

Equatorial Guinea



Equatorial Guinea is a small Central African country on the west coast of Africa. It borders with Cameroon and Gabon; and has a coastline with the Atlantic Ocean.

It comprises the Rio Muni mainland and 5 volcanic offshore islands. The total land area is 28,051 sq km. It has a population of around 836,178. Around 35,500 of the population speak Igbo. The official language on Equatorial Guinea is Spanish but, as well as Igbo, Portuguese, French, Fang and Bubi are also spoken.

Equatorial Guinea was previously a Spanish colony. After 190 years of Spanish rule they gained independence in 1968.

Equatorial Guinea Flag



The flag of Equatorial Guinea was adopted on August 21, 1979. A horizontal tricolour of green, white and red with a blue isosceles triangle based on the hoist side and the National Coat of arms of Equatorial Guinea centred in the white band.

Green symbolizes the natural resources, agriculture and jungles of the country. Blue symbolizes the sea, which connects the main country with the islands. White symbolizes peace. Red symbolizes the blood shed by the fighters for independence.

The coat of arms consists of a silver shield with a silk-cotton tree, or *Ceiba* in the local language. Above the shield is an arc of 6 six-pointed yellow stars, that represent Rio Muni and the offshore islands. Beneath the shield is a silver scroll with the national motto, *Unidad, Paz, Justicia* ("Unity, Peace, Justice"). It is considered that under a silk-cotton tree a treaty was signed between Spain and a local ruler that marked the beginning of the colonial rule.

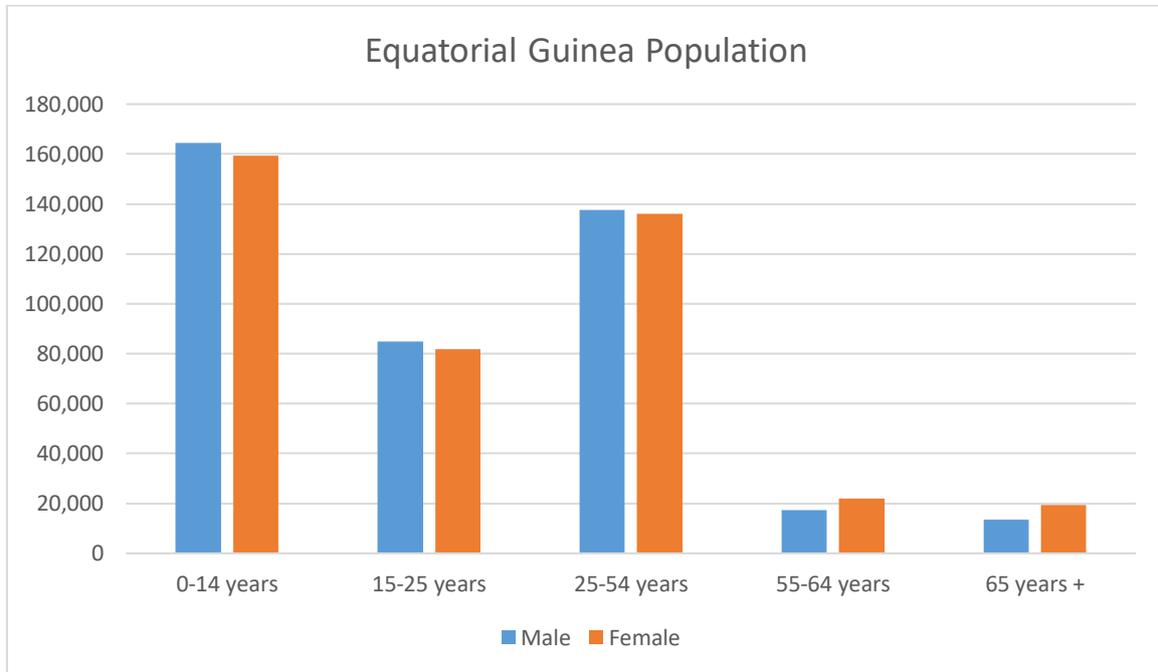
Languages of Equatorial Guinea

The official language of Equatorial Guinea is Spanish. This is because the country was under Spanish rule for 190 years. Around 67.6% of the population speak Spanish. It is the only independent African country where Spanish is an official language.

Portuguese and French are two other European languages also spoken there. They are also official languages for the country.

Some of the local African languages spoken in Equatorial Guinea include Igbo, Fang, and Bubi.

Equatorial Guinea Population



38.73% of people living in Equatorial Guinea are aged 0-14 years.

