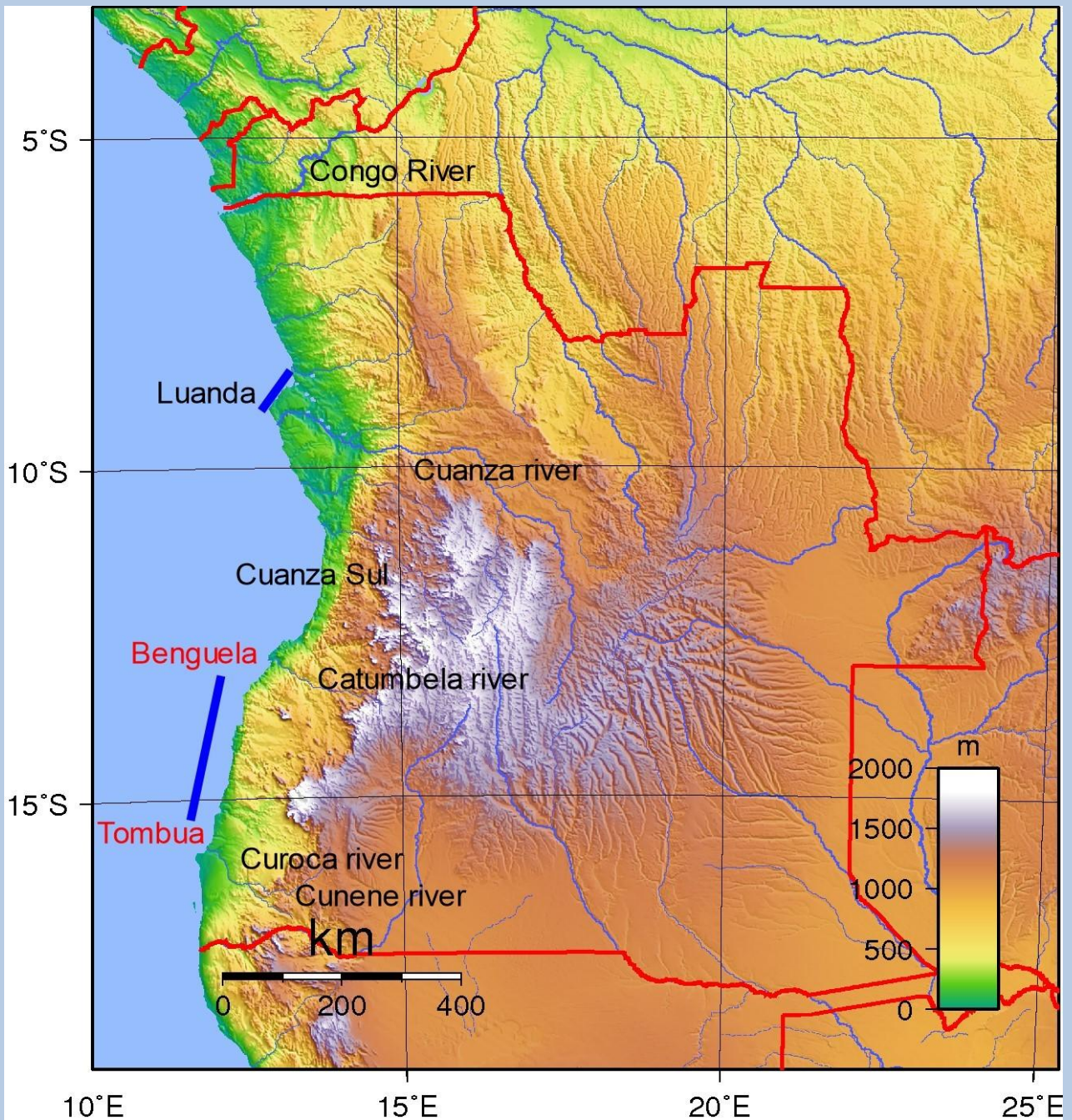


but having achieved independence and endured a civil war is now an oil rich state with a growing economy.

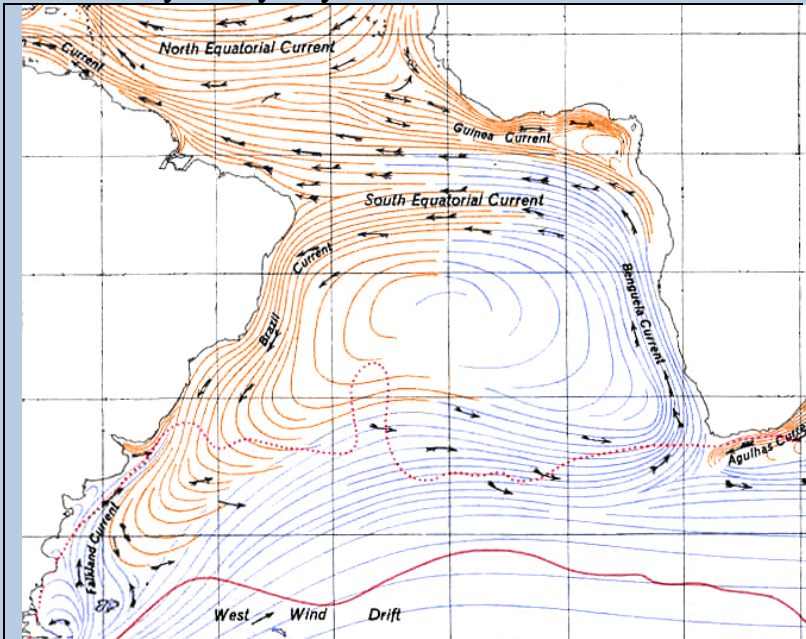
Its topography is dominated by a coastal range of mountains with desert conditions in the south and a greener subtropical climate in the north. The main rivers provide some natural boundaries and limit diversification; The Congo river at the northern border, the Cuanza river to the south of Luanda and the Curoca in the south.



