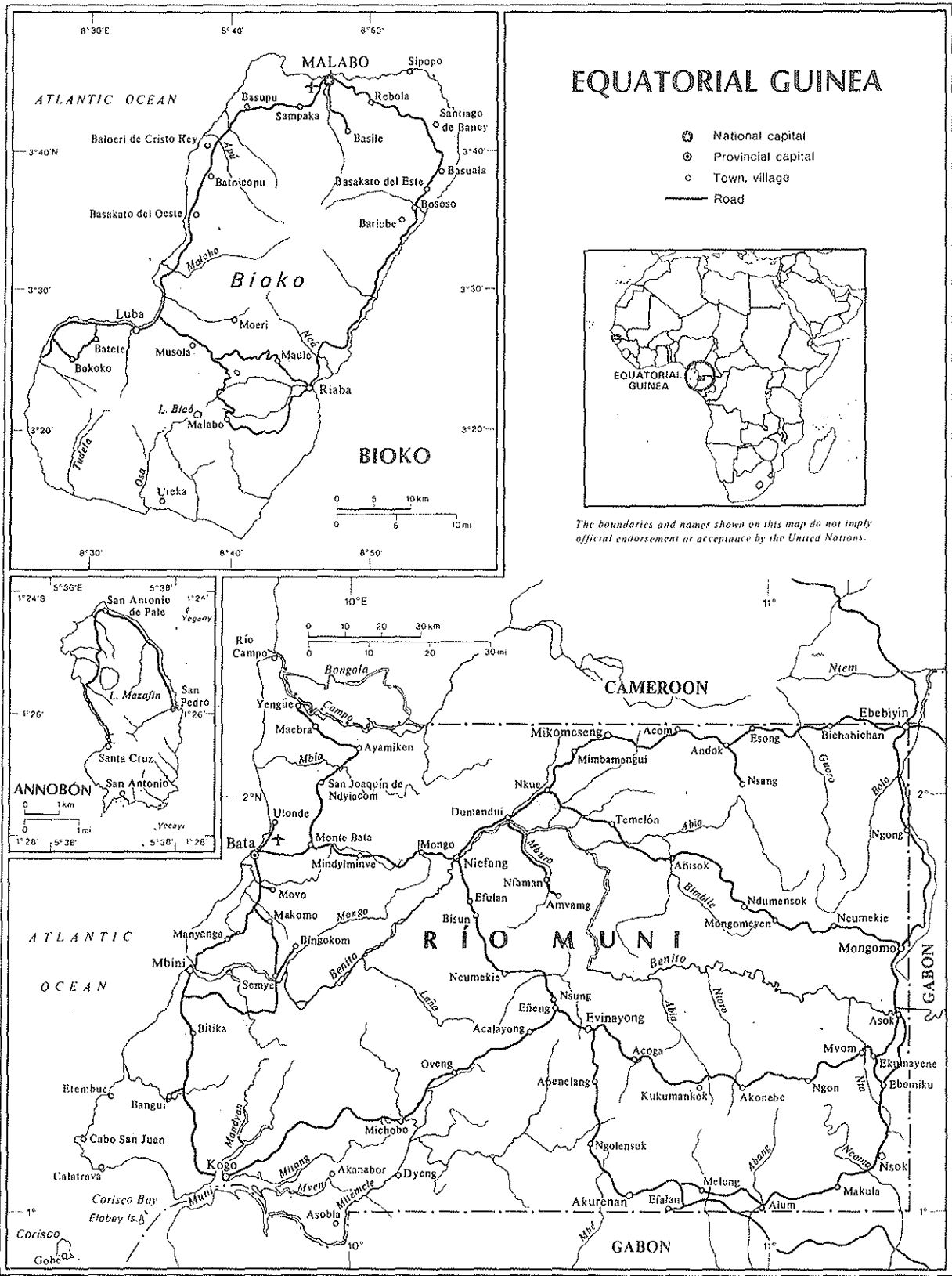


MAP 8. EQUATORIAL GUINEA — GENERAL MAP



EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Area: 28,000 km²
Population: 400,000

