

Guinea Bissau



General statistics

Population: 1,647,000[(2010)
Area: 36,125 km²
Independence: 10 September , 1974 (Portugal)
Capital: Bissau
Government: Semi-presidential republic
Administrative language: Portuguese
Currency: CFA franc (XOF)
GDP: 1.720 billion billion USD
GDP per capita: 1068 USD
Calling code: + 245
Motto: "Unidade, Luta, Progresso" (Unity, Struggle, Progress)
Anthem: "Esta é a Nossa Pátria Bem Amada" (This is Our Well-Beloved Motherland")



Minerals: bauxites, seaboard placers of black sands with ilmenite, rutile, zirconium, occurrences of iron, phosphotites, brown coal and oil.

Guinea bissau is bordered by Senegal to the north, and Guinea to the south and east, with the Atlantic Ocean to its west.

History

Guinea-Bissau was once part of the kingdom of Gabu, part of the Mali Empire. Parts of this kingdom persisted until the 18th century, while a few others were part of the Portuguese Empire since the 16th century. It then became the Portuguese colony of Portuguese Guinea in the 19th century. Upon independence, declared in 1973 and recognised in 1974, the name of its capital, Bissau, was added to the country's name to prevent confusion with the Republic of Guinea.

Only 14% of the population speaks the official language, Portuguese. 44% speak Kriol, a Portuguese-based creole language, and the remainder speaks native African languages. The main religions are African traditional religions and Islam, and there is a Christian (mostly Catholic) minority.

Climate

Guinea-Bissau is warm all year around and there is little temperature fluctuation; it averages 26.3 °C (79.3 °F). The average rainfall for Bissau is 2,024 millimetres (79.7 in) although this is almost entirely accounted for during the rainy season which falls between June and September/October. From December through April, the country experiences drought.