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MIGRATION TRENDS IN AFRICA

ABSTRACT: The article reveals the most popular migration routes of the African continent, and Europe's share from the migration wave. It examines the five regions of the continent, their push and pull factors, and the movement dynamics between them, with paying a special attention to Libya, and its important role in the recent crisis.

KEYWORDS: Migration trends, Africa, Libya, South-Africa, intracontinental migration

In recent years the European Union had to face an unprecedented wave of migration, which staggered the organisation in its foundations. Especially the southern states experienced a demanding situation, because the Mediterranean Sea is not an irreconcilable obstacle between Africa and Europe, and closing it is impossible.

Most migrants are coming through the non-existing Libyan state to the Italian shores in the first place. Most of these people however started the journey from a different country.¹

The European migration crisis, regarding the figures, shrinks into insignificance besides the migration in Africa, where not only the interstate but the inside state migration is at large scale. Although the African countries are less developed and more instable than the European ones most of them must handle migrants up to million people.

How are these routes leading through on the conflict rich continent to the target countries? Are there clear patterns to draw the directions of the intra continental migration? Which are the push factors of these movements? Is Europe a dominant destination from every region of Africa, or the stable South African countries are also experiencing a migration crisis? This article seeks the answer to these questions.

THE PUSH FACTORS

To define the directions of African migration we must analyse those circumstances which have an impact on the process. Because these push factors have distinctive characteristics we will introduce them in groups starting with the most unimpressable factor.

In the environmental factor Africa is struggling with a large variety of problems. The climate change is an important indicator on the continent, especially in the Sahel region, which is largely affected by desertification. Severe droughts are also common in the area which makes it even more difficult to the countries mostly depending on agriculture to support their population. The upkeep of the farming in these countries indicates additional problems, since over-fertilization leads to the decrease of the productivity of the soil accelerating the process of soil erosion.²

¹ Molnár, A. "Menekült- és migrációs kérdés Olaszországban" ("Refugee and Migratory Discourse in Italy"). *Nemzet és Biztonság* 8/3. 2015. 3–16. http://www.nemzetesbiztonsag.hu/cikkek/nb_2015_3_03_molnar_anna_-_menekult_es_migracios_kerdes_olaszorszagban.pdf, Accessed on 01 May 2017.

² Kerekes, S. *A környezetgazdaságtan alapjai*. Budapest: Aula Kiadó, 1998. <http://mek.oszk.hu/01400/01452/>, Accessed on 06 May 2017.

Besides desertification water shortage is also an important problem which is the consequence of climate change, droughts, and dam constructions on the existing water bodies, but irrigation is also affecting it. The most vulnerable water bodies are Lake Chad and the River Nile, of which the first one has shrunk seriously during the past decades and come to the edge of drying out entirely³ and on the second one Ethiopia is building a dam despite the opposition of Sudan and Egypt, since the dam will affect the rate of flow on the lower reaches of the Nile dramatically endangering the food security in the area.⁴

We have to think about the economic sector in close connection with the environmental factors because, as we have seen, the two factors are interrelated. The most affected agriculture provides jobs for even fewer people on the continent which alone is a severe push factor for the African population. Besides this we must mention the human responsibility as well since the overfishing of coastal waters is also an existing problem.

Retaining qualified workforce is also difficult in the underdeveloped African countries.⁵

Despite these hardships, environmental factors could be pull factors as well. Africa is full of mineral resources, as we can find raw material needed for the 21st century technologies besides the fossil energy sources, precious metal and precious gemstones on the continent. Mining and refining these mineral resources means considerable number of jobs in the countries.⁶

The economic factor is also affected by demography. In Africa, the dynamic growth of the population and the demand of feeding large families are the most important in this aspect. The rapidly growing young and mostly uneducated population of Africa needs more and more jobs on the continent, which only exists in the more developed countries. The lack of work in the poorer countries will be a push factor and the developed countries of Africa will evolve to target countries on the continent.

The above introduced interrelated factors have connection also to the political factor. Since more than half of the African countries can be found somewhere in the last 40 places of the Fragile State Index,⁷ almost every country on the most vulnerable continent suffers from some kind of political instability. There are dictatorships, instable democracies, oppressive regimes represented, but non-state actors are also active on the continent. These are mostly radical groups which are either regional or just country specific. Therefore, the political factor can also be a push factor for the population.

