

REPUBLIC OF EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Public Administration Country Profile

Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM)
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EQUATORIAL GUINEA

[Click here](#) for detailed map



Source: [The World Factbook - Equatorial Guinea](#)

Government type

Republic

Independence

12 October 1968 (from Spain)

Constitution

Approved by national referendum 17 November 1991; amended January 1995 ([in brief](#))

Legal system

Partly based on Spanish civil law and tribal custom

Administrative divisions

7 provinces; Annobon, Bioko Norte, Bioko Sur, Centro Sur, Kie-Ntem, Litoral, Wele-Nzas

Source: [The World Factbook - Equatorial Guinea](#)

Equatorial Guinea, a territory of conquest, slavery and colonization since 1471, acceded in 1963 to a regime of autonomy within the Spanish State, which led to full independence in 1968.

Fernando Macías was elected President in 1968; his regime became an arbitrary dictatorship and he was overthrown in 1979 by the current President of the Republic, Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, who was then a lieutenant-colonel and Minister of Defence. A new constitution was adopted in 1981.

In 1987, the President of the Republic founded the Partido Democrático de Guinea Ecuatorial (PDGE), which was the only legally recognized party for over five years. In January 1992, a law was enacted allowing for the formation of other parties. A new electoral act under which municipal elections were held was adopted in 1995.

Presidential elections were held in February 1996 (Dec. '02). Parliamentary elections originally scheduled for November 1998 were held on 7 March 1999 (Apr. '04).

The strong expansion of oil output during 1998-2002 dominated economic developments in all areas of Equatorial Guinea's economy.

Source: [UN OHCHR - Report on the human rights situation in the Republic of Equatorial Guinea \(27 January 2000\)](#)

[IMF - Equatorial Guinea: Selected Issues and Statistical Appendix \(December 2003\)](#)

[Click here](#) for information on 'Land and People'

1. General Information

1.1 People	GNQ ⁱ	Gabon	STP ⁱⁱ	1
Population				a
Total estimated population (,000), 2003	494	1,329	160	
Female estimated population (,000), 2003	250	668	81	
Male estimated population (,000), 2003	244	661	79	
Sex ratio (males per 100 females), 2003	98	99	98	
Average annual rate of change of pop. (%), 2000-2005	2.65	1.79	2.49	
Youth and Elderly Population				b
Total population under age 15 (%), 2003	44	41	41	
Female population aged 60+ (%), 2003	6	7	7	
Male population aged 60+ (%), 2003	5	6	6	
Human Settlements				c
Urban population (%), 2001	49	82	48	
Rural population (%), 2001	51	18	52	
Urban average annual rate of change in pop. (%), '00-'05	4.91	3.36	3.19	
Rural average annual rate of change in pop/ (%), '00-'05	0.65	-1.96	0.4	
Education				d
Total school life expectancy, 2000	..	..	..	1
Female school life expectancy, 2000	..	..	..	1
Male school life expectancy, 2000	..	..	..	1
Female estimated adult (15+) illiteracy rate (%), 2000	25.6	..	..	2
Male estimated adult (15+) illiteracy rate (%), 2000	7.5	..	..	2
Employment				e
Unemployment rate (15+) (%), 2000	..	..	..	1
Female adult (+15) economic activity rate (%), 2000	..	..	37 ⁱⁱⁱ	2
Male adult (+15) economic activity rate (%), 2000	..	..	77 ⁱⁱⁱ	2

Notes: ⁱ Equatorial Guinea; ⁱⁱ Sao Tome and Principe; ⁱⁱⁱ 1991

1.2 Economy	GNQ ⁱ	Gabon	STP ⁱⁱ	2
GDP				a
GDP total (millions US\$), 2002	2,173	4,971	50	
GDP per capita (US\$), 2002	4,518	3,851	325	
PPP GDP total (millions int. US\$), 2002	..	8,195	..	
PPP GDP per capita(int. US\$), 2002	..	6,348	..	
Sectors				b
Value added in agriculture (% of GDP), 2003	6.8	8.7	19.0	
Value added in industry (% of GDP), 2003	88.9	67.1	18.0	
Value added in services (% of GDP), 2003	4.3	24.1	63.0	
Miscellaneous				c
GDP implicit price deflator (annual % growth), 2003	-1.4	-9.1	5.3	
Private consumption (% of GDP), 2003	..	..	115.9	
Gov't consumption (% of GDP), 2003	..	..	22.0	

