

Country Programme Document for Equatorial Guinea (2013-2017)

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I. Situation analysis

1. Following the discovery of oil in Equatorial Guinea in the mid-1990s, the exploitation of petroleum resources led to a sharp rise in the GDP (21.4 per cent in 2007 and 7.1 per cent in 2011). Nevertheless, the country has not yet taken advantage of this growth to improve its human development levels. In 2011, it had a Human Development Index (HDI) of 0.538; with a gross national income per capita of \$17,606 in 2005, the country's ranking was 136 out of 187 countries.

2. According to data from the Second National Economic Conference held in 2007, 76.8 per cent of the total population was living below the poverty line of \$2.00 per day. Seventy-nine per cent of the rural population were poor, while in the main urban centres of Malabo and Bata, 79 per cent and 62 per cent of the population were poor. The effort to reduce social inequity must be continued.

3. In terms of gender inequality, the poverty index for women is 77.5 per cent, compared with 75.9 per cent for men. Ten per cent of the seats in Parliament are held by women.

4. To reduce poverty, access to credit for production activities must be improved. The financial system is still not fully developed and is therefore unable to finance such activities.

5. Job creation is another problem facing the country. The Government has undertaken an ambitious programme of public investment in infrastructure. The National Conference on Industrialization, which was held in November 2011, addressed the need to diversify production so as to generate jobs in that sectors and improve income levels for the people. This will entail improving academic education, vocational training and access to information and communication technologies (ICT).

6. In the health sector, the Government took over HIV/AIDS and malaria programmes that had been started with international assistance. Public hospitals have the necessary supply of antiretroviral drugs and malaria medication to provide them free of charge. The country needs to continue setting up mechanisms for monitoring, raising awareness and educating the people in this area.

7. In the political sphere, in November 2011, the Fundamental Law (Constitution) of Equatorial Guinea was amended as the result of a referendum. The new Constitution was promulgated in February 2012. Among the key changes were the establishment of a complete system of presidential Government which includes the Vice President, the Senate, which is made up of 70 members elected by universal suffrage, the Court of Accounts, the Ombudsperson, the Council of the Republic and the National Council for Economic and Social Development Policy. These changes are designed to strengthen governance and democratic institutions and promote transparency.

8. In 2009, the country participated voluntarily in the universal periodic review (UPR) on its human rights situation. It is now implementing the recommendations resulting from the review, with the support of the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa and the UNDP office. In 2012, as Equatorial Guinea pursues its efforts to follow up on the UPR, it will need continued technical assistance in this regard.

9. The National Development Plan includes the issue of the environment. The rapid creation of infrastructures has accelerated deforestation; to this is added the degradation of the land and hunting of wild animals for human consumption. The number of persons with access to energy has increased, thus increasing opportunities for development and poverty reduction. The population needs to be made aware of and prepared for the challenges of climate change and the use of clean renewable energy.

10. The difficulties involved in efforts to reduce inequity, increase transparency, improve public management, especially in regard to the management of sustainable development, and ensure respect for human rights, as well as the recent changes in the political sphere, have highlighted the urgent need to strengthen the country's institutions, consolidate its processes and reinforce its human resources for public management, at both the central and the local levels. The strengthening of national capacities is an absolute necessity for Equatorial Guinea at this stage in its development.

II. Past cooperation and lessons learned

11. The 2008-2012 programme was the first one to be drawn up jointly with the Government, in the context of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and the Common Country Assessment (CCA). The following priorities were established: (i) poverty reduction, (ii) improvement of basic social services, (iii) gender equity, and (iv) promotion of good governance. The midterm evaluation of UNDAF shows the contribution of UNDP to the design and approval of the National Economic and Social Development Plan 2020 adopted by the Government to achieve the goals of national development and the Millennium Development Goals.

12. The experience with the 2008-2012 cooperation programme has brought to light the need to intensify efforts to promote the programme among the partners in the country's development activities, especially the Government, in order to persuade it of the need to finance national development and ensure that financial resources are effectively channelled to the different projects so as to make it possible to implement them. The difficulties that were encountered in connection with the release of Government counterpart funds for the 2008-2012 programme have persisted, partly because of administrative limitations. The Government needs to bear in mind that almost all the country's development problems can be attributed to shortcomings in execution capabilities, both in the area of public management and in civil society organizations. This has also made it very difficult to meet commitments in regard to development.

13. The UNDP Office helped to strengthen the capacities of the General Directorate for Human Rights, the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa, the National Human Rights Commission, the Department of Justice, the Department of National Security, human rights NGOs and other entities. The aim is to achieve improvements that will enable the country to raise awareness and implement all its current international commitments in the area of human rights, gender equity and good governance.

