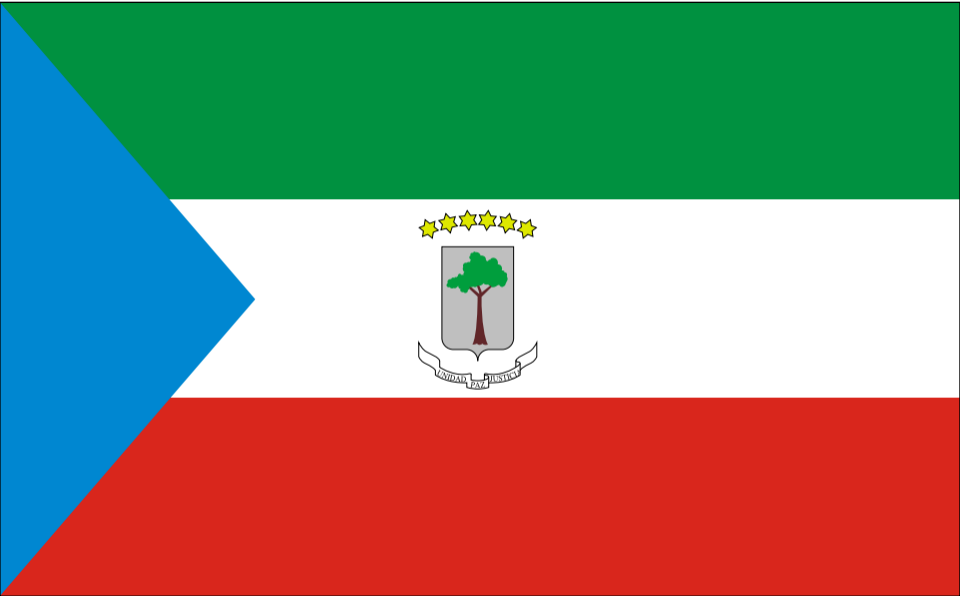




**EQUATORIAL GUINEA**  
**BROUGHT TO YOU**  
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## Introduction

## 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

Total renewable water resources: 26 cu km (2001)

Freshwater withdrawal *total*: 0.11 cu km/yr (83%/16%/1%)  
(domestic/industrial/agricultural): *per capita*: 220 cu m/yr (2000)

Natural hazards: violent windstorms, flash floods

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

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

Geography - note: insular and continental regions widely separated

People	Equatorial Guinea
Population:	616,459 (July 2008 est.)
Age structure:	<i>0-14 years</i> : 42% (male 131,696/female 127,253) <i>15-64 years</i> : 53.8% (male 162,458/female 169,445) <i>65 years and over</i> : 4.2% (male 11,394/female 14,213) (2008 est.)
Median age:	<i>total</i> : 18.9 years <i>male</i> : 18.3 years <i>female</i> : 19.5 years (2008 est.)
Population growth rate:	2.732% (2008 est.)
Birth rate:	37.04 births/1,000 population (2008 est.)
Death rate:	9.72 deaths/1,000 population (2008 est.)
Net migration rate:	NA
Sex ratio:	<i>at birth</i> : 1.03 male(s)/female <i>under 15 years</i> : 1.03 male(s)/female <i>15-64 years</i> : 0.96 male(s)/female <i>65 years and over</i> : 0.8 male(s)/female <i>total population</i> : 0.98 male(s)/female (2008 est.)

Infant mortality *total*: 83.75 deaths/1,000 live births  
rate: *male*: 84.85 deaths/1,000 live births  
*female*: 82.61 deaths/1,000 live births (2008 est.)

Life expectancy at *total population*: 61.23 years  
birth: *male*: 60.36 years  
*female*: 62.13 years (2008 est.)

Total fertility rate: 5.16 children born/woman (2008 est.)

HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate: 3.4% (2001 est.)