Notes: ⁱ Equatorial Guinea; ⁱⁱ Sao Tome and Principe

¹ [United Nations Statistics Division](#):

^a [Statistics Division and Population Division of the UN Secretariat](#); ^b [Statistics Division and Population Division of the UN Secretariat](#); ^c [Population Division of the UN Secretariat](#); ^{d1} [UNESCO](#); ^{d2} [UNESCO](#); ^{e1} [ILO](#); ^{e2} [ILO/OECD](#)

² [World Bank - Data and Statistics](#):

^a [Quick Reference Tables](#); ^b [Data Profile Tables](#); ^c [Country at a Glance](#)

1.3 Public Spending	GNQ ⁱ	Gabon	STP ⁱⁱ	
Public expenditures				3
Education (% of GNP), 1985-1987	1.7 ⁱⁱⁱ	5.8	3.8	a
Education (% of GNP), 1995-1997	1.7 ⁱⁱⁱ	2.9 ^{iv}	..	a
Health (% of GDP), 1990	1	2	..	
Health (% of GDP), 1998	..	2.1	..	
Military (% of GDP), 1990	..	..	..	b
Military (% of GDP), 2000	..	0.3 ^v	..	b
Total debt service (% of GDP), 1990	3.9	3	4.9	
Total debt service (% of GDP), 2000	0.4	9.5	9.5	

Notes: ⁱ Equatorial Guinea; ⁱⁱ Sao Tome and Principe; ⁱⁱⁱ Data refer to a year or period other than that specified; ^{iv} Data do not include expenditure on tertiary education; ^v 1998

1.4 Public Sector Employment and Wages						
<i>Data from the latest year available</i>		Equatorial Guinea 1991-1995	Equatorial Guinea 1996-2000	Sub-Saharan Africa average ⁴ 1996-2000	Non-Franco- phone Africa average ⁴ 1996-2000	Middle income group average ⁴ 1996-2000
Employment						
Civilian Central Government ⁵	(,000)	..	..	
	(% pop.)	..	..	0.30	0.38	0.59
Sub-national Government ⁵	(,000)	..	..	
	(% pop.)	..	..	0.30	0.38	0.59
Education employees	(,000)	..	..	
	(% pop.)	..	..	0.62	0.78	1.20
Health employees	(,000)	..	..	
	(% pop.)	..	..	0.29	0.20	0.70
Police	(,000)	..	..	
	(% pop.)	..	..	0.07	..	0.30
Armed forces	(,000)	1	1.3			
	(% pop.)	0.25	0.29	0.26	0.31	0.46
SOE Employees	(,000)	..	..	
	(% pop.)	..	..	..	..	3.61
Total Public Employment	(,000)	..	..	
	(% pop.)	..	..	..	..	6.05
Wages						
Total Central gov't wage bill	(% of GDP)	..	3.4	6.1	6.9	8.5
Total Central gov't wage bill	(% of exp)	..	..	28.9	26.4	21.6
Average gov't wage	(,000 LCU)	..	..	
Real ave. gov't wage ('97 price)	(,000 LCU)	..	..	
Average gov't wage to per capita GDP ratio		..	..	4.8	2.8	4.2

Source: [World Bank - Public Sector Employment and Wages](#)

³ UNDP - [Human Development Report 2002](#)

^a Data refer to total public expenditure on education, including current and capital expenditures.

^b As a result of a number of limitations in the data, comparisons of military expenditure data over time and across countries should be made with caution. For detailed notes on the data see SIPRI (2001).

