# Togo



# 2016 Country Review

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# Chapter 1

# Country Overview

# Country Overview

TOGO

Togo is a narrow strip of land in western Africa between Benin and Ghana. In 1884 it became a German protectorate. It was seized by Britain and France at the start of World War I, divided and administered under League of Nations mandates. The British-ruled western part was later incorporated into what is now Ghana, and France granted Togo independence in 1960.

Togo's first president, Sylvanus Olympio, was assassinated in a military coup three years later. Head of the armed forces Gnassingbe Eyadema seized power in a 1967 coup and dissolved all political parties. Despite the facade of multiparty elections instituted in the early 1990s, the government was largely dominated by President Eyadema Gnassingbe, whose Rally of the Togolese People (RPT) party has maintained power almost continually since 1967 and maintains a majority of seats in today's legislature.

Eyadema Gnassingbe died in early 2005 after 38 years in power. The military's immediate but short-lived installation of his son, Faure Gnassingbe, as president provoked widespread international condemnation. Mr. Faure stepped down and called elections which he won two months later. The legislative elections held in October 2007 with all opposition parties participating were declared free and fair by international and national election observers. Togo was finally being re-welcomed into the international community since the 2007 elections, which paved the way for donor reengagement.

Today, Togo is among the world's poorest countries. Its economy is heavily dependent on commercial and subsistence agriculture. The long-lasting socio-political crisis and withdrawal of donor support have taken a toll on Togo’s economy, infrastructure, and institutions.

Editor's Note:

Faure Gnassingbe assumed the presidency in 2005 after his father, President Gen. Eyadema Gnassingbe (in power from 1967) died after a short illness. This succession of power was not regarded as legitimate by most of the global community despite a hasty change to the constitution to provide for it. Under the old constitution, the parliament's speaker would have assumed power after the leader's death and presidential elections would have been held within sixty days. Instead, Speaker Fambaré Ouattara Natchaba was ousted by measures apparently orchestrated by Togo's

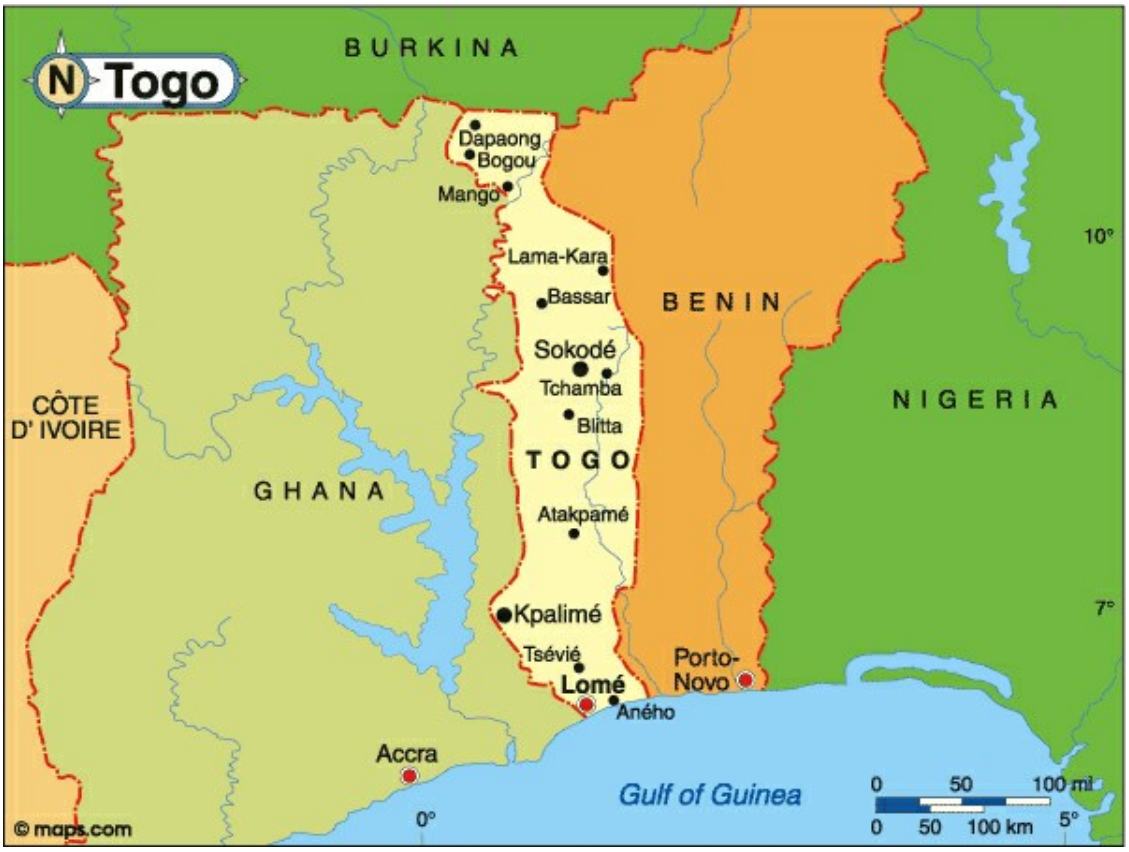
military. Sanctions and international outcry led to the younger Gnassingbe's resignation and the call for new elections. Abass Bonfoh was named as the new speaker of the National Assembly and, accordingly, became the acting president for an interim period (from Feb. 25, 2005 until the inauguration of the new president elected on April 24, 2005). Fresh elections were held in April 2005. Faure Gnassingbe won victory and assumed the presidency. He was re-elected to power in 2010. Gnassingbe contested the 2015 elections, and with no term limits to prevent him from seeking re-election, he secured a third term in office.

## Key Data

| Key Data | |
|---|---|
| **Region:** | Africa |
| **Population:** | 7552318 |
| **Climate:** | Tropical; hot, humid in south;<br>semiarid in north. |
| **Languages:** | French (official and the language of commerce)<br>Ewe and Mina (the two major African<br>languages in the south)<br>Dagomba and Kabye (the two major African<br>languages in the north) |
| **Currency:** | 1 CFA = 100 centimes |
| **Holiday:** | Independence Day is 27 April (1960), Liberation Day is 13 January |
| **Area Total:** | 56790 |
| **Area Land:** | 54390 |
| **Coast Line:** | 56 |

# Togo

## Country Map



## Africa

# Regional Map




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# Chapter 2

# Political Overview

# History

The ethnocultural groups called the Ewes moved into the area that is now Togo from the Niger River valley between the 12th and 14th centuries.

During the 15th and 16th centuries, Portuguese explorers and traders visited the coast. For the next 200 years, the coastal region was a major raiding center for Europeans in search of slaves, earning Togo and the surrounding region the name "The Slave Coast."

In an 1884 treaty signed at Togoville, Germany declared a protectorate over a stretch of territory along the coast and gradually extended its control inland. Because it became Germany's only self-supporting colony, Togoland was known as its model possession.

In 1914, Togoland was invaded by French and British forces and fell after brief resistance. Following the war, Togoland became a League of Nations mandate divided for administrative purposes between France and the United Kingdom.

After World War II, the mandate became a United Nations trust territory administered by the United Kingdom and France. During the mandate and trusteeship periods, Western Togo was administered as part of the British Gold Coast.

In 1957, the residents of British Togoland voted to join the Gold Coast as part of the new independent nation of Ghana.

Meanwhile, French Togo became an autonomous republic within the French union by statute in 1955. Nevertheless, it retained its United Nations trusteeship status. A legislative assembly elected by universal adult suffrage had considerable power over internal affairs, with an elected executive body headed by a prime minister responsible to the legislature. These changes were embodied in a constitution approved in a 1956 referendum.

On Sept. 10, 1956, Nicholas Grunitzky became prime minister of the new Republic of Togo. Due to irregularities in the plebiscite, however, an unsupervised general election was held in 1958 and won by Sylvanus Olympio.

On April 27, 1960, in a smooth transition, Togo severed its judicial ties with France, shed its United Nations trusteeship status, and became fully independent under a provisional constitution with Olympio as president.

A new constitution in 1961 established an executive president, elected for seven years by universal suffrage, and a weak National Assembly. The president was empowered to appoint ministers and dissolve the assembly, holding a monopoly of executive power.

In elections that year, from which Grunitzky's party was disqualified, Olympio's "Unite Togolaise" party won 90 percent of the vote and all 51 National Assembly seats and he became Togo's first elected president

*Note on History: In certain entries, open source content from the State Department Background Notes and Country Guides have been used. A full listing of sources is available in the Bibliography.*

# Political Conditions

Post-Independence Era

From the time just after independence, four principal political parties existed in Togo: the leftist "Juvento" (Togolese youth movement); the "Union Democratique des Populations Togolaises" (IDPT); the "Parti Togolais Du Progres" (PTP), founded by former prime minister, Nicholas Grunitzky, but having limited support; and the "Unite Togolaises" (UT), the party of Togo's first president, Sylvanus Olympio.

In 1961, President Olympio's "Unite Togolaise" party won 90 percent of the vote and all 51 National Assembly seats.

Rivalries between elements of these parties had begun as early as the 1940s, and they came to a head with Olympio dissolving the opposition parties in January 1962, ostensibly because of plots against the majority party government. Many opposition members, including Grunitzky, fled to avoid arrest.

On Jan. 13, 1963, President Olympio was assassinated in an uprising of army non-commissioned officers, who were apparently dissatisfied with conditions following their discharge from the French army. Grunitzky returned from exile two days later to head a provisional government with the title

of prime minister.

On May 5, 1963, the Togolese adopted a new constitution, chose deputies from all political parties for the National Assembly, and elected Grunitzky as president and Antoine Meatchi as vice president. Nine days later, President Grunitzky formed a government in which all parties were represented.

During the next several years, the Grunitzky government's power became insecure. On Nov. 21, 1966, an attempt to overthrow Grunitzky, inspired principally by civilian political opponents in the UT Party, was unsuccessful. Grunitzky then tried to lessen his reliance on the army, but on Jan. 13, 1967, Lt. Col. Etienne Eyadema (later Gen. Gnassingbe Eyadema) ousted President Grunitzky in a bloodless military coup d'etat. Political parties were banned, and all constitutional processes were suspended. The Committee of National Reconciliation ruled the country until April 14 when Eyadema assumed the presidency.

In late 1969, a single national political party, the "Rassemblement du Peuple Togolas" (Assembly- or Rally-of the Togolese People or RPT) was created, and President Eyadema was elected party president on Nov. 29, 1969. In 1972, a national referendum, in which Eyadema ran unopposed, confirmed his role as the country's president.

In late 1979, Eyadema declared a new republic and a transition to a more civilian rule with a mixed civilian and military cabinet. He garnered 99.97 percent of the vote in uncontested presidential elections held in late 1979 and early 1980. A new constitution also provided for the National Assembly to serve primarily as a consultative body. Eyadema was re-elected to a third consecutive seven-year term in December 1986 with 99.5 percent of the vote in an uncontested election.

On Sept. 23, 1986, a group of some 70 armed Togolese dissidents crossed into Lome from Ghana, in an unsuccessful attempt to overthrow the Eyadema government.

The 1970s and 1980s saw dramatic gains in the Togolese economy. The banking system was one of the best performing in West Africa and the macroeconomic environment was relatively stable. As a result Lome benefited from significant private capital flows both from the sub-region and abroad. Ties with France were strong and generated foreign exchange enviable to Togo's neighbors. The economic success and the relatively unchallenged tenure of Eyadema led to the heightened status of Lome as a venue for international conferences, symposiums and meetings.

The 19902

In 1989 and 1990, Togo, like many other countries, was affected by the winds of democratic change sweeping Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. On Oct. 5, 1990, the trial of students who

had handed out anti-government tracts sparked riots in Lome. Anti-government demonstrations and violent clashes with the security forces marked the months that followed. The groups selected followed nationalist predecessors and on March 18, 1991, the government began negotiations with newly formed opposition groups and agreed to a general amnesty, which permitted exiled political opponents to return to Togo. The ban on political parties was lifted. After a general strike and further demonstrations, the government and opposition signed an agreement to hold a national forum on June 12, 1991. The president also allowed the transfer of some of his power to syndicates of nationalist origins in an effort to placate his critics.

The national forum, dominated by opponents of President Eyadema, opened in July 1991 and immediately declared it to be a sovereign "National Conference." Although subjected to severe harassment from the government, the conference drafted an interim constitution calling for a one-year transitional regime tasked with organizing free elections for a new government. The conference selected Kokou Joseph Koffigoh, a lawyer and human rights group head, as transitional prime minister, but kept President Eyadema as chief of state for the transition, albeit with limited powers. The conference further delineated a separation of powers between the newly formed High Council of the Republic, transitional authority and a prime minister (Koffigoh).

A test of wills between the president and his opponents followed over the next two years during which President Eyadema gradually gained the upper hand. Frequent political paralysis and intermittent violence marked this period.

Following a vote by the transitional legislature (High Council of the Republic) to dissolve the president's political party, the RPT, in November 1991, the army attacked the prime minister's office on Dec. 3 and captured the prime minister. Under duress, Koffigoh then formed a second transition government in January 1992 with substantial participation by ministers from the president's party.

Opposition leader Gilchrist Olympio, son of the slain president Sylvanus Olympio, was ambushed and seriously wounded apparently by soldiers on May 5, 1992; another opposition leader, Tavio Amorin, was assassinated in July.

In July and August 1992, a commission composed of presidential and opposition representatives negotiated a new political agreement. The agreement extended the transition period until the end of 1992 and restored substantial power to President Eyadema.

Prime Minister Koffigoh formed a new third transition government with considerable participation by supporters of President Eyadema. The government was mandated to hold elections in the near future. On Sept. 27, 1992 the public overwhelmingly approved the text of a new, democratic constitution, formally initiating Togo's fourth republic.

The democratic process was set back on Oct. 22-23, 1992, when elements of the army held the interim legislature hostage for 24 hours. This effectively put an end to the interim legislature. In retaliation, on Nov. 16, opposition political parties and labor unions declared a general strike intended to force President Eyadema to agree to satisfactory conditions for elections. The general strike largely shut down Lome for months and resulted in severe damage to the economy. The engine of the Togolese economy, the banking system, experienced a serious decline from which it has yet to recover.

In January 1993, President Eyadema declared the transition at an end and re-appointed Koffigoh as prime minister under Eyadema's authority. The executive, destroying the nascent institutions, effectively subsumed the judiciary. The declaration set off public demonstrations, and, on Jan. 25, members of the security forces fired on peaceful demonstrators in the presence of the French cooperation minister and German minister of state for foreign affairs, killing at least 19. In the ensuing days, several security force members were waylaid and injured or killed by civilian oppositionists.

On March 25, 1993, armed Togolese dissident commandos based in Ghana attacked Lome's main military camp and tried unsuccessfully to kill President Eyadema. They inflicted significant casualties, however, which set off lethal reprisals by the military against soldiers thought to be associated with the attackers.

Meanwhile, under substantial domestic and foreign pressure and the burden of the general strike, the presidential faction entered negotiations with the opposition in early 1993. Four rounds of talks led to the Ouagadougou Accords of July, which set forth conditions for upcoming presidential and legislative elections and ending the general strike as of Aug. 3, 1993.

The presidential elections were set for Aug. 25. The hasty and inadequate technical preparations and concerns about fraud led the chief opposition candidates - former minister and Organization of African Unity Secretary General Edem Kodjo and lawyer Yawovi Agboyibo - to drop out of the race before election day and to call for a boycott. President Eyadema won the elections by a 96.42 percent vote against token opposition. About 36 percent of the voters went to the polls; the others boycotted. International observers from the United States, France, Germany and Burkina Faso monitored the elections. They determined that following the strategic superiority of Eyadema's power, his absence of scrupulous election details, and the dissolution of the opposition made it difficult for the democratic process to be taken seriously.

While the government did not create the political space for opposition parties to thrive in the 1993 elections, the opposition also must share the blame. The opposition suffered from significant divisions and errors in strategy. Had the opposition been able to create a united front with a viable platform it might have stood a chance even in the face of dramatically narrow elections. Complicating matters was France, which had long had strong relations with Eyadema. It was no

secret that France feared the failure of Eyadema to retain his position. It was caught in between its shifting Africa policy -- (1) political conditionalities that encourage the flourishing of democracy; and (2) its historic preference for easy relations with a military leader.

Ghana-based armed dissidents launched a new commando attack on military sites in Lome on Jan. 5-7, 1994. Although President Eyadema was unscathed, the attack and subsequent reaction by the Togolese armed forces resulted in hundreds of deaths, mostly civilian.

On Jan. 30, 1994, elements of the military went on an eight-hour rampage throughout Lome, firing indiscriminately and killing at least 12 people. This incident provoked more than 300,000 Togolese to flee Lome for Benin, Ghana or the interior of Togo. Although most returned by early 1996, some still remain abroad. Despite these events, the government went ahead with legislative elections on Feb. 6 and Feb. 20, 1994. In generally free and fair polls, as witnessed by international observers, the allied opposition parties "United Togola's pour la Démocratie" (UTD) and" Comité d'Acho pour le Renouvery" (CAR) together won a narrow majority in the National Assembly.

Two months later, on April 22, President Eyadema named Edem Kodjo, the head of the smaller opposition party called the UTD, as the prime minister. Kodjo was chosen over Yawovi Agboyibo, whose CAR Party had won far more seats in the legislative election. Kodjo's acceptance of the prime minister position provoked the CAR to break the opposition alliance and refuse to join the Kodjo government. Kodjo was then forced to form a governing coalition with the RPT.

