

# **AN APPENDIX ON THE MUNICIPALITY OF BOUAFLE AND THE MARAHOUE REGION**

**Côte d'Ivoire - All about the municipality of Bouaflé,  
in the Marahoué region.**



**The Town Hall of the Municipality of Bouaflé**

Côte d'Ivoire - Marahoué Region - Bouaflé is a chief town of Côte d'Ivoire located in the Marahoué region. The town is close to Lake Kossou.

**General presentation**

- Municipality of Bouaflé
- Marahoué region
- Population: 167,263 inhabitants in 2014
- Surface area: 6,300 hectares

Distance Bouaflé - Abidjan : 310 Km

- Location: Crossroads town, located in the centre west of Côte d'Ivoire, at the intersection of the Yamoussoukro-Daloa and Zuénoula-Sinfra roads, it is irrigated by the Marahoué River and is 300 kilometres from Abidjan and 60 kilometres from Yamoussoukro.

- Economic assets: The town of Bouaflé is a very important centre of economic activity in Côte d'Ivoire. Indeed, as a crossroads town with an agricultural economy, it encourages meetings between producers, sellers, intermediaries and buyers.

## **History**

Bouaflé is a crossroads, a meeting point between the peoples of the savannah and the forest.

Thus, it is mainly inhabited by populations of Gouro origin, who came from the forest, and populations of Baoulé origin (Ayaou and Yaouré in part), who came from the savannah, to which other ethnic groups from Côte d'Ivoire and neighbouring countries were later added.

The Yaouré, Ayaou and Gouro are generally considered as the indigenous people of Bouaflé.

The Gouro came from the west of the Mandé Sud group and created the village of Goblata (which means 'forcibly crossed a coast, an obstacle', in this case certainly the Marahoué). But following internal quarrels, the village of Goblata

(which became Koblata) was divided into three (3) portions to form the three (3) current villages: Koblata, Lopouafla and Déhita.

This area, situated on the banks of the Marahoué and between the two Bandama rivers, quickly became a fishing area and a very large fish market, especially the fish called "Boua" by the Gouro, which is a large catfish. Hence the name Bouaflé given to the town which originated here and which in Gouro means "market of catfish".

Later, traders attracted by this fish, settled in turn in the triangle formed by the three villages, Koblata, Déhita and Lopouafla, which today have become the districts of the town of Bouaflé.

In addition to the Ivorians, it is worth mentioning here the citizens of neighbouring countries, some of whom form large, well-integrated communities that live in good harmony with the Ivorians. These are: Malians, Guineans, Nigerians, Senegalese, Mauritians, Burkinabés, Ghanaians, Nigerians, etc.

As for the Burkinabés, formerly called Voltaics, their settlement in Bouaflé dates back to 1933. In fact, that year, a terrible famine hit the Ivory Coast, which then included the Upper Ivory Coast, now Burkina Faso, and the present Lower Ivory Coast. The Governor RESTE decided to transfer to the Lower Ivory Coast, where there was a lot of arable land and little labour, populations from the Upper Ivory Coast, which had a lot of labour but very little arable land. In 1934, it was decided that the new guests should arrive in Bouaflé, which thus became a settlement area. Thus, the Burkinabés, who had settled on the outskirts of the town (Garango, Koupela-Tenkodogo, Koudougou), mostly became Ivorians through naturalization.

## **The assets of the municipality of Bouaflé**

### **Economy**

Bouaflé is a prosperous town with a population of about 76,000 inhabitants and its economy, mainly agricultural, is based on traditional food crops (plantain, yams, cassava, rice, taro, potatoes, groundnuts, etc.) and industrial crops (coffee, cocoa, cotton, rubber). Forestry production, once prosperous and processed locally, is now in decline.

-Fishing, intensive since the creation of Lake Kossou, has become an important activity for the region.

Pig and cattle breeding is in constant progression.

-The main industrial units are: a brewery factory (SOLIBRA) and seven bakeries.

-Banking: 4 permanent bank branches: BICICI, NSIA, SGBCI, COBACI, Banque du Trésor.

-Commerce: 01 permanent market, 03 markets in the villages of the commune and shops in the districts. Bouaflé is an area of high food production that supplies the markets of the major cities, notably Abidjan and Bouaké.

-Forestry: As a forestry area, Bouaflé attracts many forestry and agricultural operators.

