

## 7.0 Equatorial Guinea

BMU	Bundesministeriums für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Reaktorischerheit (Germany)
COMIFAC	Central African Forests Commission
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (Germany)
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
USDS	United States Department of State

Covering an area of about 28,050 square kilometers (USDS, 2010), the Republic of Equatorial Guinea is one of the smallest countries in continental Africa. The country consists of mainland provinces on Africa’s western coast that are bordered by Cameroon to the north and Gabon to the east, and five inhabited islands—including the volcanic island of Bioko on which the seat of government is located (USDS, 2010). Consistent with its small size, Equatorial Guinea is one of the least populated countries in Africa, having an estimated population (in 2010) of 0.7 million (UNFPA, 2010).<sup>113</sup>

The economy of Equatorial Guinea has grown rapidly in recent years, fuelled by the exploitation of large offshore oil deposits.<sup>114</sup> The country’s GDP per capita of US\$37,900 (2010 est.) ranks 28<sup>th</sup> in the world (CIA, 2011g). However, the country has a high level of income disparity; much of the country’s population continues to live in poverty.<sup>115</sup> As such, the country ranks 117 out of 169 countries on the UNDP Human Development Index (UNDP, 2010).

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<sup>113</sup> The country’s population is expected to reach 1.4 million in 2050 (UNFPA, 2010).

<sup>114</sup> Industry is the source of 92.6 percent of the country’s economic activity, and includes petroleum, natural gas, timber and fishing (USDS, 2010h).

<sup>115</sup> BBC News, [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country\\_profiles/1023151.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country_profiles/1023151.stm); and CIA, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ek.html>

### **A. Adaptation Needs and Priorities**

Reflecting its location just north of the equator, the climate of Equatorial Guinea is tropical with distinct wet and dry seasons. Temperatures throughout the year range from 23° to 25°C, with the wet season occurring between April to October, depending upon the West African Monsoon. The coastal regions are wetter than the interior (McSweeney et al., 2008). Since 1960, temperatures have been observed to increase by 0.6°C and rainfall to decrease by 3.7mm per month (or 2.1 per cent) per decade.

Climate data for Equatorial Guinea is generally weak, which makes the development of climate projections challenging. Available projections suggest that moderate increase in temperature (1 to 2.5°C) could occur by 2060, increase to 1.3 to 4.1°C by 2090s. Possible changes in mean annual rainfall are less clear, ranging from a decline of 6 per cent to an increase of 20 per cent by 2090. Climate models broadly expect a slight increase (from -1 per cent to +12 per cent) in the proportion of total rainfall that falls in heavy events. Sea level rise estimates range from 0.13 meters to 0.56 meters by 2090, depending on the emissions scenario (McSweeney et al., 2008; World Bank, n.d.).

Equatorial Guinea has not yet completed a National Communication or other assessment of its vulnerability to climate change. In the absence of these efforts, the vulnerability of Equatorial Guinea to climate change, or of appropriate adaptation measures, has not yet been identified by the country.

### **B. National Level Policies and Strategic Documents**

Despite being a party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and having ratified the Kyoto Protocol (2008), Equatorial Guinea has not yet applied for a grant to finance the preparation of its initial National Communication to the UNFCCC. As well, since the country is not an LDC, it will not be producing a National Adaptation Programme of Action. Climate change also does not appear in the country's Development Assistance Framework (2007).

### **C. Current Adaptation Action**

Overall, very little is underway on climate change adaptation in Equatorial Guinea; the country is currently only involved—to an uncertain degree—in one regional initiative. As a member of the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC), Equatorial Guinea will benefit from their current project on climate change scenarios for the Congo Basin. The extent of activities being carried out in Equatorial Guinea under the project is unknown, but it is hoped that these scenarios will enable decision makers throughout the COMIFAC region to adapt and prepare their natural resource management strategies to meet the regional challenges of climate change

(BMU, 2010). Notably, Equatorial Guinea is not part of the project “Altering the Climate of Poverty under Climate Change: The forests of Congo Basin”<sup>116</sup> despite being one of six Congo Basin countries.

**Table 1: Current Adaptation Projects and Programs active in Equatorial Guinea**

Name	Objectives	Funder(s)	Implementing Agency(s)	Type of project	Duration	Priority Sector(s)	Geographic focus (if any)
<b>Participation in Regional and Global Actions</b>							
1.	Climate Change Scenarios for the Congo Basin <sup>117</sup>	The project aims to provide national and regional decision-makers with climate change scenarios that have been calculated specifically for the Congo Basin, and which will enable them to adapt natural resource management strategies to climate change.	BMU (Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany)	GIZ and COMIFAC	Research	2009 – 2011	Climate information services
<i>In Equatorial Guinea: More information required</i>							

#### D. Proposed Adaptation Action

Given that Equatorial Guinea has yet been actively engaged on addressing the impacts of climate change, the country has not yet developed any formal, proposed adaptation actions.

#### E. Assessment

Very little work on climate change adaptation is underway in Equatorial Guinea. Most of the government’s energy on climate change is being put towards forestry-based mitigation projects. To make progress on this issue, a first step for the country could be to prepare its First National Communication to the UNFCCC. As part of this exercise, a climate vulnerability assessment must be conducted by the government, and appropriate response strategies are to be identified. Given the regional projections of climate change and trends in

<sup>116</sup> IDRC, [http://www.idrc.ca/ccaa/ev-127592-201\\_104835-1-IDRC\\_ADM\\_INFO.html](http://www.idrc.ca/ccaa/ev-127592-201_104835-1-IDRC_ADM_INFO.html)

<sup>117</sup> BMU, <http://www.bmu-klimaschutzinitiative.de/en/projects?p=1&d=550>



neighboring countries (Gabon, Cameroon and São Tomé e Príncipe), it can be expected that Equatorial Guinea will face similar challenges in health, agriculture, coastal zone management, freshwater resources and energy. These challenges need to be identified by the government and integrated into national decision- and policy-making. The absence of national climate information also indicates the need for improved climate data collection and weather monitoring

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