⁴ Averages for regions and sub regions are only generated if data is available for at least 35% of the countries in that region or sub region.

⁵ Excluding education, health and police – if available (view [Country Sources](#) for further explanations).

2. Legal Structure

2.1 Legislative Branch

Unicameral House of People's Representatives or Camara de Representantes del Pueblo (100 seats; members directly elected by popular vote to serve five-year terms).⁶
women in parliament: 18 out of 100 seats: (18%).⁷

Legislative powers are conferred to the National Assembly through universal suffrage. The members of the National Assembly are elected by direct and secret vote.

Administrative districts constitute the electoral constituencies. Seats are attributed to each list of candidates through a system of proportional representation. The electoral law determines the number of seats for each electoral constituency, and the ineligibility and incompatibility of members of parliament.

The National Assembly elects the President, Deputy Presidents and bureau among members.

The National assembly holds two ordinary sessions each year (March and September) for two months.

The President of the Republic may, during ministerial council, order the dissolution of the Assembly and organize new elections.

Before promulgating a bill, The President may request a second or third reading of the bill in parliament.

Source: [Constitution of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea](#)

Fact box:

elections: last held 25 April 2004
election results: percent of vote by party - PDGE 47.5%, allied parties 40.5%, CPDS 5%; seats by party - PDGE 68, allied parties 30 and CPDS 2⁸

2.2 Executive Branch

cabinet: Council of Ministers appointed by the president
elections: president elected by popular vote for a seven-year term; election last held 15 December 2002 (next to be held December 2009); prime minister and deputy prime ministers appointed by the president

The President of the Republic is the Head of State. He is elected by a relative majority of the votes cast through direct, equal and secret universal suffrage. The term of office of is seven years renewable.

The President presides over the counsel of ministers, constituted by the Prime Minister and the other members of the government.

The Prime Minister is the member of the political party with the majority of seats in the National Assembly. The Prime Minister is the Head of Government and directs its actions, executes and ensures the enforcement of laws. The president appoints the

Fact box:

chief of state: President Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Teodoro OBIANG NGUEMA MBASOGO (since 3 August 1979); re-elected 15 December 2002⁹
head of government: Prime Minister Miguel Abia BITEO BORICO (since 14 June 2004);

⁶ Source of fact boxes if nothing else stated: [The World Factbook - Equatorial Guinea](#)

⁷ [Inter-Parliamentary Union - Women in National Parliaments](#)

⁸ [Rulers.org - April 2004](#) & [BBC \(Africa\) - Timeline: Equatorial Guinea \(24 August 2004\)](#)

⁹ [BBC \(Africa\) - 'Landslide' in Equatorial Guinea \(16 December 2002\)](#)

Prime Minister who is charged with appointing other members of government. The President appoints and revokes high civil and military

officials and may delegate the prime minister to appoint other civil and military officials.

The Council of Ministers executes the general policy of the nation as determined by the president, ensures the application of laws and assists the president in his political and administrative duties.

The President of the Republic may, after consulting the council of Ministers and the Bureau of the National Assembly, decide to summon a referendum where he deems necessary. The bill that shall be adopted therein shall be enforced and promulgated by the president of the Republic.

The President of the Republic may summon a referendum to revise the constitution; the absolute majority of members of Parliament may equally request amendments.

Source: [Constitution of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea](#)

Fact box (..con't):

First Deputy Prime Minister Miguel OYONO NDONG (since January 1998); Deputy Prime Minister Demetrio Elo NDONG NZE FUMU (since January 1998)

2.3 Judiciary Branch

Supreme Tribunal.

The judicial power shall be independent of the executive and legislative powers. It shall exercise the legal functions of the state.

The court system is composed of lower provincial courts, two appeals courts, a military tribunal, and a Supreme Court.¹⁰

The Supreme Court of Justice is the supreme organ of the judicial system. The president of the Republic appoints the President of the Supreme Court and its members for a period of five years.

