

## Equatorial Guinea



### Introduction Equatorial Guinea

**Background:** Equatorial Guinea gained independence in 1968 after 190 years of Spanish rule. This tiny country, composed of a mainland portion plus five inhabited islands, is one of the smallest on the African continent. President Teodoro OBIANG NGUEMA MBASOGO has ruled the country since 1979 when he seized power in a coup. Although nominally a constitutional democracy since 1991, the 1996 and 2002 presidential elections - as well as the 1999 and 2004 legislative elections - were widely seen as flawed. The president exerts almost total control over the political system and has discouraged political opposition. Equatorial Guinea has experienced rapid economic growth due to the discovery of large offshore oil reserves, and in the last decade has become Sub-Saharan Africa's third largest oil exporter. Despite the country's economic windfall from oil production resulting in a massive increase in government revenue in recent years, there have been few improvements in the population's living standards.

### Geography Equatorial Guinea

**Location:** Western Africa, bordering the Bight of Biafra, between Cameroon and Gabon

**Geographic coordinates:** 2 00 N, 10 00 E

**Map references:** Africa

**Area:** *total:* 28,051 sq km  
*land:* 28,051 sq km  
*water:* 0 sq km

**Area - comparative:** slightly smaller than Maryland

**Land boundaries:** *total:* 539 km  
*border countries:* Cameroon 189 km, Gabon 350 km

**Coastline:** 296 km

**Maritime claims:** *territorial sea:* 12 nm  
*exclusive economic zone:* 200 nm

**Climate:** tropical; always hot, humid

**Terrain:** coastal plains rise to interior hills; islands are volcanic

**Elevation extremes:** *lowest point:* Atlantic Ocean 0 m  
*highest point:* Pico Basile 3,008 m

**Natural resources:** petroleum, natural gas, timber, gold, bauxite, diamonds, tantalum, sand and gravel, clay

**Land use:** *arable land:* 4.63%  
*permanent crops:* 3.57%  
*other:* 91.8% (2005)

**Irrigated land:** NA

**Natural hazards:** violent windstorms, flash floods

**Environment - current issues:** tap water is not potable; deforestation

**Environment - international agreements:** *party to:* Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Endangered Species, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Ship Pollution  
*signed, but not ratified:* none of the selected agreements

**Geography - note:** insular and continental regions widely separated

**People**

**Equatorial Guinea**

**Population:** 540,109 (July 2006 est.)

<b>Age structure:</b>	<i>0-14 years: 41.7% (male 113,083/female 111,989) 15-64 years: 54.5% (male 141,914/female 152,645) 65 years and over: 3.8% (male 8,886/female 11,592) (2006 est.)</i>
<b>Median age:</b>	<i>total: 18.8 years male: 18.2 years female: 19.4 years (2006 est.)</i>
<b>Population growth rate:</b>	<i>2.05% (2006 est.)</i>
<b>Birth rate:</b>	<i>35.59 births/1,000 population (2006 est.)</i>
<b>Death rate:</b>	<i>15.06 deaths/1,000 population (2006 est.)</i>
<b>Net migration rate:</b>	<i>0 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2006 est.)</i>
<b>Sex ratio:</b>	<i>at birth: 1.03 male(s)/female under 15 years: 1.01 male(s)/female 15-64 years: 0.93 male(s)/female 65 years and over: 0.77 male(s)/female total population: 0.96 male(s)/female (2006 est.)</i>
<b>Infant mortality rate:</b>	<i>total: 89.21 deaths/1,000 live births male: 95.22 deaths/1,000 live births female: 83.02 deaths/1,000 live births (2006 est.)</i>
<b>Life expectancy at birth:</b>	<i>total population: 49.54 years male: 48 years female: 51.13 years (2006 est.)</i>
<b>Total fertility rate:</b>	<i>4.55 children born/woman (2006 est.)</i>
<b>HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:</b>	<i>3.4% (2001 est.)</i>
<b>HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:</b>	<i>5,900 (2001 est.)</i>
<b>HIV/AIDS - deaths:</b>	<i>370 (2001 est.)</i>
<b>Major infectious diseases:</b>	<i>degree of risk: very high food or waterborne diseases: bacterial diarrhea, hepatitis A, and typhoid fever vectorborne disease: malaria (2005)</i>
<b>Nationality:</b>	<i>noun: Equatorial Guinean(s) or Equatoguinean(s)</i>

*adjective:* Equatorial Guinean or Equatoguinean

**Ethnic groups:** Bioko (primarily Bubi, some Fernandinos), Rio Muni (primarily Fang), Europeans less than 1,000, mostly Spanish

**Religions:** nominally Christian and predominantly Roman Catholic, pagan practices

**Languages:** Spanish (official), French (official), pidgin English, Fang, Bubi, Ibo

**Literacy:** *definition:* age 15 and over can read and write  
*total population:* 85.7%  
*male:* 93.3%  
*female:* 78.4% (2003 est.)