14. From that standpoint, the experience gained with other agencies of the United Nations system highlights the need for UNDP to continue its work in support of the

strengthening of national capacities for economic, financial and administrative management at the central and local levels and among civil society organizations, so as to enhance strategic cooperation and mobilize technical and financial assistance for the design and implementation of microprojects. The logistical tools provided have contributed to implementation of the national local development programme.

15. The midterm evaluation of the previous programme stresses the need to conduct, in conjunction with the Government, more frequent monitoring of activities, in line with UNDAF, so as to avoid delays in the disbursement of funds and implementation of projects.

III. Proposed programme

16. The proposed programme for 2013-2017 has been drawn up in close consultation with the Government and on the basis of CCA and UNDAF. The programme goal will be to achieve greater equity in Equatorial Guinea through initiatives aimed at ensuring that the economic growth resulting from the exploitation of petroleum resources is environmentally sustainable and that it also benefits the poor sectors of the population. To this end, intervention will be aimed fundamentally at strengthening national capacities so as to enhance opportunities for the people of Equatorial Guinea, improve public management and achieve sustainable management of natural resources.

Component 1: Socioeconomic wellbeing

17. The UNDP Office will provide support to the country to ensure that its economic growth plans include initiatives aimed at reducing poverty, improving access for the poor to financing of production activities and generating jobs in production for the population of rural and peri-urban areas, with special attention being given to youth and women.

18. Support will be provided, in conjunction with the ministries of agriculture, planning and economic development, producer groups, financial institutions and the Bank of Central African States, for the development of mechanisms for financing microenterprises to benefit the low-income population, with special attention being paid to environmental sustainability.

19. With the participation of the private sector, the needs for vocational training and skills training will be determined, and support will be provided to the national training programme in education, science, new information technologies and physics and mathematical sciences, the national local development programme and the Horizon 2020 Equatorial Guinea Programme. The UNDP Office will help design a programme of vocational and skills training for the low-income population, so as to enable them to enter the labour market.

20. Together with the Office of the President of the Republic and the ministries of labour and of education, knowledge relating to new information and communication technologies will be disseminated throughout the seven provinces of the country. Provincial centres will be set up to provide training to enable local inhabitants to expand their practical skills and thus be able to obtain jobs and earn income.

21. Under the programme, training will be offered to local companies and NGOs with a view to financing mechanisms for carrying out production activities in rural areas so as to reinforce sustainability and increase the number of beneficiaries.

22. In an effort to improve life expectancy, the Government will strengthen the national programme on HIV/AIDS. In support of this strategy, the UNDP Office will work with the ministries of health, education, defence and promotion of women, as well as several NGOs. Training will be provided for national human resources so as to offer effective prevention and treatment services, support and psychosocial counselling. Increased support will be provided for prevention and sensitization services and for the purchase of medication and products for combating HIV/AIDS.

23. To monitor progress in regard to the reduction of inequity and poverty, the UNDP Office will help the Government prepare a report on human development and a report on the Millennium Development Goals.

Component 2: Democratic governance

24. Given that public management is essential for reducing inequity and promoting transparency and respect for human rights, and bearing in mind the recent institutional changes the country has undergone, under component 2 of the Program, the UNDP Office will undertake initiatives aimed at helping Equatorial Guinea strengthen its public management and its new institutional framework.

25. The UNDP Office, in conjunction with the Ministry of the Civil Service and the Ministry of the Interior, will provide assistance in connection with the national policy on administrative reform and decentralization and local development. Training programmes will be offered for civil servants at the central and local levels. City governments will be trained and provided with tools for effective public management. Support will be given for the consolidation of democratic reforms, the deepening and expansion of mechanisms to increase participation and inclusiveness, promoting gender equity and increasing the participation of women in State institutions.

26. In collaboration with the Ministry of Planning, the UNDP Office will support efforts to improve public management by offering training in results-based management for staff of national institutions responsible for development planning, coordination of technical cooperation and the application of public policies on development.

27. The UNDP Office, with the Government's support, will continue training and strengthening national institutions responsible for disseminating and promoting human rights, bearing in mind the recommendations resulting from the Universal Periodic Review. It will reinforce the capacities of NGOs in this area, contribute to the reorientation of legislation and help raise awareness on human rights.

28. To strengthen transparency and the fight against corruption, the UNDP Office will provide technical assistance to the recently created Court of Accounts in connection with its legal framework and operational structure. In addition, it will provide technical assistance with the drafting of a code of ethics for public officials.

29. Bearing in mind that the country was ranked third in regard to human trafficking, as a result of consultations with the Government, it was decided that the

UNDP Office should help revise the national plan to combat trafficking in persons and assist with implementation of the plan.

