



IUU Risk Intelligence

Putting Compliance First

GLOBAL EVALUATION OF FISHERIES MONITORING CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE IN 84 COUNTRIES

EQUATORIAL GUINEA - COUNTRY REPORT

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SUMMARY

This evaluation of Fisheries Monitoring Control and Surveillance report for Equatorial Guinea is one of 84 such country evaluations that covers nations landing 92% of world's fish catch. Using a wide range of interviews and in-country consultations with both military and civilian agencies, the report exemplifies the best attempt by the author(s) at evaluation of MCS compliance using 12 questions derived from international fisheries laws. The twelve questions are divided into two evaluation fields, (MCS Infrastructure and Inspections). Complete details of the methods and results of this global evaluation would be published shortly through IUU Risk Intelligence website.

Over a five-year period, this global assessment has been subjected to several cross-checks from both regional and global MCS experts familiar with compliance aspects in the country concerned. Uncertainty in assigning each score is depicted explicitly through score range. However, the author(s) are aware that gaps may remain for some aspects. The lead author remains open at any time to comments, and revisions will be made upon submission of evidence where necessary. Throughout the report, extreme precaution has been taken to maintain confidentiality of individuals who were willing to share information but expressed an inclination to remain anonymous out of concern for their job security, and information from such sources was cited as 'anonymous' throughout the report.

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EQUATORIAL GUINEA – COUNTRY REPORT



FAO landings (2013): 7600 tonnes

Fisheries contribution to GDP (2014): 2%

Law of the Sea (Ratification / Accession): 21st July 1997

Coastline: 296 km

RFMO Membership: ICCAT

Patrolling Agencies: Equatorial Guinea Navy

Rank	Priority for maritime security tasks
1.	Protection of Oil Installations
2.	Narcotics & Human Trafficking
3.	Piracy

SECTION 1: MCS INFRASTRUCTURE

- 1. Does the country have adequate surveillance infrastructure (patrol aircraft, sea based patrol vessels and coastal patrols) to effectively patrol fisheries resources within its EEZ?**

Score: 7

Score Range: 5-7

Adequate for regular patrols within the EEZ (Jane 2010). Equatorial Guinea Navy has two 62 metre offshore patrol vessels and two PV-50 patrol ships; in addition, the nation procured a state of the art 107 metre navy long frigate (F073) *Wele Nzas* with a raised helicopter deck and range of 5000 nautical miles. In 2011 the nation also received two Saar-4 patrol craft, OPV-88 *Reklama* (designated as *Bata*) and two Kie Ntem class offshore patrol vessels (Nkala 2014). However, most of these patrolling assets are used to control piracy and secure offshore oil installations. Regular at-sea missions to board and intercept fishing vessels are not reported. See African Union (2018); Denton and Harris (2019) reports for latest information on maritime capabilities in this nation.

- 2. Does the country have adequate trained officers to conduct MCS operations?**

Score: 2.5

Score Range: 2-4

Consultation with Government agencies suggests limited manpower is available for fisheries related MCS duties. No information is available on compliance or enforcement competence of these authorities in the marine fisheries sector. See Belhabib *et al.*, (2016); African Union (2018) reports for more information.

- 3. Does the country have adequate management plans to monitor their fishing vessels on the high seas?**

Score: 0

Score Range: 0-0

Existing information suggests that the country does not possess such capabilities. See African Union (2018) report for more information.

- 4. What proportion of fishing vessels above are equipped with vessel monitoring system (VMS) to monitor their movements on a continuous basis?**

Score: 1.5



Score Range: 1-2

VMS coverage is not reported for foreign fishing trawlers active in Equatorial Guinea waters. However, Equatorial Guinea flagged vessels operating in RFMO waters reportedly have VMS coverage and send signals to FFA and several other regional monitoring centers. See African Union (2018) report for more information.

5. **What percentage of fishing vessels (>20 m OAL) are monitored through onboard observers at sea (for major commercial fish stocks)?**

Score: 0

Score Range: 0-0

Use of onboard observers is not reported in Equatorial Guinea fisheries. See African Union (2018) report for more information.

