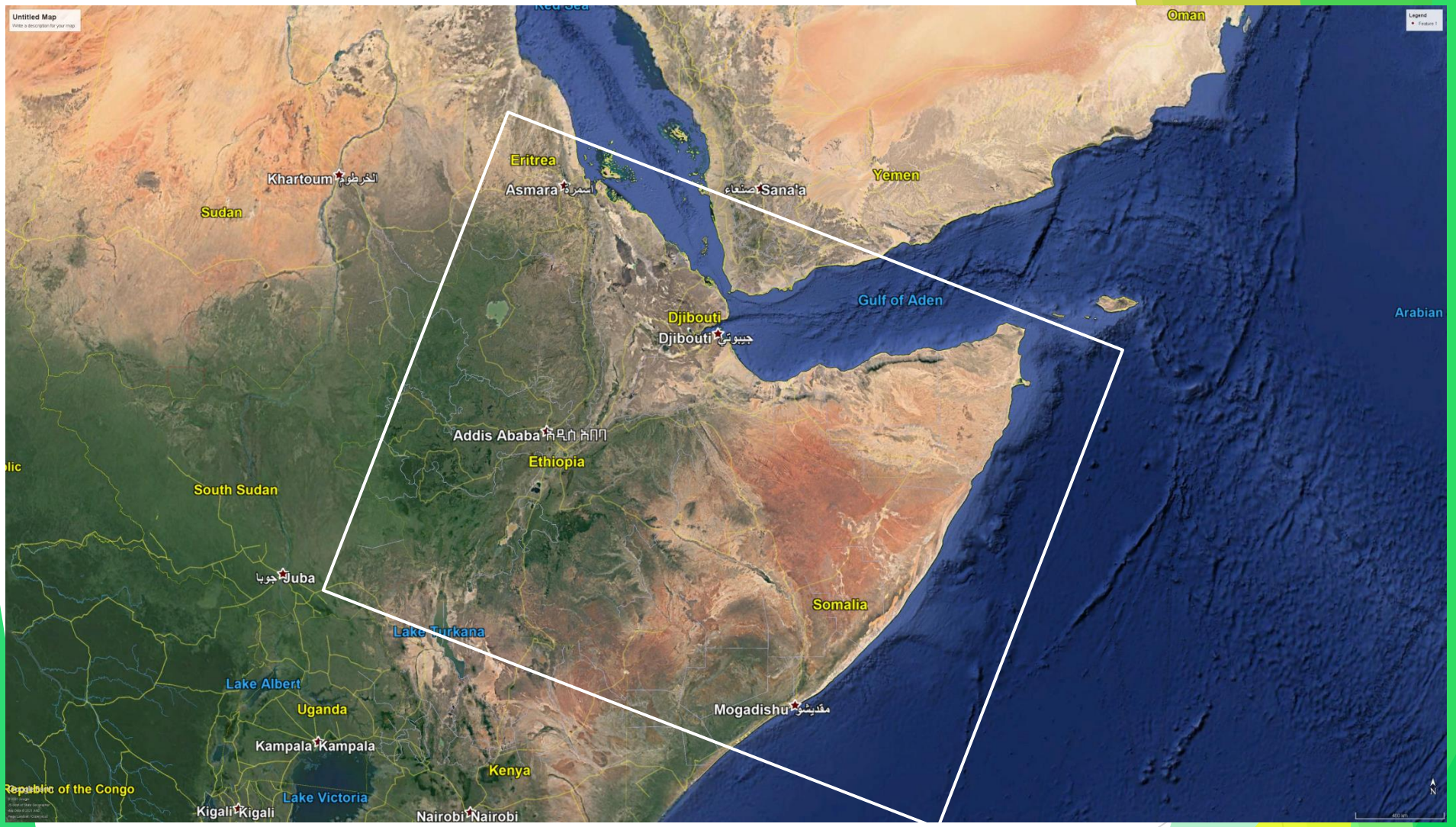
1.2. Location, Shape and Size of Ethiopia and the Horn

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- The Horn of Africa, a region of eastern Africa, is a narrow tip that protrudes into the ***northern Indian Ocean, separating it from the Gulf of Aden.***

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- It is the easternmost extension of African land defined as the region that is ***home to the countries of Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Somalia, whose cultures have been linked throughout their long history***.


