FACTORS AFFECTING THE NATURAL VEGETATION OF AFRICA

- Major problems affecting natural vegetation in the continent are
  - ✓ Deforestation.
  - ✓ Overgrazing.
  - ✓ Burning (wildfire).
  - ✓ Expansion of settlements and farmlands.
- Deforestation is indiscriminate cutting or over-harvesting of trees.
- **People clear the forest for many reasons including the following**
  - ✓ They clear the land for shifting cultivation(equatorial areas where leaching is a common
  - ✓ The need for land for permanent agriculture;
  - ✓ The increased need for fuel wood
  - ✓ Extractive forest uses, such as selective forestry, to get logs for industries.
- **The impacts of deforestation are the following:**
  - ✓ Climatic change, resulting in problems like desertification and soil loss through erosion.
  - ✓ Habitat destruction, animals may migrate and even die.
  - ✓ The extinction of some of the wild animals and plants of the continent.

Possible Conservation Measures

- **Reforestation:** is planting trees in areas where the original forest cover has been removed
- **Afforestation:** is planting trees in areas where there was no original forest cover.
- **Agroforestry:** associating crop production with forest development.
- **Social forestry:** planting trees in urban areas in association with human settlements.
- **Controlling burning practices** (i.e., the slash-and-burn activities).
- **Reducing the use of fuel wood** by adopting alternative sources of energy.
- **Controlling overgrazing.**

WILD ANIMALS OF AFRICA

- Equatorial rainforests of Africa are habitats for different species of wild animals.
- The region hosts different kinds of tree climbing (arboreal) animals like monkeys, apes, baboons, and gorillas, as well as birds.
- The aquatic environment of this zone hosts large animals like hippopotamus and crocodiles.
- There are also large numbers of herbivorous and carnivorous animals in the Savanna lands of the continent.
- The herbivore animals include numerous species of antelope, zebra, giraffe, buffalo, African elephant, and rhinoceros.
- The carnivore wild animals include the lion, leopard, cheetah, hyena, jackal and mongoose.
- The rivers, lakes and swamps of the continent are inhabited by different species of aquatic animals.
- There are crocodiles like the Nile crocodiles, hippopotamuses, fish (about 2,000 different species), and different species of birds like the guinea fowl (the leading game bird in Africa), pelicans, goliath herons, flamingos, storks, egrets, and the ostrich, mainly in Eastern and Southern Africa.

- The continent also has a variety of destructive insects, notably mosquitoes, driver ants, termites, locusts, and tsetse flies.

Wild-animal resource of Africa serves a wide range of purposes, including the following:

- ✓ are used as sources of animal protein in many countries of Africa;
- ✓ help to maintain the balance of nature by feeding on each other and plants;
- ✓ serve as source of income through tourism, legal hunting and legal sale of live wild animals;
- ✓ provide scientific and educational opportunities to researches, students and the like;
- ✓ provide inputs (industrial raw materials such as skins and excreta) for various industries;
- ✓ add aesthetic value to the environment, hence serving as source of recreation for people;

Factors Affecting Wild Animals

- The attention paid by the people to animal conservation is inadequate.
- Many animals face serious problems that emanate from human interference
- Some animals and birds are extinct and still others, like the Mountain Nyala and Walia Ibex in Ethiopia, and the Ostrich in Algeria, are endangered or threatened.
- Wild animals in Africa are facing different challenges including the following;
  - ✓ **Illegal hunting (poaching):** African Elephant Killed by Poachers and Elephant populations are on the brink of extinction due to poachers who kill elephants for their ivory tusks
  - ✓ **Human Encroachment:** is the result of the increased need of human populations for farm and grazing land, settlement areas, fuel wood and the like. Such increased needs result in:
    - Deforestation
    - Burning of vegetation cover in order to obtain land for shifting or permanent agriculture, people set fire to vegetated areas.
    - Overgrazing
    - Desertification
    - Drought

Possible Conservation Measures

- ✓ Conserving natural vegetation
- ✓ Establishing national parks, game reserves and sanctuaries
- ✓ Controlling illegal hunting
- ✓ Raising the people's awareness
- ✓ Changing the economic condition of the people through good and applicable policies and programs.