-Transport: A crossroads town, Bouaflé is linked to other towns by several transport companies, including the Union of Transporters of Bouaké (Union des Transporteurs de Bouaké, UTB).

**Source : <https://cotedivoirenews.info/cote-divoire-la-commune-de-bouafle-et-ses-nombreux-atouts/>**

---

# **Monograph of Bouaflé, a department with enormous economic, social and cultural potential.**

Bouaflé - Capital of the Marahoué region, Bouaflé, a crossroads town, is an important component of the department of the same name in terms of its enormous economic, social and cultural potential.

## **Geographical location**

The department of Bouaflé is located in the centre-west of Côte d'Ivoire, 306 km from Abidjan, the economic capital and 59 km from Yamoussoukro, the political and administrative capital. It covers an area of 4,214.5 km<sup>2</sup> and is bordered to the north by the departments of Zuénoula, Béoumi and Sakassou, to the south by the department of Sinfra, to the east by the department of Tiébissou and the district of Yamoussoukro, and to the west by the departments of Daloa and Issia.

## **Population**

Its population is 366,245, according to the official figures of the latest General Census of Population and Housing (RGPH) published by the National Institute of Statistics (INS). It is essentially composed of Gouro, Ayahou, Yowlè and Malinké.

## **The divisions**

The department of Bouaflé comprises five functional sub-prefectures, namely Bouaflé, Bonon, Zagueta, Pakouabo and Tibéita and two other sub-prefectures in the pipeline, namely Gbegbessou and N'douffoukankro. It has two communes including Bouaflé and Bonon.

## **Vegetation and economic activities**

The landscape of the department of Bouaflé is characterised by savannah trees and dense forest with four seasons: a long dry season, a long rainy season, a short dry season and a short rainy season. The department is watered by the Bandama and Lake Kossou.

This vegetation makes Bouaflé an essentially agricultural region with a production of 46,803 tonnes of cocoa in 2014, 912 tonnes of coffee, 1090.7 tonnes of cotton and 10212.79 tonnes of food products.

Industrial activity is strongly marked by the Société de limonaderies et brasseries d'Afrique (SOLIBRA) factory.

### **Basic infrastructure**

According to data from the National Centre for Remote Sensing and Geographic Information (CNTIG), the department of Bouaflé has 123 km of paved roads, 86 km of unpaved roads and 1,034 km of rural tracks.

In terms of education, it has 27 secondary schools, seven of which are public and 20 private, 377 primary schools, 363 of which are public and 14 private, as well as two vocational training centres, namely the Evangelical Vocational Training Centre and the Ivorian-Japanese Institute (IPIG). The department has 31 health facilities, including a regional hospital (CHR). There is also a training school for forest police officers.

### **Tourist assets**

Bouaflé remains a tourist destination with 28 hotels, a national park, a dam, Mount Lotenzia, the rocks of Bonon and the famous Zaouli dance enjoyed by the late President Félix Houphouët Boigny.

Its proximity to Yamoussoukro and its new bridge which will be inaugurated on Thursday by the Head of State, Alassane Ouattara, are factors that contribute to its economic development. The new Bouaflé bridge will increase the fluidity of

road traffic between Yamoussoukro and Daloa, and improve the movement of people and goods whose security will be guaranteed by two police stations in Bouaflé and Bonon and three gendarmerie brigades.

Asked about the benefits of the construction of this bridge, the president of the Regional Council, Aby Richmond, said the work will boost the economy of the department with the presence of several travelers leaving for the north, northwest and south of Côte d'Ivoire.

"The restaurants, hotels, 'maquis' will work and Bouaflé will again become the preferred destination for travel," he said, explaining that trucks that had taken another destination because of the dilapidation of the old bridge will now pass through Bouaflé.

The work on the new bridge was launched in September 2012 by the President of the Republic, Alassane Ouattara. The cost of the work is estimated at about nine billion CFA francs and its inauguration is scheduled for 15 January next.

Monograph by Zagadou Alain, head of the regional office of AIP (Agence Ivoirienne de Presse, Ivorian Press Agency) in Bouaflé.

**Source : <https://news.abidjan.net/articles/520412/monographie-de-bouafle-un-departement-aux-enormes-potentialites-economiques-sociales-et-culturelles>**

---

## **Presentation of the Marahoué Region**



**The Zaouli mask, a cultural icon of the Marahoué Region and an internationally renowned national dance**

### **Geographical location**

The Marahoué region is located in the centre-west of Côte d'Ivoire. It is bordered to the north by the Béré region, to the south by the Gôh region, to the east by the Gbêkê and Béliér regions and to the west by the Haut-Sassandra region.

