



Equatorial Guinea



Background Equatorial Guinea consists of a continental territory and five inhabited islands; it is one of the smallest countries by area and population in Africa. The mainland region was most likely predominantly inhabited by Pygmy ethnic groups prior to the migration of various Bantu-speaking ethnic groups around the second millennium BC. The island of Bioko, the largest of Equatorial Guinea's five inhabited islands and the location of the country's capital of Malabo, has been occupied since at least 1000 B.C. In the early 1470s, Portuguese explorers landed on Bioko Island, and Portugal soon after established control of the island and other areas of modern Equatorial Guinea. In 1778, Portugal ceded its colonial hold over present-day Equatorial Guinea to Spain in the Treaty of El Pardo. The borders of modern-day Equatorial Guinea would evolve between 1778 and 1968 as the area remained under European colonial rule.

In 1968, Equatorial Guinea was granted independence from Spain and elected Francisco MACIAS NGUEMA as its first president. MACIAS consolidated power soon after his election and ruled brutally for over a decade. Under his regime, Equatorial Guinea experienced mass suppression, purges, and killings. Some estimates indicate that a third of the population either went into exile or was killed under MACIAS' rule. In 1979, present-day President OBIANG Nguema Mbasogo, then a senior military officer, deposed MACIAS in a violent coup. OBIANG has ruled since and has been elected in non-competitive contests several times, most recently in 2022. The president exerts near-total control over the political system.

Equatorial Guinea experienced rapid economic growth in the early years of the 21st century due to the discovery of large offshore oil reserves in 1996. Production peaked in 2004 and has declined since. The country's economic windfall from oil production resulted in massive increases in government revenue, a significant portion of which was earmarked for infrastructure development. Systemic corruption, however, has hindered socio-economic development, and the population has seen only limited improvements to living standards. Equatorial Guinea continues to seek to diversify its economy, increase foreign investment, and assume a greater role in regional and international affairs.

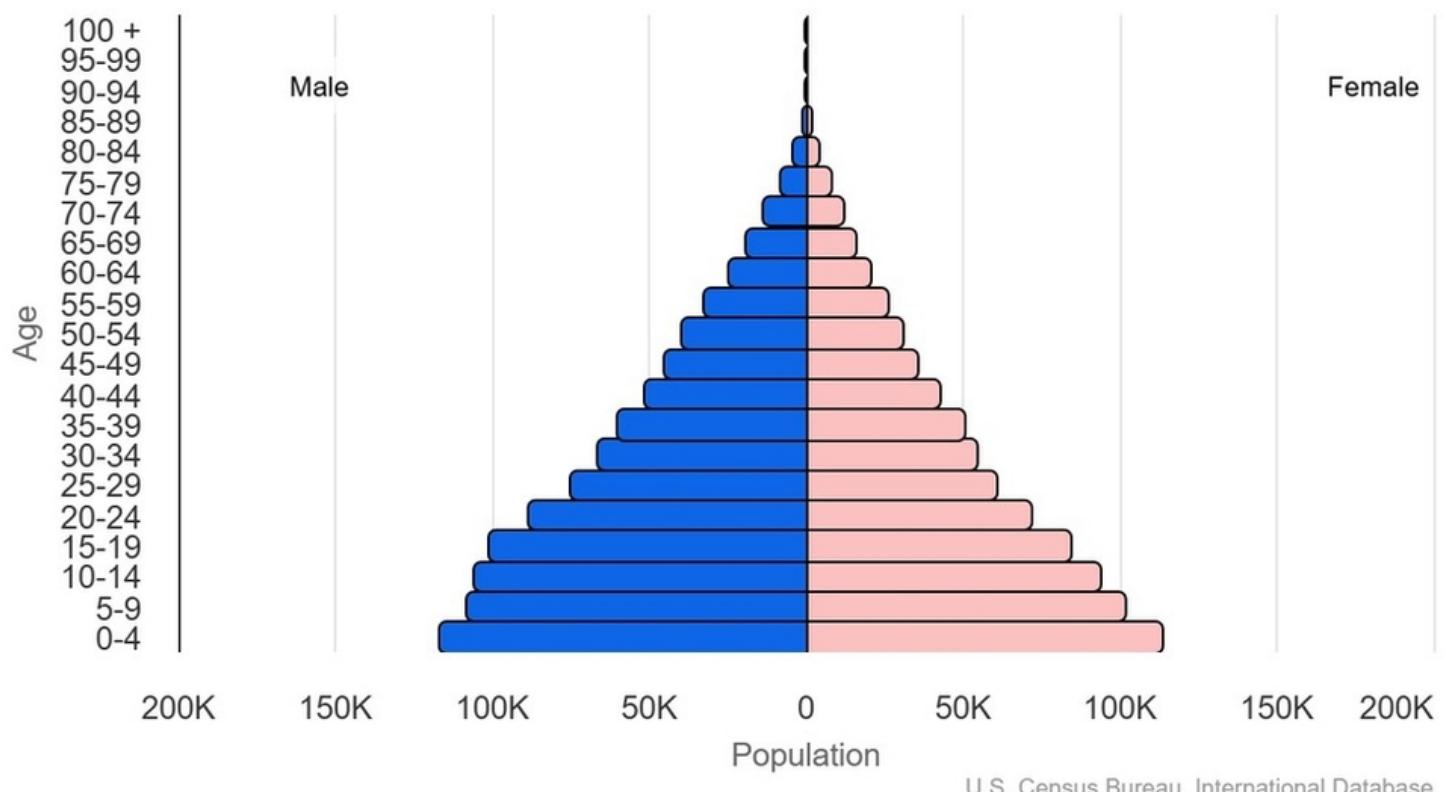
Capital name: Malabo; note - Malabo is on the island of Bioko; some months of the year, the government operates out of Bata on the mainland region.