SOILS OF AFRICA

- Soil is defined simply as a loose and unconsolidated material that overlies the crust of the earth.

Major Soil Types of Africa

- The diverse climatic conditions, natural vegetation and the geology of Africa result in the presence of different soil types.
- The Food and Agricultural Organization of the UN (FAO) has classified the soils of Africa into several groups, of which the following are the most important:

  A. Pedalfers (the largest group in Africa)

B. Pedocals
C. Hydromorphic soils
D. Azonal soils

A. Pedalfers

- ✓ Soils with aluminum deposits.
- ✓ Soils without a layer of accumulated calcium carbonate.
- ✓ Have high content of iron and aluminum.
- ✓ Soils of this group include the following.

1. **Ferrasols**
   - ✓ Are found in the central parts of Africa around the equatorial forests and savanna lands.
   - ✓ Are red and yellow in color.
   - ✓ found in areas of heavy rainfall
   - ✓ Affected by leaching.
   - ✓ Characterized by high concentrations of iron, clay and aluminum.
2. **Nitosols**
   - ✓ Mainly develop in humid climatic regions.
   - ✓ Their parent materials are usually volcanic rocks.
   - ✓ Have deep profile and are rich in humus content.
   - ✓ Most productive soils in Africa and ideal for crop production.
3. **Acrisols**
   - ✓ Develop in hilly areas with wet tropical and monsoon climates.
   - ✓ Are weathered, acidic and shallow.
   - ✓ They are unproductive.
   - ✓ Found in Western Africa and the Lake Region of East Africa.
4. **Lixisols**
   - ✓ Found in the savanna and semi-arid areas.
   - ✓ Are reddish and sometimes yellowish in color.
   - ✓ Abundant in the plains of Western Africa, Eastern Africa and east-Central Africa.
   - ✓ More fertile than ferrasols and acrisols.
5. **Plinthosols**
   - ✓ Exist on plains and gently-sloped areas.
   - ✓ Are soft and laterite.
   - ✓ develop in rainforest areas and the savanna regions
6. **Luvisols**
   - ✓ Developed in the Mediterranean climatic regions of the continent.
   - ✓ Have high mineral reserves and are fertile.
7. **Planosols**
   - ✓ Dominate the High Veld of South Africa, particularly the waterlogged plains of the country.
   - ✓ They are used mostly for grazing.
8. **Fluvisols**
   - ✓ Develop in seasonally flooded plains, valleys and tidal marshes.
   - ✓ They are found in the Nile and Zambezi River Deltas, and the coasts of Western Africa and Lake Chad.

- ✓ Have a brown color.
- ✓ Are young and fertile.
- ✓ Are suitable for large-scale irrigation.

B. Pedocals

1. Vertisols

- ✓ Are black basaltic soils with clay character.
- ✓ Become sticky during the rainy season and crack during the dry season.
- ✓ Working such soils is very laborious.
- ✓ Found in the Sahel region at the southern border of the Sahara.
- ✓ Are cultivated with the help of irrigation and rain fed agriculture.
- ✓ Generally they are used for grazing.

2. Calcisols

- ✓ Found in the Sahara and Namib deserts of Africa.
- ✓ Are potentially fertile in terms of mineral content, they are poor in humus.
- ✓ Are used mostly for grazing.

3. Solonchaks

- ✓ Found in inland river basins, bottoms of ancient lakes, depressions and coastal areas.
- ✓ Are saline and not very productive.

C. Hydromorphic Soil

1. Gleysols

- ✓ Found in depressions and low-lying areas of shallow ground water.
- ✓ Extensively found in the Niger Delta, the Congo Basin and interior parts of Angola.
- ✓ Used for the production of rice, sugar cane, yam and vegetables.

