

Equatorial Guinea Newsletter



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Resilient nations.*

Strategic Focus for Sustainable Development

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Introduction
Dr. Coumba
Mar Gadio, UN
Resident
Coordinator
and UNDP
Resident
Representative



For UNDP, like all agencies of the United Nations system, the need for a better world where living standards are improved, inequalities reduced, human rights respected and the environment protected for sustainable human development. These were at the heart of the Sustainable Development Summit held in New York, in September 2015 where the international community approved the Agenda 2030 with it, the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In fact, we went from 8 MDGs to 17 SDGs; structured around 5Ps - People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership.

In this context, UNDP Country Office (CO) supports the Government of Equatorial Guinea for the achievement of development objectives under the National Economic Development and Social Plan (PNDES). To this end, our CO provides quality support, taking into account the specific needs of Equatorial Guinea, a high middle income country (MIC) that aims to become an emerging economy by 2020.

In Equatorial Guinea, UNDP registered its support interventions in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), from which UN agencies' programmes are developed in close cooperation with national authorities.

"...our CO provides quality support, taking into account the specific needs of Equatorial Guinea ..."

Introduction (Continued)

The UNDAF for the period (2013-2017) has its funding mainly provided by the Government of Equatorial Guinea. Therefore, our main objective is to accompany the government through its efforts of economic diversification, strengthening institutional capacity at central and local levels. UNDP programme in Equatorial Guinea focuses on 3 key areas: governance, poverty reduction and SDGs, and energy and environment.

This support aims, inter alia, to reduce poverty by enhancing the ongoing efforts on social protection and the development of a national policy and strategy for the employment of young people, and their training on Information communications and technologies. With regard to governance, UNDP is endeavouring to support the ongoing government efforts institutional strengthening, the respect for human rights, and achieving gender equality. We are also managing the purchase of antiretroviral medicines on international markets. These medicines, are provided free of charge by government to people living with HIV/Aids. UNDP also supports statistical capacity-building and the graduation process, under which, Equatorial Guinea will graduate out of the Least Developed Country (LDC) category.

In the field of environment and energy, UNDP is supporting a high-profile project on conservation of the country's exceptional biodiversity, through participatory systems and suitable legislation for the establishment and management of sizeable protected areas for wildlife and vegetation, both on the island of Bioko and in the continental region.



Strategic Focus

Domingos Mazivila, Economic Advisor



Addressing Economic Diversification in Equatorial Guinea

Equatorial Guinea's discovery of oil in the '90s has enabled the country to undergo a tremendous economic boom, resulting in an annual GDP growth rate of over 40% during the decade 1995-2005. Per capita GDP also rose sharply during this period and has totalled more than US\$ 20,500 in 2013, placing the country well ahead of the rest of African countries for this indicator. Cognisance of the challenges of high dependence on the extractives, mainly the hydrocarbon sector, the Government of Equatorial Guinea, launched back in 2008, the National Economic and Social Development Plan (PNDES) known as Equatorial Guinea 2020: Agenda for Diversification of Sources of Growth. The first phase of the PNDES (2008-2012) aimed at laying the foundations for economic growth and diversification. In fact, government embarked on a very ambitious public investment program countrywide, building and rehabilitating key infrastructure projects like roads, ports and airports, electricity generation and distribution, housing projects and public buildings.

Under PNDES, the country is implementing an ambitious spatial development program, with projects developing growth centers across the

country, connected by major roads. The recently inaugurated city of Djibloho build from scratch in the jungles in the mainland is an example of this approach. With these projects, the focus is to leverage from the oil revenues, expand the economy by boosting productive capacities across agriculture, fishing, tourism and services, transport, manufacturing and mining sectors. From the social front, the PNDES also aims at providing better habitat for people through the housing projects, accompanied by access to water and electricity, and health and education facilities.

The second phase of PNDES (2013-2020), aims at accelerating the diversification of the economy along with the promotion of key employment intensive sectors, and tapping from the already built state of the art infrastructural projects. The international commodity price falls, with major effects on the crude price has slowed the PNDES implementation speed, making it more urgent to pursue evermore the economic diversification agenda. Equatorial Guinea is scheduled for graduation out of the Least Developed Country's (LDC) category in 2017, and continue to an emerging economy by 2020.

