Country Profile

Equatorial Guinea

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Facts & Figures

Equatorial Guinea

A small country on the west coast of central Africa, Equatorial Guinea comprises the mainland territory of Río Muni (where most people live) and five volcanic islands. The largest island is Bioko on which the country's capital, Malabo, is located. After independence from Spain in 1968, Equatorial Guinea fell under the rule of Francisco Macías Nguema, who plunged the nation into ruin. He was overthrown and executed in 1979. President Obiang Nguema Mbasogo continues the dictatorship, and there is widespread civil unrest over flawed elections. New oil wealth masks stagnation in the rest of the economy and widespread poverty.

2012 Quick Facts:

Country Name: Républica de Guinea Ecuatorial
Population: 720,200 (est. 2011 – UN)
Area: 10,830 sq. mi (28,050 sq. km)
Capital: Malabo
Language(s): Spanish, French (both official)
Currency: CFA Franc
Religion: Christianity, pagan practices
Ethnic Groups:
- Fang 85.7%, Bubi 6.5%, Mdowe 3.6%, Annobon 1.6%, Bujeba 1.1%, other 1.4% (1994 census)
Life Expectancy: 50 years (men), 53 (women) (UN)
Main Exports: Petroleum, Timber, Cocoa
GNI Per Capita: US $14,540 (World Bank - 2011)
HDI Rank: 136 (out of 187)
Trafficking in Persons Rank:
- Tier 3 (1 = Best; 3 = Worst)