There are multiple wars, limited wars or other low-intensity conflicts in Africa which can all be connected to the above mentioned interrelated factors with the flavour of the

³ Biedermann, Zs. "Migráció Szubzaharai Afrikából Magyarországra és Európába" ("Migration from the Sub-Saharan Africa to Hungary and Europe"). 6. http://old.mta.hu/data/cikk/13/70/8/cikk_137008/_Biedermann.pdf, Accessed on 06 November 2016.

⁴ Conniff, R. "The Vanishing Nile: A Great River Faces a Multitude of Threats". Yale Environment 360. <http://e360.yale.edu/features/vanishing-nile-a-great-river-faces-a-multitude-of-threats-egypt-dam>, Accessed on 06 May 2017.

⁵ Tarrósy, I. "Afrikai migránsok a fejlett világban és Magyarországon: migrációs trendek, integráció, tapasztalatok" ("African Migrants in the Developed World and in Hungary"). *OKRI Szemle* 2. 2012. 111–112. http://www.okri.hu/images/stories/OKRISzemle2009/OKRISzemle_2011/009_tarrosy.pdf, Accessed on 29 February 2016.

⁶ "Mixed Migration: Libya at the Crossroads. Mapping of Migration Routes and Drivers of Migration in Post-revolution Libya." Altai Consulting and UNHCR. 72. <http://www.refworld.org/pdfid/52b43f594.pdf>, Accessed on: 27 February 2016.

⁷ "Fragile State Index 2016". 6–7. <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/fragilestatesindex-2016.pdf>, Accessed on 06 May 2017.

ethnic and religious heterogeneity of the continent.⁸ Because of this the countries in which only low-intensity conflicts exist will be desired target countries for the population of a more severely affected country.

THE PRINCIPLES OF MIGRATION ANALYSIS

To make the understanding of the complex migratory processes easier some principles are needed. It is necessary because both the push and pull factors affect the population of all countries in diverse ways, generating minor or major migration.

In the case of Africa, where all the states have difficulties, we have to study the regional complexes to be able to draw the migration patterns within the continent. In this article, the regions will be defined in accordance with the UN regions and by the membership of different international organizations. The countries which are in the same region, however, can be even more interrelated than just connected by supranational organisations. Being in the same region sometimes means the same problems which can be related to the geographical location or to the regionally active radical groups.

According to this, the Maghreb, West Africa, East Africa, Central Africa and South Africa will be examined separately. In addition, the inter-regional migration will be studied closely in the section of the region of origin. In order to keep the article in a reasonable length only the most significant conflicts of the regions will be highlighted.

MIGRATION TRENDS IN THE MAGHREB

The North African countries do not form a monolithic bloc by means of international organisations. The Arab Maghreb Union has only five members of the seven countries, which are Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia.⁹ The remaining two countries are Egypt and Western-Sahara.

The intra-regional migration is heavily affected by the ethnicity in Northern Africa. The population of Arab or Berber origins prefers target countries with similar descendants. Consequently, the greatest amount of migration occurs among the Maghreb countries and just a little slice of it goes to the more developed South African region.¹⁰

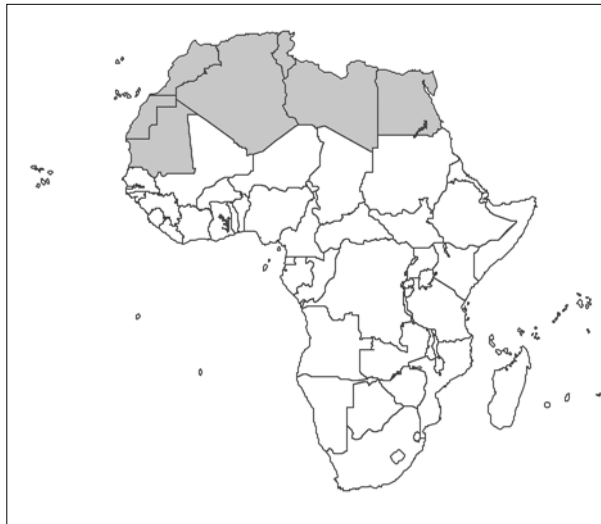


Figure 1. *Maghreb countries* (Edited by the author)

⁸ "Conflict Barometer 2015". 9–14. https://www.hiik.de/en/konfliktbarometer/pdf/ConflictBarometer_2015.pdf, Accessed on 04 April 2017.

⁹ "Arab Maghreb Union". <http://www.maghrebarabe.org/en/>, Accessed on 26 June 2017.

¹⁰ "Middle East and North Africa". <https://www.iom.int/middle-east-and-north-africa>, Accessed on 06 May 2017.