© UNDP
Equatorial
Guinea/
Launching of the
preliminary results
of the population
and housing
Census



UNDP supports Equatorial Guinea's IV Population and Housing Census

In an effort to avail timely, reliable data and vital information for development planning, the Government of Equatorial Guinea has embarked in a major statistical activity by carrying out the IV General Population and Housing Census in 2015. The Census was carried out along with the first ever agricultural census and an integrated labour force survey; and has benefited from the support of the UN Agencies. The Census was coordinated by the Ministry of Economy Planning and Public Investment, specifically the National Institute of Statistics (INEGE), as part of the implementation of the National Plan for Economic and Social Development (PNDES). Key support intervention activities from the UN included (I) the elaboration of the project document, (II) technical guidance and validation of the methodology for the cartography, and the questionnaires, (III) field work on the pilot and actual census, and (IV) training of the census agents. Preliminary results of the Population Census indicate that Equatorial Guinea has a population of 1,222,442 inhabitants of which 72.2% are in the continent and 27.8% in the insular region.

At the launching of preliminary results, UN representatives, stated that the participation of the UN agencies was decisive, and considered the work of the census as very positive. According to UNDP RR "The population census is a very important process for a country, as it allows one to get information on different aspects, which vital for the development of reliable policies". "The United Nations system, particularly UNDP, has cooperated from the beginning, in the process and its involvement took into account international standards censuses and statistical activities". She also congratulated the Government of Equatorial Guinea for this important initiative, and the decision to invest adequately with resources to carry on the census.



UNDP promotes decent work and skills development in Equatorial Guinea

© UNDP Equatorial Guinea/Signature of the Youth employment project. L-R Mrs. Coumba Mar Gadio, UNDP RR - Mr. Andrés Jorge Mbomio Nsem Abua, Minister of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea (March 2016)

A team of UNDP experts undertook consultations with various actors, including the government, the private sector, development partners and civil society organizations in order to develop a program capturing a set of interventions that would help the country addressing skills gap and employment challenges in Equatorial Guinea. This work helped producing a major project document entitled Support to Youth Economic Empowerment, signed by the minister of Youth and Sports on behalf of government of Equatorial Guinea, and the UNDP RR, on the 10th March 2016 in Malabo.

Within the project, UNDP aims to support the government of Equatorial Guinea to achieve the following results: (i) develop the skills of youths, particularly that of female youths to access employment opportunities; (ii) enhance the national capacity to design, implement and manage an effective Vocational and Educational Training (VET), and a job intermediation system; (iii) uplift employment and livelihood opportunities, especially for young women through the promotion of self-employment, entrepreneurship and public works; and (iv) strengthen institutional capacity to deliver on gender-equitable youth development, and social protection ambition of the country. The project has an estimated budget of US\$ 3,500,000.00 (three million, five hundred US dollars) for three years, and it will be mainly funded by the Government of Equatorial Guinea. The project will also mobilize resources from non-state actors, especially within the oil sector.



© UNPD Equatorial Guinea/Launching of the 2015 National MDGs Report

Equatorial Guinea's path from MDGs to Sustainable Development

The 2015 National MDG Report for Equatorial Guinea shows that the country has made significant progress in reducing poverty and inequality, ensuring universal access to education, achieving gender equality, improving maternal and child health, fighting HIV/AIDS, and major diseases, and ensuring environmental sustainability. Further to the commitment to fight HIV/AIDS, the government provides anti-retroviral treatment (ART) free of charge to every Equatoguinean. The report shows that Equatorial Guinea has to a great extent, achieved most of MDGs.

Going forward, the country's commitment to the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), is underpinned in the national development plan, (PNDES), whose 15 major programs include: food security for all, health for all, education for all, housing for all, water for all, electricity for all, people centered administration, development statistics, employment for all, transforming the country into an energy power house; a regional financial hub, and a role model in environmental sustainability, etc. ensuring that all Equatoguineans benefit from the national development beyond the MDGs and to a greater extent taking into consideration the SDGs.

At the launching of the report on the 28th of October, 2015 the Government of Equatorial Guinea vowed to devote its utmost energy to channel all necessary resources as the country embraces the SDGs, thus far reaffirming the commitment made at the sustainable development summit in September 2015. The report was co-launched by the Prime Minister and the UNRC in a meeting attended by more than 300 participants among members of government, parliament, diplomatic corps, UN and development partners, civil society, academia, and the private sector.



Selected programs interventions

Ricardo Domínguez, Chief
Technical Specialist, GEF

The challenge of reconnecting people with the natural heritage

A Symposium entitled *The future of the Gran Caldera de Luba Scientific Reserve* was held from 11 to 12 June 2015 in Malabo. The symposium aimed at developing an effective management plan for the scientific reserve, and exhibitors, academics and specialists in the topic discussed with public about biodiversity and its importance for the environment and sustainable development.

This Symposium has been an example of partnership public private in which the following institutions were engaged: Ministry of Fisheries and Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Institute of development Forest - Protected Areas, Department of Tourism, Local Corporations, mayors, village leaders, National University, foreign universities, embassies, Noble Energy, Maratón Oil, Exxon, NGOs.