Untitled Map
Write a description for your map
Legend
Feature 1
Oman
Eritrea
Asmara أسمرة
Khartoum الخرطوم
Sudan
Yemen
Sana'a صنعاء
Gulf of Aden
Arabian
Djibouti
Djibouti جيبوتي
Addis Ababa አዲስ አበባ
Ethiopia
South Sudan
Juba جوبا
Somalia
Lake Turkana
Lake Albert
Uganda
Mogadishu مقديشو
Kampala Kampala
Kenya
Republic of the Congo
Lake Victoria
Kigali Kigali
Nairobi Nairobi
N

- ***Although the countries of the region share many common features,*** there is also ***great diversity among them,*** rendering each country ***unique in many respects***.
- In terms of **size**, ***Ethiopia is the largest of all the Horn of African countries, while Djibouti is the smallest***.
- The Horn contains such diverse areas as the ***highlands of the Ethiopian Plateau***, the ***Ogaden desert***, and the ***Eritrean*** and ***Somali coasts***.
- Its coasts are washed by the ***Red Sea***, the ***Gulf of Aden***, and the ***Indian Ocean***, and it has long been in contact with the ***Arabian Peninsula*** and ***southwestern Asia***.

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1.2.1. Location of Ethiopia

- The location of a country or a place on a map or a globe is expressed in ***two different ways***. These are astronomical and relative locations (Figure 1.1).
- ***Astronomical location***, also known as ***absolute*** or ***mathematical location***, states location of places using the ***lines of latitudes*** and ***longitudes***.
- Astronomically, Ethiopia is a landlocked country located between 3^{o}N (***Moyale***) and 15^{o}N (***Bademe*** - the northernmost tip of Tigray) latitudes and 33^{o}E (***Akobo***) to 48^{o}E (the tip of ***Ogaden*** in the east) longitudes.

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- The **east west** distance (15º) is **longer** than the **north-south** distance (12º). The latitudinal and longitudinal extensions are important in two ways.
- ***First, as a result of its latitudinal extension the country experiences tropical climate and***
- ***secondly due to its longitudinal extension there is a difference of one hour between the most easterly and most westerly points of the country.***
- ***It is only for convenience that the 3 hours-time zone (GMT+3) is used in all parts of the country.***
- Relative location expresses the ***location of countries*** or places with reference to the location of ***other countries*** (***vicinal***), ***landmasses*** or ***water bodies***.
- The relative location of Ethiopia is indicated in Table 1.1.