On June 24, the National Assembly approved the new government, about half of whose cabinet members were associated with the RPT. The policy program Kodjo announced emphasized economic recovery, building democratic institutions, the rule of law, and the return of Togolese refugee's abroad. In early 1995, the government made slow progress toward its goals, aided by the CAR's August 1995 decision to end a nine-month boycott of the National Assembly. By late 1995, however, Kodjo was forced to reshuffle his government, strengthening the representation by Eyadema's RPT Party.

Since 1996, it became increasingly clear that Eyadema resumed control of most aspects of government. The by-elections of August 1996 gave his party, the RPT, an additional three seats in the National Assembly. A subsequent defection to the RPT by a CAR member in October 1996 gave Eyadema's party another seat in the assembly. In November 1996, "Imopm pir Kistoce et Démocratie" (UJD), which held two seats in the National Assembly, merged with the RPT. In combination, these events gave the RPT a majority in the National Assembly.

In addition, Eyadema's government was strengthened by a change in the electoral law. Previously, the president of the Court of Appeal chose the chairman of the electoral commission. In August 1997, the National Assembly granted this authority to the government.

As Eyadema's strength increased at home, his mark as an international pariah grew along with it. His Cold War relationship with the United States collapsed, his close ties to Paris were eroded, and even his close ties to African leaders and opposition leaders faded.

In 1997, Eyadema began looking towards the fate of his former comrades, like Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire. He decentralized his military's command structure, introducing a patronage system that included a multitude of ethnic groups within the military superstructure. A number of key positions were reshuffled to ensure Nigerian, Ewe and Kabye support. In February 1998, Eyadema addressed similar ethnic incongruencies in his cabinet, re-shuffling it to reflect the advances of the RPT in the National Assembly.

The presidential elections of June 1998 sparked a controversy that continues today. President Eyadema was the presidential candidate for the RPT and Gilchrist Olympio was the candidate for the UFC. This was a critical election for Eyadema as he faced significant economic shortfalls, as well as the erosion of political influence as an African leader. He saw the elections as an opportunity to restore enough legitimacy to persuade the European Union (EU) and the United States (U.S.) to restore foreign aid.

As the elections ensued, voting was halted the day after the elections began, reportedly because Olympio was winning. Several members of the election commission resigned the following day. The election commission officials were removed and Eyadema's own security agents were put in charge of counting the votes. Eyadema was declared the winner with 52 percent of the vote to Olympio's 34 percent. International election monitors were highly critical of the election declaring that Olympio was most likely the true victor and the Eyadema had, in fact, stolen the elections. As a result, not only did the EU and the U.S. refrain from restoring aid, but France reduced aid flows as well.

Many perceived the contest between Eyadema and Olympio as one of two bull elephants fighting. While never proven, the preponderance of evidence points to Eyadema as his murderer of Gilchrist Olympio's father, the late leader, Sylvanus Olympio. For this reason, the 1998 presidential elections were more than a political contest in the eyes of Glichrist Olympio. It was an opportunity to vanquish his father's slayer and continue his reign. The fervor that surrounded the 1998 elections proved a further testament to both Eyadema's strength and recalcitrance.

Prime Minister Kwasi Klutse's government (since 1996 following a cabinet shuffle) resigned in August 1998, but was subsequently re-appointed and attempted to form a cabinet comprised of ruling and opposition members of parliament. In protest against the elections, the opposition refused to take part in the government.

In February 1999, the opposition announced its intentions to boycott the parliamentary elections in March. The opposition members demanded that the president open talks as a condition to

participating in the elections. The opposition also called for a constitutional amendment that would allow the current parliament to stay in power if the elections did not proceed as planned. The elections were delayed two weeks until the president agreed to talks, however, the talks were never held and the call for a general boycott of the elections followed.

The elections were held on March 21 and the RPT ran unopposed, winning 79 of 81 seats. While the Election Commission claimed 66 percent participation, the opposition speculated that only 10 percent of registered voters participated. In April, the Klutse government resigned but was to stay on indefinitely in a caretaker capacity. The Klutse government was subsequently replaced by the government of Prime Minister Koffi Eugene Adoboli in May 1999.

As a result of what were viewed by the international community as another round of fraudulent elections, the EU reasserted its unwillingness to resume aid. The German and British governments argued this did not go far enough and have pushed the EU to act more aggressively against Eyadema. There were calls to have Togo removed from the European Union's preferential trade area agreement, ironically named the Lome IV Agreement, after the city where it was signed.

On May 5, 1999, Amnesty International (AI) released a scathing report entitled "Togo: Rule of Terror in a Climate of Impunity." In this report, which garnered broad international attention, AI accused Eyadema of significant and escalating human rights abuses. It argued that Eyadema created a political climate in which government-sponsored murder and torture was regularized and the perpetuators acted with impunity. Police and security forces made people "disappear," and detained people arbitrarily. Prisons, it argued, were kept extremely harsh as part of a pattern of organized oppression. Repression had been especially harsh around election time. After the results of the June 1998 presidential elections were announced, hundreds of people were killed. Corpses flooded the beaches of Togo and Benin for days after the elections. AI called once again for an increase in international action against the Eyadema regime, including political and human rights conditionality of French aid. Little international action actually followed.

For his part, Eyadema reacted to the AI report with severe disdain calling it malicious and untrue. He then arrested Nestor Tengue, Francois Gayibor and Brice Santanna of the Togo Association for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights and members of the Togo Human Rights League; all worked with the AI team. Anoine Koffi Nadjombe, a professor of philosophy and a member of Togo's AI office, was also arrested. All of these arrests were made without specific charges and no court proceedings were ever heard.

Also in May 1999, the opposition called for a general protest by civil servants, bank employees, traders and taxi drivers. While the participation level was not as expected, several schools and banks were closed and urban transportation was significantly affected. By June reconciliation talks between the opposition and the government were being held in Paris. Representatives from the European Union and the International Agency of the Francophonie were acting as mediators.

In July 1999, French President Jacques Chirac attended the talks personally and assured Eyadema that French aid would not cease. Eyadema and all opposition parties signed a new peace deal on July 29. In the agreement Eyadema committed to holding parliamentary elections within a year and stepping down himself in 2003 when his current term ends. The agreement led to a temporary respite in the boisterous civic activities of the opposition. 1999 closed without significant further events.

Recent Developments

On the domestic front, a new government under Prime Minister Agbeyome Messan Kodjo was formed in August 2000. Prime Minister Kodjo would continue in office until 2002.

Meanwhile, the one-year anniversary of Eyadema's commitment to parliamentary elections within a year came and went without any move towards elections. In 2000, there was, once again, an increase in the state violations of human rights. This led AI to ask the Organization of African Unity (OAU) member delegates at the 36$^{th}$ summit -- held in Lome -- to appeal to their governments to put pressure on the Togolese government and to cease its campaign of silencing AI witnesses and destroying evidence used in the human rights inquiry. Instead, the OAU delegates elected Eyadema chairman of the OAU on July 11, 2000, increasing his stature as a regional leader. The only opposition was from Angola, Zimbabwe and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, all of which held Eyadema in disdain for his years of close relations and friendship with Angolan rebel leader Jonas Savimbi. Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo boycotted the summit while Zimbabwe's President Mugabe refused to attend but sent a delegation.

For their part, opposition leaders and many Togolese civil servants strongly opposed hosting the OAU summit. The financial crisis in Togo was so great that in 2001, the government was up to 11 months in arrears of salary payments. The cost of the summit is estimated to have totaled approximately US$85 million. They believed that this sum would have gone a long way towards making up for lost salaries rather than further consolidating international support for their wayward president.

By 2002, press repression had reached an even more disturbing level. A new press code, described as being antithetical to free, pluralistic and independent coverage, had been offered for passage into law, in lieu of the existing press code. Togo's opposition Pan-African Patriotic Convergence (CPP), condemned the code and criticized the penalties for critical coverage, which was included in the code. For example, the bill provided for five years of imprisonment and fines of up to $7,000 USD, in cases of "contempt of the head of state." Likewise, imprisonment and fines were mandated for "contempt against the prime minister, the national assembly president, cabinet

ministers and constitutional institutions." In effect, the law would prevent criticism of all offices and instruments of political power. CPP noted that it was a new measure in press repression and asked that President Eyadema prevent it from being passed into law. CPP was the first opposition party to speak out against the code. A number of media watchdog groups, including Reporters Without Borders, urged the repeal of the proposed bill.

Also in 2002, both journalists and politicians accused of publicizing commentaries or information deemed critical of Eyadema or the government, were subject to arrest. Indeed, such arrests took place as recently as August 2002 with much outcry from human rights groups, such as Amnesty International, as well as media watchdog groups. In particular, the arrest of Claude Ameganvi, leader of the opposition Labour Party (PT) and Julien Ayih, publication director for the weekly Nouvel Echo, both ensued because of their dissemination of "false information" regarding a massive fortune owned by President Eyadema and his family. Ameganvi was held in detention and subsequently released until his trial, which had not taken place at the time of writing. Earlier, the editor of the Akekle (Scorpion) newspaper, Basile Agboh, had been imprisoned for supposedly committing "libel" against the son of the president. Agboh reported that the president's son had issued death threats against the former Prime Minister, Gabriel Agbeyome Kodjo, before his dismissal from government in late July 2002.

Meanwhile, since mid-2000 Eyadema has used his new position to join with Libyan President Qadhafi to call for the passing of the African Union Act. The aim of the act is to forge a strong union between African member states. It calls for the creation of one African parliament, one African currency and one African economy. Supporters of the act argue that like the European Union, an African Union will strengthen the position of African countries in the world marketplace. Opponents to the act argue that Africa is different from Europe in that it is so much more heterogeneous. Further, African states themselves tend to be so weak that a supra-national organization like the African Union would provide an opportunity for a self-seeking autocrat to subvert state governments and state sovereignty. The act is such an explosive issue within the OAU that debate over it could well jeopardize the viability of the OAU itself.

On the domestic front, in 2002, a coalition of four political parties, called The Front, was created with the intention of presenting single candidacies in the forthcoming legislative and presidential elections, thus facilitating the possibility of victory. The four partner parties included Yaovi Agoyibo's Action Committee for Renewal (CAR), the Democratic Convention of African Peoples (CDPA), the Association for Democracy and Integral Democracy (CDDI) , and the Union for Democracy and Solidarity (UDS). Gilchist Olympio's Union of Forces of Change (UFC) did not join the coalition.

In March 2002, President Eyadema freed CAR opposition leader Yaovi Agboyibo from imprisonment as a gesture of goodwill in anticipation of elections. Also in anticipation of elections, in June 2002, the president fired his prime minister and ally Agbeyome Kodjo. The sacked prime

minister Kodjo excoriated Eyadema and his cadre of corruption as well as human rights abuses. Despite these criticisms from within the Eyadema camp, in October 2002, the ruling party won victory in parliamentary elections. The new prime minister, Koffi Sama, formed a new government.

The results of the parliamentary elections were as follows:

The Togolese People's Rally (RPT) won 72 of the 81 seats in the new National Assembly; the Rally for Democracy and Development (RSDD) won three (3) seats; the Union for Democracy and Social Progress (UDPS) won two (2) seats.
JUVENTO won two (2) seats; and the Believers' Movement for Equality and Peace (MOCEP) obtained one (1) seat. The final seat was won by an independent (non partisan) individual.

As was the case in previous elections, several opposition parties boycotted the elections to protest the structure and organization of the election. Specifically, they criticized the replacement of the independent electoral commission with a seven-magistrate committee. The appointment of the committee as well as the associated amendment to the electoral code, led many the opposition parties to condemn what they perceived to be unilateral measures aimed at preserving the political status quo by the government.

Election observers from Europe, the United States of America and Africa declared the elections to transparent, in contrast to previous polls, and expressed regret that the opposition failed to participate. On the other hand, the European Union observed that the preparation of these elections was not in compliance with the parameters set forth in the Lomé Framework Agreement. The European Union also noted that opposition parties which were signatories to the agreement were not participants in the elections.

In December 2002, the parliament, which was controlled by the president's ruling RTP party -- altered the constitution so that Eyadema could seek a third term in office. Previously, Eyadema said that he would not run for office for another term. Meanwhile, Eyadema's most notable opponent, Gilchrist Olympio, was barred from running because he had been living in exile since 1998. Togo's electoral law mandates one year residency of presidential candidates prior to elections. Although Olympio tried to challenge the law and run for the presidency, Togo's constitutional court rejected his appeal in May 2003. With Olympio out of the race, it was predicted that the incumbent Eyadema would win re-election. Indeed, in June 2003, President Eyadema was re-elected, as had been predicted.

The results of the presidential elections were as follows:

Gnassingbe Eyadema (Rassemblement du Peuple Togolais) 57.2 percent; Emmanuel Bob Akitani (Union des Forces de Changement) 34.1 percent; Yawovi Agboyibo (Comité d'Action pour la

Renouveau) 5.2 percent; Maurice Dahuku Pere (Pacte Socialiste pour le Renouveau) 2.3 percent; and Edem Kodjo (Convergence patriotique panafricaine) 1 percent.

Many international bodies and instruments, including the European Union and the United Nations refused to send observers to monitor the election, while opposition parties accused the government of massive fraud. Observers from the African Union, however, contradicted that view saying that the election was free from fraud. In total, however, there were only a scant number of international monitors (just over 100) to observe the national election, so it is questionable as to whether or not their conclusions accurately reflected the election process across the country.

Experts noted that opposition forces had failed to heal their divisions, thus contributing to Eyadema's victory. Eyadema remains the longest-serving leader in Africa.

The inability of the opposition and the ruling party to build trust remained an impediment to progress in Togo in 2004. As part of the requirements set forth by the European Union for the resumption of aid, President Eyadema announced the commencement of a national dialogue in May 2004. The opposition parties Union of Forces of Change, the Action Committee for Renewal and the Democratic Convention of African People boycotted it, citing the lack of consultations in organizing the meeting. These parties then cited the same reasons for not participating in the Electoral Law Commission meetings that began in July.

In August 2004, Togo showed some promise in its fight against HIV/AIDS. The National Anti-AIDS Council, in the planning since 2001, was finally inaugurated. The council, comprised of medical experts and political and religious leaders, was tasked with defining and implementing a national strategy for fighting HIV/AIDS. Also in August, the Global Fund for AIDS announced a $30 million dollar aid package to fund testing centers, treatment and counseling services, and prevention education.

President Gnassingbe Eyadema of Togo died in February 2005 following what was described as a short illness. He was Africa’s longest-serving president, who ruled continuously for almost forty years. His son, Faure Eyadema, was named to replace him, effectively setting the scene for a political imbroglio. Togo's state of tension became apparent when the son of deceased president was sworn in as his father's successor. As a result of public outcry, the borders were closed, and much of the country, including schools, was closed down. There were also reports of protests being broken up by police and some say protestors were beaten.

Faure Eyadema was appointed as successor due to changes parliamentary deputies made to Togo's constitution shortly after the president's death. Under the old constitution, the parliament's speaker would have assumed power after the leader's death and presidential elections would have been held within sixty days. Instead, speaker Fambaré Ouattara Natchaba was ousted by extraordinary measures apparently orchestrated by Togo's military.

The ousted parliamentary speaker called for President Mathieu Kerekou of neighboring Benin to help restore constitutional legality in Togo. Meanwhile, the African Union described the changeover as a "military coup." In addition, the United States, the European Union, the United Nations and former ruler France heavily criticized the transition and called for respect for the constitution. Western diplomats in Lome boycotted the inaugural ceremony. France had its troops in West African countries on alert, and the European Union warned Togo that ties could be damaged. As well, economic sanctions against Togo were instituted to protest the questionable transition of power.

By the close of February 2005, increased pressure on Eyadema resulted in another transition of power when he stepped down from office. Abass Bonfoh became the acting president on Feb. 25, 2005, when the national assembly named him as its new speaker following Eyadema's resignation. Whether or not Bonfoh will be able to hold the support of the people is unknown as protests in opposition strongholds ensued with protestors rejecting the new acting leader. They called for former parliamentary speaker Natchaba to take over as interim president, in accordance with accepted constitutional procedure.

Meanwhile, Eyadema's resignation announcement came after he promised to hold elections in 60 days and secured the nomination of his late father's ruling party. In response to these developments, economic sanctions against Togo were dropped. At the time of writing, opposition supporters did not appear particularly assuaged by these developments.

By March 2005, opposition supporters marched in the streets of the Togolese capital to demand the postponement of the presidential election. The protestors claimed that the date set for the election -- April 24, 2005 -- did not offer sufficient time for opposition candidates to launch campaigns. Meanwhile, supporters of the ruling Rally of the Togolese People or RTP held a rally expressing support for the election on its scheduled date in April 2005.

Just prior to the closing of the polls for the presidential election on April 24, 2005, armed men raided the headquarters of Togo's opposition party. The men, identified by some as wearing military uniforms, seized computers intended for use by the opposition to count and validate election results. Supporters of the main opposition candidate, Bob Akitani, charged that the country's ruling party was responsible for the seizure of the computers. He suggested that the ruling party wanted to rig the votes in favor of its candidate, Faure Gnassingbe. For his part, Gnassingbe, characterized the charges as unfounded. But he also expressed the expectation that he would be the ultimate winner of the election. Regardless of who was actually responsible, the seizure of the computers meant that the election could hardly be characterized as having been free from irregularities.

Note: As noted in this section, Faure Gnassingbe, son of the late Togolese leader, was chosen as the candidate for the ruling party. Emmanuel Bob Akitani, vice president of the Union Forces for

Change party, was regarded as the main opposition candidate.

In the aftermath of the election, which seemed to make official Faure Gnassingbe's victory with 60 percent of the votes cast, violence broke out in Togo. Despite official election results showing that Akitani had won only 38 percent of the votes cast, the main opposition candidate declared himself to be the real winner. His declaration was based on his internal tallies, which suggested that he had actually won 70 percent of the votes -- thanks to support in the most populous regions of the country. As a result, he called on the public to fight with their lives, if necessary.