Government	Equatorial Guinea
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**Country name:** *conventional long form:* Republic of Equatorial Guinea  
*conventional short form:* Equatorial Guinea  
*local long form:* Republica de Guinea Ecuatorial/Republique de Guinee equatoriale  
*local short form:* Guinea Ecuatorial/Guinee equatoriale  
*former:* Spanish Guinea

**Government type:** republic

**Capital:** *name:* Malabo  
*geographic coordinates:* 3 45 N, 8 47 E  
*time difference:* UTC+1 (6 hours ahead of Washington, DC during Standard Time)

**Administrative divisions:** 7 provinces (provincias, singular - provincia); Annobon, Bioko Norte, Bioko Sur, Centro Sur, Kie-Ntem, Litoral, Wele-Nzas

**Independence:** 12 October 1968 (from Spain)

**National holiday:** Independence Day, 12 October (1968)

**Constitution:** approved by national referendum 17 November 1991; amended January 1995

**Legal system:** partly based on Spanish civil law and tribal custom

**Suffrage:** 18 years of age; universal adult

**Executive branch:** *chief of state:* President Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Teodoro OBIANG NGUEMA MBASOGO (since 3 August 1979 when he seized power in a military coup)  
*head of government:* Prime Minister Ricardo Mangué Obama NFUBEA (since 14 August 2006); First Deputy

Prime Minister Marcelino Oyono NTUTUMU (since 15 June 2004)

*cabinet:* Council of Ministers appointed by the president

*elections:* president elected by popular vote for a seven-year term (no term limits); election last held 15 December 2002

(next to be held December 2009); prime minister and deputy prime ministers appointed by the president

*election results:* Teodoro OBIANG NGUEMA MBASOGO reelected president; percent of vote - Teodoro OBIANG NGUEMA MBASOGO 97.1%, Celestino Bonifacio BACALE 2.2%; elections marred by widespread fraud

**Legislative branch:** unicameral House of People's Representatives or Camara de Representantes del Pueblo (100 seats; members directly elected by popular vote to serve five-year terms)

*elections:* last held 25 April 2004 (next to be held in 2009)

*election results:* percent of vote by party - NA; seats by party - PDGE 98, CPDS 2

*note:* Parliament has little power since the constitution vests all executive authority in the president

**Judicial branch:** Supreme Tribunal

**Political parties and leaders:** Convergence Party for Social Democracy or CPDS [Placido MIKO Abogo]; Democratic Party for Equatorial Guinea or PDGE [Teodoro OBIANG NGUEMA MBASOGO] (ruling party); Party for Progress of Equatorial Guinea or PPGE [Severo MOTO]; Popular Action of Equatorial Guinea or APGE [Miguel Esono EMAN]; Popular Union or UP

**Political pressure groups and leaders:** NA

**International organization participation:** ACCT, ACP, AfDB, AU, BDEAC, CEMAC, FAO, FZ, G-77, IBRD, ICAO, ICRM, IDA, IFAD, IFC, IFRC, ILO, IMF, IMO, Interpol, IOC, ITU, MIGA, NAM, OAS (observer), OIF, OPCW, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNWTO, UPU, WHO, WIPO, WTO (observer)

**Diplomatic representation in the US:** *chief of mission:* Ambassador Purificacion ANGUE ONDO  
*chancery:* 2020 16th Street NW, Washington, DC 20009  
*telephone:* [1] (202) 518-5700  
*FAX:* [1] (202) 518-5252

**Diplomatic representation from the US:** *chief of mission:* Ambassador Donald C. JOHNSON  
*embassy:* adjacent to the golf course at the base of Mont Febe; note - relocated embassy is opened for limited functions; inquiries should continue to be directed to the US Embassy in Yaounde, Cameroon  
*mailing address:* B.P. 817, Yaounde, Cameroon; US