The population of the Maghreb countries mainly chooses the countries in the region if it comes to migration, but Libyans and Egyptians are not that picky, they can be found in the Sub-Saharan region, in Gabon, or Central Africa. Besides this, migrants originated from the region are also largely represented in the Republic of South Africa, and Namibia.¹¹ The two above mentioned countries can only be desirable destinations because of their economy.

The region's closeness to Europe, and the historical ties define fundamentally the direction of the intercontinental migration. The busiest route leads to Europe from the western Maghreb countries, but the eastern bloc, especially Egypt, prefers the Middle Eastern target countries.

The intra-regional migratory movements are fuelled by the effects of the climate change, by the events of the 2011 Arab spring and its aftermath but the presence of the different radical groups, like the AQIM,¹² are also representing an impact. Besides these we must include economic migration. The phenomenon affects mainly the youngest employee group, the 18-25 years old, and is caused by the saturated labour market.¹³

Accordingly, the Maghreb region is not remarkable as a region of origin, but it is a desired destination for the Sub-Saharan population, especially to economic migrants who are choosing these states for bigger salaries.¹⁴

THE SPECIAL CASE OF LIBYA

Until 2011 Libya was a popular target country of African economic migration because the 1998 labour force policy of the Gaddafi regime opened the country for the Sub-Saharan labourers. When the dictator fell, almost 2 million migrants of Sub-Saharan origin worked in the country's construction or petroleum refining sector.¹⁵

The Arab spring and the following fights however changed Libya's role in migration. Qaddafi's policy and his idea of pan-Africanism planted racism into Libyan Arab population, which deepened in the society during the fights of 2011, when tribalism started to strengthen again.¹⁶ The emerging hostile environment and the non-existing legal regulations on refugees had their impacts on migration, and instead of staying in Libya the asylum seekers started to use it as a transit country to Europe,¹⁷ to which role the state is more than perfect with its 1,700 km long Mediterranean coastline.¹⁸

¹¹ "Global Migration Flows". <https://www.iom.int/countries/algeria>, Accessed on 06 May 2017.

¹² al-Qaeda in Maghreb.

¹³ "2015 Situation Report on International Migration: Migration, Displacement and Development in a Changing Arab Region". UN, IOM. 16–18. https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/sit_rep_en.pdf, Accessed on 06 May 2017.

¹⁴ Búr G. and Tarrósy I. "Az afrikai vándorlás hátteréről és jellemzőiről". In Tarrósy, I., Glied, V. and Keserű, D. (eds), *Új népvándorlás: migráció a 21. században Afrika és Európa között (New Migration, Migration in the 21st Century Between Africa and Europe)*. Pécs: IDResearch Kft, Publikon Kiadó, 2011. 108.

¹⁵ Biedermann. "Migráció Szubszaharai...". 3.

¹⁶ Marsai, V. "A migrációs diskurzus margójára III.: A líbiai válság az európai migráció tükrében" ("To the Margin of the Discours about Migration III.: The Crisis in Libya form European Perspective"). 2. http://netk.uni-nke.hu/uploads/media_items/svkk-elemzesek-2017-1-a-migracios-diskurzus-margojara-iii-a-lib.original.pdf, Accessed on 06 May 2017.

¹⁷ „Mixed Migration...”. 73.

¹⁸ "Libya." <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ly.html>, Accessed on 06 November 2016.

After these years, in 2017 Libya is still a warzone, and there is no sign of consolidation. All the political actors in the country accepted international help to fight against ISIL, which has a strong presence in the country, but rejected every initiative to suppress the migration flows, or to allow European countries to send migrants back to the country. There are multiple reasons for this oppression, including formerly mentioned racism, but also there is a financial and a public security aspect of it.¹⁹ The success of the ongoing European Union missions and operations in the area is in question under these conditions, since even if their goal, to train the Libyan coastguard is fulfilled, its effectiveness relating to migration still remains a concern.