The chaos in the streets by opposition supporters resulted in the firing of teargas by security forces. In fact, clashes between supporters of Gnassingbe and his opponent Bob Akitani left more than 500 people dead and tens of thousands of people fleeing the country. The United Nations refugee agency said that at least 35,000 people had fled across the border into neighboring Benin and Ghana. Meanwhile, as a delegation from the regional bloc ECOWAS ended talks in Togo aimed at ending the chaos, diplomats called for the formation of a national unity government.

In June 2005, Edem Kodjo was appointed as prime minister and head of government.

In the ensuing year in Togo, political discord was ongoing between the government and the opposition. In large part, that antagonism was spurred by the disputed result of the election, although both sides have been entrenched in turmoil for years.

By the spring of 2006, however, the government and opposition moved toward reconciliation and restarted dialogue. Then in August 2006, the government and six opposition groups sides signed an agreement aimed at integrating the opposition into the government. Opposition leader Gilchrist Olympio and his Union of Forces for Change were among the signatories to the agreement. Included in the accord was a provision establishing an independent electoral commission, which would administer transparent and democratic elections in the future.

In September 2006, President Faure Gnassingbe appointed opposition leader, Yawovi Agboyibo, to be the new Prime Minister of Togo, effectively succeeding Edem Kodjo, who had been appointed in 2005 following the election. In a presidential statement, the president expressed kudos to the ougoing Kodjo, for presiding over government during a difficult time and guiding the country toward stability and reconciliation. The appointment of Agboyibo as the new prime minister was the central outcome of the aforementioned agreement aimed at integrating the opposition into government. For his part, Agboyibo has strong political credentials. As leader of the opposition Committee of Action for Renewal (CAR), Agboyibo functioned the chairman of the Togolese dialogue.

On October 14, 2007, landmark parliamentary elections were held in Togo, with the opposition parties participating for the first time in close to 20 years.

The last election, held in 2005, was for the presidency and was marked by violence, the death of hundreds of people, as well as allegations of vote fraud. As noted above, President Faure Gnassingbe won that election and became the successor to his father, Gnassingbe Eyadema, who governed Togo for close to four decades and whose regime was notorious for brutally crushing the political opposition.

Now, with political parties and independent candidates able to participate fully in the democratic process and contest the 81 seats in the National Assembly, there were high hopes for the country. At stake was the resumption of foreign aid, which had been suspended because of the extrajudicial violence and arbitrary arrests that plagued the country during the 1990s. Reports on the ground in the Togolese capital of Lome indicated that voter turnout was high. Results were not expected for several days. Those election results ultimately showed that the Rally of the Togolese People won 50 seats, while Gilchrist Olympio's Union of Forces for Changes (UFC) won 27 seats, and Agboyibo's Action Committee for the Renewal took four seats.

The Prime Minister of Togo, Yawovi Madji Agboyibo, along with his government, resigned from office in the second week of November 2007. The move occurred ahead of the convening of the new parliament following October 2007 elections, which were won by the ruling Rally of the Togolese People as noted just above. President Faure Gnassingbe accepted Agboyibor's resignation, saying that he was highly satisfied with "the harmony, collaboration and cohesion" of the government led by the outgoing prime minister.

Attention then turned to the question of who would lead the new government. To that end, the president convened talks with ruling Togolese People's Rally, as well as Gilchrist Olympio, the leader of the Union of Forces for Change (UFC). There was some speculation about whether or not Olympio would be selected as head of government. Finally, in December 2007, the president named Komla Mally -- a member of the ruling party -- as the new prime minister and head of a unity government.

Note: In September 2008, Prime Minister Mally resigned and Gilbert Houngbo was named to be the new prime minister.

April 2009 saw Kpatcha Gnassingbe -- the brother of President Faure Gnassingbe -- arrested amidst accusations that he was plotting a coup d'etat. Five senior military officers were also arrested in connection with the plot.

Kpatcha Gnassingbe was attempting to seek refuge at the United States embassy when he was detained by authorities. For his part, the president's brother has denied the allegations and instead said that he was the victim of an assassination attempt. Kpatcha Gnassingbe pointed to a shootout at his house in which two people were killed as evidence. He said that armed gunmen dressed in

military garb opened fire on his house during a gunfight that lasted several hours. But the authorities said on the official Togo website that the president's brother was attempting to topple the government.

Reports from Togo suggest that relations between the two Gnassingbe brothers were poor but reached a nadir when President Faure Gnassingbe sacked Kpatcha Gnassingbe from his position as Defense Minister with no explanation during a cabinet shuffle in 2007.

Note: The two Gnassingbe brothers share a father -- the late strongman Gnassingbe Eyadema -- but President Faure Gnassingbe's mother belongs to the Ewe ethnic group of southern Togo while Kpatcha Gnassingbe's mother belongs to the northern Kabye ethnic group.

On February 11, 2010, a presidential decree made clear that the presidential election, which was scheduled for February 28, 2010, was going to be postponed until March 4, 2010. President Faure Gnassingbe explained his decision during a cabinet meeting saying that his objective was "permanently seeking consensus and maintaining a peaceful climate during the electoral process."

Citizens of Togo voted in a presidential election on March 4, 2010. President Faure Gnassingbe was hoping that the election resulted in a second term in office, and his main challengers were Jean Pierre Fabre of the Union of Forces for Change (UFC) and Brigitte Adjambo-Johnson, who was hoping to become the country's first female leader. The election came five years after the previous poll, which was marred by violence and disputed results.

Ahead of election day, there were no reports of violence although 6,000 security forces were deployed across the country to ensure safety. As well, an independent election commission was now in place to oversee the election process, while more than 500 observers from the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States, and the European Union were in Togo to monitor the vote. Provisional results indicated victory for incumbent President Gnassingbe, however, they were yet to be approved by the country's constitutional court.

As reports emerged from Togo, it was clear that the outcome of the election was going to be subject to challenges -- both in judicial court and in the court of public opinion. Opposition leader, Jean-Pierre Fabre, charged that the vote was rigged and vowed to launch challenges and spur protests. With an eye on likely unrest and uprising, riot police were deployed to the streets of the Togolese capital of Lome. There, they encountered hundreds of angry opposition protestors and tried to repel them by firing tear gas. But Fabre appeared undeterred and promised further protests saying in an interview with the Associated Press, "We're going to make them exhaust their stock of tear gas." He continued, "We cannot let this go on, otherwise they'll hang on to power for the next 200 years."

On May 5, 2010, Togolese Prime Minister Gilbert Fossoun Hougbo -- who came to office in

September 2008 -- submitted his resignation to President Faure Gnassingbe following his [the president's] investiture for a second five-year term. The president, at the time, accepted the resignation of Hougbo and his government. Two days later on May 7, 2010, President Faure Gnassingbe re-appointed Hougbo to that position. A presidential decree read as follows: "The president of the republic has renewed his confidence in Gilbert Fossoun Houngbo by deciding to re-appoint him prime minister and head of government." The presidential decree also noted that talks would be convened aimed at forming a new government for the long term. For his part, Houngbo, a former United Nations Development Program director for Africa, would function in a caretaker capacity until the new government could be installed.

Special Entry --

Attack on Togo's football team in Angola

On Jan. 8, 2010, there was an attack on the bus transporting Togo's football team to the Africa Cup of Nations in Angola. The attack left two people dead -- the assistant coach and the squad spokesman -- and the team's goalkeeper injured. The team was traveling from a training camp in the Republic of Congo to the site of the tournament in Cabinda City. As such, the bus traveled through the province of Cabinda, which has been home to an active and ongoing insurgency. Hooded gunmen ambushed the buses as they traveled through this volatile enclave. Subsequently, the separatist Front for the Liberation of the Enclave of Cabinda (FLEC), which has been fighting for decades for the independence of the oil-rich territory, claimed responsibility.

Togo withdrew its players from the tournament saying they were in shock. There were some suggestions that some blame should be placed on those who planned the route for the Togolese team, since the security risks in traveling through Cabinda were high. Nevertheless, the lion's share of the blame was placed on Angola for failing to provide secure conditions for the teams from across Africa. For its part, Angola characterized the attack as an isolated incident and the office of Angola's prime minister Paulo Kassoma guaranteed the security of teams at the African Nations Cup. The office of the prime minister issued a statement that read: "The prime minister considers the incident in Cabinda as an isolated act and repeated that the security of Togo's team and the other squads is guaranteed, and that the victims received the best medical care."

Days later, Angolan authorities arrested two people in connection with the attack on Togo's football team at the Africa Cup of Nations tournament. According to Angola's National Radio, the two suspects were arrested in the northern province of Cabinda -- the very place where the bus carrying Togo's football team was attacked.

Update --

In April 2012, the ruling party of Togo -- the Rally of Togolese People (RPT) -- announced its dissolution and the formation of a new political entity. The RPT has a long modern history in Togo, dating back to its inception in 1969 under the helm of the party's founding father, the late President Gnassingbe Eyadema. That era was now officially over as room was made for the new political party -- the Union for the Republic (UNIR) -- which would be led by Gnassingbe Eyadema's son, the current President Faure Gnassingbe. At an extraordinary session of Togo's Congress, President Gnassingbe declared that all Togolese people were eligible to join the UNIR.

In June 2012, three officials of the "Let's Save Togo" movement -- Zeus Ajavon, Raphael Kpande, and Jil-Benoit Afangbedji -- were detained over allegations that they helped to organized violent protests. At issue were claims that the three lawyers were instrumental in mobilizing thousands of protesters for political rallies in the capital city of Lome from June 12, 2012 to June 14, 2012. That mass action turned violent as protesters engaged in clashes with police, and as others engaged in vandalism. In addition to the three lawyers, 56 demonstrators were also arrested during the protest. Ajavon, Kpande, and Afangbedji were subsequently released as they awaited court hearings on the matter. For their parts, the three said they were rallying in favor of improved pre-election conditions (as regards the impending elections discussed above). TAjavon, Kpande, and Afangbedji additionally said that they were drawing attention to the provisions of the new electoral code, demanding the prosecution of perpetrators of torture, and calling for the return to the 1992 constitution.

In July 2012, Togo's Prime Minister Gilbert Houngbo and his government resigned from office. No reason was given for the resignation of the Houngbo government, although it occurred as a spate of protests by the "Let's Save Togo (CST)" -- a collective of nine civil society organizations and political parties -- rocked the country.

Since June 2012, thousands of people gathered in the capital city of Lome to protest changes to the electoral law, which opposition parties and political critics have argued was pushed through by the ruling party. The protests turned violent and in mid-June 2012, security forces used tear gas to disperse the crowds and calm the unrest, which left close to 120 people injured.

In mid-July 2012, Togo's President Faure Gnassingbe commenced consultations with various political parties and political entities with the objective of forming a new government. By July 18, 2012, as political consultations continued, the CST movement made clear that it would not be participating in a future government. The CST said that its objection was due to the fact that there was no serious effort to democratize Togo. The CST has been demanding ameliorated political and electoral conditions ahead of the parliamentary elections scheduled to be held later in the year.

Note that by the start of August 2012, Ahoomey-Zunu Seleagodji had been named as the new prime minister of Togo and was going through the process of forming a government.

Primer on 2013 Parliamentary Elections

Introduction

Parliamentary elections were set be held in Togo in March 2013. At stake would be the composition of the unicameral National Assembly where members to the legislative body are elected by popular vote to serve five-year terms. Some sources suggest the National Assembly now has 91 seats -- an increase from the previous total of 81 seats. The original election timeline for these elections was October 2012, but as discussed below, it was postponed until March 2013. Subsequent delay meant that March 2013 date passed without the people of Togo going to the polls. The latest date set for the parliamentary elections was July 25, 2013 and the elections went forward as scheduled.

Background

The previous elections were held in 2007. In those elections, the Rally of the Togolese People of President Faure Gnassingbe won 50 seats, while Gilchrist Olympio's Union of Forces for Changes (UFC) won 27 seats, and Agboyibo's Action Committee for the Renewal took four seats. It was to be seen who would be successful in the next elections, now set for March 2013.

It should be noted that President Faure Gnassingbe dissolved his Rally of the Togolese People in April 2012 and replaced it with the newly-formed Union for the Republic (UNIR). It would be this successor political entity that would contest the forthcoming parliamentary polls.

It should also be noted that in June 2012, three officials of the "Let's Save Togo" movement -- Zeus Ajavon, Raphael Kpande, and Jil-Benoit Afangbedji -- were detained over allegations that they helped to organized violent protests. At issue were claims that the three lawyers were instrumental in mobilizing thousands of protesters for political rallies in the capital city of Lome from June 12, 2012, to June 14, 2012. That mass action turned violent as protesters engaged in clashes with police, and as others engaged in vandalism. In addition to the three lawyers, 56 demonstrators were also arrested during the protest. Ajavon, Kpande, and Afangbedji were subsequently released as they awaited court hearings on the matter. For their parts, the three said they were rallying in favor of improved pre-election conditions (in regards to the impending elections discussed here). Tajavon, Kpande, and Afangbedji additionally said they were drawing attention to the provisions of the new electoral code, demanding the prosecution of perpetrators of torture, and calling for the return to the 1992 constitution.

As protests went on, there was a related pro-election reform movement growing, in which the opposition was seeking a delay in the elections so that electoral reforms could be made prior to a future election day, including the repeal of controversial gerrymandering of constituency borders in

favor of the incumbent Rally of the Togolese People party.

By October 2012 -- when the elections were set to take place -- voting was actually delayed due to the spate of protests and strikes. That mass action was continuing irrespective of the government's ban on street demonstrations in commercial areas on the basis of security concerns. As the month of October 2012 came to a close, voting had not taken place. Instead there was speculation that a future date would be fixed, and the pre-election campaigns went on. As discussed here, that future date was fixed as March 24, 2013. But as that March 2013 date drew near, the election date was again postponed. The new date set for the elections was July 25, 2013. It was to be seen if that day would indeed result in the citizens of Togo going to the polls to cast their ballots in parliamentary elections.

The Elections

Parliamentary elections in Togo finally went forward on July 25, 2013, to the relief of political observers. Note that at the time of writing, while official results for these polls were not available, all indications were that the president's Union for the Republic Party or UNIR (the successor entity to the Rally of the Togolese People) was headed for a landslide victory. The party was on track to win as many as 62 out of 91 seats at stake, with the remaining seats going to a collection of opposition parties. The opposition Union of Forces for Change (UFC) was headed for disappointing defeat losing most of the seats and securing only three seats -- far less than the 27 seats it held before the vote. The Let's Save Togo Association (CST) -- a grouping of political parties and civil society associations -- secured 19 seats. The Rainbow Coalition -- an electoral alliance of six parties -- took six seats. One independent candidate won a parliamentary seat. This result meant that Let's Save Togo Association would now become the largest opposition party. Official election results will be offered in the future after the results are submitted to the Constitutional Court.

Opposition fails to prevent Togo President Gnassingbe from running for another term in office

In January 2015, Togo's political opposition failed to gain support from the ruling party in preventing President Faure Gnassingbe from running for re-election. The opposition had been aiming to institute constitutional curbs on the notion of "presidents for life" in the form of presidential term limits. However, discussions in Togo's National Assembly with the ruling party soon unravelled and ended in failure, with political leaders engaging in acrimonious exchanges. As such, Gnassingbe would be positioned to run for -- and ultimately win -- a third five-year term in office later in 2015.

Primer on 2015 presidential election in Togo

A presidential election was set to be held in Togo in April 2015. The original date set for the vote was April 15, 2015, but it was delayed until April 25, 2015. The main candidate for the presidency was expected to be incumbent President Faure Gnassingbe, who was in power since 2005 and re-elected most recently in 2010. In Togo, the president is elected by popular vote for a five-year term (no term limits apply). As such, this next election was taking place on schedule in 2015.

Note that Faure Gnassingbe assumed the presidency in 2005 after his father, President Eyadema Gnassingbe (in power since 1967) died after a short illness. This succession of power was not regarded as legitimate by most of the global community despite a hasty change to the constitution to provide for it. Under the old constitution, the parliament's speaker would have assumed power after the leader's death and presidential elections would have been held within sixty days. Instead, speaker Fambaré Ouattara Natchaba was ousted by measures apparently orchestrated by Togo's military, and the younger Gnassingbe was installed as the new president. Sanctions and international outcry led to the younger Gnassingbe's resignation and the call for new elections. The acting president for an interim period was Abass Bonfoh. Following April 2005 election, Faure Gnassingbe won victory and assumed the presidency. He was re-elected to power in 2010. It was to be seen if he would again see electoral success in 2015.

On April 25, 2015, voters in Togo went to the polls to cast their ballots in the country's presidential election. Turnout was believed to be slightly over 50 percent and the election went off calmly. International monitors from the regional bloc, ECOWAS, deemed the election to be free and fair, with no outward signs of election irregularities or intimidation.

Note: In the week after the election, after the ballots were tallied, all expectations were realized as the incumbent president, Faure Gnassingbe, secured re-election to another term in office. Togo's election commission announced that Gnassingbe won 58.75 percent of the vote share. His main opposition challenger, Jean-Pierre Fabre, dismissed the result as fraudulent; however, no official election challenge was taken to the country's constitutional court, which ultimately deemed Gnassingbe's victory to be valid. Accordingly, incumbent President Faure Gnassingbe was inaugurated into office on May 4, 2015, for a third term in office.

Note that in June 2015, Komi Klassou became the new prime minister of Togo.

NOTE:

The next parliamentary elections were set to be held in 2018.