Embassy Yaounde, US Department of State, Washington,  
DC 20521-2520

telephone: [237] 220 15 00

FAX: [237] 220 16 20

**Flag description:** three equal horizontal bands of green (top), white, and red with a blue isosceles triangle based on the hoist side and the coat of arms centered in the white band; the coat of arms has six yellow six-pointed stars (representing the mainland and five offshore islands) above a gray shield bearing a silk-cotton tree and below which is a scroll with the motto UNIDAD, PAZ, JUSTICIA (Unity, Peace, Justice)

Economy	Equatorial Guinea
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**Economy - overview:** The discovery and exploitation of large oil reserves have contributed to dramatic economic growth in recent years. Forestry, farming, and fishing are also major components of GDP. Subsistence farming predominates. Although pre-independence Equatorial Guinea counted on cocoa production for hard currency earnings, the neglect of the rural economy under successive regimes has diminished potential for agriculture-led growth (the government has stated its intention to reinvest some oil revenue into agriculture). A number of aid programs sponsored by the World Bank and the IMF have been cut off since 1993, because of corruption and mismanagement. No longer eligible for concessional financing because of large oil revenues, the government has been trying to agree on a "shadow" fiscal management program with the World Bank and IMF. Businesses, for the most part, are owned by government officials and their family members. Undeveloped natural resources include titanium, iron ore, manganese, uranium, and alluvial gold. Growth remained strong in 2006, led by oil. Equatorial Guinea now has the third highest per capita income in the world, after Luxembourg and Bermuda.

**GDP (purchasing power parity):** \$25.69 billion (2005 est.)

**GDP (official exchange rate):** \$7.644 billion (2005 est.)

**GDP - real growth rate:** 18.6% (2005 est.)

**GDP - per capita (PPP):** \$50,200 (2005 est.)

**GDP - agriculture:** 2.8%

<b>composition by sector:</b>	<i>industry: 92.6%</i> <i>services: 4.5% (2006 est.)</i>
<b>Labor force:</b>	NA
<b>Unemployment rate:</b>	30% (1998 est.)
<b>Population below poverty line:</b>	NA%
<b>Household income or consumption by percentage share:</b>	<i>lowest 10%: NA%</i> <i>highest 10%: NA%</i>
<b>Inflation rate (consumer prices):</b>	5.2% (2006 est.)
<b>Investment (gross fixed):</b>	34.1% of GDP (2006 est.)
<b>Budget:</b>	<i>revenues: \$2.752 billion</i> <i>expenditures: \$1.424 billion; including capital expenditures of \$NA (2006 est.)</i>
<b>Public debt:</b>	4.7% of GDP (2006 est.)
<b>Agriculture - products:</b>	coffee, cocoa, rice, yams, cassava (tapioca), bananas, palm oil nuts; livestock; timber
<b>Industries:</b>	petroleum, fishing, sawmilling, natural gas
<b>Industrial production growth rate:</b>	30% (2002 est.)
<b>Electricity - production:</b>	26 million kWh (2004)
<b>Electricity - production by source:</b>	<i>fossil fuel: 94.3%</i> <i>hydro: 5.7%</i> <i>nuclear: 0%</i> <i>other: 0% (2001)</i>
<b>Electricity - consumption:</b>	24.18 million kWh (2004)
<b>Electricity - exports:</b>	0 kWh (2004)
<b>Electricity - imports:</b>	0 kWh (2004)
<b>Oil - production:</b>	420,000 bbl/day (2005 est.)

**Oil - consumption:** 1,220 bbl/day (2004 est.)

**Oil - exports:** NA bbl/day

**Oil - imports:** NA bbl/day

**Oil - proved reserves:** 563.5 million bbl (1 January 2002)

**Natural gas - production:** 100 million cu m (2004 est.)

**Natural gas - consumption:** 100 million cu m (2004 est.)

**Natural gas - exports:** 0 cu m (2004 est.)

**Natural gas - imports:** 0 cu m (2004 est.)

**Natural gas - proved reserves:** 36.81 billion cu m (1 January 2005 est.)

**Current account balance:** \$175 million (2006 est.)

**Exports:** \$8.961 billion f.o.b. (2006 est.)

**Exports - commodities:** petroleum, methanol, timber, cocoa

**Exports - partners:** US 24.6%, China 21.8%, Spain 10.9%, Canada 7.3%, Taiwan 7.2%, Portugal 5.5%, Netherlands 5.2%, Brazil 4.6%, France 4% (2005)