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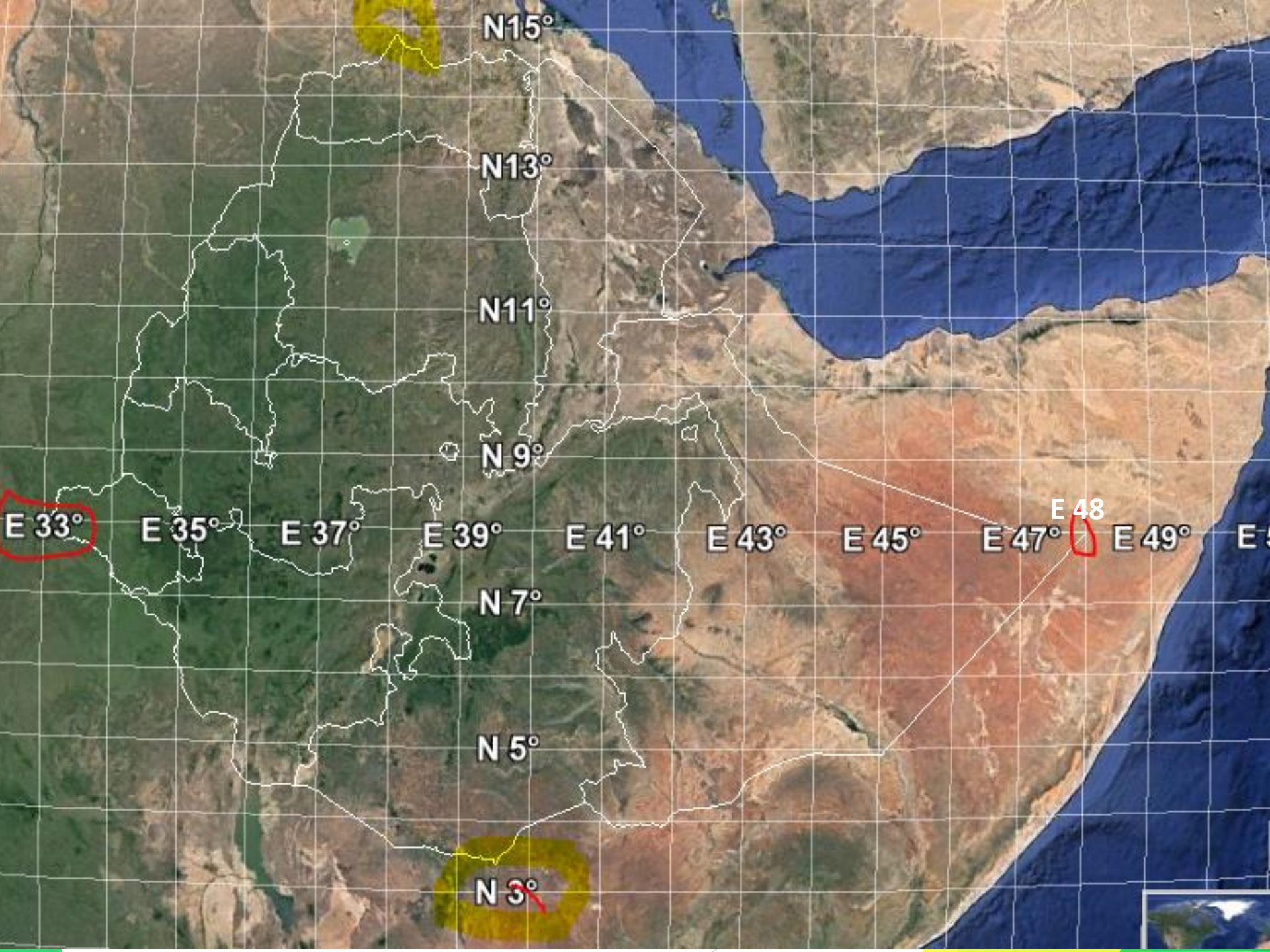

N15°
N13°
N11°
N 9°
N 7°
N 5°
N 3°
E 33°
E 35°
E 37°
E 39°
E 41°
E 43°
E 45°
E 47°
E 48
E 49°

Table 1.1: The relative location of Ethiopia

Vicinal location	In relation to water bodies & land masses
➲ Sudan to the west and northwest ➲ South Sudan to southwest ➲ Djibouti to the east ➲ Somalia to the east and southeast ➲ Eritrea to the north and northeast	➲ In the Horn of Africa ➲ Southwest of the Arabian Peninsula ➲ South of Europe ➲ Northwest of the Indian Ocean ➲ In the Nile Basin
➲ Kenya to the south	

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- The implications of the location of Ethiopia are described as follows:

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a) **Climate**: The fact that Ethiopia is located between 3°N and 15°N (between the Equator and Tropic of Cancer) implies that the country has a ***tropical climate***, though modified by its **altitude**.

- The location of Ethiopia relative to the **Indian Ocean**, the **Atlantic Ocean** and the ***African and Asian landmass*** has also ***various bearings on the climate of Ethiopia.***

b) **Socio-cultural:** Ethiopia is one of the ***earliest recipients*** of the major world religions namely ***Christianity***, ***Islam*** and ***Judaism*** due to its ***proximity to the Middle East***, which was the origin of these religions.

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- The linguistic and other cultural relationships, which Ethiopia shares with its neighbors, reflect the ***influence of location***.

c) Political: The political history of Ethiopia has been considerably influenced by:

- Geopolitical considerations of ***superpowers***.
- Adjacency to the ***Red Sea*** (a major global trade route).
- The ***Middle East geopolitical paradigms***.

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✓ As a result, ***Ethiopia has been exposed for external invasions*** in a number of times; though the country resisted foreign intervention and remains free of external domination.