19.94% of people living in Equatorial Guinea are aged 15-24 years.

32.72% of people living in Equatorial Guinea are aged 25-54 years.

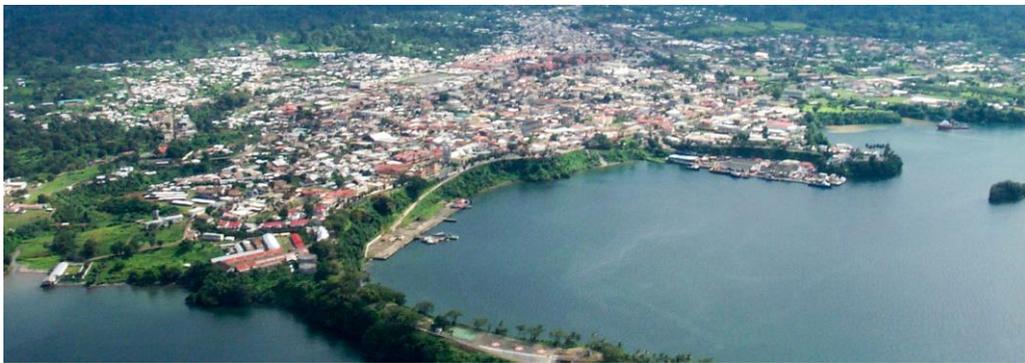
4.69% of people living in Equatorial Guinea are aged 55-64 years.

3.92% of people living in Equatorial Guinea are aged 65 years and over.

Big Cities

There are only 2 large cities in Equatorial Guinea. They are Bata on the mainland, and the capital Malabo on the island of Bioko. 73% of the population live in urban areas. There are also small communities scattered throughout the mainland and the five inhabited islands.

Malabo - 297,000 population



Malabo, on Bioko island, is a port city and the capital of Equatorial Guinea. Spanish colonial architecture includes the neo-Gothic, twin-towered Santa Isabel Cathedral. The dark green Casa Verde is a 19th-century house that was prefabricated in Belgium. The Equatoguinean Cultural Centre has gallery and performance spaces. To the south, densely forested Parque Nacional del Pico Basilé surrounds Pico Basilé Volcano.



Bata - 250,770 population



Bata is a port city on the mainland of Equatorial Guinea in Central Africa. A long, palm-fringed esplanade stretches along its waterfront. The colossal, futuristic Freedom Tower overlooks the Gulf of Guinea. The colonial-style Bata Cathedral dates from the 1950s. The city's busy markets sell clothing, crafts, fresh fish and produce. Just outside the center, Bomé is a popular beach lined with restaurants and bars.

Can you find both Malabo and Bata on a map of Equatorial Guinea?

Island Life

The islands of Equatorial Guinea are Bioko, Corsico, Annobón, Elobey Grande (Great Elobey), and Elobey Chico (Small Elobey).



Bioko: The island of Bioko is located 32 km (20 mi) off the west coast of Africa and the northernmost part of Equatorial Guinea, in the Bight of Bonny portion of the Gulf of Guinea. In 2015 the population was 335,048. It covers an area of 2,017 km² (779 sq mi). It is volcanic and very mountainous with the highest peak Pico Basile (3,012 m (9,882 ft)). The island is mostly covered by tropical rainforest. The country capital of Malabo is located on the north coast of this island.

Corsico: Corisco, or Mandj, is a small island of Equatorial Guinea, located 29 kilometres (18 mi) southwest of the Río Muni estuary that defines the border with Gabon. The name Corisco derives from the Portuguese word for lightning. It has

an area of just 14 km² (5 sq mi), and its highest point is 35 metres (115 ft) above sea level. Oil prospects have been found here. Gabon disputes that the island is part of its territory.

Annobón: The island of Annobón and associated islets have a small population of 5,314. The island's main industries are forestry and fishing. Annobón is an extinct volcano and the island is characterized by a succession of lush valleys and steep mountains, covered with rich woods and luxuriant vegetation. There is no regular shipping service to the rest of Equatorial Guinea, and ships call as infrequently as every few months.

Elobey Grande: Elobey Grande, or Great Elobey, lies at the mouth of the Mitémélé River. It is sparsely inhabited.

Elobey Chico: A small island off the coast of Equatorial Guinea, Elobey Chico, or Little Elobey, lies near the mouth of the Mitémélé River (close to Elobey Grande). The island is now uninhabited but was once the de facto colonial capital of the Spanish territory of Río Muni.

If you lived here which of the islands would you choose to live on? Why?