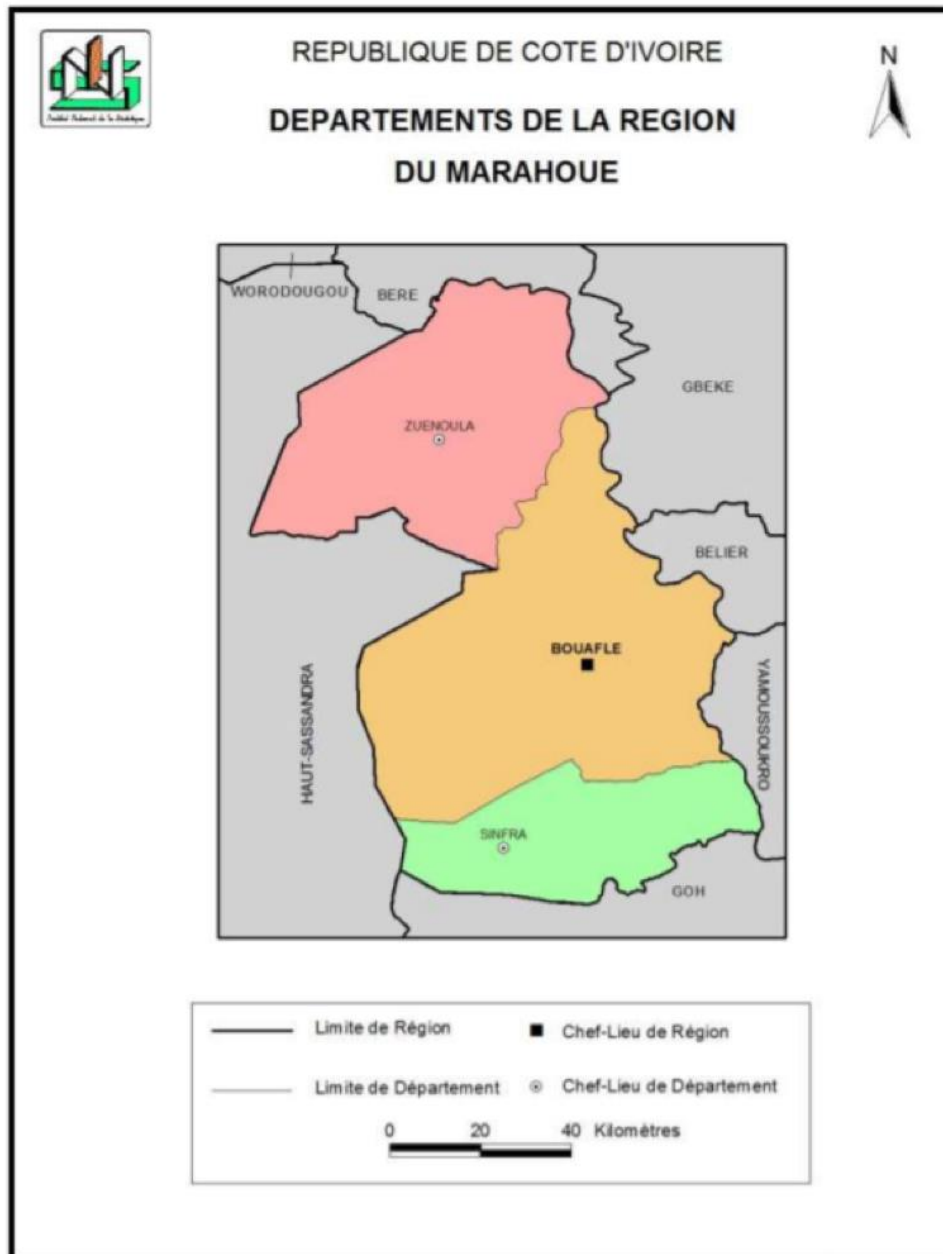
It straddles the forest zone and the savannah zone. The area of the region is 9,092.48 km<sup>2</sup>, of which 4,222.48 km<sup>2</sup> is in the department of Bouaflé, 3,252 km<sup>2</sup> in the department of Zuénoula and 1,618 km<sup>2</sup> in the department of Sinfra.