Editor's Note:

Faure Gnassingbe assumed the presidency in 2005 after his father, President Gen. Eyadema Gnassingbe (in power from 1967) died after a short illness. This succession of power was not regarded as legitimate by most of the global community despite a hasty change to the constitution to provide for it. Under the old constitution, the parliament's speaker would have assumed power after the leader's death and presidential elections would have been held within sixty days. Instead, Speaker Fambaré Ouattara Natchaba was ousted by measures apparently orchestrated by Togo's military. Sanctions and international outcry led to the younger Gnassingbe's resignation and the call for new elections. Abass Bonfoh was named as the new speaker of the National Assembly and, accordingly, became the acting president for an interim period (from Feb. 25, 2005 until the inauguration of the new president elected on April 24, 2005). Fresh elections were held in April 2005. Faure Gnassingbe won victory and assumed the presidency. He was re-elected to power in 2010. Gnassingbe contested the 2015 elections, and with no term limits to prevent him from seeking re-election, he secured a third term in office.

-- July 2015

*Written by Dr. Denise Youngblood Coleman, Editor in Chief, www.countrywatch.com .*

*Sources: See Bibliography for list of general research sources. Supplementary sources include the following -- Ayayi Togoata Apedp Amah, Come Toulabor, Franck K. Kuwonu, J.R. Heilbrunn., Katryn Nwajiaku, Mathurin Comlan Houngnikpo, France's Ministere de la Cooperation, Trutz von Trotha, Africa Confidential, the World Bank, Freedom House, Lexis-Nexis, Amnesty International, the International Monetary Fund, APIC, Allafrica.com, and the Universite de Bordeaux*

## Political Risk Index

Political Risk Index

The **Political Risk Index** is a proprietary index measuring the level of risk posed to governments,

corporations, and investors, based on a myriad of political and economic factors. The Political Risk Index is calculated using an established methodology by CountryWatch's Editor-in-Chief and is based on varied criteria* including the following consideration: political stability, political representation, democratic accountability, freedom of expression, security and crime, risk of conflict, human development, jurisprudence and regulatory transparency, economic risk, foreign investment considerations, possibility of sovereign default, and corruption. Scores are assigned from 0-10 using the aforementioned criteria. A score of 0 marks the highest political risk, while a score of 10 marks the lowest political risk. Stated differently, countries with the lowest scores pose the greatest political risk. A score of 0 marks the most dire level of political risk and an ultimate nadir, while a score of 10 marks the lowest possible level of political risk, according to this proprietary index. Rarely will there be scores of 0 or 10 due to the reality that countries contain complex landscapes; as such, the index offers a range of possibilities ranging from lesser to greater risk.

| Country | Assessment |
|---|---|
| | |
| Afghanistan | 2 |
| Albania | 4 |
| Algeria | 6 |
| Andorra | 9 |
| Angola | 4 |
| Antigua | 8 |
| Argentina | 4 |
| Armenia | 4-5 |
| | |

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|---|---|
| Australia | 9.5 |
| Austria | 9.5 |
| Azerbaijan | 4 |
| Bahamas | 8.5 |
| Bahrain | 6 |
| Bangladesh | 3.5 |
| Barbados | 8.5-9 |
| Belarus | 3 |
| Belgium | 9 |
| Belize | 8 |
| Benin | 5 |
| Bhutan | 5 |
| Bolivia | 5 |
| Bosnia-Herzegovina | 4 |
| Botswana | 7 |
| Brazil | 7 |
| Brunei | 7 |
| Bulgaria | 6 |
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|---|---|
| Burkina Faso | 4 |
| Burma (Myanmar) | 4.5 |
| Burundi | 3 |
| Cambodia | 4 |
| Cameroon | 5 |
| Canada | 9.5 |
| Cape Verde | 6 |
| Central African Republic | 3 |
| Chad | 4 |
| Chile | 9 |
| China | 7 |
| China: Hong Kong | 8 |
| China: Taiwan | 8 |
| Colombia | 7 |
| Comoros | 5 |
| Congo DRC | 3 |
| Congo RC | 4 |
| Costa Rica | 8 |
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|---|---|
| Cote d'Ivoire | 4.5 |
| Croatia | 7 |
| Cuba | 4-4.5 |
| Cyprus | 5 |
| Czech Republic | 8 |
| Denmark | 9.5 |
| Djibouti | 4.5 |
| Dominica | 7 |
| Dominican Republic | 6 |
| East Timor | 5 |
| Ecuador | 6 |
| Egypt | 5 |
| El Salvador | 7 |
| Equatorial Guinea | 4 |
| Eritrea | 3 |
| Estonia | 8 |
| Ethiopia | 4 |
| Fiji | 5 |

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|---|---|
| Finland | 9 |
| Fr.YugoslavRep.Macedonia | 5 |
| France | 9 |
| Gabon | 5 |
| Gambia | 4 |
| Georgia | 5 |
| Germany | 9.5 |
| Ghana | 6 |
| Greece | 4.5-5 |
| Grenada | 8 |
| Guatemala | 6 |
| Guinea | 3.5 |
| Guinea-Bissau | 3.5 |
| Guyana | 4.5 |
| Haiti | 3.5 |
| Holy See (Vatican) | 9 |
| Honduras | 4.5-5 |
| Hungary | 7 |
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|---|---|
| Iceland | 8.5-9 |
| India | 7.5-8 |
| Indonesia | 6 |
| Iran | 3.5-4 |
| Iraq | 2.5-3 |
| Ireland | 8-8.5 |
| Israel | 8 |
| Italy | 7.5 |
| Jamaica | 6.5-7 |
| Japan | 9 |
| Jordan | 6.5 |
| Kazakhstan | 6 |
| Kenya | 5 |
| Kiribati | 7 |
| Korea, North | 1 |
| Korea, South | 8 |
| Kosovo | 4 |
| Kuwait | 7 |
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|---|---|
| Kyrgyzstan | 4.5 |
| Laos | 4.5 |
| Latvia | 7 |
| Lebanon | 5.5 |
| Lesotho | 6 |
| Liberia | 3.5 |
| Libya | 2 |
| Liechtenstein | 9 |
| Lithuania | 7.5 |
| Luxembourg | 9 |
| Madagascar | 4 |
| Malawi | 4 |
| Malaysia | 8 |
| Maldives | 4.5 |
| Mali | 4 |
| Malta | 8 |
| Marshall Islands | 6 |
| Mauritania | 4.5-5 |
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|---|---|
| Mauritius | 7 |
| Mexico | 6.5 |
| Micronesia | 7 |
| Moldova | 5 |
| Monaco | 9 |
| Mongolia | 5 |
| Montenegro | 6 |
| Morocco | 6.5 |
| Mozambique | 4.5-5 |
| Namibia | 6.5-7 |
| Nauru | 6 |
| Nepal | 4 |
| Netherlands | 9.5 |
| New Zealand | 9.5 |
| Nicaragua | 5 |
| Niger | 4 |
| Nigeria | 4.5 |
| Norway | 9.5 |
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|---|---|
| Oman | 7 |
| Pakistan | 3.5 |
| Palau | 7 |
| Panama | 7.5 |
| Papua New Guinea | 5 |
| Paraguay | 6.5-7 |
| Peru | 7 |
| Philippines | 6 |
| Poland | 8 |
| Portugal | 7.5 |
| Qatar | 7.5 |
| Romania | 5.5 |
| Russia | 5.5 |
| Rwanda | 5 |
| Saint Kitts and Nevis | 8 |
| Saint Lucia | 8 |
| Saint Vincent and Grenadines | 8 |
| Samoa | 7 |
| | |

| | |
|---|---|
| San Marino | 9 |
| Sao Tome and Principe | 5.5 |
| Saudi Arabia | 6 |
| Senegal | 6 |
| Serbia | 5 |
| Seychelles | 7 |
| Sierra Leone | 4.5 |
| Singapore | 9 |
| Slovak Republic (Slovakia) | 8 |
| Slovenia | 8 |
| Solomon Islands | 6 |
| Somalia | 2 |
| South Africa | 7 |
| Spain | 7.5 |
| Sri Lanka | 5 |
| Sudan | 3.5 |
| Suriname | 5 |
| Swaziland | 5 |
| | |

| | |
|---|---|
| Sweden | 9.5 |
| Switzerland | 9.5 |
| Syria | 2 |
| Tajikistan | 4.5 |
| Tanzania | 6 |
| Thailand | 6.5 |
| Togo | 4.5 |
| Tonga | 7 |
| Trinidad and Tobago | 8 |
| Tunisia | 6 |
| Turkey | 7 |
| Turkmenistan | 4.5 |
| Tuvalu | 7 |
| Uganda | 6 |
| Ukraine | 3.5-4 |
| United Arab Emirates | 7 |
| United Kingdom | 9 |
| United States | 9.5 |
| | |

| | |
|---|---|
| Uruguay | 8 |
| Uzbekistan | 4 |
| Vanuatu | 7 |
| Venezuela | 4 |
| Vietnam | 5 |
| Yemen | 3 |
| Zambia | 4.5 |
| Zimbabwe | 3 |

*Methodology

The Political Risk Index is calculated by CountryWatch's Editor-in-Chief and is based on the combined scoring of varied criteria as follows --

1. political stability (record of peaceful transitions of power, ability of government to stay in office and carry out policies as a result of productive executive-legislative relationship, perhaps with popular support vis a vis risk of government collapse)

2. political representation (right of suffrage, free and fair elections, multi-party participation, and influence of foreign powers)

3. democratic accountability (record of respect for political rights, human rights, and civil liberties, backed by constitutional protections)

4. freedom of expression (media freedom and freedom of expression, right to dissent or express political opposition, backed by constitutional protections)

5. security and crime (the degree to which a country has security mechanisms that ensures safety of citizens and ensures law and order, without resorting to extra-judicial measures)

6. risk of conflict (the presence of conflict; record of coups or civil disturbances; threat of war;

threats posed by internal or external tensions; threat or record of terrorism or insurgencies)

7. human development (quality of life; access to education; socio-economic conditions; systemic concern for the status of women and children)

8. jurisprudence and regulatory transparency (the impartiality of the legal system, the degree of transparency within the regulatory system of a country and the durability of that structure)

9. economic conditions (economic stability, investment climate, degree of nationalization of industries, property rights, labor force development)

10. corruption ( the degree of corruption in a country and/or efforts by the government to address graft and other irregularities)

Editor's Note:

As of 2015, the current climate of upheaval internationally -- both politically and economically -- has affected the ratings for several countries across the world.

North Korea, Afghanistan, Somalia, and Zimbabwe -- retain their low rankings.

Several Middle Eastern and North African countries, such as Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Syria, Iraq and Yemen were downgraded in recent years due to political instability occurring in the "season of unrest" sweeping the region since 2011 and continuing today. The worst downgrades affected Syria where civil war is at play, along with the rampage of terror being carried out by Islamist terrorists who have also seized control over part of Syrian territory. Iraq has been further downgraded due to the rampage of Islamist terrorists and their takeover of wide swaths of Iraqi territory. Libya has also been downgraded further due to its slippage into failed state status; at issue in Libya have been an ongoing power struggle between rival militias. Yemen continues to hold steady with a poor ranking due to continued unrest at the hands of Houthi rebels, secessinionists, al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, and Islamic State. Its landscape has been further complicated by the fact that it is now the site of a proxy war between Iran and Saudi Arabia. Conversely, Tunisia and Egypt have seen slight upgrades as these countries stabilize.

In Africa, Zimbabwe continues to be one of the bleak spots of the world with the Mugabe regime effectively destroying the country's once vibrant economy, and miring Zimbabwe with an exceedingly high rate of inflation, debilitating unemployment, devolving public services, and critical food shortages; rampant crime and political oppression round out the landscape. Somalia also sports a poor ranking due to the continuing influence of the terror group, al-Shabab, which was not

operating across the border in Kenya. On the upside, Nigeria, which was ineffectively dealing with the threat posed by the terror group, Boko Haram, was making some strides on the national security front with its new president at the helm. Mali was slightly upgraded due to its efforts to return to constitutional order following the 2012 coup and to neutralize the threat of separatists and Islamists. But the Central African Republic was downgraded due to the takeover of the government by Muslim Seleka rebels and a continued state of lawlessness in that country. South Sudan -- the world's newest nation state -- has not been officially included in this assessment; however, it can be unofficially assessed to be in the vicinity of "3" due to its manifold political and economic challenges. Burkina Faso, Burundi and Guinea have been downgraded due to political unrest, with Guinea also having to deal with the burgeoning Ebola crisis.

In Europe, Ukraine was downgraded due to the unrest facing that country following its Maidan revolution that triggered a pro-Russian uprising in the eastern part of the country. Russia was also implicated in the Ukrainian crisis due to its intervention on behalf of pro-Russian separatists, as well as its annexation of the Ukrainian territory of Crimea. Strains on the infrastructure of southern and eastern European countries, such as Serbia, Croatia, and Hungary, due to an influx of refugees was expected to pose social and economic challenges, and slight downgrades were made accordingly. So too, a corruption crisis for the Romanian prime minister has affected the ranking of that country. Meanwhile, the rankings for Spain, Portugal, Ireland, and Italy were maintained due to debt woes and the concomitant effect on the euro zone. Greece, another euro zone nation, was earlier downgraded due to its sovereign debt crisis; however, no further downgrade was added since the country was able to successfully forge a bailout rescue deal with creditor institutions. Cyprus' exposure to Greek banks yielded a downgrade in its case.

In Asia, Nepal was downgraded in response to continuous political instability and a constitutional crisis that prevails well after landmark elections were held. Both India and China retain their rankings; India holds a slightly higher ranking than China due to its record of democratic representation and accountability. Increasing violence and political instability in Pakistan resulted in a downgrade for this country's already low rating. Meanwhile, Singapore retained its strong rankings due to its continued effective stewardship of the economy and political stability.

In the Americas, ongoing political and economic woes, as well as crime and corruption have affected the rankings for Mexico , Guatemala, and Brazil. Argentina was downgraded due to its default on debt following the failure of talks with bond holders. Venezuela was downgraded due to its mix of market unfriendly policies and political oppression. For the moment, the United States maintains a strong ranking along with Canada, and most of the English-speaking countries of the Caribbean; however, a renewed debt ceiling crisis could cause the United States to be downgraded in a future edition. Finally, a small but significant upgrade was attributed to Cuba due to its recent pro-business reforms and its normalization of ties with the Unitd States.

Source:

Dr. Denise Youngblood Coleman, Editor in Chief, CountryWatch Inc. www.countrywatch.com

Updated:

2015

## Political Stability

### Political Stability

The **Political Stability Index** is a proprietary index measuring a country's level of stability, standard of good governance, record of constitutional order, respect for human rights, and overall strength of democracy. The Political StabilityIndex is calculated using an established methodology* by CountryWatch's Editor-in-Chief and is based on a given country's record of peaceful transitions of power, ability of a government to stay in office and carry out its policies vis a vis risk credible risks of government collapse. Threats include coups, domestic violence and instability, terrorism, etc. This index measures the dynamic between the quality of a country's government and the threats that can compromise and undermine stability. Scores are assigned from 0-10 using the aforementioned criteria. A score of 0 marks the lowest level of political stability and an ultimate nadir, while a score of 10 marks the highest level of political stability possible, according to this proprietary index. Rarely will there be scores of 0 or 10 due to the reality that countries contain complex landscapes; as such, the index offers a range of possibilities ranging from lesser to greater stability.