I. BACKGROUND

Equatorial Guinea consists of two somewhat different territories:

- The two islands of Fernando Pó and Annobón: the first is fairly close to the mainland - about 20 nautical miles off the coast of Cameroon; the second is more than 300 miles to the south (and south of the equator) - 200 miles off the coast of Gabon;
- A fairly rectangular territory of 25,000 km² on the African mainland, enclosed by Gabon, and by Cameroon in the north. The altitude is 250 to 300 m with a maximum of 700 m in the north-east.

The capital is Santa Isabel on Fernando Pó. The mainland capital is Bata and the main urban centres are Rio Benito and Koga.

These territories have contrasted relief. The Pic de Santa Isabel rises to 2,853 m and has an equatorial climate. The mainland part is crossed by big watercourses such as the Rio Campo and the Rio Benito and others which converge in the vast estuary of the Muni. Close to the coast these watercourses contain rapids and cataracts.

The climate is unvaried throughout the year, with frequent and abundant rainfall. There are no noticeable climatic differences between Fernando Pó and the mainland part of the country. The total average annual rainfall on Fernando Pó is 2,200 mm (1,600 to 3,300 mm). It is slightly lower on the mainland. Temperatures are high and vary little throughout the year, with a maximum of 35 °C and a minimum of 20 °C.

The winds are regular and never strong, blowing mainly from the south-west. Tornados can occur at the change of the seasons from "dry" to "wet" and vice-versa.

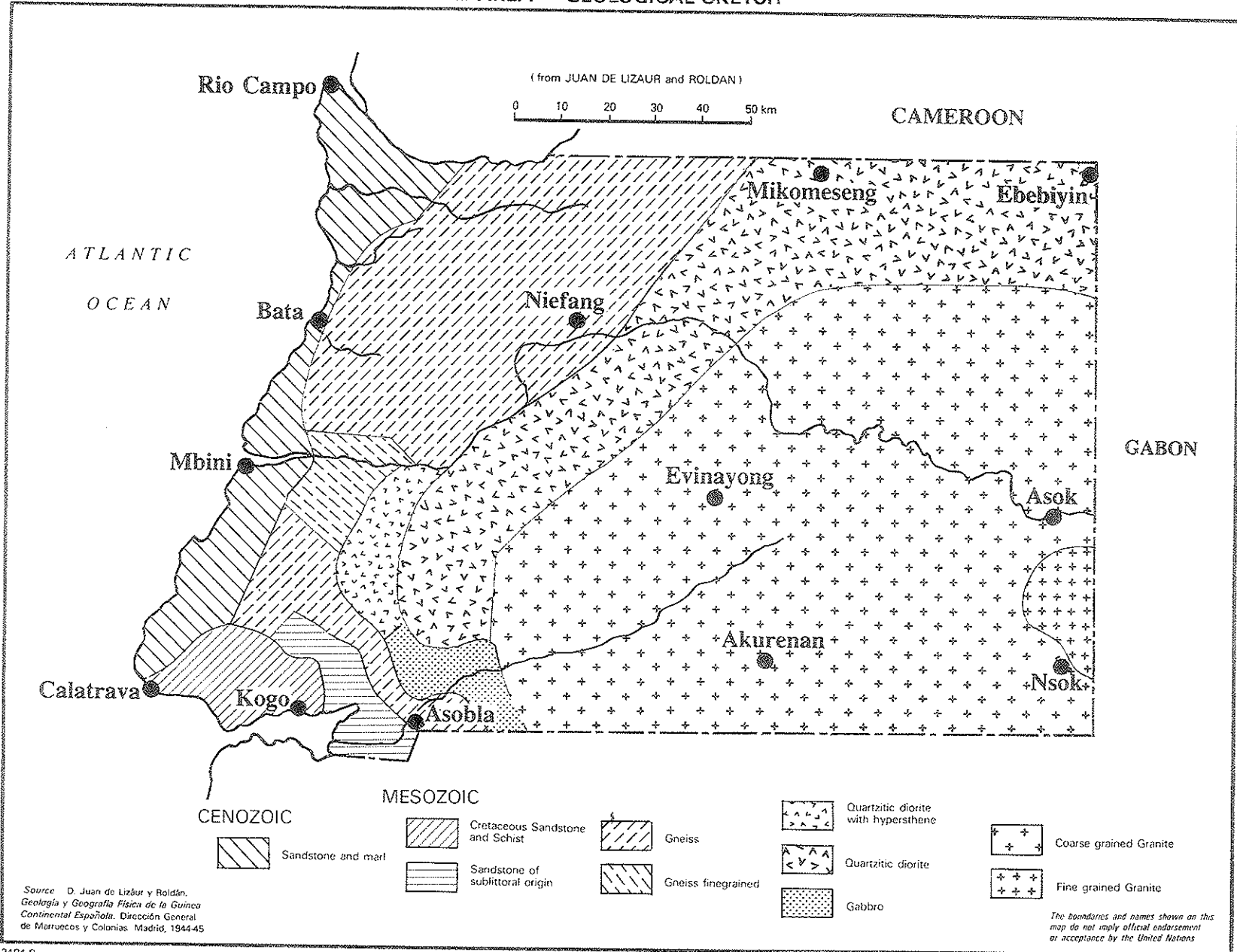
The humidity is always high, especially in rainy periods.