Component 3: Sustainable environment

30. The UNDP Office will help the country implement measures designed to achieve sustainable environment. Together with the ministries of fisheries and the environment, agriculture and forests, and mines and energy, as well as private/sector entities, the Office will provide technical assistance in drawing up the strategic policy and framework for management of protected areas. The necessary technical tools will be provided for the management of 13 protected areas, with special emphasis on conservation of biodiversity, as well as on the necessary legislation. Every effort will be made to ensure that reference units in the field are operational and properly funded.

31. With the support of the private sector and the Government, the UNDP Office will provide assistance in regard to the generation of clean energy (in particular, solar panels) in several rural areas that do not have electricity.

32. The UNDP Office will help raise public awareness regarding the need to adopt strategies for reducing carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions and to disseminate information on the relationship between such emissions and desertification and climate change. It will also help prepare national environmental statistics.

IV. Programme management, monitoring and evaluation

33. The programme will be designed for national implementation; the Office will work in coordination with national counterpart agencies, so as to ensure consistency with national development priorities. It will continue its current cooperation with the Government and will establish new arrangements with other development partners so as to ensure efficient, effective, pertinent and sustainable programming with national appropriation of outcomes.

34. The organizational structure of the UNDP Office in the country will be reinforced and adapted to the new vision and future needs of the programme. The necessary training will be provided for UNDP staff and national counterpart staff so as to ensure effective and efficient programme implementation. The monitoring and evaluation framework will be brought in line with UNDAF. Monitoring of progress will be based on the indicators shown in the results and resources framework and will be under the responsibility of an executive committee made up of Government and UNDP officials.

35. The total amount of resources needed for the Programme is \$7,769,000. Of this amount, \$2,446,000 will come from regular UNDP resources; to this will be added the Government contribution of \$4,135,000, while other donors will contribute \$1,188,000. Programme implementation will be multi-annual.

Annex I

Results and resources framework for the Equatorial Guinea country programme (2013-2017)

<p>National development priority or goal: Strategic orientation No. 1 Agenda 2020: Strengthen human capital and improve social wellbeing — Sectoral policies: Programme on strengthening of human capital; “A State that works for your wellbeing”; “Health for all”; Plans for the campaign to accelerate the reduction of maternal mortality.</p> <p>UNDAF outcome: (a) The most vulnerable population has access to social services thanks to social protection policies and programmes; (b) The poor populations of rural and peri-urban areas, especially women and young people, increase their income through production activities and employment opportunities; (c) The country’s human capital is strengthened in order to achieve the objectives of Agenda 2020; (d) The health of the population, especially women, boys, girls and young people, has improved.</p>					
Government contributions	Contributions from other partners	UNDP contributions	Indicators, baselines and goals for UNDP contributions	Indicative Programme outputs	Resources (indicative figures) (U.S. dollars)
<p>The sectoral ministries will strive to harmonize public investment with priorities for achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the goals of the National Economic and Social Development Plan 2020, and the Government will accelerate execution and financing of access to ICTs.</p>	<p>The specialized agencies will offer technical assistance in their respective spheres of competence and will strengthen national capacities.</p>	<p>Technical assistance and financing for job creation in rural and peri-urban areas and for provincial centres offering access to ICTs; promotion of facilities for financing production activities. Strengthening of national capacities relating to financing tools and provision of services for combating HIV/AIDS. Support for technical and financial management of centres created.</p>	<p>Indicator: Percentage of rural and peri-urban population that has access to employment and credit.</p> <p>Baseline: The poor rural population has limited access to financing for production activities.</p> <p>Goals: (a) By 2014, there is an inventory of producer groups that have financing; (b) By 2017, the number of groups with financing for production activities has increased by at least 25%.</p> <p>Indicator: Public budgetary allocations earmarked for social protection policies and programmes..</p> <p>Baseline: Public budgets do not include separate allocations for social protection.</p> <p>Goal: By 2015, budgetary allocations have been made for social protection.</p> <p>Indicator: Number of provincial centres providing access to ICTs.</p> <p>Baseline: None.</p> <p>Goal: Seven centres set up, one in each province.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programmes are being implemented to offer rural production units with financing and support for production and marketing. A national publicly funded programme for vocational and skills training has been developed. A national employment and vocational training policy has been developed. The population has access to new information and communication technologies. National capacities for combating HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, STIs, syphilis and other transmissible diseases have been strengthened. 	<p>Regular resources: 1 174 080 (TRAC)</p> <p>Other resources: <i>Government:</i> 1 390 000 <i>Other donors:</i> 710 000</p>