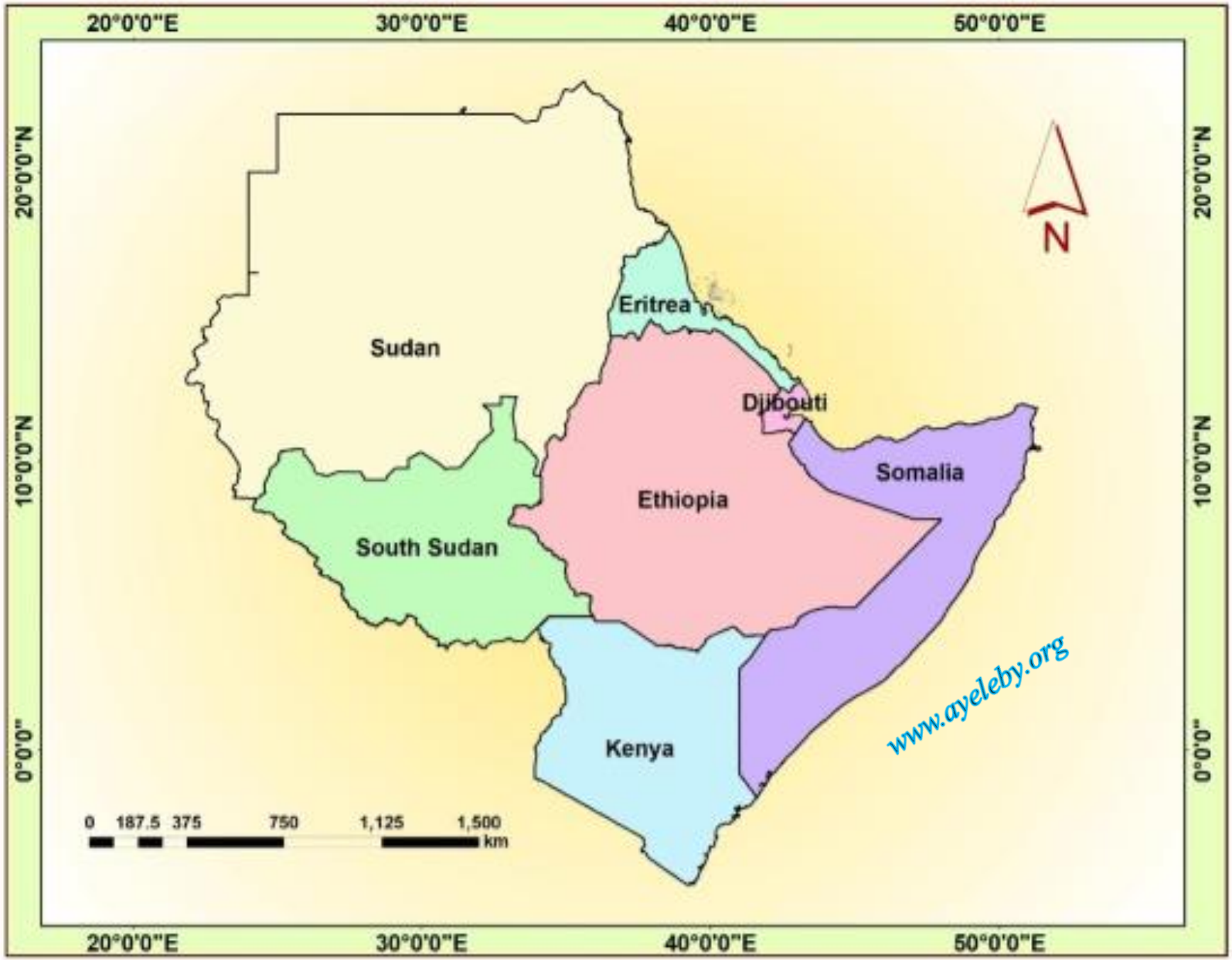


Figure 1.1.Ethiopia's location in relation to its neighboring countries

Source: Africa Map Library

By: Ayele Behaylu (Assistant Professor)

1.2.2. Size of Ethiopia

- Ethiopia with a total area of approximately 1,106,000 sq. KM is the **8th** largest country in **Africa** and **25th** in the **World**.
- It extends about ***1,639*** kilometers East-West, and ***1,577*** kilometers North-South.
- About 0.7% of the country is covered by water bodies.
- The size of Ethiopia also affects both the natural and human environment of the country.
- The advantages and disadvantages of the size of Ethiopia are indicated in Table 1.2.