D. Azonal Soil

1. Arenosols

- ✓ Found in the humid tropical parts of Africa, the semi-arid zones of the southern Sahara, southwest Africa and Africa's coastal plains.
- ✓ Used mainly for grazing and dry farming.

2. Regosols

- ✓ Found in arid areas extending from West Africa to Ethiopia and Somalia.
- ✓ They are used for pastoralist grazing.

3. Leptosols

- ✓ Are young, shallow and stony soils that are highly susceptible to erosion and drought.
- ✓ Found in the strongly dissected uplands of Northern Africa, the Sahara, and in Southern, Central and Eastern Africa.
- ✓ Terracing is the most important mechanism for cultivating these soils.
- ✓ Otherwise, they are devoted to transhumance, forestry and tourism.

Problems and Conservation Measures of Soils in Africa

- Soil erosion and environmental degradation are among the major problems concerning soils in Africa.
- The major causes of soil erosion and degradation in the continent include

- ✓ traditional farming practices,
- ✓ overgrazing,
- ✓ deforestation, and
- ✓ Over-exploitation of vegetation for domestic uses.

- Soil erosion is affecting Africa in many ways. Among others, the following are the major impacts. It results in the:
  - ✓ deterioration and depletion of agricultural and range (pasture) lands;
  - ✓ decline of productivity of the major cereal crops;
  - ✓ the collapse of agriculture and thereby the migration of people;
  - ✓ downstream pollution, sedimentation, floods and damage to settlements, irrigation and farmlands;
  - ✓ Consumption of national economic resources to control erosion

The areas which are highly affected by soil erosion are

A. Sahel Region of Western Africa, and the Sahara and Namib deserts of Africa where wind is the major agent of erosion;
B. sub humid (savanna) regions and the tropical rainforests, where water is the main agent of erosion; and
C. Tropical highlands and mountain areas of Africa such as those of Ethiopia and other East African countries.

Conservation Measures

- ✓ **Terracing:** constructing stair like structures along hillsides to reduce surface run off.
- ✓ **Agroforestry:** is associating agriculture with forest development.
- ✓ **Afforestation:** is planting trees in areas which originally were not covered by forests.
- ✓ **Reforestation:** is planting tree seedlings to replace cut forests.
- ✓ **Windbreaks and shelter-belt plantations:** planting trees along a line to break the speed of the blowing wind and reduce its erosivity.
- ✓ **Check dams:** are small ditches that are prepared along sloppy areas to reduce the impact of the down slope surface flow.
- ✓ **Strip cultivation:** is planting two or more types of crops on the same farm, using a pattern of stripes of alternating crops.
- ✓ **Contour plowing**: is plowing the land sideways, following contours. It is commonly used in sloped areas, forming furrows perpendicular to the angle of the slope. These furrows act as blocks, slowing the flow of downhill water.
- ✓ **Crop rotation:** planting different crops alternately on a farm.
- ✓ **Green manure":** uses plants that have soil-nutrient value to enrich the soil in the same way that animal faeces are used as fertilizer.
- ✓ **Mulching**: is covering the soil with plant residue to let the soil regain some nutrients as the residue decays.
- ✓ **Fallowing**: is leaving the farm idle for a while until the soil regains its fertility.

UNIT FOUR
POPULATION, ECONOMY AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF AFRICA
ASPECTS OF POPULATION, ECONOMY AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF AFRICA
Population Size, Growth and Distribution

A. Size

- Africa has one of the world's largest populations.
- The continent is the world's second most populous next to Asia.
- The continent had a total population of 999 million (nearly 1 billion)/mid 2009.
- This makes up nearly 14.7 % of the world's total population.
- Africa's population is nearly 1/4th of that of Asia, and 28 times that of Oceania.