National development priority or goal: Strategic orientation No. 4 Agenda 2020: Establish effective governance at the service of citizens.					
Country programme/UNDAF outcome: (a) Public institutions strengthen their capacity to promote and protect human rights and gender equality; (b) The public administration has developed its capacities for planning, application, monitoring and evaluation of development policies.					
Government contributions	Contributions from other partners	UNDP contributions	Indicators, baselines and goals for UNDP contributions	Indicative Programme outputs	Resources (indicative figures) (U.S. dollars)
The Government accelerates the implementation of new constitutional reforms to improve the enjoyment of economic and social rights. The Department of Human Rights strives to ensure compliance with the recommendations resulting from the UPR. Priority is assigned to the fight against human trafficking and its consequences.	National institutions responsible for promoting human rights work to ensure that the country complies with international norms in the area of human rights, including gender sensitivity, and advocate the empowerment of women.	The national capacities of the State and NGOs offering technical assistance, training and orientation in the area of human rights, including gender sensitivity, are strengthened. Assistance is provided for instrumental training in strategic planning and public management. Support is provided for efforts to raise awareness of trafficking in persons and for the adoption of protection measures in that regard.	<p>Indicator: A plan is developed for a campaign to promote compliance with UPR recommendations. A monitoring committee is in place and is operational.</p> <p>Baseline: The committee is incomplete.</p> <p>Goal: A committee has been set up and is operational by 2013. Presentation of a report to the Human Rights Council in June 2014.</p> <p>Indicator: Public officials systematically adopt results-based strategic planning.</p> <p>Baseline: There is no planning.</p> <p>Goal: Local administration officials have been trained.</p> <p>Indicator: Capacity for project design, management and evaluation.</p> <p>Baseline: There are no experts.</p> <p>Goal: Local administration officials have been trained.</p> <p>Indicator: National plan to combat human trafficking, with a gender approach.</p> <p>Baseline: The country has been ranked in third place.</p> <p>Goal: The national plan to combat human trafficking is being implemented.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The national legislative framework has been harmonized with international instruments, and other international instruments have been ratified. Public officials at the central and local levels are offered training in results-based strategic planning. The programme- and project-management capacities of national NGOs are strengthened. The report on the Millennium Development Goals for 2013-2014 is prepared. The Human Development Report is prepared. The National Plan to combat human trafficking is in force. 	<p>Regular resources: 1 027 320 (TRAC)</p> <p>Other resources: <i>Government:</i> 2 745 000</p>

National priority or objective: Act on Environmental Regulation in the Republic of Equatorial Guinea.					
UNDAF outcome: The country has a stronger legislative and institutional framework that guarantees sustainable management of the environment; adaptation to climate change and mitigation of its effects.					
Government contributions	Contributions from other partners	UNDP contributions	Indicators, baselines and goals for UNDP contributions	Indicative Programme outputs	Resources (indicative figures) (U.S. dollars)
The Government establishes the national strategy on protected areas, soil degradation and climate change. Production of clean energy is a strategic priority of the National Development Plan.	GEF will continue to fund activities aimed at raising awareness of the need to intensify measures for the sustainable management of protected areas and protection against soil degradation and climate change.	National capacities are strengthened by providing tools for plans on the management of protected areas and the establishment of bodies responsible for sustainable soil management. Support is provided to raise awareness in rural areas regarding deforestation and land degradation.	<p>Indicator: A policy and strategy framework for management of protected areas is drawn up.</p> <p>Baseline: A law establishing a system of protected areas has been passed.</p> <p>Goal: The policy and strategy framework for management of protected areas has been validated.</p> <p>Indicator: Plan for the management of protected areas.</p> <p>Baseline: There is no plan for the management of protected areas.</p> <p>Goal: The plan for the management of protected areas has been drawn up and is being implemented.</p> <p>Indicator: Plan for the sustainable management of soils and biodiversity.</p> <p>Baseline: There is no plan for the sustainable management of soils and biodiversity.</p> <p>Goal: By 2015, a plan for the sustainable management of soils and biodiversity has been drawn up and a strategy for the protection of biodiversity is being implemented.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Methodologies are being applied for the inclusion of measures for adapting to climate change and mitigating its effects in the planning and formulation of public budgets at the national and local levels. Plans are drawn up for the sustainable management of natural resources at the community level. An academic curriculum on climate change has been prepared. 	<p>Regular resources: 244 600 (TRAC)</p> <p>Other resources: <i>Donors:</i> 478 000 (GEF)</p>

Annex II

Acronyms

CCA	Common Country Assessment
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
HDI	Human Development Index
HIV/AIDS	human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
ICT	information and communications technology
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
NGO	non-governmental organization
PPP	purchasing power parities
STI	sexually transmitted infection
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
