



# Diaspora engagement mapping EQUATORIAL GUINEA

## Facts & figures

Terminology: Equatorial Guinea refers to its diaspora as 'Equato-Guineans abroad' (Spanish: *Ecuatoguineanos en el extranjero*), although the term diaspora is also used in some government communications.

### Political rights



Dual citizenship<sup>1</sup>



Right to vote in national elections  
for citizens residing abroad<sup>3</sup>



### Remittances



Remittances as a share of GDP:<sup>2</sup> -  
Remittances inflow (USD million): -

Voting from abroad:<sup>4</sup>

At embassies/consulates



### Data disclaimer

As diaspora definitions vary widely, we have chosen to use comparable data on emigration as a proxy. This does not include all who consider themselves diaspora and is not necessarily aligned with national definitions of diaspora. Emigration data comes from UNDESA (2024) and remittances from the World Bank (2023).

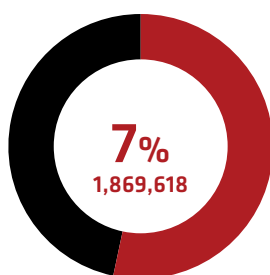
### Emigration



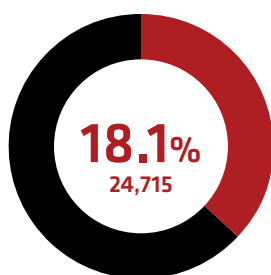
% of emigrants in  
total population



% of which  
in the EU



♂ 53.2%  
♀ 46.8%



♂ 36%  
♀ 64%

### Top countries of destination



Gabon	94,354
Spain	24,372
Guinea	9,933
Cameroon	4,341
Congo	1,562

1 Law No. 3/2011 of July 14, Regulating Equato-Guinean Nationality (Ley Núm. 3/2011, de fecha 14 de Julio, Reguladora de la Nacionalidad Ecuatoguineana) This law defines citizens of Equatorial Guinea as those born to an Equatoguinean parent. The law does not permit dual citizenship for Equato-Guineans. [Original Spanish version available](#). An [unofficial English summary](#)

2 Equatorial Guinea has not reported any remittance data to the World Bank for a number of years. The figure given here is [an estimate for 2017](#)

3 Voting for those living abroad includes both presidential and legislative elections. [Ley Num. 7/ 2.2012](#):

4 <https://www.scribd.com/doc/17768418/Loi-electrale-du-Gabon>; <http://www.affaires-etrangeres.gouv.ga/16-informations/335-gabo-nais-de-l-etranger/>

## Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 1990** ● **Law No. 2/1990 of 4 January concerning the Labour Code** (*Ley n°2/1990, de fecha 4 de Enero 1990 sobre Ordenamiento General del Trabajo*)<sup>5</sup> places an obligation for transfer of knowledge and practice from skilled immigrant workers to Guinean citizens, which could be used to favour recruitment of Equato-Guineans abroad.<sup>6</sup>
- 2008** ● **CEMAC - Regulation n°01/08-UEAC-042-CM-17** (20 June 2008) on the institution and conditions for the management and issuance of the Economic Community of Central African States (CEMAC) passport. This agreement - signed by Equatorial Guinea and other CEMAC Member States - provides for free movement of citizens within CEMAC and sets out requirements for a CEMAC passport, which has implications for diaspora engagement. For example, it makes circular (labour) migration easier.
- 2012** ● **Basic Law of Equatorial Guinea** (*Ley Fundamental de Guinea Ecuatorial promulgada oficialmente el 16 de febrero de 2012*) is the national constitution and it includes provisions for free movement within and from the country for its citizens.