THE MIGRATION TRENDS OF WEST AFRICA

The umbrella organisation of the region is the Economic Community of West African States²⁰ with 15 countries, Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo, including also Cape Verde.²¹ The most common problems in the region are extremely weak economy, political instability and overpopulation. The political instability does not only mean dictatorships, like in Gambia, but also the coups, and the questioning of the outcome of democratic elections, which can lead to an armed conflict. In addition, every



Figure 2. *West African countries (Edited by the author)*

country has its own burden, like the Casamance separatists in Senegal, Boko Haram in Nigeria and the wider region, and AQIM is also present. Because of the wide variety of conflicts, political unrests, and inter-ethnic violence, the internally displaced person (IDP) is a rather common phenomenon in these countries. Most of the people who seek refuge just go to the nearest safe place in order to make the return for themselves easier. Another aspect is the extreme poverty in the region which only allows the people to stay in the close vicinity of their country of origin, or even inside it. The figures of refugees and IDPs increase dramatically when a new armed conflict starts, like in 2012, when the Tuareg insurgency started in Mali, in eight months the number of refugees reached 400,000.²²

¹⁹ Marsai. "A migrációs...". 12.

²⁰ ECOWAS.

²¹ "What is the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)?" ThoughtCo. <https://www.thoughtco.com/economic-community-west-african-states-ecowas-43900>, Accessed on 27 June 2017.

²² Irish, J. "U.N. members divided over response to Mali crisis". Reuters. 27 September 2012. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/09/27/us-un-assembly-mali-idUSBRE88Q02H20120927>, Accessed on 23 September 2013.

The biggest chunk of the African migration occurs in West Africa. Most migrants prefer to stay in the region and different regional agreements support this practice as well,²³ but there are traditional reasons too, like in Mali and Burkina Faso. Additionally, in the recent years, brain drain became also a widespread problem, mostly relating to Nigeria, where petroleum refining attracts qualified workforce from the entire continent.²⁴ Besides the constant pull factors, there are some temporary ones, when a labour-intensive sector, like coffee and cocoa producing in Ivory Coast during the '60s started to bloom and pull the migrants from the region.²⁵

The interregional movement occurs mainly towards the states in the Central African region, with which agreements make the flow of workforce between the regions easier. The most preferred target country in the region is Chad, which although started to have the symptoms of a dictatorship, still maintains a rather stable political system.²⁶

A considerable number of migrants from the region chooses one of the Maghreb states as well, where the biggest pull factor is the relatively large salary. Besides this an unqualified labourer can also find a job easily in the North African countries, and the region can be used as a stopover on the journey to Europe.²⁷

The West African region gives shelter to a significant amount of migrants from the Central African region, which movement is supported by the above mentioned international agreements.²⁸

THE MIGRATION TRENDS OF EAST AFRICA

East Africa is the most fragmented region of the continent. There is no single international organisation which covers all the countries in the region, however, there exist three different ones. Besides this, the UN state list for geographical regions does not include Sudan,²⁹ while two economic communities do.³⁰ In this case, because the economic and historical ties are strong, Sudan will be included in Eastern Africa. Accordingly, the following countries form the region: Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.³¹

The largest region of the continent, East Africa is also rich of conflicts, which makes it an ideal soil for migration. Here we can find the World's most fragile state, Somalia, and four more is in the last 20.³² The Somalian clan state is still not showing any sign of consolidation.

²³ "West and Central Africa". IOM. <https://www.iom.int/west-and-central-africa>, Accessed on 06 May 2017.

²⁴ "Nigeria". Central Intelligence Agency. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ni.html>, Accessed on 17 November 2016.

²⁵ "Cote d'Ivoire". Central Intelligence Agency. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/iv.html>, Accessed on 06 May 2017.

²⁶ "Chad". Central Intelligence Agency. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/cd.html>, Accessed on 06 May 2017.

²⁷ „Mixed Migration...”. 72.

²⁸ "West and Central Africa".

²⁹ "Geographic Regions". <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/m49/>, Accessed on 29 June 2017.

³⁰ "The Regional Economic Communities (RECs) of the African Union". United Nations. <http://www.un.org/en/africa/osaa/peace/recs.shtml>, Accessed on 27 June 2017.

³¹ "Geographic Regions".

³² "Fragile State Index 2016." 7.

Different militias fighting with the government and each other to gain autonomy or even independence, in addition, the radical Islamist group al-Shabaab is also active in the country.³³ Furthermore, we can find here the youngest country of the continent, South Sudan, which became independent from Sudan in 2011. The secession, however, did not solve the conflict between the two countries; on the contrary, it just deepened the problems, which caused a new wave of migration from the countries.³⁴



Figure 3. East African countries (Edited by the author)

The infamous country of the region, the military dictatorship of Eritrea, is also a major country of origin, because in comparison with its relatively small population, the number of migrants is high. The country experienced a 30 years long war with Ethiopia before it became independent in 1993, but the borderlines between the two countries are still unsettled. Besides this, to destabilize Ethiopia and keep the region instable, Eritrea uses proxies as well, among which al-Shabaab is the most infamous.³⁵

The situation is not friendlier in the south either. In Mozambique, after the 2014 elections led the country to the edge of a civil war, when opposition party RENAMO questioned the results and its militia started to fight against the winner FRELIMO's militia.³⁶

In addition to the internal conflict of the different countries, the region suffers from the presence of a variety of radical groups, like the Ugandan Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and Somalian al-Shabaab.