| Country | Assessment |
|---|---|
| | |
| Afghanistan | 2 |
| Albania | 4.5-5 |
| Algeria | 5 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Andorra | 9.5 |
| Angola | 4.5-5 |
| Antigua | 8.5-9 |
| Argentina | 7 |
| Armenia | 5.5 |
| Australia | 9.5 |
| Austria | 9.5 |
| Azerbaijan | 5 |
| Bahamas | 9 |
| Bahrain | 6 |
| Bangladesh | 4.5 |
| Barbados | 9 |
| Belarus | 4 |
| Belgium | 9 |
| Belize | 8 |
| Benin | 5 |
| Bhutan | 5 |
| Bolivia | 6 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Bosnia-Herzegovina | 5 |
| Botswana | 8.5 |
| Brazil | 7 |
| Brunei | 8 |
| Bulgaria | 7.5 |
| Burkina Faso | 4 |
| Burma (Myanmar) | 4.5 |
| Burundi | 4 |
| Cambodia | 4.5-5 |
| Cameroon | 6 |
| Canada | 9.5 |
| Cape Verde | 6 |
| Central African Republic | 3 |
| Chad | 4.5 |
| Chile | 9 |
| China | 7 |
| China: Hong Kong | 8 |
| China: Taiwan | 8 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Colombia | 7.5 |
| Comoros | 5 |
| Congo DRC | 3 |
| Congo RC | 5 |
| Costa Rica | 9.5 |
| Cote d'Ivoire | 3.5 |
| Croatia | 7.5 |
| Cuba | 4.5 |
| Cyprus | 8 |
| Czech Republic | 8.5 |
| Denmark | 9.5 |
| Djibouti | 5 |
| Dominica | 8.5 |
| Dominican Republic | 7 |
| East Timor | 5 |
| Ecuador | 7 |
| Egypt | 4.5-5 |
| El Salvador | 7.5-8 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Equatorial Guinea | 4.5 |
| Eritrea | 4 |
| Estonia | 9 |
| Ethiopia | 4.5 |
| Fiji | 5 |
| Finland | 9 |
| Fr.YugoslavRep.Macedonia | 6.5 |
| France | 9 |
| Gabon | 5 |
| Gambia | 4.5 |
| Georgia | 5 |
| Germany | 9.5 |
| Ghana | 7 |
| Greece | 6 |
| Grenada | 8.5 |
| Guatemala | 7 |
| Guinea | 3.5-4 |
| Guinea-Bissau | 4 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Guyana | 6 |
| Haiti | 3.5-4 |
| Holy See (Vatican) | 9.5 |
| Honduras | 6 |
| Hungary | 7.5 |
| Iceland | 9 |
| India | 8 |
| Indonesia | 7 |
| Iran | 3.5 |
| Iraq | 2.5 |
| Ireland | 9.5 |
| Israel | 8 |
| Italy | 8.5-9 |
| Jamaica | 8 |
| Japan | 9 |
| Jordan | 6 |
| Kazakhstan | 6 |
| Kenya | 5 |
| | |

| | |
|---|---|
| Kiribati | 8 |
| Korea, North | 2 |
| Korea, South | 8.5 |
| Kosovo | 5.5 |
| Kuwait | 7 |
| Kyrgyzstan | 5 |
| Laos | 5 |
| Latvia | 8.5 |
| Lebanon | 5.5 |
| Lesotho | 5 |
| Liberia | 3.5-4 |
| Libya | 2 |
| Liechtenstein | 9 |
| Lithuania | 9 |
| Luxembourg | 9.5 |
| Madagascar | 4 |
| Malawi | 5 |
| Malaysia | 8 |
| | |

| | |
|---|---|
| Maldives | 4.5-5 |
| Mali | 4.5-5 |
| Malta | 9 |
| Marshall Islands | 8 |
| Mauritania | 6 |
| Mauritius | 8 |
| Mexico | 6.5-7 |
| Micronesia | 8 |
| Moldova | 5.5 |
| Monaco | 9.5 |
| Mongolia | 6.5-7 |
| Montenegro | 8 |
| Morocco | 7 |
| Mozambique | 5 |
| Namibia | 8.5 |
| Nauru | 8 |
| Nepal | 4.5 |
| Netherlands | 9.5 |

| | |
|---|---|
| New Zealand | 9.5 |
| Nicaragua | 6 |
| Niger | 4.5 |
| Nigeria | 4.5 |
| Norway | 9.5 |
| Oman | 7 |
| Pakistan | 3 |
| Palau | 8 |
| Panama | 8.5 |
| Papua New Guinea | 6 |
| Paraguay | 8 |
| Peru | 7.5 |
| Philippines | 6 |
| Poland | 9 |
| Portugal | 9 |
| Qatar | 7 |
| Romania | 7 |
| Russia | 6 |
| | |

| | |
|---|---|
| Rwanda | 5 |
| Saint Kitts and Nevis | 9 |
| Saint Lucia | 9 |
| Saint Vincent and Grenadines | 9 |
| Samoa | 8 |
| San Marino | 9.5 |
| Sao Tome and Principe | 7 |
| Saudi Arabia | 6 |
| Senegal | 7.5 |
| Serbia | 6.5 |
| Seychelles | 8 |
| Sierra Leone | 4.5 |
| Singapore | 9.5 |
| Slovak Republic (Slovakia) | 8.5 |
| Slovenia | 9 |
| Solomon Islands | 6.5-7 |
| Somalia | 2 |
| South Africa | 7.5 |
| | |

| | |
|---|---|
| Spain | 9 |
| Sri Lanka | 5 |
| Sudan | 3 |
| Suriname | 5 |
| Swaziland | 5 |
| Sweden | 9.5 |
| Switzerland | 9.5 |
| Syria | 2 |
| Tajikistan | 4.5 |
| Tanzania | 6 |
| Thailand | 6 |
| Togo | 5 |
| Tonga | 7 |
| Trinidad and Tobago | 8 |
| Tunisia | 5 |
| Turkey | 7.5 |
| Turkmenistan | 5 |
| Tuvalu | 8.5 |
| | |

| | |
|---|---|
| Uganda | 6 |
| Ukraine | 3.5-4 |
| United Arab Emirates | 7 |
| United Kingdom | 9 |
| United States | 9 |
| Uruguay | 8.5 |
| Uzbekistan | 4 |
| Vanuatu | 8.5 |
| Venezuela | 4.5-5 |
| Vietnam | 4.5 |
| Yemen | 2.5 |
| Zambia | 5 |
| Zimbabwe | 3 |

*Methodology

The Political Stability Index is calculated by CountryWatch's Editor-in-Chief and is based on the combined scoring of varied criteria as follows --

1. record of peaceful transitions of power ( free and fair elections; adherence to political accords)

2. record of democratic representation, presence of instruments of democracy; systemic accountability

3. respect for human rights; respect for civil rights

4. strength of the system of jurisprudence, adherence to constitutional order, and good governance

5. ability of a government to stay in office and carry out its policies vis a vis risk credible risks of government collapse (i.e. government stability versus a country being deemed "ungovernable")

6. threat of coups, insurgencies, and insurrection

7. level of unchecked crime and corruption

8. risk of terrorism and other threats to national security

9. relationship with regional powers and international community; record of bilateral or multilateral cooperation

10. degree of economic strife (i.e. economic and financial challenges)

Editor's Note:

As of 2015, the current climate of upheaval internationally -- both politically and economically -- has affected the ratings for several countries across the world. The usual suspects -- North Korea, Afghanistan, and Somalia -- retain their low rankings. The reclusive and ultra-dictatorial North Korean regime, which has terrified the world with its nuclear threats, has exhibited internal instability. Of note was a cut-throat purge of hundreds of high ranking officials deemed to be a threat to Kim Jung-un. Despite their attempts to recover from years of lawlessness, war, and warlordism, both Afghanistan and Somalia continue to be beset by terrorism and turmoil. In Afghanistan, while international forces have seen success in the effort against the terror group, al-Qaida, the other Islamist extremist group, the Taliban, continues to carry out a vicious insurgency using terrorism. In Somalia, while the government attempts to do the nation's business, the terror group, al-Shabab continues to make its presence known not only in Somalia, but across the border into Kenya with devastating results/ Also in this category is Iraq, which continues to be rocked by horrific violence and terrorism at the hands of Islamic State, which has taken over wide swaths of Iraqi territory.

Syria, Libya, and Yemen have been added to this unfortunate echelon of the world's most politically unstable countries. Syria has been mired by the twin hazards of 1. a civil war as rebels oppose the Assad regime; and 2. the rampage of terror being carried out by Islamic State, which also seized control over vast portions of Syrian territory. Meanwhile, the post-Qaddhafi landscape of Libya has devolved into chaos as rival militias battle for control -- the elected government of the

country notwithstanding. Rounding out this grim triad is Yemen, which was dealing with a Houthi rebellion, secesionists in the south, as well as the threat of terrorism from al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula as well as Islamic State, while also being the site of a proxy war between Shi'a Iran and Sunni Saudi Arabia.

Meanwhile, several Middle Eastern and North African countries, such as Tunisia, Egypt, and Bahrain were downgraded in recent years due to political instability occurring in the "season of unrest" sweeping the region since 2011 and continuing today. All three of these countries have stabilized in recent years and have been upgraded accordingly. In Bahrain, the landscape had calmed. In Egypt, the secular military-backed government has generated criticism for its crackdown on the Muslim Brotherhood; however, the country had ratified the presidency via democratic elections and were on track to hold parliamentary elections as the country moved along the path of democratization. Perhaps the most impressive story was coming out of Tunisia -- the country whose Jasmine Revolution sparked the entire Arab Spring -- and where after a few years of strife, a new progressive constitution was passed into law and a secular government had been elected to power. Tunisia, Egypt, and Bahrain have seen slight upgrades as these countries stabilize.

In Africa, the Central African Republic was downgraded the previous year due to the takeover of the government by Muslim Seleka rebels. Although the country has been trying to emerge from this crisis, the fact of the matter was that it was difficult to halt the precipitous decline into lawlessness in that country. Zimbabwe has maintained its consistently poor ranking due to the dictatorial regime of Mugabe, who continues to hold a tight grip on power, intimidates the opposition, squashes dissent, and oppresses the white farmer population of the country. Moving in a slightly improved direction is Nigeria, which has sported abysmal ratings due to the government's fecklessness in dealing with the threat posed by the Islamist terror group, Boko Haram. Under its newly-elected government, there appears to be more of a concerted effort to make national security a priority action item. Mali was also slightly upgraded due to its efforts to return to constitutional order following the 2012 coup and to neutralize the threat of separatists and Islamists. Political instability has visited Burkina Faso and Burundi as the leaders of those countries attempted to side-step constitutional limits to hold onto power. In Burundi, an attempted coup ensued but quelled, and the president won a (questionable) new term in office; unrest has since punctuated the landscape. In Burkina Faso, the political climate has turned stormy as a result of a successful coup that ended the rule of the president, and then a putsch against the transitional government. These two African countries have been downgraded as a result.

It should be noted that the African country of South Sudan -- the world's newest nation state -- has not been officially included in this assessment; however, it can be unofficially assessed to be in the vicinity of "3" due to its manifold political and economic challenges. Guinea has endured poor rankings throughout, but was slightly downgraded further over fears of social unrest and the Ebola heath crisis.

In Europe, Ukraine was downgraded due to the unrest facing that country following its Maidan revolution that triggered a pro-Russian uprising in the eastern part of the country. Russia was also implicated in the Ukrainian crisis due to its intervention on behalf of pro-Russian separatists, as well as its annexation of the Ukrainian territory of Crimea. Serbia and Albania were slightly downgraded due to eruptions of unrest, while Romania was slightly downgraded on the basis of corruption charges against the prime minister. Spain, Portugal, Ireland, and Italy were downgraded due to debt woes and the concomitant effect on the euro zone. Greece, another euro zone nation, was downgraded the previous year due to its sovereign debt crisis; however, the country successfully forged a rescue deal with international creditors and stayed within the Euro zone. Greek voters rewarded the hitherto unknown upstart party at the polls for these efforts. As a result, Greece was actually upgraded slightly as it proved to the world that it could endure the political and economic storms. Meanwhile, Germany, France, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and the Scandinavian countries continue to post impressive ranking consistent with these countries' strong records of democracy, freedom, and peaceful transfers of power.

In Asia, Nepal was downgraded in response to continuous political instability well after landmark elections that prevails today. Cambodia was very slighly downgraded due to post-election instability that has resulted in occasional flares of violence. Despite the "trifecta of tragedy" in Japan in 2011 -- the earthquake, the ensuing tsunami, and the resulting nuclear crisis -- and the appreciable destabilization of the economic and political terrain therein, this country has only slightly been downgraded. Japan's challenges have been assessed to be transient, the government remains accountable, and there is little risk of default. Both India and China retain their rankings; India holds a slightly higher ranking than China due to its record of democratic representation and accountability. Increasing violence and political instability in Pakistan resulted in a downgrade for this country's already low rating.

In the Americas, Haiti retained its downgraded status due to ongoing political and economic woes. Mexico was downgraded due to its alarming rate of crime. Guatemala was downgraded due to charges of corruption, the arrest of the president, and uncertainty over the outcome of elections. Brazil was downgraded due to the corruption charges erupting on the political landscape, the stalling of the economy, and the increasingly loud calls for the impeachment of President Rousseff. Argentina was downgraded due to its default on debt following the failure of talks with bond holders. Venezuela was downgraded due to the fact that the country's post-Chavez government is every bit as autocratic and nationalistic, but even more inclined to oppress its political opponents. Colombia was upgraded slightly due to efforts aimed at securing a peace deal with the FARC insurgents. A small but significant upgrade was attributed to Cuba due to its recent pro-business reforms and its normalization of ties with the Unitd States. Meanwhile, the United States, Canada, Costa Rica, Panama, and most of the English-speaking countries of the Caribbean retain their strong rankings due to their records of stability and peaceful transfers of power.

In the Pacific, Fiji was upgraded due to its return to constitutional order and democracy with the holding of the first elections in eight years.

In Oceania, Maldives has been slightly downgraded due to the government's continued and rather relentless persecution of the country's former pro-democracy leader - former President Nasheed.

Source:

Dr. Denise Youngblood Coleman, Editor in Chief, CountryWatch Inc. www.countrywatch.com

Updated:

2015

## Freedom Rankings

Freedom Rankings

**Freedom in the World**

Editor's Note: This ranking by Freedom House quantifies political freedom and civil liberties into a single combined index on each sovereign country's level of freedom and liberty. The initials "PR" and "CL" stand for Political Rights and Civil Liberties, respectively. The number 1 represents the most free countries and the number 7 represents the least free. Several countries fall in the continuum in between. The freedom ratings reflect an overall judgment based on survey results.