### » Trends and achievements

Diaspora engagement is limited in Equatorial Guinea. For several years, it has been among the African states receiving the lowest levels of diaspora remittances, although this may also reflect a lack of reported data on remittance flows.<sup>7</sup> The economy is heavily dependent on oil and timber revenues, and this has further insulated the country from reliance on diaspora financial flows. However, since the crash in oil prices from 2014, the government has sought to diversify its economy, especially in the agro-processing and industrial sectors.<sup>8</sup>

The diaspora is polarised along political lines, and many Equatoguinean diaspora organisations in Spain are of a political character.<sup>9</sup> As a result, the government of Equatorial Guinea has struggled to engage its diaspora for national development. It has not developed diaspora engagement policy frameworks and structures to the same extent as most other African states. In light of this, in 2016 President Obiang announced the launch of a dialogue with opposition parties and the diaspora regarding the country's future development, and inviting the diaspora to return.<sup>10</sup>

Equatorial Guinea faces skills shortages in a range of sectors, from ICT to health, education, energy, and engineering, and brain drain is an issue. Students from the country are known to travel abroad widely in pursuit of education and training opportunities due to a lack of educational centres in the country.<sup>11</sup> A 2020 ILO study noted that while there was potential to address skills shortages by encouraging diaspora return, there was a lack of enabling structures to support the reintegration of returnees.<sup>12</sup>

The President of the Republic on the occasion of the Christmas and New Year 2024 holidays addressed the diaspora. He mentioned that the diaspora is a "fundamental pillar in the construction of a stronger and more globally connected country," and assured that the "contributions" of his fellow citizens Abroad "will be [from now on], highly valued and appreciated."<sup>13</sup>

5 Unofficial French translation

6 See Agenda pour une diversification des sources de la croissance: Tome 1: Diagnostique stratégique

7 <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/BX.TRF.PWKR.DT.GD.ZS?locations=GQ>

8 African Development Bank (2018), Republic of Guinea Country Strategy Paper 2018-2022

9 <https://africa.harvard.edu/event/literature-and-activism-equatorial-guinean-diaspora> ; <https://app.max-security.com/spain-tactical-equatorial-guinean-diaspora-to-stage-protest-near-embassy-of-equatorial-guinea-in-madrid-from-1200-local-time-on-august-3-allot-for-disruptions/>

10 <https://afrique.lalibre.be/20238/guinee-equatoriale-obiang-annonce-un-dialogue-politique-pour-preserver-la-paix/>

11 According to UNESCO in 2018, 7193 Gabonese students were studying abroad.

12 Barussaud, B. (2020) OIT Etude de pays : Potentiel de partenariats pour les compétences et la migration en République de Guinée équatoriale

13 <https://minexteriores.gob.gq/el-gobierno-se-compromete-a-trabajar-incansablemente-para-estrechar-los-vinculos-con-la-diaspora-ecuato-guineana/>

## Obstacles



- **Lack of trust:** There is a lack of trust between the government and its diaspora. The diaspora tends to be polarised and politicised, which makes it difficult to engage with Equatorial Guinea.<sup>14</sup>
- **Lack of capacity:** Equatorial Guinea lacks effective structures and capacity for diaspora engagement policies and programmes.
- **Lack of policy focus:** Equatorial Guinea has no policy frameworks dedicated to diaspora engagement.

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### Diaspora passport renewal in Spain 2020

Equatoguinean citizens based in Spain used to have to travel to Malabo in Equatorial Guinea to renew their passports. However, in June 2020, the government upgraded the services available at its embassy in Spain to enable renewal of passports; it also introduced biometric passports.

### 6<sup>th</sup> National Dialogue 2018

In June 2018, the President invited diaspora and political groups in exile to return to the country to participate in the 6<sup>th</sup> National Dialogue, a consultation forum with the President. During the event, representatives of the diaspora and opposition parties were able to participate and make recommendations, including for greater political and other freedoms in the country.<sup>15</sup>

### Kuche Fisheries Project 2013

The NGO Development 2000 in Africa (D2000) and the Equatoguinean diaspora organisation Macoelanba implemented the Kuche agricultural and fishing exploitation project in Kuche in the locality of Rio Muni, near the border with Cameroon. The project is a partnership with the Department of Agrifood Engineering and Biotechnology of the Polytechnic University of Catalonia, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in Equatorial Guinea, private sector firms Mobil and Noble, and the Escuela de Capacitación Agraria. It aims to produce food to supply local markets and reduce Equatorial Guinea's dependence on imports from third countries of basic natural products. Its work includes integration of agricultural, livestock, and fishing exploitation complemented by small-scale extractive fishing.