East African refugees typically flee to the closest countries, primarily to Ethiopia, Uganda and Kenya, where the number of the refugees was between 480,000 and 740,000 in 2015,³⁷ or to Chad in Central Africa, where the countries are maintain refugee camps for hundreds of thousands in need with the help of international organisations and NGOs. In these camps the South-Sudanese, Somalians and Eritreans are top nationalities represented.³⁸

³³ "Somalia". <https://www.crisisgroup.org/crisiswatch/may-2017#somalia>, Accessed on 06 May 2017.

³⁴ "South Sudan". Central Intelligence Agency. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/od.html>, Accessed on 17 November 2016.

³⁵ Marsai, V. and Hettyey, A. *Szomália: állami összeomlás és konszolidációs kísérletek Afrika szarván (Somalia: Crushing State and Consolidation Experiments on the Horn of Africa)*. Pécs: Publikon Kiadó, 2013. 150–151.

³⁶ "Mozambique profile – Timeline". BBC. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-13890720>, Accessed on 07 May 2017.

³⁷ "Top 10 Refugee Hosting Countries in 2015". United Nations. <https://www.un.org/development/desa/publications/graphic/top-10-refugee-hosting-countries-in-2015>, Accessed on 07 May 2017.

³⁸ "Ethiopia overtakes Kenya as Africa's biggest refugee-hosting country". <http://www.unhcr.org/news/latest/2014/8/53f31ebd9/ethiopia-overtakes-kenya-africas-biggest-refugee-hosting-country.html>, Accessed on 07 May 2017.

The consolidated states, like Rwanda and Burundi experience large waves of the repatriating population.³⁹

East African labourers use three main routes, which are the Northern route via the Sahel countries, the Gulf or Aden route via the Horn of Africa, and the most popular is the Southern route to South Africa via Zambia.⁴⁰ The rapidly developing economies of the southern countries attract most of the region's labourers,⁴¹ so Zimbabwe is represented by half a million migrants in South Africa while Malawi by around 80,000.⁴² Besides this the traditional pastoral migration is present in the region, between Kenya and Tanzania.⁴³

The stable countries of the South African region and Gabon attract the qualified, young East African workers, whom the countries of origin with weak economy and underdeveloped technology cannot retain. After recognising the brain drain phenomenon, the East African states are trying to find regional solutions to keep knowledge and expertise in the area, to support the closing up of the weaker states.⁴⁴

In addition to the intra-regional migration, refugees from the neighbouring conflict zones can also be found in East Africa, especially from the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.⁴⁵

MIGRATION IN CENTRAL AFRICA

Identifying the region, we must use the UN list of geographic regions of Africa, which contains Angola, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Republic of the Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Sao Tome and Principe. In this case, there is also a regional organisation, the Economic Community of Central African States, which covers all the above-mentioned countries completed with Burundi and Rwanda. Despite the geostrategic cohesion of the region it suffers from a large variety of conflicts, including the presence of radical groups, oppressive regimes, and even climate change is taking its toll in the northern countries. These woes formed the region into a very active participant in migratory movements.

The most vulnerable countries of the region are the Central African Republic, Chad and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Central African Republic has been dealing with an inter-religious, inter-ethnic conflict for years now, with the real objective to gain control over the diamond mines of the country. This conflict forced one quarter of the population to flee.⁴⁶ Chad is suffering from climate change, since Lake Chad has shrunk significantly in the

³⁹ "East Africa and the Horn of Africa". IOM. <https://www.iom.int/east-africa-and-horn-africa.>, Accessed on 07 May 2017.

⁴⁰ Black, J., Dearden, K. and Montes, A. "Migrant deaths and disappearances worldwide: 2016 analysis". IOM Global Migration Data Analysis Centre. *GMDAC Data Briefing Series* 8. 2017. https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/gmdac_data_briefing_series_issue_8.pdf, Accessed on 06 May 2017.

⁴¹ "Southern Africa". IOM. <https://www.iom.int/southern-africa>, Accessed on 07 May 2017.