| Country | PR | CL | Freedom Status | Trend Arrow |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Afghanistan | 6 ? | 6 | Not Free | |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Albania* | 3 | 3 | Partly Free | |
| Algeria | 6 | 5 | Not Free | |
| Andorra* | 1 | 1 | Free | |
| Angola | 6 | 5 | Not Free | |
| Antigua and Barbuda* | 3 ? | 2 | Free | |
| Argentina* | 2 | 2 | Free | |
| Armenia | 6 | 4 | Partly Free | |
| Australia* | 1 | 1 | Free | |
| Austria* | 1 | 1 | Free | |
| Azerbaijan | 6 | 5 | Not Free | |
| Bahamas* | 1 | 1 | Free | |
| Bahrain | 6 ? | 5 | Not Free ? | |
| Bangladesh* | 3 ? | 4 | Partly Free | |
| Barbados* | 1 | 1 | Free | |
| Belarus | 7 | 6 | Not Free | |
| Belgium* | 1 | 1 | Free | |
| Belize* | 1 | 2 | Free | |
| Benin* | 2 | 2 | Free | |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bhutan | 4 | 5 | Partly Free | |
| Bolivia* | 3 | 3 | Partly Free | |
| Bosnia-Herzegovina* | 4 | 3 | Partly Free | |
| Botswana* | 3 ? | 2 | Free | |
| Brazil* | 2 | 2 | Free | |
| Brunei | 6 | 5 | Not Free | |
| Bulgaria* | 2 | 2 | Free | |
| Burkina Faso | 5 | 3 | Partly Free | |
| Burma | 7 | 7 | Not Free | |
| Burundi* | 4 | 5 | Partly Free | ⇑ |
| Cambodia | 6 | 5 | Not Free | ⇓ |
| Cameroon | 6 | 6 | Not Free | |
| Canada* | 1 | 1 | Free | |
| Cape Verde* | 1 | 1 | Free | |
| Central African Republic | 5 | 5 | Partly Free | |
| Chad | 7 | 6 | Not Free | |
| Chile* | 1 | 1 | Free | |
| China | 7 | 6 | Not Free | |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Colombia* | 3 | 4 | Partly Free | |
| Comoros* | 3 | 4 | Partly Free | |
| Congo (Brazzaville ) | 6 | 5 | Not Free | ⇓ |
| Congo (Kinshasa) | 6 | 6 | Not Free | ⇓ |
| Costa Rica* | 1 | 1 | Free | |
| Cote d'Ivoire | 6 | 5 | Not Free | |
| Croatia* | 1 ? | 2 | Free | |
| Cuba | 7 | 6 | Not Free | |
| Cyprus* | 1 | 1 | Free | |
| Czech Republic* | 1 | 1 | Free | |
| Denmark* | 1 | 1 | Free | |
| Djibouti | 5 | 5 | Partly Free | |
| Dominica* | 1 | 1 | Free | |
| Dominican Republic* | 2 | 2 | Free | ⇓ |
| East Timor* | 3 | 4 | Partly Free | |
| Ecuador* | 3 | 3 | Partly Free | |
| Egypt | 6 | 5 | Not Free | |
| El Salvador* | 2 | 3 | Free | |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Equatorial Guinea | 7 | 7 | Not Free | |
| Eritrea | 7 | 7 ? | Not Free | |
| Estonia* | 1 | 1 | Free | |
| Ethiopia | 5 | 5 | Partly Free | ⇓ |
| Fiji | 6 | 4 | Partly Free | |
| Finland* | 1 | 1 | Free | |
| France* | 1 | 1 | Free | |
| Gabon | 6 | 5 ? | Not Free ? | |
| The Gambia | 5 | 5 ? | Partly Free | |
| Georgia | 4 | 4 | Partly Free | |
| Germany* | 1 | 1 | Free | |
| Ghana* | 1 | 2 | Free | |
| Greece* | 1 | 2 | Free | |
| Grenada* | 1 | 2 | Free | |
| Guatemala* | 4 ? | 4 | Partly Free | |
| Guinea | 7 | 6 ? | Not Free | |
| Guinea-Bissau* | 4 | 4 | Partly Free | |
| Guyana* | 2 | 3 | Free | |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Haiti* | 4 | 5 | Partly Free | |
| Honduras | 4 ? | 4 ? | Partly Free | |
| Hungary* | 1 | 1 | Free | |
| Iceland* | 1 | 1 | Free | |
| India* | 2 | 3 | Free | |
| Indonesia* | 2 | 3 | Free | |
| Iran | 6 | 6 | Not Free | ⇓ |
| Iraq | 5 ? | 6 | Not Free | |
| Ireland* | 1 | 1 | Free | |
| Israel* | 1 | 2 | Free | |
| Italy* | 1 | 2 | Free | |
| Jamaica* | 2 | 3 | Free | |
| Japan* | 1 | 2 | Free | |
| Jordan | 6 ? | 5 | Not Free ? | |
| Kazakhstan | 6 | 5 | Not Free | ⇓ |
| Kenya | 4 | 4 ? | Partly Free | |
| Kiribati* | 1 | 1 | Free | |
| Kosovo | 5 ? | 4 ? | Partly Free ? | |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kuwait | 4 | 4 | Partly Free | |
| Kyrgyzstan | 6 ? | 5 ? | Not Free ? | |
| Laos | 7 | 6 | Not Free | |
| Latvia* | 2 | 1 | Free | |
| Lebanon | 5 | 3 ? | Partly Free | |
| Lesotho* | 3 ? | 3 | Partly Free ? | |
| Liberia* | 3 | 4 | Partly Free | |
| Libya | 7 | 7 | Not Free | |
| Liechtenstein* | 1 | 1 | Free | |
| Lithuania* | 1 | 1 | Free | |
| Luxembourg* | 1 | 1 | Free | |
| Macedonia* | 3 | 3 | Partly Free | ⇑ |
| Madagascar | 6 ? | 4 ? | Partly Free | |
| Malawi* | 3 ? | 4 | Partly Free | |
| Malaysia | 4 | 4 | Partly Free | |
| Maldives* | 3 ? | 4 | Partly Free | |
| Mali* | 2 | 3 | Free | |
| Malta* | 1 | 1 | Free | ⇓ |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Marshall Islands* | 1 | 1 | Free | |
| Mauritania | 6 | 5 | Not Free | |
| Mauritius* | 1 | 2 | Free | |
| Mexico* | 2 | 3 | Free | |
| Micronesia* | 1 | 1 | Free | |
| Moldova* | 3 ? | 4 | Partly Free | |
| Monaco* | 2 | 1 | Free | |
| Mongolia* | 2 | 2 | Free | ⇑ |
| Montenegro* | 3 | 2 ? | Free ? | |
| Morocco | 5 | 4 | Partly Free | ⇓ |
| Mozambique | 4 ? | 3 | Partly Free | |
| Namibia* | 2 | 2 | Free | |
| Nauru* | 1 | 1 | Free | |
| Nepal | 4 | 4 | Partly Free | |
| Netherlands* | 1 | 1 | Free | |
| New Zealand* | 1 | 1 | Free | |
| Nicaragua* | 4 | 4 ? | Partly Free | |
| Niger | 5 ? | 4 | Partly Free | |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nigeria | 5 | 4 | Partly Free | ⇓ |
| North Korea | 7 | 7 | Not Free | ⇓ |
| Norway* | 1 | 1 | Free | |
| Oman | 6 | 5 | Not Free | |
| Pakistan | 4 | 5 | Partly Free | |
| Palau* | 1 | 1 | Free | |
| Panama* | 1 | 2 | Free | |
| Papua New Guinea* | 4 | 3 | Partly Free | |
| Paraguay* | 3 | 3 | Partly Free | |
| Peru* | 2 | 3 | Free | |
| Philippines | 4 | 3 | Partly Free | ⇓ |
| Poland* | 1 | 1 | Free | |
| Portugal* | 1 | 1 | Free | |
| Qatar | 6 | 5 | Not Free | |
| Romania* | 2 | 2 | Free | |
| Russia | 6 | 5 | Not Free | ⇓ |
| Rwanda | 6 | 5 | Not Free | |
| Saint Kitts and Nevis* | 1 | 1 | Free | |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Saint Lucia* | 1 | 1 | Free | |
| Saint Vincent and Grenadines* | 2 | 1 | Free | |
| Samoa* | 2 | 2 | Free | |
| San Marino* | 1 | 1 | Free | |
| Sao Tome and Principe* | 2 | 2 | Free | |
| Saudi Arabia | 7 | 6 | Not Free | |
| Senegal* | 3 | 3 | Partly Free | |
| Serbia* | 2 ? | 2 | Free | |
| Seychelles* | 3 | 3 | Partly Free | |
| Sierra Leone* | 3 | 3 | Partly Free | |
| Singapore | 5 | 4 | Partly Free | |
| Slovakia* | 1 | 1 | Free | ⇓ |
| Slovenia* | 1 | 1 | Free | |
| Solomon Islands | 4 | 3 | Partly Free | |
| Somalia | 7 | 7 | Not Free | |
| South Africa* | 2 | 2 | Free | |
| South Korea* | 1 | 2 | Free | |
| Spain* | 1 | 1 | Free | |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sri Lanka* | 4 | 4 | Partly Free | |
| Sudan | 7 | 7 | Not Free | |
| Suriname* | 2 | 2 | Free | |
| Swaziland | 7 | 5 | Not Free | |
| Sweden* | 1 | 1 | Free | |
| Switzerland* | 1 | 1 | Free | ⇓ |
| Syria | 7 | 6 | Not Free | |
| Taiwan* | 1 ? | 2 ? | Free | |
| Tajikistan | 6 | 5 | Not Free | |
| Tanzania | 4 | 3 | Partly Free | |
| Thailand | 5 | 4 | Partly Free | |
| Togo | 5 | 4 ? | Partly Free | |
| Tonga | 5 | 3 | Partly Free | |
| Trinidad and Tobago* | 2 | 2 | Free | |
| Tunisia | 7 | 5 | Not Free | |
| Turkey* | 3 | 3 | Partly Free | ⇓ |
| Turkmenistan | 7 | 7 | Not Free | |
| Tuvalu* | 1 | 1 | Free | |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Uganda | 5 | 4 | Partly Free | |
| Ukraine* | 3 | 2 | Free | |
| United Arab Emirates | 6 | 5 | Not Free | |
| United Kingdom* | 1 | 1 | Free | |
| United States* | 1 | 1 | Free | |
| Uruguay* | 1 | 1 | Free | |
| Uzbekistan | 7 | 7 | Not Free | |
| Vanuatu* | 2 | 2 | Free | |
| Venezuela | 5 ? | 4 | Partly Free | |
| Vietnam | 7 | 5 | Not Free | ⇓ |
| Yemen | 6 ? | 5 | Not Free ? | |
| Zambia* | 3 | 4 ? | Partly Free | |
| Zimbabwe | 6 ? | 6 | Not Free | |

Methodology:
PR and CL stand for political rights and civil liberties, respectively; 1 represents the most free and 7 the least free rating. The ratings reflect an overall judgment based on survey results.

? ? up or down indicates a change in political rights, civil liberties, or status since the last survey.
⇑ ⇓ up or down indicates a trend of positive or negative changes that took place but that were not sufficient to result in a change in political rights or civil liberties ratings of 1-7.

* indicates a country's status as an electoral democracy.

Source:

This data is derived from the latest edition of Freedom House's Freedom in the World 2010 edition.
Available at URL: http://www.freedomhouse.org

Updated:

Reviewed in 2015

# Human Rights

## Human Rights in Togo

**Overview**
The Togolese Republic is a republic under transition to multiparty democratic rule. Irregularities marred recent elections, however, there has been no official challenge of the results.

In the year since the election, the human rights record in Togo has deteriorated. In response to this downfall, the European Union (EU) has begun a six-month consultation with Togo under the Cotonou Agreement. Note: The Cotonou agreement allows the EU to suspend cooperation with a country if it fails to respect human rights, democratic principles and the rule of law. Trade, humanitarian and economic aid, as well as other monetary issues can all be suspended due to a lack of compliance.

On April 14, 2006, Togolese Prime Minister Koffi Sama went to Brussels to convince the EU that his country was complying with the 22 point agreement between the EU and Togo, and that the country was ready to resume negotiations for EU aid. On June 9,2006, the EU stated that it was too early to assess of the ongoing developments in Togo. It also stated that serious human rights violations still needed to be addressed before talks could resume.

Issues such as politically-motivated killings, government impunity and corruption, restrictions of the freedoms of assembly, press, and movement, as well as child labor and human trafficking still need to be addressed in order for Togo to be in compliance with the EU's rules.

**Human Development Rank (HDI):**

See full listing of the Human Development Index located in the Social Overview of this report for this country's current rank.

**Human Poverty Index Rank:**
76th out of 103

**Gini Index:**
N/A

**Life Expectancy at Birth (years):**
57.1 years

**Unemployment Rate:**
N/A

**Population living on $1 a day (%):**
N/A

**Population living on $2 a day (%):**
N/A

**Population living beneath the Poverty Line (%):**
32%

**Internally Displaced People:**
N/A
Note-Some 12,000 refugees are currently in Togo

**Total Crime Rate (%):**
N/A

**Health Expenditure (% of GDP):**
Public: 5.1%

**% of GDP Spent on Education:**
2.6%

**Human Rights Conventions Party to:**
• International Convention on the Prevention and Punishment and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide
• International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
• International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
• International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

• Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
• Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
• Conventions on the Rights of the Child
• Convention relating to the Status of Refugees
• International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrants and Members of Their Families

*Human Development Index (HDI) is a composite index that measures the level of well-being in 177 nations in the world. It uses factors such as poverty, literacy, life-expectancy, education, gross domestic product, and purchasing power parity to assess the average achievements in each nation. It has been used in the United Nation's Human Development Report since 1993.

*Human Poverty Index Ranking is based on certain indicators used to calculate the Human Poverty Index. Probability at birth of not surviving to age 40, adult literacy rate, population without sustainable access to an improved water source, and population below income poverty line are the indicators assessed in this measure.

*The Gini Index measures inequality based on the distribution of family income or consumption. A value of 0 represents perfect equality (income being distributed equally), and a value of 100 perfect inequality (income all going to one individual).

*The calculation of the total crime rate is the % of the total population which has been effected by property crime, robbery, sexual assault, assault, or bribery (corruption) related occurrences.

# Government Functions

The new constitution was adopted on Oct. 14, 1992. The presidential and legislative elections were held in 1993 and 1994 respectively. These events lead to the installation of a freely elected National Assembly and formation of a new government based on the legislative results in 1994. Togo has acquired nascent democratic institutions, but these remain fragile and only partially developed.

Under the constitution of 1992, the president is officially the head of state, while the prime minister is the head of government. Whereas the president appoints the prime minister, the cabinet, which is

headed by the prime minister, is appointed jointly by the president and prime minister. An amendment in 2002 made it possible for the president to run for a third term in office. Candidacy requirements include the provision that one must be a resident in Togo for at least one year prior to becoming a candidate.

The Togolese legislature consists of a unicameral National Assembly. Members are elected by a universal popular vote to five-year terms. There are no term limits. The National Assembly can vote no confidence in the government with a two-thirds majority. This forces the ruling party to create a new government. If a new government cannot be created then new elections are held. Candidacy requirements for the legislature include being 25 years or older, having Togolese citizenship, being able to read and write French, and residence in the country for at least six months. In addition in order to run a candidate must place CFA$100,000 (approximately US$140) in trust. If the candidate wins at least five percent of the votes cast in the constituency then she/he gets the money refunded.

The Seniority Board consists of the president of parliament, two questors and two parliamentary secretaries. Members are elected to the board for five years and meet once per week at the president's initiative. The board, which is effectively dominated by the president, supervises the establishment of the National Assembly's budget.

The Constitutional Court was installed on Feb. 22, 1997. It is composed of seven members nominated for seven years each. They are appointed by the president. The Constitutional Court is charged with granting fundamental liberties and regulating the proper functioning of government institutions. It is open to all citizens without exception and its decisions cannot be appealed.

The Togolese judiciary also includes a Court of Appeal and a Supreme Court. The Togolese judiciary is modeled on the French system. For administrative purposes, Togo is divided into 30 prefectures, each having an appointed prefect. The Supreme Court is expected to act as social and economic counsel as well as act as the highest criminal court.

# Government Structure

**Names:**
*conventional long form:*
Republic of Togo
*conventional short form:*

Togo
*former:*
French Togo

**Type:**
Republic under transition to multiparty democratic rule

**Executive Branch:**
Chief of state:
President Faure Gnassingbe (since April 2005; re-elected in 2010 and in 2015); president elected by popular vote for a five-year term (no term limits)

Note:
Faure Gnassingbe -- in power for a short period -- assumed the presidency in 2005 after his father, President Gen. Eyadema Gnassingbe (in power since 1967) died after a short illness. This succession of power was not regarded as legitimate by most of the global community despite a hasty change to the constitution to provide for it. Under the old constitution, the parliament's speaker would have assumed power after the leader's death and presidential elections would have been held within sixty days. Instead, speaker Fambaré Ouattara Natchaba was ousted by measures apparently orchestrated by Togo's military. Sanctions and international outcry led to the younger Gnassingbe's resignation and the call for new elections. Acting President was then Abass Bonfoh (since Feb. 25, 2005, until the inauguration of the new president elected on April 24, 2005). Bonfoh became the acting President when the National Assembly named him as its new speaker following Faure Gnassingbe's resignation. Following April 2005 election, Faure Gnassingbe won victory and assumed the presidency. As noted below, he was re-elected to power in 2010.

Primer on presidential election in Togo
April 25, 2015 --

A presidential election was set to be held in Togo in April 2015. The original date set for the vote was April 15, 2015, but it was delayed until April 25, 2015. The main candidate for the presidency was expected to be incumbent President Faure Gnassingbe, who was in power since 2005 and re-elected most recently in 2010. In Togo, the president is elected by popular vote for a five-year term (no term limits apply). As such, this next election was taking place on schedule in 2015.

Note that Faure Gnassingbe assumed the presidency in 2005 after his father, President Eyadema Gnassingbe (in power since 1967) died after a short illness. This succession of power was not regarded as legitimate by most of the global community despite a hasty change to the constitution

to provide for it. Under the old constitution, the parliament's speaker would have assumed power after the leader's death and presidential elections would have been held within sixty days. Instead, speaker Fambaré Ouattara Natchaba was ousted by measures apparently orchestrated by Togo's military, and the younger Gnassingbe was installed as the new president. Sanctions and international outcry led to the younger Gnassingbe's resignation and the call for new elections. The acting president for an interim period was Abass Bonfoh. Following April 2005 election, Faure Gnassingbe won victory and assumed the presidency. He was re-elected to power in 2010. It was to be seen if he would again see electoral success in 2015.

On April 25, 2015, voters in Togo went to the polls to cast their ballots in the country's presidential election. Turnout was believed to be slightly over 50 percent and the election went off calmly. International monitors from the regional bloc, ECOWAS, deemed the election to be free and fair, with no outward signs of election irregularities or intimidation.

Note: In the week after the election, after the ballots were tallied, all expectations were realized as the incumbent president, Faure Gnassingbe, secured re-election to another term in office. Togo's election commission announced that Gnassingbe won 58.75 percent of the vote share. His main opposition challenger, Jean-Pierre Fabre, dismissed the result as fraudulent; however, no official election challenge was taken to the country's constitutional court, which ultimately deemed Gnassingbe's victory to be valid. Accordingly, incumbent President Faure Gnassingbe was inaugurated into office on May 4, 2015, for a third term in office.

Note on head of government:
Note that in June 2015, Komi Klassou became the new prime minister of Togo.

Cabinet:
Council of Ministers appointed by the prime minister in consultation with the president

**Legislative Branch:**
Unicameral National Assembly:
91 seats (changed from 81 seats(; members are elected by popular vote to serve five-year terms)

Primer on Parliamentary Elections:
July 25, 2013 --

Introduction

Parliamentary elections were set be held in Togo in March 2013. At stake would be the composition of the unicameral National Assembly where members to the legislative body are elected by popular vote to serve five-year terms. Some sources suggest the National Assembly

now has 91 seats -- an increase from the previous total of 81 seats. The original election timeline for these elections was October 2012, but as discussed below, it was postponed until March 2013. Subsequent delay meant that March 2013 date passed without the people of Togo going to the polls. The latest date set for the parliamentary elections was July 25, 2013.

Background

The previous elections were held in 2007. In those elections, the Rally of the Togolese People of President Faure Gnassingbe won 50 seats, while Gilchrist Olympio's Union of Forces for Changes (UFC) won 27 seats, and Agboyibo's Action Committee for the Renewal took four seats. It was to be seen who would be successful in the next elections, now set for March 2013.

It should be noted that President Faure Gnassingbe dissolved his Rally of the Togolese People in April 2012 and replaced it with the newly-formed Union for the Republic (UNIR). It would be this successor political entity that would contest the forthcoming parliamentary polls.

It should also be noted that in June 2012, three officials of the "Let's Save Togo" movement -- Zeus Ajavon, Raphael Kpande, and Jil-Benoit Afangbedji -- were detained over allegations that they helped to organized violent protests. At issue were claims that the three lawyers were instrumental in mobilizing thousands of protesters for political rallies in the capital city of Lome from June 12, 2012, to June 14, 2012. That mass action turned violent as protesters engaged in clashes with police, and as others engaged in vandalism. In addition to the three lawyers, 56 demonstrators were also arrested during the protest. Ajavon, Kpande, and Afangbedji were subsequently released as they awaited court hearings on the matter. For their parts, the three said they were rallying in favor of improved pre-election conditions (in regards to the impending elections discussed here). Tajavon, Kpande, and Afangbedji additionally said they were drawing attention to the provisions of the new electoral code, demanding the prosecution of perpetrators of torture, and calling for the return to the 1992 constitution.

As protests went on, there was a related pro-election reform movement growing, in which the opposition was seeking a delay in the elections so that electoral reforms could be made prior to a future election day, including the repeal of controversial gerrymandering of constituency borders in favor of the incumbent Rally of the Togolese People party.

By October 2012 -- when the elections were set to take place -- voting was actually delayed due to the spate of protests and strikes. That mass action was continuing irrespective of the government's ban on street demonstrations in commercial areas on the basis of security concerns. As the month of October 2012 came to a close, voting had not taken place. Instead there was speculation that a future date would be fixed, and the pre-election campaigns went on. As discussed here, that future date was fixed as March 24, 2013. But as that March 2013 date drew near, the election date was again postponed. The new date set for the elections was July 25, 2013. It was to be seen if that

day would indeed result in the citizens of Togo going to the polls to cast their ballots in parliamentary elections.