B. Growth

- Africa has one of the world's fastest growing populations.
- Africa experiencing rapid changes in its population size due to the interactions between fertility and mortality.
- Despite the gradual decline in the birth and death rates, the continent continues to experience high rate of population growth.
- Africa's population had been increasing very slowly until recent times.
- Since the 1950, the continent's population began to increase very rapidly.
- The continent's population had almost been quadrupled between 1950 and 2000.
- The population growth rate of Africa is the fastest in the world.
- According to the 2009 world population data sheet, the continent had a rate of natural increase of 2.4%.
- The general growth rate, on the other hand, was 2.3%.
- This appears being the highest rate in the world and twice as fast as the world's average growth rate.
- In terms of the period that Africa's population needs to double itself, the continent has the world's shortest doubling time of about 29 years.
- Such a rapid population growth rate and short doubling time is the result of the very high fertility rate that the continent has.
- Although birth rate is declining in the continent, it is still high as compared to the rest of the world.
- The declining mortality in the continent is also the highest in the world.
- The difference between the two has produced a very high rate of population growth and short period of doubling time in Africa.
- Rate of Natural Increase (RNI) is the difference between Birth Rate and Death Rate expressed in percentage.
- General Growth Rate is the difference between RNI and Net-migration Rate expressed in percentage.
- The doubling time of a population is calculated by dividing 70 by the growth rate of the population.

$$\mathbf{DT}=\frac{70}{GR}$$ = *Doubling time*

ate

E.g.: From 1982-1983 Australia had a growth rate of 1.3. What would be its doubling time?

$$DT=\frac{70}{GR}$$

$$DT=\frac{70}{¿}$$

$$DT=\frac{700}{13}=54$$ **years**

C. Distribution

- Population distribution refers to the way people inhabit and occupy the earth's surface.
- Africa's population distribution is uneven.
- There are areas of high and low population density.
- The vast Sahara, have few permanent residents.
- The Nile Valley of Egypt, the Atlantic coastal area that stretches from Côte d'Ivoire to Cameroon, Rwanda, Burundi, and South Africa's province of KwaZulu-Natal are among the most densely populated areas in the continent.
- The continent's average crude population density during the mid of 2009 was about 33 people/km2.
- Certain human and physical factors are responsible for such spatial variation in the distribution of population in the continent.
- **Among the physical factors some are**
  - ✓ Climate,
  - ✓ Relief,
  - ✓ Availability of water,
  - ✓ Fertility of soil,
  - ✓ Distribution of minerals and the like.
- On the other hand, the **human factors** that determine the extent to which humans inhabit a certain place include
  - ✓ Economic conditions,
  - ✓ Political situations and
  - ✓ Other social factors.
- Eastern Africa has the continent's highest crude density of 49 p/km2 followed by Western Africa with 48 p/km2.
- Central Africa has the continent's lowest crude density of 19 p/km2 followed by Southern Africa (22 p/km2) and Northern Africa (24 p/km2).
- The most populous countries are Nigeria, Egypt, Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the Republic of South Africa (RSA).
- These countries all together account for about 43% of the continent's total population.

DETERMINANTS OF POPULATION CHANGE IN AFRICA

- The three components that determine population change are birth rate, death rate and migration.
- Population change in a given country is affected by:
  A. The difference between deaths and births also known as natural change
  B. The balance between immigration (coming in) and emigration (going out) /net migration.
- The current population change (growth) is a function of fertility, mortality and migration.

- There is frequent migration of people within a country.

A. Fertility Patterns in Africa

- Fertility refers to the occurrence of birth in the human population.
- It is a natural positive factor that tends to increase the human population size.
- Africa's fertility rate is the highest in the world.
- Birth rates are high in Africa because:
  - ✓ people have less access to contraceptives;
  - ✓ people are backward and poverty stricken;
  - ✓ women are of low status;
  - ✓ many children are needed to work on the land;
  - ✓ children are considered as symbol of virility;
  - ✓ people are of low educational background; and
  - ✓ Many religions encourage large families.
- According to the UN World population prospects of the year 2009, the average birth rate for Africa is estimated at 36/1000.
- This is the highest even for the standard of developing countries, which is (22/1000).
- Birth rate is defined as the number of live births per 1000 population in a year.
- Death rate is the number of deaths per 1000 population in a year.
- The difference between birth rate and death rate is conceived as a difference influenced by natural change.
- There is an inverse relationship between the level of economic development and the fertility rate.
- In Africa, the regions that have a relatively better economic progress are likely to have low rate of fertility.