⁴² "Factsheet: Where do South Africa's international migrants come from?". <https://africacheck.org/factsheets/geography-migration/>, Accessed on 07 May 2017.

⁴³ "East Africa and the Horn of Africa".

⁴⁴ Tarrósy, I. "Afrikai migránsok a fejlett világban ...". 112.

⁴⁵ "Global Migration Flows".

⁴⁶ Ngoupana, P.-M. "Central African Republic's capital tense as ex-leader heads into exile". Reuters. 11 January 2014. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/01/11/us-centralafrican-idUSBREA0A01L20140111>, Accessed on 13 January 2014.

past decade. Moreover, the country is used by radical group Boko Haram as a safe haven and in addition the country's democracy is turning slowly into dictatorship. These factors are fuelling migration from the country,⁴⁷ but its figures are shrinking into insignificance besides the migration flows of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Central African country is trying to put an end to the decades of long inter-ethnic violence within its borders without success.⁴⁸

The usual pattern of migration is observable in this region as well. Those, who flee from a conflict stay in their country of origin as IDPs, or leave for a neighbouring country. This phenomenon allows Chad and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to be the main countries of origin and the most popular target countries as well, both hosted almost 400,000 refugees in 2015.⁴⁹ Besides the two Central African countries, the East African neighbours, like Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda, also have their share of refugees from the region.⁵⁰

The workforce migration is also at a large scale within the region, mainly because of the international cooperation and the agreements to prevent brain drain. Regarding economical migration, the most attractive countries in the region are Angola, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Guinea, because of their mineral resources and the connected industrial branches. These states receive migrants not only from the region itself, but from the whole continent. Regarding to the outward migration, West Africa is the most preferred region, because of Nigeria's immense labour market. East Africa takes the second place with another oil-rich state, South-Sudan, and South Africa is just the third on the place.⁵¹



Figure 4. *Central African countries (Edited by the author)*

MIGRATION IN SOUTH AFRICA

The countries of the region are members in multiple international organisations, which include East African and Central African states as well. Here we must apply the UN's perception, according to which the South African region consists of Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, the Republic of South Africa and Swaziland. These five countries form the most stable and secure region of the continent, coupled with strong economies. These factors make the region the most attractive to incoming migration, however the workforce flows are also immense among

⁴⁷ Biedermann. "Migráció...". 6.

⁴⁸ "Congo, Democratic Republic of The". <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/cg.html>, Accessed on 07 May 2017.

⁴⁹ "Top 10 Refugee Hosting Countries in 2015".

⁵⁰ "West and Central Africa".

⁵¹ "West and Central Africa".

the five countries.⁵² The incoming migration flows are mainly fuelled by economical reasons rather than fleeing from an armed conflict, but both types are represented in the region. The region of origin of these migration flows are primarily East Africa, followed by Central and West Africa, but we can find migrants from the Maghreb as well.⁵³ The most popular target country in the region is South Africa, which attracts a significant majority of the intra- and interregional migration with its rapidly growing economy. The country now deals with 2.4 million migrants.⁵⁴



Figure 5. *South African countries (Edited by the author)*

The outward migration from the region goes mainly to the dynamically developing East African counties, principally Zambia, or to Angola in the Central African region because of its mineral resources.⁵⁵

SUMMARY

The African internal migration is highly influenced by the different conflicts which produce hundreds of thousands of refugees who either stay in the country or just flee to one of the neighbouring states. Accordingly, they can be found mainly in the close vicinity of their country of origin and just a few of them will leave the continent. For example, the biggest refugee camps in Africa can be found in Chad, Ethiopia Kenya and Uganda. All of them are located near a conflict zone, or has a crisis in itself.

The traditions in Africa allow the pasturing tribes to maintain their migration even across country borders. The migration flows of the workforce are more interesting, because most of them remains close to the country of origin mostly choosing an area with similar ethnic groups and the same language. Besides this, both for the qualified and unqualified labourers the dynamically developing economies are serious pull factors within the region, or not. In Africa, this usually means the countries rich in mineral resources will become popular target countries. Accordingly, the Republic of South Africa, Zambia, Angola, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and Nigeria are the common target countries, in which we can recognise a significant South-South migration flow.

⁵² "Southern Africa."

⁵³ "Factsheet: How many international migrants are there in SA?". <https://africacheck.org/factsheets/data-migrants-numbers/>, Accessed on 07 May 2017.

⁵⁴ "Global Migration Flows".

⁵⁵ "Southern Africa".

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