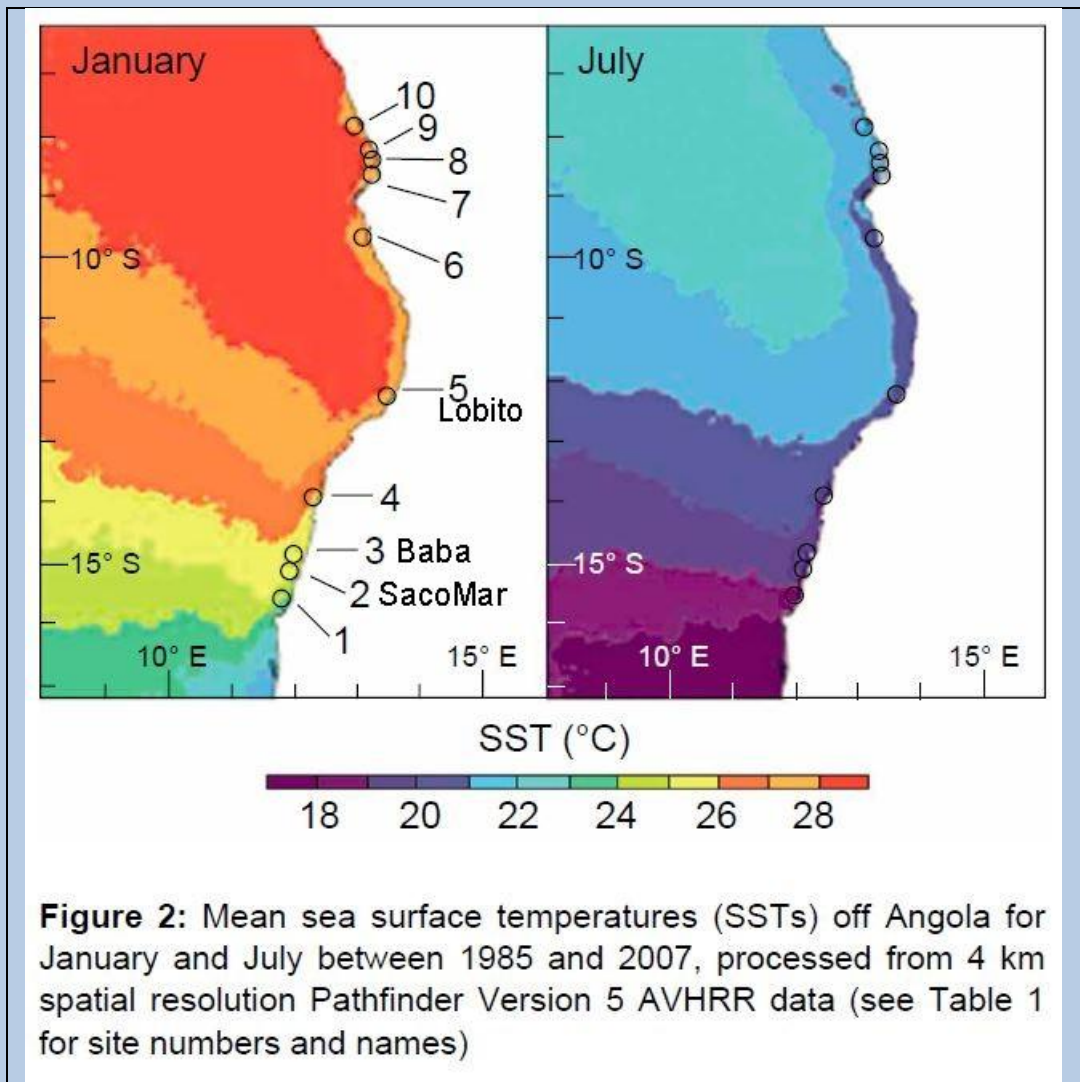
The coastal area comprises 5 different areas, each providing different opportunities for the cone collector. To the south of Tombua (previously Porto Alexandre) and in the central province of Cuanza Sul, specimens of Conidae are seldom reported.

From the northern border in Zaire province to Benguela province , four West African species:- *C. pulcher*, *C. genuanus*, *C ermineus* and *C. tabidus* are found.

In Luanda, two species of cone, *C.aemulus* and *C. xicoi* are found which are endemic to the area. In the south between Benguela and Tombwa, over 30 species of cones have been described, each endemic to the area and found in a limited number of the many rocky bays.



The strong Benguela current flows north from Namibia adding to the natural barriers of evolution. Salinity remains fairly constant along the coast but sea surface temperatures are 6-8°C lower in southern Namibe.





Two areas where the endemic cones are found will become familiar to the cone collector. The urban area around Luanda includes several localities often found on labels and is the distribution area for *C. aemulus* and for *C. xicoi*. With the high rate of urban growth these species will become rarer as the environmental impact of the growing industrialisation is felt.



In the south, the coastal regions of Benguela province and Namibe province are well known to collectors. The area ranges from Benguela town in the north through Bentiaba to Tombua in Namibe province. The coast is lined with many rocky bays with areas of sand and rocks which provide an ideal habitat for the many endemic species found in some of these bays.