HIV/AIDS - 5,900 (2001 est.)  
people living with HIV/AIDS:

HIV/AIDS - 370 (2001 est.)  
deaths:

Major infectious diseases: *degree of risk*: very high  
*food or waterborne diseases*: bacterial and protozoal diarrhea, hepatitis A, and typhoid fever  
*vectorborne disease*: malaria (2008)

Nationality: *noun*: Equatorial Guinean(s) or Equatoguinean(s)  
*adjective*: Equatorial Guinean or Equatoguinean

Ethnic groups: Fang 85.7%, Bubi 6.5%, Mdowe 3.6%, Annobon 1.6%, Bujeba 1.1%, other 1.4% (1994 census)

Religions: nominally Christian and predominantly Roman Catholic, pagan practices

Languages: Spanish 67.6% (official), other 32.4% (includes French (official), Fang, Bubi) (1994 census)

Literacy: *definition*: age 15 and over can read and write  
*total population*: 87%  
*male*: 93.4%  
*female*: 80.5% (2000 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; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction

Suffrage: 18 years of age; universal

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 Ignacio Milan TANG (since 8 July 2008);  
*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 in 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 4 May 2008)  
*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 MICO Abogo]; Democratic Party for Equatorial Guinea or PDGE (ruling party) [Teodoro OBIANG NGUEMA MBASOGO]; Party for Progress of Equatorial Guinea or PPGE [Severo MOTO]; Popular Action of Equatorial Guinea or APGE [Avelino MOCACHE]; Popular Union or UP

Political pressure ASODEGUE (Madrid-based pressure group for democratic reform); Global  
groups and Witness (anti-corruption)  
leaders:

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

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

Diplomatic *chief of mission:* Ambassador Donald C. JOHNSON  
representation *embassy:* adjacent to the golf course at the base of Mont Febe; note -  
from the US: 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**

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. Government officials and their family members own most businesses. Undeveloped natural resources include titanium, iron ore, manganese, uranium, and alluvial gold. Growth remained strong in 2007, led by oil.

GDP (purchasing power parity): \$15.54 billion (2007 est.)

GDP (official exchange rate): \$10.49 billion (2007 est.)

GDP - real growth rate: 12.4% (2007 est.)

GDP - per capita (PPP): \$28,200 (2007 est.)

GDP - composition by sector: *agriculture: 2.9%*  
*industry: 92.2%*  
*services: 4.8%* (2007 est.)

Labor force: NA

Unemployment rate: 30% (1998 est.)

Population below poverty line: NA%

Household income or consumption by percentage share: *lowest 10%: NA%*  
*highest 10%: NA%*

Inflation rate (consumer prices): 4.6% (2007 est.)

Investment (gross fixed): 38% of GDP (2007 est.)

Budget: *revenues*: \$4.963 billion  
*expenditures*: \$2.494 billion (2007 est.)

Public debt: 3.7% of GDP (2007 est.)

Agriculture - products: coffee, cocoa, rice, yams, cassava (tapioca), bananas, palm oil nuts; livestock; timber

Industries: petroleum, fishing, saw milling, natural gas

Industrial production growth rate: 10.1% (2007 est.)

Electricity - production: 28 million kWh (2005)

Electricity - consumption: 26.04 million kWh (2005)

Electricity - exports: 0 kWh (2005)

Electricity - imports: 0 kWh (2005)

Oil - production: 396,100 bbl/day (2005 est.)

Oil - consumption: 1,000 bbl/day (2005 est.)

Oil - exports: 371,700 bbl/day (2004)

Oil - imports: 1,026 bbl/day (2004)

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

Natural gas - production: 1.247 billion cu m (2005 est.)

Natural gas - consumption: 1.247 billion cu m (2005 est.)

Natural gas - exports: 0 cu m (2005 est.)

Natural gas - imports: 0 cu m (2005)

Natural gas - proved reserves: 35.31 billion cu m (1 January 2006 est.)

Current account \$188 million (2007 est.)  
balance:

Exports: \$9.915 billion f.o.b. (2007 est.)