The relief is relatively flat. It is composed of low plateaus with some shallows and hills with an average altitude of 260 metres. The soil is ferralitic with high rainfall; it is hydromorphic on the banks of the Bandama and Marahoué rivers.

The climate is Baoulean and characterised by two major seasons alternated by two minor ones: a long dry season (from December to the end of February), a long rainy season (from March to June), a short dry season (from July to August) and a short rainy season (from September to November).

The average annual rainfall is between 1800 and 2000 mm and the average annual temperature 25, 30°Celsius. The region is drained by the red Bandama and Marahoué rivers and the Baha, Ouréné, Bôlè, Zabré, Bouré and Dromonyi.



**Source : RGPH 2014 Côte d'Ivoire**

A transitional zone, the Marahoué region is divided between the dense forest to the south and west and the wooded savannah to the north and east. The dominant species are Iroko, Samba, Fraké and Fromager in the forest area. The savannah area is dominated by reeds and roasted trees.

### **Demographic situation**

According to the 2014 General Census of Population and Housing (RGPH), the population of the region is estimated at 862,344 inhabitants, of which 409,683 are in the department of Bouaflé, 238,015 in the department of Sinfra and 214,646 in the department of Zuénoula. The average density is 94.57 inhabitants per square kilometre.

Several ethnic groups inhabit the Marahoué region. In addition to the indigenous Gouros (who are in the majority), Baoulés and Yowlê, there is a large community of Burkinabe origin in the region. Indeed, the region is full of several Burkinabé villages settled during the colonisation.

### **Administrative organisation**

The region is composed of three (03) departments:

- Bouaflé (the capital is 60 km from Yamoussoukro, the political and administrative capital and 310 km from Abidjan, the economic capital);
- Zuénoula;
- Sinfra.

It has five (05) communes (Bouaflé; Bonon; Sinfra; Zuénoula; Gohitafla) and 18 sub-prefectures (Bouaflé: 07; Sinfra: 04; Zuénoula: 07).

### **Economic aspects**

The economic potential of the region is as follows

#### **Mining resources**

The villages of Zagouta, Zégata, Zougoussou, Angovia and Alékran are rich in gold potential. Artisanal gold mining is practised all along the Bandama Blanc in

the southern part of the Bouaflé department. Modern gold mining is carried out by two companies in the department of Bouaflé.

### **Agriculture and livestock**

The cash crops grown are coffee, cocoa and sugar cane. Coffee and cocoa are grown in the southern part of the region and in some gallery forests in the north. The Marahoué region is known for the production of food crops. Several cooperatives have been established for this purpose. The food crops grown in the locality are: plantain, yam, maize, rice and cassava (rice 53,320 tonnes per year, banana 8,338 tonnes per year, cassava 27,456 tonnes per year)[1].

In addition to these, market gardening appears to be more profitable than cash crops. Chickens, cattle and goats were already being raised in the region, but since the installation of the SOLIBRA factory, pig rearing has developed thanks to the maize residues used to make beer. Fishing is practiced mainly on Lake Kossou and the Marahoué.

### **Industry**

Industrial activities in the Marahoué region are essentially marked by the agri-food sector. The Company of Lemonades and Breweries in Africa (Société de limonaderies et brasseries d'Afrique, SOLIBRA), the African Cocoa Society (Société africaine de cacao, SACO) and the Integrated Farm Unit (Unité Agricole Intégrée, UAI) de SUCRIVOIRE (Sugar from Côte d'Ivoire) de Zuénoula are all present.

### **Social aspects**

The cultural heritage is rich. Various handicrafts remain a secondary activity in the Marahoué region. But the products are of remarkable quality (masks, traditional loincloths, traditional chairs, etc.).

It should also be noted that :

- the existence of numerous tourist opportunities (sites, Marahoué National Park of about 100,000 ha, the weavers of Bazré, the sacred stones of Gohitafla, the confluence of Bozi, political will and proximity to major centres);
  - the existence of several musical rhythms, traditional dances and modes of dress in the Marahoué region (see Tables 3, 4 and 5);
  - cultural activities: the Festival of Arts and Cultures of Marahoué (FACMA) etc.
- 

Sources :

[www.ins.ci](http://www.ins.ci)

<http://www.dgddl.interieur.gouv.ci/monographie/regions>

[1] Data collected from the Marahoué Regional Council website

Photo credit : DR/ [Le Baobab N’Gourmantché](#)

**Source of the publication : <https://ivoirepolitique.org/presentation-de-marahoue/>**