The Elections

Parliamentary elections in Togo finally went forward on July 25, 2013, to the relief of political observers. Note that at the time of writing, while official results for these polls were not available, all indications were that the president's Union for the Republic Party or UNIR (the successor entity to the Rally of the Togolese People) was headed for a landslide victory. The party was on track to win as many as 62 out of 91 seats at stake, with the remaining seats going to a collection of opposition parties. The opposition Union of Forces for Change (UFC) was headed for disappointing defeat losing most of the seats and securing only three seats -- far less than the 27 seats it held before the vote. The Let's Save Togo Association (CST) -- a grouping of political parties and civil society associations -- secured 19 seats. The Rainbow Coalition -- an electoral alliance of six parties -- took six seats. One independent candidate won a parliamentary seat. This result meant that Let's Save Togo Association would now become the largest opposition party. Official election results will be offered in the future after the results are submitted to the Constitutional Court.

**Judicial Branch:**
"Cour d'Appel" (Court of Appeal); "Cour Supreme" (Supreme Court); Constitutional Court

**Constitution:**
Multiparty draft constitution approved by High Council of the Republic July 1, 1992; adopted by public referendum Sept. 27, 1992; constitional changes approved by parliament in 2010

**Legal System:**
French-based court system

**Administrative Divisions:**
5 regions (regions, singular - region); Kara, Plateaux, Savanes, Centrale, Maritime

**Political Parties and Leaders:**
Action Committee for Renewal or CAR [Dodji APEVON]
Democratic Convention of African Peoples or CDPA [Leopold GNININVI, Secretary-General]
Movement of the Believers of Peace and Equality or MOCEP

National Alliance for Change or ANC [Jean-Pierre FABRE]
Pan-African Patriotic Convergence or CPP [Edem KODJO]
Rainbow Alliance (a coalition including: CAR and CDPA) [Brigitte Adjamagbo JOHNSON]
Rally for the Support for Development and Democracy or RSDD [Harry OLYMPIO]
Save Togo Collective or CST (a coalition including: ANC and PSR) [Ata Messan Zeus AJAVON
Socialist Pact for Renewal or PSR [Abi TCHESSA]
Union for Democracy and Social Progress or UDPS [Gagou KOKOU]
Union for the Republic or UNIR [Faure GNASSINGBE] (formerly the Rally of the Togolese People party)
Union of Forces for Change or UFC [Gilchrist OLYMPIO]

Note:
In April 2012, the ruling party of Togo -- the Rally of Togolese People (RPT) -- announced its dissolution and the formation of a new political entity. The RPT has a long modern history in Togo, dating back to its inception in 1969 under the helm of the party's founding father, the late President Gnassingbe Eyadema. That era was now officially over as room was made for the new political party -- the Union for the Republic (UNIR) -- which would be led by Gnassingbe Eyadema's son, the current President Faure Gnassingbe. At an extraordinary session of Togo's Congress, President Gnassingbe declared that all Togolese people were eligible to join the UNIR.

**Suffrage:**
universal adult; years of age NA

# Principal Government Officials

## Cabinet and Leadership of Togo

Council of Ministers appointed by the prime minister in consultation with the president

Pres. Faure GNASSINGBE
Prime Min. Komi KLASSOU
Min. of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, & Fisheries Ouro Koura AGADZI

Min. of Arts & Culture Fiatuwo Kwadjo SESSENOU
Min. of Basic Development, Handicrafts, Youth, & Youth Employment Victoire Sidemho TOMEGAH-DODBE
Min. of Civil Service Gourdigou KOLANI
Min. of Commerce & Promotion of Private Sector Bernadette Essossimna LEGZIM-BALOUKI
Min. of Communication Djimon ORE
Min. of Economy & Finance Adji Oteth AYASSOR
Min. of Environment & Forest Resources Andre JOHNSON
Min. of Foreign Affairs & Cooperation Komlan Edo Robert DUSSEY
Min. of Grassroots Development, Crafts, Youth, & Youth Employment Sidemeho TOMEGAH-DOGBE
Min. of Health (Acting) Kwesi Seleagodji AHOOMEY-ZUNU
Min. of Higher Education & Research Octave Nicoue BROOHM
Min. of Human Rights, Democracy, & Civic Education Leonardina Rita Doris WILSON DE SOUZA
Min. of Industry, Free Trade Zone, & Technological Innovation Francois Agbeviade GALLEY
Min. of Justice & Keeper of Seals Kofi ESAW
Min. of Labor, Employment, & Social Security John Siabi Kwame NKRUMAH
Min. of Mail & Telecommunication Cina LAWSON
Min. of Mining & Energy Dammipi NOUPOKOU
Min. of Planning, Development, & Territorial Management Mawussi Djossou SEMODJI
Min. of Primary & Secondary Education & Literacy Florent Badjom MAGANAWE
Min. of the Promotion of Women Patricia DAGBAN-ZONVIDE
Min. of Public Service & Admin. Reform Kokou Dzifa ADJEODA
Min. of Public Works Ninsao GNOFAM
Min. of Reform of the State & Modernization of Admin. Elliot OHIN
Min. of Security & Civil Protection Damehane YARK
Min. of Social Action & Promotion of Women & Literacy Dede Ahoefa EKOUE
Min. of Sports & Leisure Bakalawa FOFANA
Min. of State & Foreign Affairs Elliot OHIN
Min. of Technical Education & Professional Training Hamadou Brim BOURAIMA-DIABACTE
Min. of Territorial Admin., Decentralization, & Local Authorities Gilbert BAWARA
Min. of Tourism Padumhekou TCHAO
Min. of Transport Dammipi NOUPOKOU
Min. of Water, Sanitation, & Village Hydraulics Bissoune NABAGOU
Min.-Del. to the Pres. in Charge of Planning, Development, & Spatial Planning Kokou SEMODJI
Min.-Del. to the Min. of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, & Fisheries in Charge of Rural

Infrastructure Gourdigou KOLANI
Sec. of State to the Prime Min. for Youth & Sports Manzinewe BITHO
Dir., Central Bank Kossi TENOU
Ambassador to the US Limbiye Edawe Kadangha BARIKI
Permanent Representative to the UN, New York Kodjo MENAN

-- as of 2015

## Leader Biography

# Leader Biography

**Leader**

The current President of Togo is Faure Gnassingbe. Gnassingbe was elected to the presidency in May 2005. He had previously held the position for twenty days in February 2005 after the death of his father, then-President Gnassingbé Eyadéma, but resigned and waited to resume office after a presidential election. He was re-elected to power in 2010 and 2015.

**Biography**

**Date of birth:**
June 6, 1966

**Place of Birth:**
Afagnan

**Civil status:**

n/a

**Education:**

Master of Business Administration from George Washington University

**Positions Held:**

A deputy to the National Assembly of Togo for Blitta

Minister of Mines and Telecommunications

May 2005-Present President of Togo

**Foreign Languages:**

French, English

**Editors Note:**

Faure Gnassingbe assumed the presidency in 2005 after his father, President Gen. Eyadema Gnassingbe (in power since 1967) died after a short illness. This succession of power was not regarded as legitimate by most of the global community despite a hasty change to the constitution to provide for it. Under the old constitution, the parliament's speaker would have assumed power after the leader's death and presidential elections would have been held within sixty days. Instead, speaker Fambaré Ouattara Natchaba was ousted by measures apparently orchestrated by Togo 's military. Sanctions and international outcry led to the younger Gnassingbe's resignation and the call for new elections. Acting President was then Abass Bonfoh (since Feb. 25, 2005, until the inauguration of the new president elected on April 24, 2005). Bonfoh became the Acting President when the National Assembly named him as its new speaker following Faure Gnassingbe's resignation. Following April 2005 election, Faure Gnassingbe won victory and was sworn into office.

# Foreign Relations

General Relations

Although Togo's foreign policy is non-aligned, it has strong historical and cultural ties with Western Europe, especially France and Germany.

Togo pursues an active foreign policy and participates in many international organizations. Togo's election history (most notably the 1993 and 1998 elections), as well as its record on human rights, however, have resulted in the country's gradual alienation from the global community, and the suspension of foregn aid. In particular, since the 1993 elections in which massive fraud was reported, the European Union and several countries suspended their cooperation with Togo.

Togo is particularly active in West African regional affairs and in the Organization of African Unity. Relations between Togo and neighboring states are generally good. In August 1995, the government signed an accord with the United Nations Human Rights Commission on the repatriation of Togolese refugees who remained in Ghana and Benin.

In July 2000, Togo's president (now deceased) became Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

Regional Relations

Togo's already strong ties with Tripoli have grown since President Eyadema Gnassingbe became Chairman of the OAU (noted above). Together, Qadhafi and Eyadema Gnassingbe have championed the cause of the African Union Act.

Since Ghana's elections of December 2000, once strained ties between Accra and Lome have been mended. Ghanaian President John Agyekum Kufuor reached out to Eyadema Gnassingbe , visiting Togo in January 2001. As a result of this meeting, the two countries reversed their antagonisms and searched out new avenues for economic cooperation.
The most significant source of African conflict for Togo has come from Eyadema Gnassingbe's close personal relationship with Angolan rebel leader Jonas Savimbi (now deceased). By supporting Savimbi, Eyadema entered Togo into the crisis in Central Africa. Supporters of the Angolan government, Namibia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Zimbabwe, came out in strong opposition to Togo.

The non-democratic means by which Gnassingbe's son assumed office (he was later democratically elected) also caused great consternation in the region, and indeed, across the world.

Other Significant Relations

Historically, Togo has had extremely close ties with former colonial power, France. The relatively stable economic environment provided a bevy of investment opportunities for French companies throughout the 1970s and 1980s. Eyadema worked tirelessly to ingratiate himself first to French President Mitterand, then to French President Chirac. The economic tumult in the 1990s and continued human rights abuses have cooled French relations. President Chirac visited Togo in 1999 to help negotiate a peace settlement between Eyadema Gnassingbe and his opposition. At this meeting he stated clearly that he intended to maintain aid flows and close financial relations with the Eyadema Gnassingbe government. Still, France, once a close ally of Togo, has significantly reduced its aid and level of relations with Togo.

Togo is a pro-Western, market-oriented country, and the United States (U.S.) and Togo have had, until fairly recently, generally good relations since its independence. Although the United States has never been one of Togo's major trade partners, the fall in the dollar/CFA exchange rate in recent years has helped make U.S. goods a little more competitive. The largest share of U.S. exports to Togo generally has been used clothing and scrap textiles. Other important U.S. exports include rice, wheat, shoes and tobacco products. U.S. personal computers and other office electronics are becoming more widely used.

The alarming increase in human rights abuses and electoral fraud in Togo led to a suspension of U.S. aid to Togo and continued bilateral economic sanctions. U.S. military assistance was suspended in the wake of political violence by members of the security forces in 1991, and most economic assistance was suspended after further army violence in late 1992. The USAID office in Lome was closed in 1994.

With increasing repression of press freedoms and human rights abuses, it is difficult to know what path Togo will chart within the international community. While other African countries, as well as France, often turned a blind eye to violations, the wider global community were not likely to be as docile.

Note:

The reconciliation accord signed in 2006 [following the discord provoked after the disputed election of Faure Gnassingbe in 2005] was expected to improve Togo's relations with other countries. Within the accord was a provision for the inclusion of the opposition in government -- a move that was intended to improve the stability of the country, and demonstrate its willingness for diplomatic compromise.

*Written by Dr. Denise Youngblood Coleman, Editor in Chief at Countrywatch.com; see Bibliography for research sources. Supplementary ources: the World Bank, the IMF, Lexis-Nexis Allafrica.com, African Confidential.*

# National Security

## External Threats

No nation poses an immediate threat to Togo 's national security. Togo is engaged in a minor territorial dispute with Benin. In 2001 the government of Benin asserted that Togo had moved markers that serve to delineate their mutual border. A joint boundary commission was engaged in re-surveying the boundary.

## Crime

There is a moderate level of criminal activity in Togo. The United States Department of State reports a high incidence of theft there. Business fraud is also prevalent in Togo. Once generally confined to Nigeria, advance fee schemes have spread to other countries in the region. The perpetrators often target foreigners. One common variation begins with an unsolicited correspondence, generally an e-mail, which offers the recipient the promise of high returns on an investment. The hopeful victim is required to pay a series of advance fees before collecting any compensation. The criminals keep the fees, without fulfilling their obligation to pay the duped investor. Another familiar take on the advance fee scheme commences with a solicitation to assist in transferring a large sum of money out of the country. The addressee is promised compensation in return for facilitating the transaction, but is required to pay 'taxes' in advance or to provide confidential information, such as a blank, signed invoice or a bank account number, in turn used to perpetrate a theft. Finally, the drug trade has also taken root in Togo. It serves as an interim destination for cocaine and heroin from Nigeria.

## Insurgencies

There are no organized insurgent movements operating inside or outside of Togo that directly threaten its government or general population. It has suffered periodic incidents of political violence since receiving its independence from France in 1960. Togo 's first president, Sylvanus Olympio, was assassinated in January 1963. A bloodless coup ousted Tog 's second president,

Nicholas Grunitzky, and brought Lieutenant Colonel Etienne Eyadema, later General Gnassingbe Eyadema, to power. Africa's longest enduring head-of-state, President Eyadema, managed to remain in office until his death in 2005 despite periodic challenges to his authority.

Togolese dissidents based in Ghana staged unsuccessful coups in September 1986, March 1993 and January 1994. Widespread discontent and a desire to usher in democratic reforms precipitated a period clashes between protestors and government forces throughout the early 1990s. In January 1994, elements of the military went on a murderous rampage in the capital of Lome, ultimately taking the lives of at least 12 victims. The incident prompted the mass exodus of approximately 300,000 Togolese from their homeland; most returned to Togo within two years.

From 1996-February 2005 Eyadema's rule remained relatively unchallenged. Then, in February 2005, President Eyadema died and political activists began holding demonstrations throughout Togo that resulted in hundreds of deaths. This continued through the April 2005 presidential election, which was considered quite controversial, but lead to the election of Eyadema's son, Faure Gnassingbe as president. Unrest continued well into 2006 with further deaths and the displacement of people fleeing the violence. Togo's government closed the borders and shut off all communication systems for extended periods of time.

The reconciliation accord signed in 2006 brought an end to the discord. Within the accord was a provision for the inclusion of the opposition in government -- a move that was intended to improve the stability of the country, and demonstrate its willingness for diplomatic compromise. As well, the opposition was to be included in the government.

### Terrorism

There is no specific threat of terrorism against Togo. Togo is party to ten of the twelve international conventions and protocols pertaining to terrorism.

# Defense Forces

### Military Data

**Military Branches:**
Togolese Armed Forces (Forces Armees Togolaise, FAT): Togolese Army (l'Armee de Terre), Togolese Navy (Forces Naval Togolaises), Togolese Air Force (Force Aerienne Togolaise, TAF), National Gendarmerie

**Eligible age to enter service:**
18 for both voluntary and compulsory

**Mandatory Service Terms:**
Two years

**Manpower in general population-fit for military service:**
N/A

**Manpower reaching eligible age annually:**
N/A

**Military Expenditures-Percent of GDP:**
1.6%

# Chapter 3

# Economic Overview

# Economic Overview

***Overview***

Togo is a small country located in Western Africa between Benin and Ghana. Its economy is heavily dependent on commercial and subsistence agriculture. Cocoa, coffee, and cotton are major products for exports, with cotton being the most important cash crop. In the industrial sector, phosphate mining is by far the most important activity. The long-lasting socio-political crisis and withdrawal of donor support have taken a toll on Togo's economy, infrastructure, and institutions. Governance problems and banking sector difficulties have inhibited private investment.

A multiparty agreement in August 2006 led to the formation of a national unity government, and the parliamentary elections held in October 2007 marked a milestone in Togo's political reform, paving the way for donor reengagement. In November 2007 the European Union restored full economic cooperation with Togo after a 14-year suspension, citing Togo's successful multi-party elections. Togo has also normalized relations with other development partners through the clearance of Togo's large arrears with the World Bank and the African Development Bank, a comprehensive debt relief agreement with the Paris Club creditors, and the International Monetary Fund's approval of the PRGF (Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility) program. Since 2006, Togo has made remarkable progress in advancing economic reforms, particularly in the fiscal area.

The global economic crisis negatively affected Togo's economy, slowing its recovery from the prolonged domestic crisis. Despite the difficult environment, the government continued progress in implementing the PRGF program. This commitment has supported macroeconomic stability and sound public finances. Economic growth accelerated in 2010, driven mainly by the primary sector, port activities and public investment. Meanwhile, inflation remained moderate despite the increase in global and petroleum prices. During the year, Togo reached a HIPC debt relief completion point in 2010 at which 95 percent of the country's debt was forgiven. In July 2011, the IMF approved a final tranche of about $14 million for Togo, as the country completed its $108 million IMF-backed economic program approved in 2008. The IMF said Togo had maintained a strong track record during the program and that authorities were committed to speeding up broad-based economic reforms to boost the economy's competitiveness and potential growth. By September 2012, several thousand protesters were calling on Togolese President Faure Gnassingbe to step down, and for sweeping electoral reforms. The protesters, members of a coalition of opposition and civil society groups called "Let's Save Togo," were marching ahead of parliamentary polls. An election was due to be held in October but was widely expected to be delayed. Meanwhile, looking ahead, the IMF believed Togo needed to move quickly to privatize the four largest state-owned banks so

the country could have a more efficient banking sector. Other priorities include maintaining a sustainable fiscal policy, reforming public enterprises, increasing investment in physical and human capital, and improving the business climate.

Overall, growth was strong in 2012 despite constraints that weigh heavily on the business environment, particularly when it comes to the creation of companies and land ownership. In early December 2013, the Togolese government unveiled plans to boost spending by 19.6 percent to US$1.72 billion in 2014 in an effort to spur growth. The budget adopted by the Togolese cabinet targets higher economic growth of 6.2 percent in 2014 and higher inflation.

"The budget will better fight against poverty, improve revenue (and) boost the economy by investing in growth sectors," the government said in a statement.