The Constitutional Council comprises a President and four other members appointed by the President of the Republic. Two of its members are proposed by the National Assembly. The term of office is seven years.

The Higher Judicial Council comprises a President and six other members appointed by the President for a period of 5 years

Source: [Constitution of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea](#)

Tribal laws and customs are honored in the formal court system when not in conflict with national law. The current court system, which often uses customary law, is a combination of traditional, civil, and military justice.

Source: [U.S. Department of State \(Background Notes\) - Equatorial Guinea](#)

Decree No. 58 of 9 April 1988 grants the Ministry of Justice powers of supervision of the courts and of judicial appointments. Presidential Decree No. 76/1999 established a commission also under the auspices of the Minister of Justice to deal with corruption in the judiciary.

Source: [UN OHCHR - Report on the human rights situation in the Republic of Equatorial Guinea \(27 January 2000\)](#)

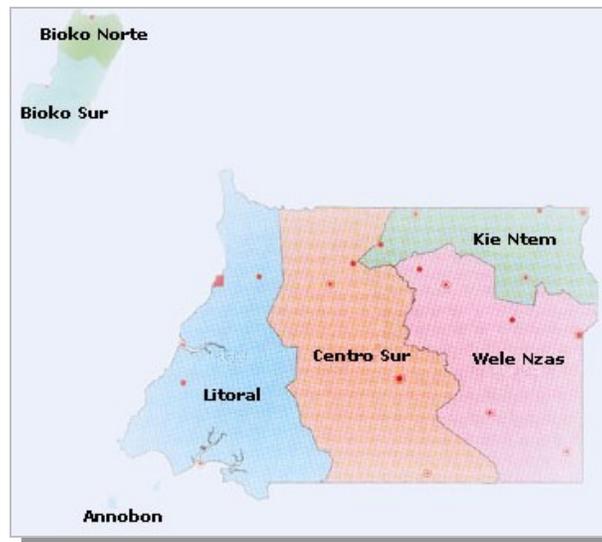
¹⁰ [U.S. Department of State \(Human Rights\) - Equatorial Guinea \(2003\)](#)

2.4 Local Government

The [Constitution](#) stipulates that regions, provinces, districts and municipalities shall be delimited and denominated by law. Decree-Law no. 2/1980, promulgated on the 3rd of March, 1980 regarding the administrative/territorial reorganization of the country divided Equatorial Guinea into 2 regions, 7 provinces and 18 districts. The country is further divided into 30 municipalities and around 1,000 village councils and residents' associations.¹¹

Source: [CAFRAD - Administrative and Civil Service Reform in Equatorial Guinea \(2002\)](#)

The Provinces:



Source: [Web site of Equatorial Guinea - Provinces](#)

The provincial and district administrations are headed by provincial governors and government representatives, respectively, while municipal administrations are headed by mayors, who, like the chairs of the village councils and the residents' associations, are elected by universal suffrage.

Source: [UN OHCHR - Core Document Forming Part of the Reports of State Parties \(12 September 2003\)](#)

The President appoints the governors of the seven provinces. The internal administrative system falls under the Ministry of Territorial Administration; several other ministries are represented at the provincial and district levels.

Source: [U.S. Department of State \(Background Notes\) - Equatorial Guinea](#)

¹¹ [UN OHCHR - Core Document Forming Part of the Reports of State Parties \(12 September 2003\)](#)

3. The State and Civil Society

3.1 Ombudsperson

Source: [Institution](#) - [Title](#)

3.2 NGOs

Given the proliferation of associations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the confusion surrounding their nature, aims and activities, the Non-Governmental Organizations Act was promulgated in 1999 in order to provide an institutional framework. In 2000 there were 83 NGOs and associations operating in Equatorial Guinea, some of them more active than others.