**Imports:** \$2.543 billion f.o.b. (2006 est.)

**Imports - commodities:** petroleum sector equipment, other equipment

**Imports - partners:** US 24.5%, Italy 20.5%, France 12.1%, Spain 10.8%, Cote d'Ivoire 8.6%, UK 6.9% (2005)

**Reserves of foreign exchange and gold:** \$3.235 billion (2006 est.)

**Debt - external:** \$289 million (2006 est.)

**Economic aid - recipient:** \$NA

**Currency (code):** Communauté Financière Africaine franc (XAF); note - responsible authority is the Bank of the Central African

States

**Currency code:** XAF

**Exchange rates:** Communaute Financiere Africaine francs (XAF) per US dollar - 522.594 (2006), 527.47 (2005), 528.29 (2004), 581.2 (2003), 696.99 (2002)

**Fiscal year:** calendar year

## Communications Equatorial Guinea

**Telephones - main lines in use:** 10,000 (2005)

**Telephones - mobile cellular:** 96,900 (2005)

**Telephone system:** *general assessment:* poor system with adequate government services  
*domestic:* NA  
*international:* country code - 240; international communications from Bata and Malabo to African and European countries; satellite earth station - 1 Intelsat (Indian Ocean)

**Radio broadcast stations:** AM 0, FM 3, shortwave 5 (2002)

**Radios:** 180,000 (1997)

**Television broadcast stations:** 1 (2002)

**Televisions:** 4,000 (1997)

**Internet country code:** .gq

**Internet hosts:** 19 (2006)

**Internet Service Providers (ISPs):** 1 (2002)

**Internet users:** 5,000 (2005)

## Transportation Equatorial Guinea

**Airports:** 4 (2006)

**Airports - total:** 3  
**with paved runways:** 2,438 to 3,047 m: 1  
1,524 to 2,437 m: 1  
under 914 m: 1 (2006)

**Airports - total:** 1  
**with unpaved runways:** under 914 m: 1 (2006)

**Pipelines:** condensate 46 km; condensate/gas 5 km; gas 47 km; oil 31 km (2006)

**Roadways:** total: 2,880 km (1999)

**Merchant marine:** total: 1 ship (1000 GRT or over) 1,745 GRT/3,434 DWT  
by type: cargo 1 (2006)

**Ports and terminals:** Malabo

<b>Military</b>	<b>Equatorial Guinea</b>
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**Military branches:** Army, Navy, Air Force (2005)

**Military service age and obligation:** 18 years of age (est.) (2004)

**Manpower available for military service:** males age 18-49: 104,563  
females age 18-49: 109,923 (2005 est.)

**Manpower fit for military service:** males age 18-49: 56,462  
females age 18-49: 59,260 (2005 est.)

**Military expenditures - dollar figure:** \$152.2 million (2005 est.)

**Military expenditures - percent of GDP:** 2.1% (2005 est.)

<b>Transnational Issues</b>	<b>Equatorial Guinea</b>
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**Disputes - international:** in 2002, ICJ ruled on an equidistance settlement of Cameroon-Equatorial Guinea-Nigeria maritime boundary in the Gulf of Guinea, but a dispute between Equatorial Guinea

and Cameroon over an island at the mouth of the Ntem River, imprecisely defined maritime coordinates in the ICJ decision, and the unresolved Bakasi allocation contribute to the delay in implementation; UN has been pressing Equatorial Guinea and Gabon to pledge to resolve the sovereignty dispute over Gabon-occupied Mbane Island and create a maritime boundary in the hydrocarbon-rich Corisco Bay

**Trafficking in persons:** *current situation:* Equatorial Guinea is a transit and destination country for women and children trafficked for forced labor, involuntary domestic servitude, and commercial sexual exploitation from surrounding countries - primarily Benin, Nigeria, Mali, and Cameroon; victims work in the agricultural and commercial sectors of Malabo and Bata, where demand is high due to a booming oil sector; children work as farmhands, street vendors, or household servants; girls and women are also trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation

*tier rating:* Tier 2 Watch List - Equatorial Guinea is placed on the Tier 2 Watch List for its failure to provide adequate evidence of concrete measures to address trafficking over the past year