II. GEOLOGY

Most of the mainland part of the country is occupied by a massif of crystalline granitic rocks eroded into a peneplain. This ancient mass is bounded in the west and north by metamorphic formations: quartziferous diorites, gabbros, gneiss and micaschists with more or less fine granulometry.

At the western edge of this metamorphized area and running as far as the ocean there is a system of sedimentary formations which are more Recent the further to the north: Mesozoic and Cenozoic in the central part, and Mesozoic towards the south. Mesozoic sediments occupy a vast area in the depression which produced the Muni estuary, where the outcropping formations are the most Ancient. The Cenozoic formations occupy fairly large areas in the north in the Rio Campo depression. The two systems (Mesozoic and Cenozoic) are of marine and continental facies corresponding to a littoral zone which must once have bordered a shallow sea. These two deposits are a continuation of those of Cameroon to the north and Gabon to the south.

MAP 9. EQUATORIAL GUINEA, CONTINENTAL AREA - GEOLOGICAL SKETCH



The Cretaceous formations consist of sandstones, clays, marls and slates more than 1,000 m thick at Bata. The Cenozoic formations are sandstone and marl. The three systems (metamorphic, granitic and sedimentary) are clearly delimited. The gneiss ends in a cuesta - no doubt associated with a fault running parallel to the coast - standing above the sedimentary coastal basin. The granites merge into gneiss with a prominent ridge. The gneiss and granites are characterized by Ancient tectonics. The sedimentary formations have been slightly affected by Alpine movements, with the folds running west-north-west/east-south-east.

The volcanic island of Fernando Pó is situated on the continental plateau. The sea is never more than 100 m deep between the island and the mainland. In the north stands the Pic de Santa Isabel, an extinct volcano 3,000 m high; to the south rises the Cordillera de Fernando Pó (2,600 m) with basalts and phonolites. Annobón is also a volcanic island.

III. GROUND WATER

Owing to the abundance of rainfall and surface water, no specialized studies have yet been made of ground water. The town of Santa Isabel is supplied from a spring tapped at altitude; the long and fragile gravity-delivery system has caused problems in the past.

An idea of the ground-water potential of the formations can be obtained by reference to the country papers of Cameroon and Gabon.