Government type presidential republic

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

Climate	tropical; always hot, humid
Natural resources	petroleum, natural gas, timber, gold, bauxite, diamonds, tantalum, sand and gravel, clay
Population	total: 1,795,834 (2024 est.)
Population growth rate	3.23% (2024 est.)
Ethnic groups	Fang 78.1%, Bubi 9.4%, Ndowe 2.8%, Nanguedambo 2.7%, Bisio 0.9%, foreigner 5.3%, other 0.7%, unspecified 0.2% (2011 est.)
Religions	Roman Catholic 88%, Protestant 5%, Muslim 2%, other 5% (animist, Baha'i, Jewish) (2015 est.)
Languages	Spanish (official) 67.6%, other (includes Fang, Bubi, Portuguese (official), French (official), Fa d'Ambo spoken in Annobon) 32.4% (1994 est.)
Executive branch	chief of state: President OBIANG Nguema Mbasogo (since 3 August 1979) head of government: Prime Minister Manuel Osa Nsue Nsua (since 17 August 2024)
Legislative branch	legislature name: Parliament (Parlamento)
Diplomatic representation in the US	chief of mission: Ambassador Dr. Crisantos OBAMA ONDO (since 27 February 2024)
Diplomatic representation from the US	chief of mission: Ambassador David R. GILMOUR (since 24 May 2022)
Economic overview	growing CEMAC economy and new OPEC member; large oil and gas reserves; targeting economic diversification and poverty reduction; still recovering from CEMAC crisis; improving public financial management; persistent poverty; hard-hit by COVID-19
Real GDP (purchasing power parity)	\$29.248 billion (2024 est.) \$28.985 billion (2023 est.) \$30.539 billion (2022 est.)
Real GDP per capita	\$15,500 (2024 est.) \$15,700 (2023 est.) \$16,900 (2022 est.)
Exports	\$4.489 billion (2024 est.) \$4.516 billion (2023 est.) \$7.25 billion (2022 est.)
Exports - partners	China 27%, Netherlands 12%, Spain 10%, Italy 7%, Germany 6% (2023)
Exports - commodities	crude petroleum, natural gas, alcohols, wood, scrap iron (2023)
Imports	\$3.24 billion (2024 est.) \$3.065 billion (2023 est.) \$3.948 billion (2022 est.)
Imports - partners	China 20%, Spain 17%, USA 10%, Gabon 5%, UK 5% (2023)
Imports - commodities	ships, poultry, plastic products, beer, valves (2023)

Population Pyramid

Equatorial Guinea (2024)

U.S. Census Bureau, International Database