B. Mortality Patterns in Africa

- Mortality refers to the occurrence of death in the human population.
- Africa's mortality rate is the highest in the world.
- It is also the highest even from the perspective of the developing regions.
- The continent had a crude death rate of 12 deaths per 1000 population.
- When regional comparison is made, death rate ranges from 7/1000 in Northern Africa to 15/1000 in Southern Africa.
- In terms of infant mortality rate, the continent still has the world's largest rate of 74 deaths per 1000 live births.
- Infant mortality rates also vary from region to region.
- Accordingly, Central Africa has the highest rate of 95/1000 followed by Western Africa 80/1000 and Eastern Africa 76/1000 live births.
- The lowest Infant Mortality rate is in Northern Africa which only 38/1000.
- Africa's high death rate is attributed to the following major factors:
  - ✓ Low standard of living
  - ✓ Low access to health facilities
  - ✓ Poor sanitary practices
  - ✓ Civil war and political instability
  - ✓ Wide spread of famine caused by recurrent drought
  - ✓ Poor nutrition, and

- ✓ High incidence of disease and infections

- Africa's death rate is declining since World War II due to development in medical technology, and sanitary practices, and the discovery of medicines and vaccines for tropical diseases.
- The continent's crude death rate remains being the highest in the world.
- Infant mortality rate is generally regarded as a prime indicator of socioeconomic development.
- Infant mortality has declined from 138/1000 in 1950 to 88/1000 in 1975 – 80; and now, it is down to 74/1000.
- There is disparity in life expectancy between rich and poor countries.
- Life expectancy at birth: is the average number of years a newborn infant can expect to live under current mortality levels.
- The current birth and death rates of Africa reflect a very young (and economically dependent) population of low life expectancy.
- Almost all sub-Saharan countries have a population of under 15 years of age rated in percent at more than 40.
- This has resulted in high dependency ratio in the continent.
- Africa's life expectancies are the lowest in the world.
- There is though, a wide disparity of this fact from regions to regions within Africa ranging from 69 years for Northern Africa to 49 years for Eastern and Western Africa.

C. Migration patterns in Africa

- Migration is a socio-cultural component of population change.
- It has both negative and positive impacts based on its net effect.
- A negative net migration rate tends to reduce the population of region.
- Positive net migration rate tends to increase population size.
- Migration is the movement of people from their home place to another one.
- The most important aspects in the study of migration are its motives.
- The motives leading to migration in Africa include:
  - ✓ prevalence of diverse and wide range of climatic zones
  - ✓ presence of diverse and multitude natural resources
  - ✓ coincidence of the continent's large size
  - ✓ Pervasiveness of varying economic activities ranging from agriculture to trade: and existence of divergent level of economic and social development.

MEASURES OF POPULATION CHANGE

- The most basic method of calculating numerical population change over time is balancing equation.

A. Balancing equation

$$P_2 = P1 + (B-D) + (I-E)$$

Where P_2= the population at later date

P_1= the population at earlier date

B= births between 2 dates

D= deaths between 2 dates

I= immigration (in-migration)

E= emigration (out-migration)

B. Rate of Natural Increase(RNI)

- Is the difference between birth and death rates:
- It is a naturally caused numerical change of a population which results from the inter play between fertility and mortality.
- Is expressed as:

RNI= BR-DR

Where

RNI= rate of natural increase

BR= birth rate

DR= Death rate

E.g. If the birth rate and death rate a certain country were 50 per thousand and 28 per thousand respectively, what was the rate of natural increase (RNI).