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Table 1.2. Advantages and disadvantages of Ethiopia's large size

Advantages	Disadvantages
Possess diverse agro ecological zones	Demands greater capital to construct infrastructural facilities
Variety of natural resources	Requires large army to protect its territory
Own extensive arable land	Difficult for effective administration
Have larger population size	Difficult for socio-economic integration
Home for diverse cultures	
Greater depth in defense external invasion	

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1.2.3. The shape of Ethiopia and its Implication

- Countries of the World have different kinds of shape that can be divided into **five** main categories:
  - ***Compact***,
  - ***Fragmented***,
  - ***Elongated***,
  - ***Perforated***, and
  - ***Protruded.***
- These shapes have implications on ***defense***, ***administration*** and ***economic integration*** within a country.
- Whether some kind of shape is advantageous to a country or not, however, depends on many other factors.

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Compact shape countries: The distance from the geographic center of the state to any of the borders ***does not vary greatly***. It is easier for defense, socioeconomic and cultural integration.

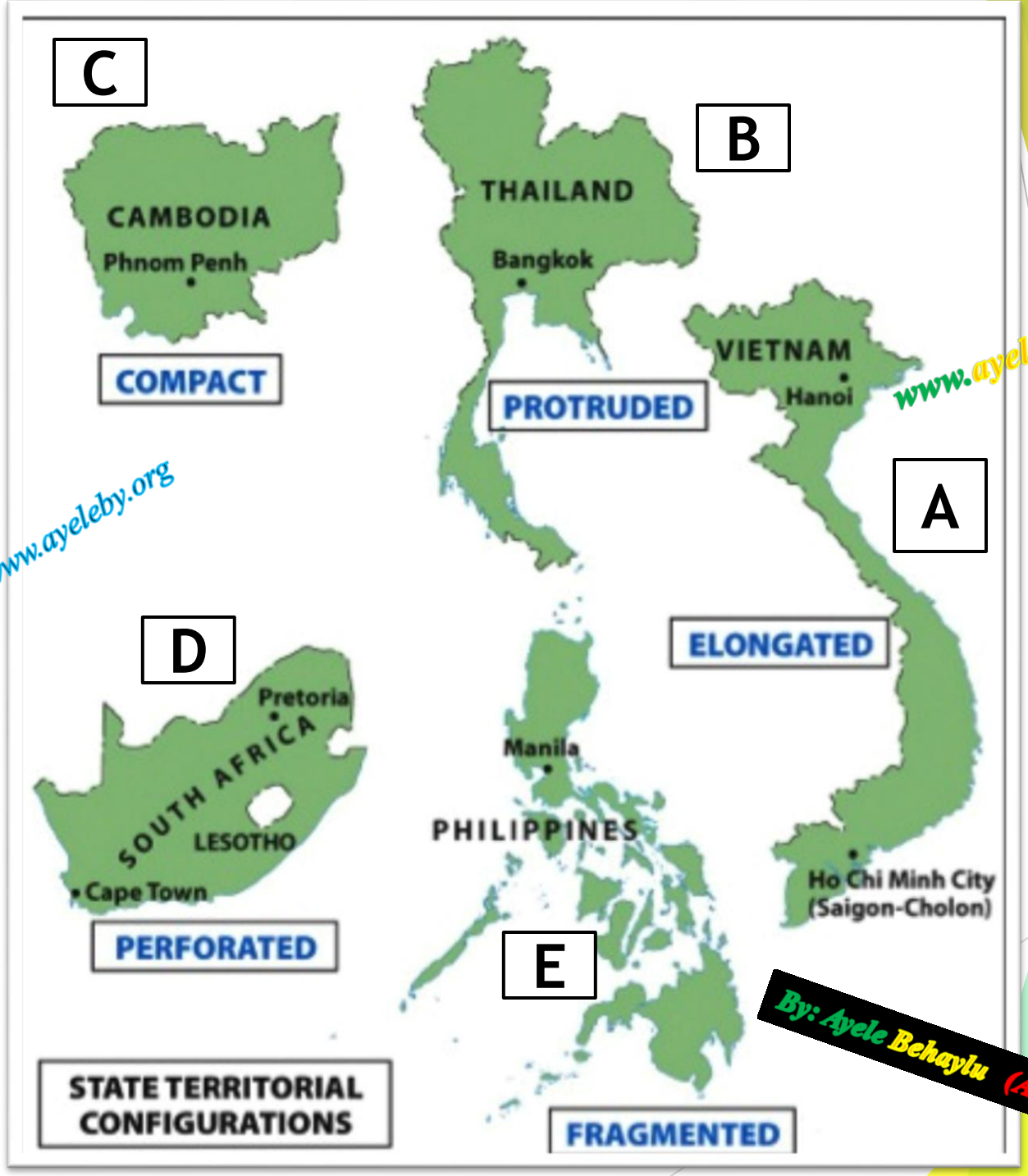
Fragmented shape countries: They are divided from their other parts by either ***water, land*** or other countries.