Source: [UN OHCHR](#) - [Core Document Forming Part of the Reports of State Parties \(12 September 2003\)](#)

According to the Special Rapporteur of the United Nations, human rights NGOs were not allowed to register and function in Equatorial Guinea. Some NGOs were being banned without a reason; referring in particular to the cases of the Bar Association and the Press Association, banned in May 2002.

With regard to non-governmental organizations' difficulties in obtaining the necessary authorization to function, the Prime Minister noted that a number of non-governmental organizations are changing their goals and purposes, deviating from the field of activity for which they had originally obtained the authorization, which contravenes the law.

Source: [UN OHCHR](#) - [Mission to Equatorial Guinea \(9 January 2003\)](#)

3.3 Civil Society

The passage in 1992, by general referendum, of Equatorial Guinea's constitutional reform, marked the start of the process of democratization in the country. The Constitution recognizes political pluralism (art. 1) and a series of general rights and freedoms. Various laws have been enacted since then, including the Political Parties Act, the Assemblies and Demonstrations Act, the Multi-Party Elections Act and the Press and Publications Act. As a result, 13 political parties¹², which now make up the country's political spectrum, have been given legal recognition since 1992.

Several laws have been enacted since 1991 to enable the formation of associations and non-governmental organizations, including the 1991 Cooperatives Act, the 1992 Associations Act and the 1992 Trade Unions Act. The Press, Publications and Audiovisual Media Act was passed in 1997.

See page 6 of source for brief on the Press, Television and Radio.

The majority of the inhabitants of Equatorial Guinea are Catholics, followed by Protestants and a considerable number of Muslims. The Freedom of Religion Act, passed in 1995, made it possible to establish other religious denominations.

Source: [UN OHCHR](#) - [Core Document Forming Part of the Reports of State Parties \(12 September 2003\)](#)

¹² The Government's party, Partido Democrático de Guinea Ecuatorial (PDGE), 11 other parties belonging to the governing coalition, and one opposition party, Convergencia para la Democracia Social (CPDS)

4. Civil Service

4.1 Legal basis

The 1992 Civil Service Act provides the legal basis for the civil service.

Source: [UN OHCHR - Core Document Forming Part of the Reports of State Parties \(12 September 2003\)](#)

The Central Government Act of 12 March 1980 aimed at reducing the size of the civil service and improving its performance and effectiveness.

The Act introduced a new structure for central government institutions and gave them new staffing plans (Consejo Militar Supremo, 1980). This law was mainly to increase, reduce or change the denomination of departments and/or their responsibilities and to remove redundant employees.

Article 4 of the Act fixed the number of government ministries to 11 from 13 and reduced the number of civil servants from 4,000 to 3,000. This reduction was done by a Decree-Law of 22 April 1980.

Source: [CAFRAD - Administrative and Civil Service Reform in Equatorial Guinea \(2002\)](#)

4.2 Recruitment

Source: [Institution - Title](#)

4.3 Promotion

Source: [Institution - Title](#)

4.4 Remuneration

Source: [Institution - Title](#)

4.5 Training

Source: [Institution - Title](#)

4.6 Gender

The Civil Service Act recognizes, inter alia, women's right to work.

Source: [UN OHCHR - Core Document Forming Part of the Reports of State Parties \(12 September 2003\)](#)

5. Ethics and Civil Service

5.1 Corruption

2003 CPI Score" relates to perceptions of the degree of corruption as seen by business people and country analysts and ranges between 10 (highly clean) and 0 (highly corrupt).

Corruption Perceptions Index							
Rank	Country	2003 CPI Score	Surveys Used	Standard Deviation	High-Low Range	Number Inst.	90 percent confidence range
1	Highly clean	9.7	8	0.3	9.2 - 10.0	4	9.5 - 9.9
..	Equatorial Guinea	..	..	..	..	..	..
133	Highly corrupt	1.3	8	0.7	0.3 - 2.2	6	0.9 - 1.7

Source: [Transparency International](#) - [Corruption Perceptions Index 2003](#)

Surveys Used: Refers to the number of surveys that were used to assess a country's performance. 17 surveys were used and at least 3 surveys were required for a country to be included in the CPI.