Given BR= 50/1000

DR= 28/1000

RNI= BR- DR= $\frac{50}{1000} - \frac{28}{1000} = \frac{22 x 100}{1000}$ = 2.2%

22 Per thousand/2.2%.

C. Population growth rate(PGR)

- We consider the net migration rate and rate of natural increase.

PGR= BR-DR±NMR= RNI±NMR

E.g. if the RNI of a place "y" is 2.2 % and the NMR is 2/1000, find the population growth rate for place "y"?

Given

RNI= 22/1000

NMR= 2/1000

$$PGR= 2.2\% \pm \frac{2}{1000} = \frac{2.2}{100}\frac{2}{1000} = \frac{22}{1000}\frac{2}{1000} = \frac{24}{1000}\left(\frac{20}{1000}\right)$$

$$PGR= \frac{24}{1000} \vee \frac{20}{1000} \quad \left(\frac{20-24}{1000}\right)\left(\frac{¿20-24}{1000}\right)$$

CHARACTERISTICS OF AFRICAN POPULATION

- The structure or composition of African population falls under two categories classified thus on grounds of biological and cultural characteristics.
- Biological characteristics include race, ethnicity, sex and age.
- The cultural characteristics comprise education, health, nutrition, religion, occupation, and the like.

Biological Characteristics

A. Age structure

- Africa is a continent which one can deduce, could be characterized by young population
- This can be easily identified from the median age.
- If the median age is low, it implies that the population is young; for example, Africa's median age is 18 years.
- If the median age is high, the population is likely to be adult and old age group; for example the median age for Europe is 37 years.
- Low median age reflects high fertility and high population growth rates whereas high median age prevails in a population where population growth rate is low and slow.
- Africa is the only continent which comprises high young population, but very low old age population.
- In developing continents like Africa, the level of fertility is very high; and so the rate of population growth is high, too.
- This is readily attributed to their predominantly youthful age structure.
- As high fertility persists, the pressure on scarce resources for development increases.
- The demand for food, education, health facilities, employment opportunities, housing and other services also increases.
- In order to maximize these needs so as to meet the demand of the growing population, physical and institutional infrastructures have to be increased abundantly.
- Persisting high rate of population growth constantly dwarfs whatever is achieved in the economic sector.
- Resources which could be used for development purposes could be shifted to the provision of basic supply for the additional members.
- Population pyramids are used to portray the proportion of males and females in different age groups.

The following are among the major characteristics of the African Population

- ✓ High fertility and mortality rates;
- ✓ Generally young population;
- ✓ Triangular population pyramid indicating the prevalence of high fertility and mortality rates;
- ✓ High age dependency ratio and youth dependency ratio and low old dependency ratio;
- ✓ Low life expectancy; and
- ✓ High population growth rate.

AGE DEPENDENCY RATIO (ADR)

- **This indicates how many people are dependent up on every 100 workers.**

ADR= $\frac{Young+Elderly}{Adults}$ **x 100**	**ADR=** $\frac{Dependent\ population}{Independent\ population}$ **x 100**
ADR= $\frac{p(0-14)+p(¿65)}{p(15-64)}$ **x 100**	

E.g. the age dependency ratio from data given below can be measured. Thus

Young population=420 people
Adult population=540 people
Elder population=40 people

ADR= $\frac{Young+Elderly}{Adults}$ **x 100**	**ADR=** $\frac{420+40}{540}$ **x 100**

ADR= $\frac{460}{540}$ **x 100=85.1**

There are 85 persons in the dependent age for every 100 persons in the working ages.

- **There three (3) classes of population pyramids. these are**

A. Expansive pyramid

- **Have triangular shape with wide base and narrow top.**
- **Indicates high birth and death rates.**
- **Rapid population growth is prevalent E.g.: Mexico**

B. Stable(Stationary) pyramid

- **Have half ellipse shape which is the characteristics of high standard of living.**
- **There are equal numbers of peoples in all age groups.**
- **Show population growth. E.g.: USA**

C. Contractive pyramid

- **Have narrower base.**
- **Indicates decreasing of population. Eg: Sweden**

B. Sex structure

- It refers to the proportion of males to females in the overall population of a given area.
- Sex ratio is expressed in terms of the number of males for every 100 females.

