

Equatorial Guinea

Total population (July 2000 estimate): 474,000

Area: 28,051 km²

Annual population growth rate (2000): 2.47%

Life expectancy at birth (1998): 50.4 years

People not expected to survive to age 40 (1998): 33.2% of total population

GDP per capita (1998): US \$1,817



Equatorial Guinea, located at the bend of West Africa, is made up of the island of Bioko in the Atlantic Ocean and the mainland portion (called Rio Muni) located between Cameroon in the north and Gabon in the south.

Equatorial Guinea's economy is one of the fastest growing economies of sub-Saharan Africa as a result of oil discoveries in the early 1990s. The oil sector contributes over 60% to the GDP. At the end of 1999 Equatorial Guinea produced 102,000 barrels per day.

The agricultural sector contributes 20% to the GDP and employs 58% of the labour force. The main food crops are cassava, sweet potatoes, maize, bananas and yams. Equatorial Guinea's agricultural exports are timber and cocoa.

Geological outline

Precambrian metamorphic sequences underlie most of central and eastern Rio Muni. Cretaceous to Tertiary sediments are exposed in the coastal and western zone of the mainland. The island of Bioko is volcanic, having rocks of mainly basaltic composition.

Agrominerals

There are no reports of phosphate or limestone resources exposed in the coastal basin of the mainland. The Cretaceous sediments in the coastal basin include limestones but whether any of them are extracted is not known.

Agromineral potential

The potential of developing local geological resources to improve soils and crop production is limited although liming materials could be used depending on the distribution and extent of acid soils relative to the location and extractability of the limestone resources. The Upper Cretaceous and Tertiary sediments in the coastal areas of the mainland should be investigated for their phosphate potential.