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Elongated shape countries: They are geographically long and relatively narrow like Chile.

Perforated shape countries: A country that completely surrounds another country like the ***Republic of South Africa.***

Protrude shape countries: Countries that have one portion that is much more elongated than the rest of the country like ***Myanmar*** and ***Eritrea***.

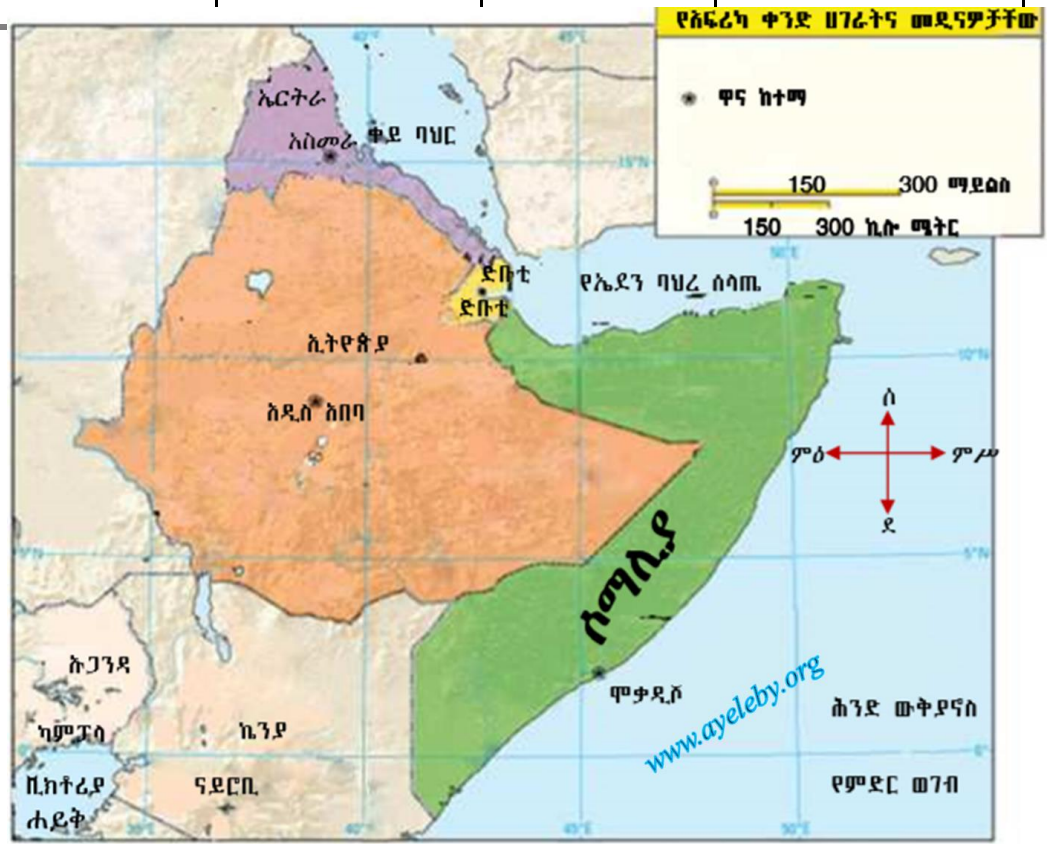


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Table 1.3: Ethiopia's shape compared to its neighbors in the Horn

Country	Area(km^2)	Boundary (km)	A/B ratio	B/C ratio	A/C ratio
Ethiopia	1,106,000	5,260	210.27	1.41	296.61
Djibouti	22,000	820	26.83	1.56	41.83
Eritrea	117,400	2,420	48.51	1.99	96.83
Kenya	582,644	3,600	161.85	1.33	215.28
Somalia	637,657	5,100	125.03	1.80	225.22

Source: Bekure (1982, 1983)



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