- **Sex and age structures are the basic characteristics and biological attributes of a population.**
- **Sex structure is the distribution of males and females with in different age groups.**
- **Age structure is the distribution of population with in different age groups (young, adult and old age population).**
- **They affect the demographic and socio-economic situations of population.**

Sex structure

- **Is the number of males per 100 Females or the number of females per 100 males.**
- **It is expressed in percentage or ratio form.**

A. Male population sex ratio

Where: SR = sex ratio

Pm=total number of male population

$$SR = \frac{Pm}{Pf} \times 100$$

Pf= total number of female population

B. Female population sex ratio

SR = sex ratio

Pm=total number of male population

$$SR = \frac{Pf}{Pm} \times 100$$

Pf= total number of female population

E.g.: The total students of a given school were 5000. Out of this 3000 were female. What was the sex ratio of the student population?

$$SR = \frac{Pm}{Pf} \times 100$$

SR= $\frac{2000}{3000}$ **x 100=66.7males/100 Females**

MIGRATION AND URBANIZATION IN AFRICA

Migration

The two major types of migration which bring about population change and effect its distribution are:

A. Internal migration
B. International migration

A. Internal Migration

- When people move from one part of a country to another part, we say internal migration has taken place.
- Internal migrations are caused mainly by economic reasons.
- Internal migrations are of two types, namely,
    A. Permanent
    B. Temporary.

I. Permanent migration

- Refers to people's movement from their original place of residence to another where they establish a new residence on a permanent basis.
- Another form of permanent internal migration is the urban to rural migration.
- This one is also known as the return migration.

II. Temporary migration

- Involves the movement of people whereby they leave their original residence for another for a short period of time, and then come back to their original place.
- Such migration is often practiced only periodically.
- For example, people move from one area to another to find seasonal job.
- The Migration of laborers from the densely populated highland regions of Ethiopia to the middle Awash valley during the seasons of sugar cane plantation and harvesting is a clear illustration of this trend.
- Many young people migrate from east and west Gojjam, Tigray, Wollo and Gondar to nearby towns to avail themselves at employment opportunities accessible only seasonally.
- Temporary migration can also take place on annual or diurnal basis.
- Many people move from small towns to large cities in Africa every day seeking employment or running into other purposes.
- Another internal migration is related to a rural-rural one.
- This type of migration is attributed to pushing and pulling factors.

Internal migration takes the following forms:

A. Rural-urban
B. Rural-rural
C. Urban-rural
D. Urban-urban

- **Aversion of residence:** This is to mean that people may migrate if they dislike certain things about their residence.
- Such unfavorable conditions are referred to as **pushing factors** or **repellent reasons** for migration.
- People may migrate to a new place because they think certain conditions about that place are all active and welcoming. These are known as **pulling factors.**

B. International Migration

- When people move from one country to another, wherever this may be in the world, we say International migration has taken place.
- Several migrations took place before the colonial era.
- The most important movements were accompanied by Slave Trade whereby Africans were enslaved and taken to the America's and Middle East.
- This form of emigration persisted for about 300 years.
- The other wave of migration was that of people from the Middle East and South Asia to Africa.