Standard Deviation: Indicates differences in the values of the sources. Values below 0.5 indicate agreement, values between 0.5 and c. 0.9 indicate some agreement, while values equal or larger than 1 indicate disagreement.

High-Low Range: Provides the highest and lowest values of the sources.

Number Institutions: Refers to the number of independent institutions that assessed a country's performance. Since some institutions provided more than one survey.

90 percent confidence range: Provides a range of possible values of the CPI score. With 5 percent probability the score is above this range and with another 5 percent it is below.

Source: [Institution](#) - [Title](#)

5.2 Ethics

Source: [Institution](#) - [Title](#)

6. e-Government¹³

e-Government Readiness Index:

The index refers to the generic capacity or aptitude of the public sector to use ICT for encapsulating in public services and deploying to the public, high quality information (explicit knowledge) and effective communication tools that support human development.

The index is comprised of three sub-indices: Web Measure Index, Telecommunications Infrastructure Index and Human Capital Index.

Web Measure Index:

A scale based on progressively sophisticated web services present. Coverage and sophistication of state-provided e-service and e-product availability correspond to a numerical classification.

Telecommunications Infrastructure Index:

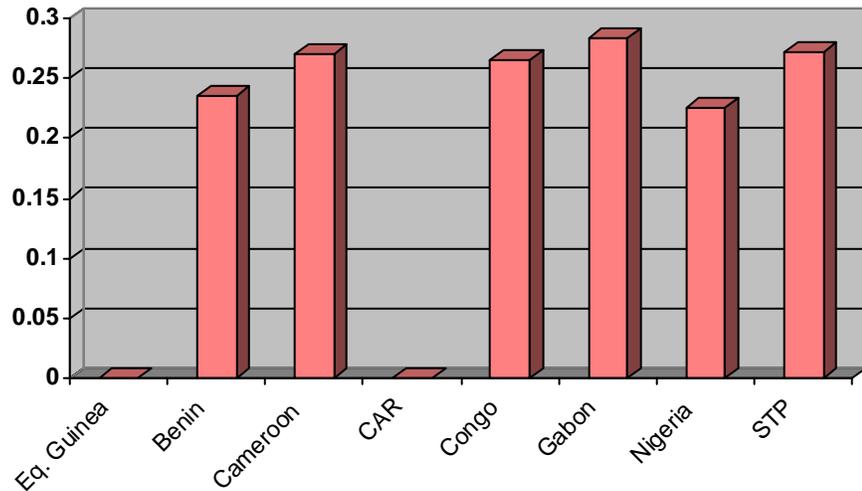
A composite, weighted average index of six primary indices, based on basic infrastructural indicators that define a country's ICT infrastructure capacity.

Primary indicators are: PC's, Internet users, online population and Mobile phones. Secondary indicators are TVs and telephone lines.

Human Capital Index:

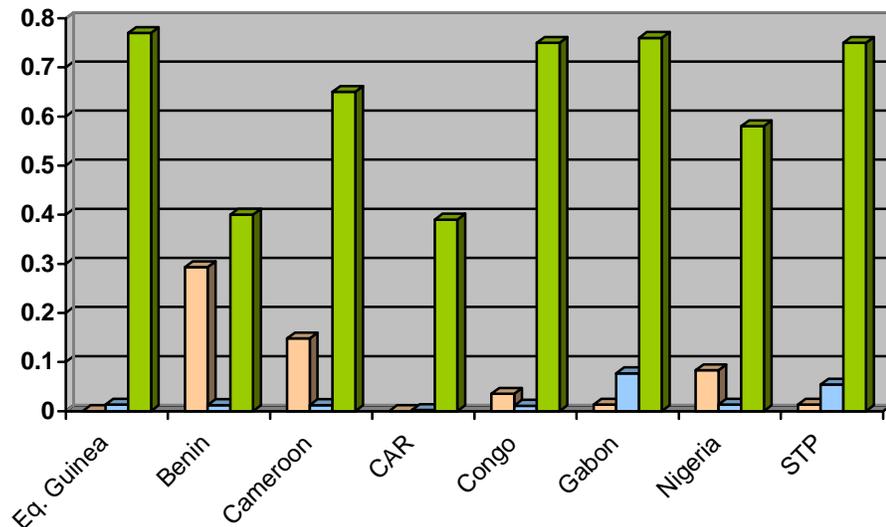
A composite of the adult literacy rate and the combined primary, secondary and tertiary gross enrolment ratio, with two thirds of the weight given to adult literacy and one third to the gross enrolment ratio.

