Rwanda is located east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in Central Africa. The terrain includes mostly grassy uplands and hills. Some areas are mountainous with the altitude declining from west to east. This country’s natural resources include gold, tin ore, tungsten ore, methane, hydropower, and arable land. The land use includes arable use and permanent crop use: arable land is 46% and permanent crop use is 10%. Languages spoken here include English, French, Swahili, and Kinyarwanda.

**Weather and climate**

Rwanda boasts unique and various microclimates. Mild mountain temperatures, snow, and two rainy seasons highlight Rwanda’s need for a greenhouse. Detrimental practices such as
overgrazing, soil exhaustion, and soil erosion further stifle farmers from growing food year-round.

**Economic Information**

About 90% of Rwanda’s population is dedicated to agriculture, mainly at a minimal level to support themselves. Rwanda is considered a poor rural country in which the only means of foreign exchange are coffee, tea, tourism, and minerals. The country’s GDP per capita is ranked 206th in the world, but it’s GDP real growth rate is ranked 15th. 44.9% of the population lies below the poverty line. In addition, despite a heavy focus on agriculture, Rwanda is still unable to keep up with crop demands and must rely on importing and aid from the IMF - World Bank. The country aims to become a regional leader in information and communication technologies and recently joined the East African Community. The government continues to support focus on economic growth and aiding the poor.

**Energy Infrastructure**

Based on 2010 estimates, Rwanda produces 280.2 million kWh and consumes 319.6 million kWh of electricity ranking 176th and 173th, respectively. In terms of petroleum consumption Rwanda ranks 166th, consuming 5,245 bbl/day (2011 est.). The small African country does not consume or produce any natural gas. The Republic of Rwanda Ministry of Infrastructure (MININFRA) is currently exploring and researching areas in which there is a potential for geothermal energy, a clean and reliable source, with the highest priority. Peat, methane, and solar energies are the other main sources or developing sources of power for Rwanda.

**Available Materials**

Industrial materials, such as machinery, are extremely costly in Rwanda due to expensive transportation, importation taxes, lack of a solid energy infrastructure, etc. Wood, cement, and different types of fired brick are the most common construction materials available and are virtually the only materials used in the country’s current architecture. Simple carpenter tools are available in Rwanda. Fuel for generating electricity and cement must be imported along with any industrial materials.
Religion, History, and political views

Almost 60% of Rwanda’s population are followers of the catholic religion. The other 40% are either Muslim, Protestant or Seventh day Adventists. Politics in Rwanda revolve around a concept of presidential republic whereby the president of Rwanda is both head of state and head of government. Rwanda’s population which is composed of more than 7 million people is divided into three ethnic groups: the Hutu (who are almost 85% of the total population), and the Tutsi and Twa who make up the other 15%. Germany lost control of Rwanda during the first world war and the country was placed under Belgian rule. During the past 100 years, Rwanda experienced a considerable amount of civil wars and genocides.
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