- These were the first Arab (Semites) migrants to Africa before the slave trade.
- These people inhabited North Africa starting from the 7th and 8th centuries and spread their language, religion and culture all over Northern Africa and the Sahara.
- These people are known as the Berbers and comprise 25% of the total population of Africa.
- **Brain-drain** is the movement of highly educated people such as engineers, researchers, lawyers, university instructors, medical doctors, etc from their country to countries abroad (overseas) where working conditions and payments are thought to be better.
- **Intra-continental migration** is movement of people within the same continent, in the present case, within African countries.
- This kind of migration is usually done by labourers and is known as labour migration.
- Labour migrants are motivated by ample remunerations provided by establishments engaged in plantation agriculture and discovery of mineral deposit.
- The places involved in plantation agriculture and the mining sector that attract a large number of people from different parts of Africa include the:
  - ✓ Cacao belt of Ghana and Western Nigeria.
  - ✓ Citrus and Vine plantation of Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco.
  - ✓ Tobacco plantation of Zimbabwe and Zambia.
  - ✓ Sisal, Coffee and tea regions of Kenya and Tanzania
  - ✓ Copper belts of Shaba (DRC) and Zambia.
  - ✓ Gold and diamond mines of the Republic of South Africa.
  - ✓ Oil fields of Nigeria and North Africa.
  - ✓ Cotton region of the Gezira plain of the Sudan.

Advantages and disadvantages of migration to the losing and receiving countries

Advantages for Losing Country

- ✓ Reduces pressure on jobs and resources (example food).
- ✓ Loses people of child bearing age causing decline in birth rate

Disadvantages for Losing Country

- ✓ Loses people in working age group
- ✓ Loses people most likely to have some education and skills
- ✓ Mainly males leave causing a division in families
- ✓ Left with an elderly population and so a high death rate.

Advantages for Receiving Country

- ✓ Over comes labour shortage
- ✓ Prepared to do dirty unskilled jobs
- ✓ Prepared to work long hours for low salaries
- ✓ Cultural advantages and links
- ✓ Some highly skilled migrants
- ✓ In a developing country these migrants could increase the number of skilled workers.

Disadvantages for Receiving Country

- ✓ Pressure on jobs but most likely to be the first unemployed in a recession.
- ✓ Low quality over crowded housing lacking in basic amenities
- ✓ Ethnic groups tend not to integrate
- ✓ Racial tension
- ✓ Limited skilled/educated group
- ✓ Lack of opportunities to practice their own religion, culture, etc.
- ✓ Language difficulties

URBANIZATION

- Urban is defined as relating or belonging to town or city.
- Urban centers are settlements where the majority of the population is engaged in non-agricultural occupation.
- Urbanization refers to an increase in the proportion of people living in towns and cities. It is a major aspect of socio-economic change.
- Africa is the least urbanized of all the continents in the world.
- Only 38% of the continent's population that lives in urban areas.
- The continent is characterized by low level of urbanization.
- The living conditions, social services, housing conditions and transport and communication facilities are very low in the urban areas of the continent.
- The continent has the world's least number of urban dwellers and urban centers.
- The extent of urbanization shows great regional variation in Africa.
- Southern Africa is the most urbanized region with 56% of its population living in urban areas in 2009 followed by Northern Africa (50%).
- Eastern Africa is the least urbanized region having only 22% of its population residing in the urban areas.
- The highest in this regard is that of Eastern Africa (6.8%) followed by Western Africa (5.5%).

Urban Growth and Major Urban Centers in Africa

- The movement of people to cities in Africa began in early 20th century.
- Since then, many cities have expanded at a rate of 25 percent every ten years (decade).
- The movement from rural areas to towns and cities is dubbed as rural – urban migration.
- Urbanization is increasing in both developed and developing countries.
- Cities in most developing countries are encircled by a number of problems.

  Some of the major problems affecting urban centers are listed as follows
  - ✓ Poverty
  - ✓ Unemployment
  - ✓ Urban slums
  - ✓ Environmental degradation
  - ✓ Social evils
  - ✓ Poor sanitation
  - ✓ Inadequate transport and communication facilities
  - ✓ Inadequate provision of social services

CURRENT URBAN CHALLENGES

- Cities serve as major growth engines by providing opportunities for employment, education, technology, etc.
- The adverse effects of urbanization in Africa are
  - ✓ Absence of employment opportunity,
  - ✓ unreliable food security,
  - ✓ shortage of water,
  - ✓ Scarcity of shelter and inefficient waste disposal, etc.