e-Government Readiness Index



Source: United Nations – World Public Sector Report 2003

Web Measure Index, Telecom. Infrastructure Index, Human Capital Index

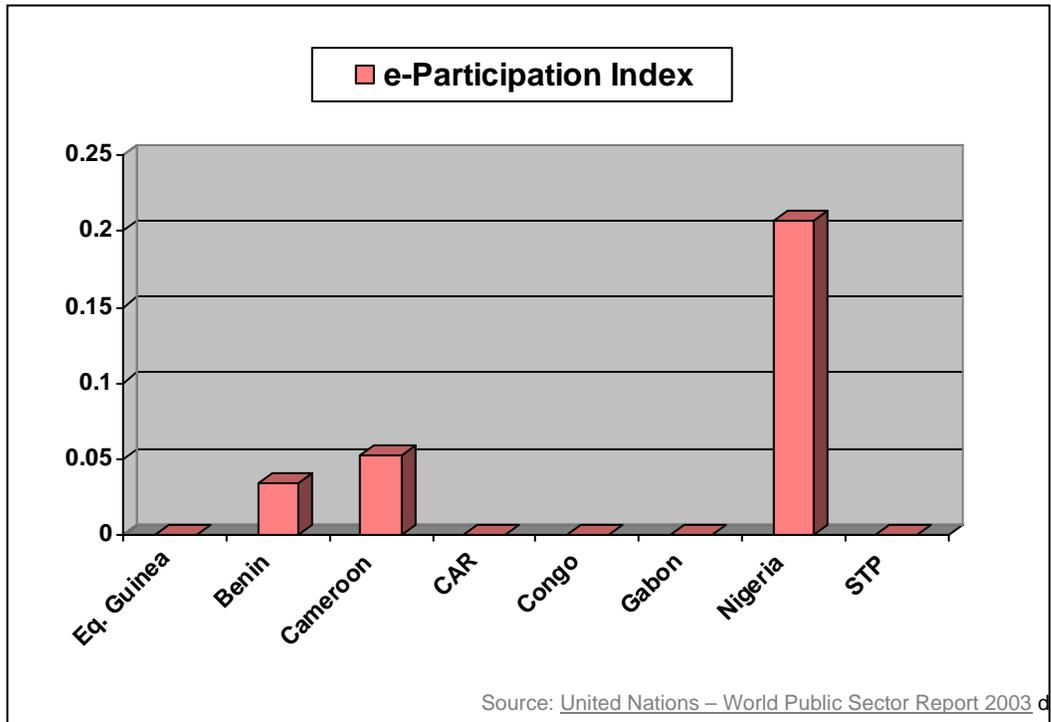


Source: United Nations – World Public Sector Report 2003

¹³ [Click here](#) for the website of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea; launched after the conduct of the survey.