SECTION 2: INSPECTIONS

6. **How often fishing vessels are inspected at sea (Identification by sight and boarding for inspections)?**

Score: 4

Score Range: 3-5

No finding. Such information is not available for Equatorial Guinea, but information collected through consultation with fishers and Government officials suggest that very few fishing vessels are boarded by navy at sea every year.

7. **How often fishing vessels are scrutinized through aerial patrols?**

Score: 0

Score Range: 0-1

No finding. Such data is not available for Equatorial Guinea fisheries. Equatorial Guinea has ordered two C295 aircraft for maritime surveillance that are expected to be delivered in 2017 (Jane 2016). At present use of aerial patrols is not reported for fisheries enforcement in Equatorial Guinea.

8. How often are fishing vessels inspected at landing centers and docks for foreign and domestic vessels (Dockside monitoring)?

Score: 1.5

Score Range: 1-4

Existing information based on consultation with Government agencies and regional agencies in the Gulf of Guinea suggests that foreign vessels do not receive regular inspections and current manpower capacity for fisheries enforcement remains low. See African Union (2018) report for more information.

9. Are there adequate plans to monitor catches in coastal areas through coastal patrols (beach patrols, small-scale fishing gear and catches inspections) on a regular basis?

Score: 2.5

Score Range: 2-4

In 2013, ten stern trawlers fished in Equatorial Guinea waters (1 Cameroonian trawler, 2 Gambian trawlers, 1 Spanish trawler and 6 Chinese stern trawlers) (ICCAT 2015a). Regional management bodies in the Gulf of Guinea suggest that fisheries infractions are reported for both artisanal fishing boats and industrial trawlers operating in coastal waters. See African Union (2018) report for more information.

10. Are all the catches that are caught in this jurisdiction at sea accounted for (i.e., unreported Trans-shipments at sea)?

Score: 2

Score Range: 2-4

Illegal transshipments are reported from Equatorial Guinea EEZ. Discussions with Government officials and regional experts in the Gulf of Guinea suggests that due to lack of technical capacity, transshipments are not monitored at sea. See African Union (2018) report for more information.

11. Are vessels required to undergo inspection of equipment and fishing gear for every fishing trip?

Score: 1

Score Range: 1-2

Consultations with Government agencies suggest that use of illegal fishing gear is widespread in both artisanal and industrial fisheries. Minimum mesh size

requirements and fishing zones are not respected by trawl boats. See African Union (2018) report for more information.

12. Has the country taken adequate measures to revise and implement national fisheries laws to curtail illegal fishing practices; and does it comply with national and international laws signed?

Score: 2

Score Range: 1-2

Decreto N° 123/1987 - Reglamento de aplicación de la Ley de Pesca de la República de Guinea Ecuatorial is the main national legislation for fisheries management in Equatorial Guinea waters. The country has demonstrated very poor flag state accountability. Three Equatorial Guinea flagged vessels (*Kunlun*, *Yongding*, *Songhua*) have been implicated for poaching in CCAMLR waters. The country's flag is also widely used as flags of convenience by several IUU fishing vessels operating on the high seas. See African Union (2018); Belhabib *et al.*, (2016); Ali and Tsamenyi (2013); Campos-Serrano (2013); Murai *et al.*, (2013); Blanco (2014); Jiménez (2014); Eyang and Engonga (2015); OECD (2008) reports for more information.

Flag of Convenience	No
Vessels on the RFMO - IUU vessel list	Yes

RFMO	Year of the assessment	Compliant	Partially Compliant	Not Compliant	Source
ICCAT	2013		Yes		ICCAT (2015b)

Last Updated: 21 November 2019



Note:

Bibliography and other notes relevant to this country report including methods, results and discussion for the global evaluation of 84 countries would be released shortly through IUU Risk Intelligence website (<https://iuriskintelligence.com/>). (The author can be contacted at pramod.raju@gmail.com to provide any feedback).

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