

# Guinea



## General statistics

Population: 10,057,975 (2009)  
Area: 245,857 km<sup>2</sup>  
Independence: 2 October 1958 (France)  
Capital: Conakry  
Government: Presidential republic  
Administrative language: French  
Currency: Guinean franc (GNF)  
GDP: 10.516 billion  
GDP per capita: 991 USD  
Calling code: + 224  
Motto: Travail, Justice, Solidarité (Work, Justice, Solidarity)  
Anthem: For Liberté (freedom)



Minerals: iron, bauxite, gold, diamonds, limestone, chromites, rare earths, uranium, copper, silver, talc, manganese, beryllium, platinum, feldspar, nickel, graphite and kaolin.

The Gambia is the smallest country on mainland Africa, bordered to the north, east, and south by Senegal, with a short coastline on the Atlantic Ocean in the west.

## History

The land that is now Guinea belonged to a series of empires until France colonized it in the 1890s, and made it part of French West Africa.[4] Guinea declared its independence from France on 2 October 1958.[4] Since its independence, Guinea has had autocratic rulers in which one person possesses unlimited power, who have made Guinea one of the poorest countries in the world.

Ahmed Sékou Touré became President upon Guinea's independence. By violent oppression, he ruled until 26 March 1984, when he died unexpectedly.[8][9] By a quick coup d'état, Lansana Conté became the President after Touré. By despotic means, Conté clung to power until his death in 2008. Despite extraordinary aluminium rich resources, he was unable to improve the desperate economic plight into which Touré had plunged the country.[10]

On 23 December 2008, Moussa Dadis Camara seized control of Guinea as the head of a junta.[11] On 28 September 2009, the junta ordered its soldiers to attack people who had gathered to protest any attempt by Camara to become President.[12] The soldiers went on a rampage of rape, mutilation, and murder.[13]

On 3 December 2009, an aide shot Camara during a dispute about the rampage of September 2009. Camara went to Morocco for medical care.[13][14] Vice-President (and defense minister) Sékouba Konaté flew back from Lebanon to run the country in Camara's absence.[15]

On January 12, 2010 Camara was flown from Morocco to Burkina Faso.[16] After meeting in Ouagadougou on January 13 and 14, Camara, Konaté and Blaise Compaoré, President of Burkina Faso, produced a formal statement of twelve principles promising a return of Guinea to civilian rule within six months. It was agreed that the military would not contest the forthcoming elections, and Camara would continue his convalescence outside Guinea.[17] On 21 January 2010 the military junta appointed Jean-Marie Doré as Prime Minister of a six-month transition government, leading up to elections.[18]

The presidential election was set to take place on 27 June and 18 July 2010,[19][20] it was held as being the first free and fair election since independence in 1958. The first round took place normally on the 27 June 2010 with ex Prime Minister Cellou Dalein Diallo and his rival Alpha Condé emerging as the two runners-up for the second round.[21] However, due to allegations of electoral fraud, the second round of the election has been postponed until 19 September 2010.[22] A delay until October 10 was announced by the electoral commission (CENI), subject to approval by Sekouba Konaté.[23] Yet another delay until October 24 was announced in early October.[24] Elections were finally held on November 7. Voter turnout was high, and the elections went relatively smoothly.[25]

November 16, 2010 Alpha Condé, the leader of the opposition RPG (Rally of the Guinean People), was declared officially the victor in a November 7 run-off in Guinea's presidential election. He has promised to reform the security sector and review mining contracts.

## **Climate**

The climate of Guinea is tropical with two alternating seasons—a dry season (November through March) and a wet season (April through October). The arrival of the migratory intertropical convergence zone (ITCZ) in June brings the heaviest rainfall of the wet season. As the ITCZ shifts southward in November, the hot, dry wind known as the harmattan blows from the northeast off the Sahara.

On the coast a period of six months of dry weather is followed by six months of rain. The average rainfall at Conakry is about 170 inches (4,300 mm) a year, and the average annual temperatures are in the low 80s F (about 27 °C).

In the Fouta Djallon, January afternoon temperatures range from the mid-80s to the mid-90s F (about 30 to 35 °C), while evening temperatures dip into the high 40s and low 50s F (about 8 to 11 °C). Rainfall varies between 60 and 90 inches (1,500 and 2,300 mm) annually, and the average annual temperatures there are in the mid-70s F (about 25 °C).

In Upper Guinea rainfall drops to about 60 inches (1,500 mm) a year. During the dry season temperatures of more than 100 °F (38 °C) are common in the northeast.