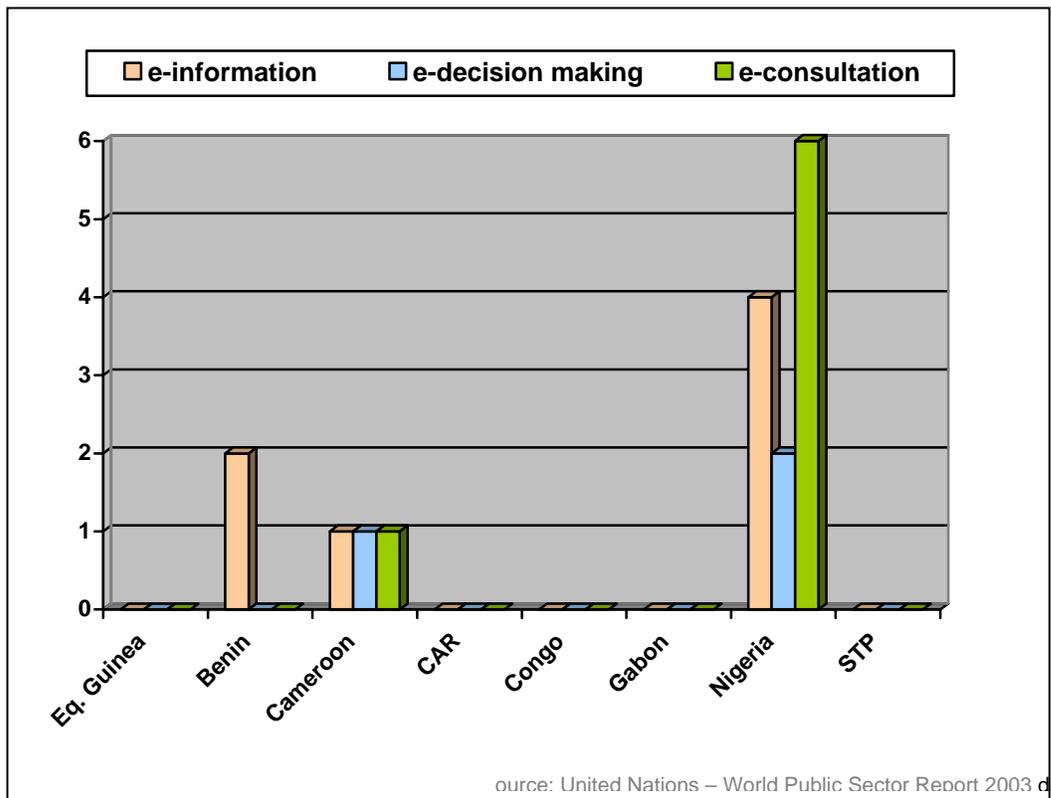
e-Participation Index:

Refers to the willingness, on the part of the government, to use ICT to provide high quality information (explicit knowledge) and effective communication tools for the specific purpose of empowering people for able participation in consultations and decision-making both in their capacity as consumers of public services and as citizens.



e-information:

The government websites offer information on policies and programs, budgets, laws and regulations, and other briefs of key public interest. Tools for disseminating of information exist for timely access and use of public information, including web forums, e-mail lists, newsgroups and chat rooms.



e-decision making:

The government indicates that it will take citizens input into account in decision making and provides actual feedback on the outcome of specific issues.

e-consultation:

The government website explains e-consultation mechanisms and tools. It offers a choice of public policy topics online for discussion with real time and archived access to audios and videos of public meetings. The government encourages citizens to participate in discussions.

7. Links

7.1 National sites	
Authority	Topic
Web site of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea	http://www.ceiba-guinea-ecuatorial.org

7.2 Miscellaneous sites	
Institution	Topic
African Civil Services Observatory (OFPA)	http://www.ofpa.net/
African Development Bank (ADB)	http://www.afdb.org/
African Training and Research Centre in Administration for Development (CAFRAD)	http://www.cafrad.org/
African Union (AU)	http://www.africa-union.org/
European Union (EU)	http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/ACP countries
International Labour Organization (ILO) - NATLEX	http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex_browse.home
New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)	http://www.nepad.org/
UNPAN	http://www.unpan.org/virtual_library-byregion.asp
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)	http://www.uneca.org/
World Bank (WB)	http://www.worldbank.org/gg