

Equatorial Guinea

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Location and area

Equatorial Guinea is an independent republic in western Africa, consisting of a mainland section bordered on the north by Cameroon, on the east and south by Gabon, and on the west by the Gulf of Guinea; and, in the Gulf of Guinea, the islets of Corisco, Elobey Grande, and Elobey Chico, and the islands of Bioko and Annobón. Equatorial Guinea has a total area of 28,051 km². (Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia 2002).

Topography

The terrain of mainland Equatorial Guinea is gently rolling and heavily forested; the River Mbini (formerly Benito) drains about 60 % of the area. The most mountainous parts of this region are in the southwest, where the plateaux and hill ranges form part of the Cristal Mountains of Gabon.

The main island of Equatorial Guinea is Bioko (previously Fernando Po, 2,017 km²), which is to the north of the mainland, close to the coast of Cameroon. The island, primarily of volcanic origin, is mountainous and thickly wooded, with a steep, rocky coast. Its highest peak is Santa Isabel (3,008 m). The island has fertile soils and several rivers; lakes are found in the mountainous areas. The small island of Annobón lies about 640 km to the southwest, offshore Gabon. (Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia 2002).

Climate

Equatorial Guinea has a tropical equatorial climate. The average annual temperature is about 25° C and the annual rainfall is more than 2,000 mm in most areas (Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia 2002).

Peatlands

According to the interpreted World Soil Map (Van Engelen & Huting 2002) 8 km² of histosols exist in Equatorial Guinea and 8,476 km² of gley soils.

Still to be checked:

Kawalec, A. 1976. The genesis of Lower Guinea peatbogs and processes of transformation under drainage. Proc. 5th Int. Peat Congress Vol 2: 29-36.