To reflect on the protected areas, Mr. Santiago-Engonga Esono, focal Point of the GEF and National Director of the project "Strengthening of the national system of protected areas in Equatorial Guinea", stressed that the country

needs to be able to make a contribution to sustainability throughout its territory and therefore requires a vision in which people feel part of the process". All this within the framework of a public policy focused on increasing the social valuation of biodiversity "as all Equatoguineans heritage and a source of human development for current and future generations". Biologists and professors of the University of Equatorial Guinea, researchers at the American University of Drexel, of the island of Bioko biodiversity protection program, as well as the management unit of the project GEF-SNAP, demonstrated that this paradigm shift



is today's challenge, since society still does not understand the meaning of biodiversity or that "we live in an ecosystem where we are all interdependent". They added that "against this silent heritage, people go as if nothing, why we urgently need rebuilding linkages, realizing that biological diversity is a strong provider of services, to put it within the cultural format, rating it as part of our identity.

Ricardo Dominguez and Antonio Micha Ondo, of the project management unit, they covered the theme from the human perspective, taking as an example the cases of local communities that have become guardians of their natural and cultural wealth, defending their territory. They recalled that in Equatorial Guinea there are communities that are trying to preserve their heritage, small unknown initiatives that involve large territories. "They are poor, humble, people who do not have resources, but who know the value of what they have. They are great connoisseurs of flora, fauna, archaeological sites, and they give the inputs so that researchers can apply their technical expertise in these places, "they also launched the idea that the creation of two biosphere reserves will be driven from the project "Isla de Bioko".

It is necessary to carry out actions, a national perspective from education, to achieve greater participation by the citizens. "Protected areas

conserve biological diversity, but must go beyond, to relate to the community so they help keep them, defend them and make them part of their everyday lives"

UNDPs work focuses on the development of policies and programmes aimed at a better direction and management of biodiversity, making a link between social development and economic growth.



© UNPD Equatorial Guinea/Part of the Gran Caldera de Luba Scientific Reserve



National Capacity Strengthening

Kisito Domingo Bokung,
Programme Officer

Equatorial Guinea continues to face the challenge of achieving the unmet MDGs, including the difficulties in access to a reliable statistical information and weaknesses in the national statistical system, which is fundamental for the achievement of both national and internationally agreed goals. The Government, with the support of UNDP has created the National Institute of statistics (INEGE) back in 2013, and is in the process of setting up a national statistical system.

All analyses in development in Equatorial Guinea, stumble with the lack of timely and reliable statistical information, thus far, making it difficult for policy and evidence based decision-making. UNDP CO together with the Regional Service Center carry out a series of training workshops for public officials focusing on statistical literacy, results based management (RBM), including information and data management for the National Institute of Statistics. This support intervention has proved critical in the preparation of the 3rd national MDGR, which informed the country's path towards the MDG, and the adoption of the SDGs.

The CO also supports the national program for local development, which is under the Ministry of Interior and Local Governments. This project aims to support the process of decentralization and good governance through capacity building at national and local levels. Under it, capacity building activities are provided at the central and municipality levels on various fields of development planning, implementation and monitoring.

“... UNDP supports statistical capacity strengthening, and decentralization and good governance ...”





UNDP's M&E support in Equatorial Guinea

Tsiry Razafimiarana, M&E Officer

Monitoring and evaluations aim to improve performance and to support the achievements of development results. With the recent priority that UNDP gives to the results, emphasizing realizations is not an option anymore, it is a necessity. As such, UNDP's M&E support in Equatorial Guinea ensures the successful implementation of the CPD while applying the results based management approach.

Indeed , the importance of M&E relies on the facts that : (i) it provides a consolidated source of information on projects/programmes progress, so that informed decisions can be made; (ii) it also reveals mistakes and offers paths for learning and improvements , and (ii) it provides robust basis for funds raising.



Procurement at the heart of the office

María Carmen, Procurement Associate

The CO procurement team is involved in managing large acquisitions as part of the implementation of government cost-sharing programs and other resident and non-resident agencies. As the heart of UNDP program implementation, the procurement team collaborates and work with all of UNDP's units and with other agencies of the United Nations System.

Calendar of Events

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|-------------------|--|----------------|--|
| 1 May | International Labour day | 14 June | World Blood Donor Day |
| 9 – 10 May | World Migratory Bird Day | 23 June | United Nations Public Service Day |
| 22 May | International Day for Biological Diversity | 11 July | World Population Day |
| 5 June | World Environmental Day | 18 July | Nelson Mandela International Day |
| 12 June | World Day against Child Labour | 30 July | World Day against Trafficking in Persons |



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