Exports - petroleum, methanol, timber, cocoa  
commodities:

Exports - partners: China 22.4%, US 19.9%, Spain 13.4%, Taiwan 10.8%, France 7.3%, Japan 6.3%, Portugal 6.2% (2006)

Imports: \$3.098 billion f.o.b. (2007 est.)

Imports - petroleum sector equipment, other equipment  
commodities:

Imports - partners: US 18.2%, Spain 12.7%, Cote d'Ivoire 11%, France 8.9%, South Korea 8.5%, China 7.1%, Italy 6.1%, UK 6% (2006)

Economic aid - \$39 million (2005)  
recipient:

Reserves of \$3.837 billion (31 December 2007 est.)  
foreign exchange  
and gold:

Debt - external: \$341 million (31 December 2007 est.)

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

Exchange rates: Communauté Financière Africaine francs (XAF) per US dollar - 481.83 (2007), 522.4 (2006), 527.47 (2005), 528.29 (2004), 581.2 (2003)

Fiscal year: calendar year

## Communications Equatorial Guinea

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

Telephones - 220,000 (2007)  
mobile cellular:

Telephone *general assessment*: digital fixed-line network in most major urban areas  
system: and good mobile coverage  
*domestic*: fixed-line density is about 2 per 100 persons; mobile-cellular  
subscribership has been increasing and in 2005 stood at about 20 percent of  
the population  
*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 (2001)

Television broadcast stations: 1 (2001)

Internet country code: .gq

Internet hosts: 81 (2007)

Internet users: 8,000 (2006)

Transportation	Equatorial Guinea
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Airports: 5 (2007)

Airports - with paved runways: *total: 5*  
2,438 to 3,047 m: 1  
1,524 to 2,437 m: 1  
914 to 1,523 m: 1  
under 914 m: 2 (2007)

Pipelines: condensate 42 km; condensate/gas 5 km; gas 80 km; oil 54 km (2007)

Roadways: *total: 2,880 km* (2000)

Merchant marine: *total: 1 ship (1000 GRT or over) 1,745 GRT/3,434 DWT*  
*by type: cargo 1* (2008)

Ports and terminals: Bata, Malabo

Military	Equatorial Guinea
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Military branches: National Guard (Guardia Nacional (Army), with Coast Guard (Navy) and Air Wing) (2008)

Military service age and obligation: 18 years of age (est.) for compulsory military service (2008)

Manpower available for military service: *males age 16-49: 136,725*  
*females age 16-49: 138,018* (2008 est.)

Manpower fit for military service: *males age 16-49: 101,712*  
*females age 16-49: 104,381* (2008 est.)

Military expenditures - percent of GDP: 0.1% (2006 est.)

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 and imprecisely defined maritime coordinates in the ICJ decision delay final delimitation; UN urges Equatorial Guinea and Gabon to resolve the sovereignty dispute over Gabon-occupied Mbane and lesser islands and to create a maritime boundary in the hydrocarbon-rich Corisco Bay

Trafficking in persons: *current situation:* Equatorial Guinea is primarily a destination country for children trafficked for the purpose of forced labor and possibly for the purpose of sexual exploitation; children have been trafficked from nearby countries for domestic servitude, market labor, ambulant vending, and possibly sexual exploitation; women may also be trafficked to Equatorial Guinea from Cameroon, Benin, other neighboring countries, and China for sexual exploitation  
*tier rating:* Tier 2 Watch List - Equatorial Guinea is on the Tier 2 Watch List for its failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to eliminate trafficking, particularly in the areas of prosecuting and convicting trafficking offenders and failing to formalize mechanisms to provide assistance to victims; although the government made some effort to enforce laws against child labor exploitation, it failed to report any trafficking prosecutions or convictions in 2007; the government continued to lack shelters or formal procedures for providing care to victims (2008)

**Information current as of 7 August, 2008**

**SOURCES: The CIA World Factbook**

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