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<sup>14</sup> See, inter alia, Keunang, D. S. (2020) op. cit.; and Molina R.S. and Lopez, E. (2018), *Ciudadanos, apátridas, exiliados y migrantes: La diáspora Ecuatoguineana de la comunidad de Madrid*;

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.rfi.fr/fr/afrique/20180614-guinee-equatoriale-obiang-invitation-opposition-exeil-rentre-dialogue>

## Annex:

# List of Actors

Explore the institutionalisation of diaspora engagement worldwide via the [typology of 430+ institutions](#)

### Diaspora related institutions



- **At regional level**

#### **African Union Citizens and Diaspora Directorate (AU-CIDO) 2008**

AU-CIDO is responsible for implementing the AU's engagement with non-state actors through the involvement of the diaspora and civil society. Equatorial Guinea nominates a diaspora focal point to represent the country at AU-CIDO Continental Meetings.

#### **Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) 1983 and the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC, *Communauté Économique et Monétaire de l'Afrique Centrale*)**

Since 2015 Equatorial Guinea has participated in the ECCAS Migration Dialogue for Central African States (MIDCAS) with the objective of developing a common position on migration among ECCAS Member States; promoting experience and information sharing; identifying priority issues on technical cooperation, capacity building and data collection, including on the topics of labour migration, ethical recruitment, and brain drain.

- **National institutions**

- At ministerial level

#### **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and Diaspora** (*Spanish: Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores y de Cooperación Internacional y Diaspora*) 2003

The ministry is responsible for Equatorial Guinea's foreign relations, and its mandate includes Equatoguineans abroad, whose interests it serves through its network of missions and consulates overseas. It has a Secretary of State for Economic and Patrimonial Affairs of Equatorial Guinea Abroad whose responsibilities include Equatoguineans resident abroad.

### Diaspora organisations in Europe

#### **Asociación Amigos de la Parroquia de Santa Maravillas de Jesús de Malabo, Guinea Ecuatorial (ASAMMAGE) 2019** Spain

Read more about diaspora organisations in "[Starting guide: What is a diaspora organisation](#)"

- ☑ **Development activities**
- ☑ **Integration activities**

ASAMMAGE is an Equatoguinean diaspora organisation that works to provide quality education projects in Equatorial Guinea and to develop diaspora talent for national development. [ [f](#) ]

## **Asociacion Cultural Asistencial Humanitaria Amigos De Africa De Guinea Ecuatorial ONG “Bata” (Casa De Guinea)** 1996 Spain

- ☑ **Development activities**
- ☑ **Integration activities**

This diaspora organisation works to bring Africa and the Basque Country closer together culturally. It runs cultural exchange projects as well as development projects in partnership with other NGOs and institutions. Bata also supports Equatoguineans in distress in Spain; it has established contacts with different health centres in Spain in order to help all those patients who lack medical care in their country of origin.

## **Coalition d’opposition pour la restauration d’un État démocratique en République de Guinée équatoriale (CORED)** 2013 France

- ☑ **Integration activities**

Equatoguinean diaspora political group that brings together various opposition parties in exile, and works to achieve non-violent democratic reforms in Equatorial Guinea. CORED conducts lobbying and advocacy about Equatorial Guinea, and works to raise awareness of the country internationally.

## **MACOELANBÁ** 2011 Spain

- ☑ **Development activities**
- ☑ **Integration activities**

MACOELANBÁ is a non-political Equatoguinean diaspora organisation founded by people linked by birth, affinity, and sympathy to Equatorial Guinea. It provides support to Equatoguineans in Spain as well as mobilising resources for community development projects in Equatorial Guinea.

## **Nexos GE** Spain and France 2023

Nexos GE, or Nexos, was founded in 2023 and is registered in Spain and France. Bringing together a diverse coalition of political groups and human rights activists, Nexos advocates for human rights protection, social justice, and democratisation in Equatorial Guinea. “

Written by: **AFFORD**  
 Edited by: **EUDiF**  
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