Additionally, the country planned to raise US$1.08 billion of its revenue from taxes and custom duties for a nearly 42 percent increase from the previous year. The country also planned to tap the regional capital markets by raising more than US$200 million through short-term bond auctions. Togo worked to bring its extractive industries in line with international standards in 2013 and to improve the sustainable management of natural resources. GDP growth declined slightly in 2013 but was expected to increase in 2014 and 2015 on the heels of continuing public investment and a boost to the cotton and phosphate sectors.

The government’s improvements in 2013 and the creation of the Togolese revenue office in February 2014 were expected to enhance a business environment that hinders entrepreneurship and property ownership.

In July 2014, Togo ordered Europe's largest hotel group, Accor, to quit operating in the country immediately or face more than US1.05 million) in daily fines. The order came after months of legal battles over the renewal of Accor's rental agreement for its beachside Sarakawa hotel in Lome, the Togolese capital.

Growth, driven by agriculture and the development of transport infrastructure, was strong in 2014 and was projected to reach 5.7% in 2015, according to the African Development Bank. The inland revenue introduced the payment of taxes through banks in 2014 to facilitate business and tackle corruption. Government decentralization by 2016 is essential to reduce regional inequalities and disparities.

The new Scantogo-Mines industrial complex was expected to begin large-scale limestone mining in 2015 to produce clinker and cement locally. The World Bank report, Doing Business 2015, listed Togo as one of the 10 world economies that had most improved their business environment, having moved 15 places up the business environments ranking to 149th in the world, according to the African Economic Outlook.

### *Economic Performance*

The global economic crisis has slowed Togo's recovery from the long domestic crisis. Economic activity was adversely affected by global price shocks and flooding in 2008, and then by a decline in foreign direct investment and exports of cotton and phosphates in 2009. As a result, real GDP growth remained below potential, in 2008 and 2009 before rebounding in 2010.

According to CountryWatch estimated calculations for 2014:

Real GDP growth rate was: 4.5 percent
The fiscal deficit/surplus as percent of GDP (%) was: -6.0 percent
Inflation was measured at: 2.2 percent

*Updated in 2015*

**Please note that the figures in our Economic Performance section are estimates or forecasts based on IMF-based data that are formulated using CountryWatch models of analysis.*

*Supplementary Sources: International Monetary Fund, Agence France Presse, African Development Bank and Reuters*

## Nominal GDP and Components

Nominal GDP and Components

| | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nominal GDP (LCU billions) | 1,772.34 | 1,999.11 | 2,143.43 | 2,233.99 | 2,449.25 |
| Nominal GDP Growth Rate (%) | 12.781 | 12.795 | 7.219 | 4.225 | 9.636 |
| Consumption (LCU billions) | 1,578.50 | 1,675.90 | 1,768.41 | 2,558.31 | 2,807.99 |
| Government Expenditure (LCU billions) | 169.668 | 254.739 | 312.418 | 325.673 | 357.458 |

| | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gross Capital Formation (LCU billions) | 323.615 | 477.558 | 495.168 | 475.700 | 601.977 |
| Exports of Goods & Services (LCU billions) | 698.917 | 860.992 | 950.108 | 1,125.87 | 1,192.65 |
| Imports of Goods & Services (LCU billions) | 998.361 | 1,270.08 | 1,382.67 | 2,251.56 | 2,510.82 |

## Population and GDP Per Capita

| Population and GDP Per Capita | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **2011** | **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** |
| Population, total (million) | 6.472 | 6.643 | 6.818 | 6.998 | 7.182 |
| Population growth (%) | 2.632 | 2.642 | 2.634 | 2.640 | 2.629 |
| Nominal GDP per Capita (LCU 1000s) | 273,847.34 | 300,934.82 | 314,378.12 | 319,232.10 | 341,026.46 |

## Real GDP and Inflation

| Real GDP and Inflation | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **2011** | **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** |
| Real Gross Domestic Product (LCU billions 2005 base) | 1,196.45 | 1,267.18 | 1,332.03 | 1,381.40 | 1,478.12 |
| Real GDP Growth Rate (%) | 4.791 | 5.912 | 5.117 | 3.707 | 7.002 |
| GDP Deflator (2005=100.0) | 148.133 | 157.760 | 160.915 | 161.719 | 165.700 |
| Inflation, GDP Deflator (%) | 7.624 | 6.499 | 2.000 | 0.4996 | 2.462 |

## Government Spending and Taxation

| Government Spending and Taxation | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **2011** | **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** |
| Government Fiscal Budget (billions) | 422.003 | 527.839 | 548.960 | 558.126 | 654.855 |
| Fiscal Budget Growth Rate (percentage) | 19.089 | 25.079 | 4.001 | 1.670 | 17.331 |
| National Tax Rate Net of Transfers (%) | 19.797 | 19.181 | 20.955 | 20.022 | 20.452 |
| Government Revenues Net of Transfers (LCU billions) | 350.866 | 383.450 | 449.150 | 447.280 | 500.930 |
| Government Surplus(-) Deficit(+) (LCU billions) | -71.1370 | -144.3890 | -99.8100 | -110.8460 | -153.9250 |
| Government Surplus(+) Deficit(-) (%GDP) | -4.0137 | -7.2227 | -4.6566 | -4.9618 | -6.2846 |

## Money Supply, Interest Rates and Unemployment

| Money Supply, Interest Rates and Unemployment | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **2011** | **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** |
| Money and Quasi-Money (M2) (LCU billions) | 828.803 | 904.342 | 968.019 | 1,094.11 | 1,199.54 |
| Money Supply Growth Rate (%) | 15.588 | 9.114 | 7.041 | 13.026 | 9.636 |
| Lending Interest Rate (%) | 10.774 | 10.627 | 10.036 | 9.839 | 14.660 |
| Unemployment Rate (%) | 8.799 | 9.425 | 9.392 | 9.343 | 8.528 |

## Foreign Trade and the Exchange Rate

| Foreign Trade and the Exchange Rate | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **2011** | **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** |
| Official Exchange Rate (LCU/$US) | 471.492 | 510.237 | 492.516 | 486.283 | 589.897 |
| Trade Balance NIPA ($US billions) | -0.6351 | -0.8018 | -0.8783 | -2.3149 | -2.2346 |
| Trade Balance % of GDP | -16.8954 | -20.4635 | -20.1810 | -50.3895 | -53.8193 |
| Total Foreign Exchange Reserves ($US billions) | 0.7743 | 0.4416 | 0.5071 | 0.5070 | 1.235 |

## Data in US Dollars

| Data in US Dollars | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **2011** | **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** |
| Nominal GDP ($US billions) | 3.759 | 3.918 | 4.352 | 4.594 | 4.152 |
| Exports ($US billions) | 1.482 | 1.687 | 1.929 | 2.315 | 2.022 |
| Imports ($US billions) | 2.117 | 2.489 | 2.807 | 4.630 | 4.256 |

## Energy Consumption and Production Standard Units

| Energy Consumption and Production Standard Units | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **2011** | **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** |
| Petroleum Consumption (TBPD) | 14.169 | 12.849 | 13.000 | 13.375 | 13.642 |
| Petroleum Production (TBPD) | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
| Petroleum Net Exports (TBPD) | -14.1695 | -12.8494 | -13.0000 | -13.3754 | -13.6424 |
| Natural Gas Consumption (bcf) | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
| Natural Gas Production (bcf) | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
| Natural Gas Net Exports (bcf) | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
| Coal Consumption (1000s st) | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
| Coal Production (1000s st) | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
| Coal Net Exports (1000s st) | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
| Nuclear Production (bil kwh) | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |

| | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hydroelectric Production (bil kwh) | 0.1050 | 0.0880 | 0.0920 | 0.0958 | 0.0929 |
| Renewables Production (bil kwh) | 0.0020 | 0.0050 | 0.0062 | 0.0078 | 0.0086 |

## Energy Consumption and Production QUADS

| Energy Consumption and Production QUADS | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **2011** | **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** |
| Petroleum Consumption (Quads) | 0.0303 | 0.0274 | 0.0278 | 0.0286 | 0.0291 |
| Petroleum Production (Quads) | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
| Petroleum Net Exports (Quads) | -0.0303 | -0.0274 | -0.0278 | -0.0286 | -0.0291 |
| Natural Gas Consumption (Quads) | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
| Natural Gas Production (Quads) | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
| Natural Gas Net Exports (Quads) | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
| Coal Consumption (Quads) | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
| Coal Production (Quads) | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
| Coal Net Exports (Quads) | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
| Nuclear Production (Quads) | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
| Hydroelectric Production (Quads) | 0.0010 | 0.0009 | 0.0009 | 0.0010 | 0.0009 |
| Renewables Production (Quads) | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0001 | 0.0001 | 0.0001 |

## World Energy Price Summary

| World Energy Price Summary | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **2011** | **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** |
| Petroleum-WTI ($/bbl) | 95.054 | 94.159 | 97.943 | 93.112 | 48.709 |
| Natural Gas-Henry Hub ($/mmbtu) | 3.999 | 2.752 | 3.729 | 4.369 | 2.614 |
| Coal Thermal-Australian ($/mt) | 121.448 | 96.364 | 84.562 | 70.130 | 57.511 |

## CO2 Emissions

| CO2 Emissions | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **2011** | **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** |
| Petroleum Based (mm mt C) | 0.0603 | 0.0603 | 0.0620 | 0.0643 | 0.0651 |
| Natural Gas Based (mm mt C) | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
| Coal Based (mm mt C) | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
| Total CO2 Emissions (mm mt C) | 0.0603 | 0.0603 | 0.0620 | 0.0643 | 0.0651 |

## Agriculture Consumption and Production

| Agriculture Consumption and Production | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **2011** | **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** |
| Corn Total Consumption (1000 metric tons) | 651.832 | 804.348 | 623.448 | 833.167 | 767.873 |
| Corn Production (1000 metric tons) | 649.625 | 823.199 | 620.809 | 845.788 | 788.280 |
| Corn Net Exports (1000 metric tons) | -2.2073 | 18.851 | -2.6387 | 12.620 | 20.406 |
| Soybeans Total Consumption (1000 metric tons) | 0.1622 | 0.1622 | 0.1622 | 0.1622 | 0.1622 |
| Soybeans Production (1000 metric tons) | 1.101 | 1.198 | 1.491 | 1.623 | 1.529 |
| Soybeans Net Exports (1000 metric tons) | 0.9392 | 1.036 | 1.329 | 1.461 | 1.367 |
| Rice Total Consumption (1000 metric tons) | 112.473 | 160.607 | 100.209 | 147.930 | 132.800 |
| Rice Production (1000 metric tons) | 112.309 | 160.936 | 96.482 | 147.872 | 145.645 |
| Rice Net Exports (1000 metric tons) | -0.1643 | 0.3290 | -3.7274 | -0.0582 | 12.845 |

| | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Coffee Total Consumption (metric tons) | 632.000 | 6,898.00 | 6,407.00 | 7,351.49 | 6,942.69 |
| Coffee Production (metric tons) | 12,094.96 | 10,482.32 | 10,722.98 | 10,666.12 | 9,671.78 |
| Coffee Net Exports (metric tons) | 11,462.96 | 3,584.32 | 4,315.98 | 3,314.62 | 2,729.09 |
| Cocoa Beans Total Consumption (metric tons) | 7,801.51 | 7,801.51 | 10,569.00 | 6,255.97 | 6,474.55 |
| Cocoa Beans Production (metric tons) | 144,082.30 | 35,810.92 | 15,913.02 | 8,271.64 | 8,380.95 |
| Cocoa Beans Net Exports (metric tons) | 136,280.79 | 28,009.42 | 5,344.02 | 2,015.67 | 1,906.40 |
| Wheat Total Consumption (1000 metric tons) | 69.535 | 73.515 | 85.653 | 104.740 | 88.474 |
| Wheat Production (1000 metric tons) | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
| Wheat Net Exports (1000 metric tons) | -69.5350 | -73.5147 | -85.6530 | -104.7400 | -88.4741 |

## World Agriculture Pricing Summary

| World Agriculture Pricing Summary | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **2011** | **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** |
| Corn Pricing Summary ($/metric ton) | 291.684 | 298.417 | 259.389 | 192.881 | 169.750 |
| Soybeans Pricing Summary ($/metric ton) | 540.667 | 591.417 | 538.417 | 491.771 | 390.417 |
| Rice Pricing Summary ($/metric ton) | 458.558 | 525.071 | 473.989 | 425.148 | 386.033 |
| Coffee Pricing Summary ($/kilogram) | 5.976 | 4.111 | 3.076 | 4.424 | 3.526 |
| Cocoa Beans Pricing Summary ($/kilogram) | 2.980 | 2.392 | 2.439 | 3.062 | 3.135 |
| Wheat Pricing Summary ($/metric ton) | 316.264 | 313.242 | 312.248 | 284.895 | 203.177 |

## Metals Consumption and Production

| Metals Consumption and Production | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **2011** | **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** |
| Copper Consumption (1000 mt) | 0.0052 | 0.0052 | 0.0052 | 0.0052 | 0.0052 |
| Copper Production (1000 mt) | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
| Copper Net Exports (1000 mt) | -0.0052 | -0.0052 | -0.0052 | -0.0052 | -0.0052 |
| Zinc Consumption (1000 mt) | 549.792 | 691.697 | 1,226.81 | 822.765 | 822.765 |
| Zinc Production (1000 mt) | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
| Zinc Exports (1000 mt) | -549.7920 | -691.6970 | -1226.8070 | -822.7653 | -822.7653 |
| Lead Consumption (1000 mt) | 42.443 | 42.443 | 42.443 | 42.443 | 42.443 |
| Lead Production (1000 mt) | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
| Lead Exports (1000 mt) | -42.4434 | -42.4434 | -42.4434 | -42.4434 | -42.4434 |

| | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tin Consumption (1000 mt) | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
| Tin Production (1000 mt) | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
| Tin Exports (1000 mt) | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
| Nickel Consumption (1000 mt) | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
| Nickel Production (1000 mt) | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
| Nickel Exports (1000 mt) | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
| Gold Consumption (kg) | 11,189.00 | 643.000 | 11,915.72 | 23,188.45 | 20,546.66 |
| Gold Production (kg) | 17,685.11 | 19,760.83 | 20,325.70 | 24,649.71 | 24,734.31 |
| Gold Exports (kg) | 6,496.11 | 19,117.83 | 8,409.98 | 1,461.27 | 4,187.65 |
| Silver Consumption (mt) | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
| Silver Production (mt) | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
| Silver Exports (mt) | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |

## World Metals Pricing Summary

| World Metals Pricing Summary | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **2011** | **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** |
| Copper ($/mt) | 8,828.19 | 7,962.35 | 7,332.10 | 6,863.40 | 5,510.46 |
| Zinc ($/mt) | 2,193.90 | 1,950.41 | 1,910.26 | 2,160.97 | 1,931.68 |
| Tin ($/mt) | 26,053.68 | 21,125.99 | 22,282.80 | 21,898.87 | 16,066.63 |
| Lead ($/mt) | 2,400.81 | 2,064.64 | 2,139.79 | 2,095.46 | 1,787.82 |
| Nickel ($/mt) | 22,910.36 | 17,547.55 | 15,031.80 | 16,893.38 | 11,862.64 |
| Gold ($/oz) | 1,569.21 | 1,669.52 | 1,411.46 | 1,265.58 | 1,160.66 |
| Silver ($/oz) | 35.224 | 31.137 | 23.850 | 19.071 | 15.721 |

## Economic Performance Index

Economic Performance Index

The Economic Performance rankings are calculated by CountryWatch's editorial team, and are based on criteria including sustained economic growth, monetary stability, current account deficits, budget surplus, unemployment and structural imbalances. Scores are assessed from 0 to 100 using this aforementioned criteria as well as CountryWatch's proprietary economic research data and models.

| | Bank stability risk | Monetary/ Currency stability | Government Finances | Empl./ Unempl. | Econ.GNP growth or decline/ forecast |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 0 - 100 | 0 - 100 | 0 - 100 | 0 - 100 | % |
| **North Americas** | | | | | |
| Canada | 92 | 69 | 35 | 38 | 3.14% |
| United States | 94 | 76 | 4 | 29 | 3.01% |
| **Western Europe** | | | | | |
| Austria | 90 | 27 | 30 | 63 | 1.33% |
| Belgium | 88 | 27 | 19 | 23 | 1.15% |
| Cyprus | 81 | 91 | 16 | 80 | -0.69% |
| Denmark | 97 | 70 | 45 | 78 | 1.20% |
| Finland | 89 | 27 | 41 | 33 | 1.25% |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| France | 87 | 27 | 18 | 27 | 1.52% |
| Germany | 86 | 27 | 22 | 21 | 1.25% |
| Greece | 79 | 27 | 5 | 24 | -2.00% |
| Iceland | 90 | 17 | 2 | 34 | -3.04% |
| Italy | 85 | 27 | 37 | 24 | 0.84% |
| Ireland | 92 | 27 | 11 | 10 | -1.55% |
| Luxembourg | 99 | 27 | 28 | 66 | 2.08% |
| Malta | 77 | 27 | 41 | 51 | 0.54% |
| Netherlands | 91 | 27 | 26 | 74 | 1.30% |
| Norway | 98 | 44 | 10 | 76 | 1.08% |
| Portugal | 77 | 27 | 13 | 20 | 0.29% |
| Spain | 83 | 27 | 9 | 3 | -0.41% |
| Sweden | 94 | 72 | 54 | 32 | 1.23% |
| Switzerland | 97 | 86 | 55 | 77 | 1.53% |
| United Kingdom | 85 | 12 | 9 | 37 | 1.34% |
| **Central and Eastern Europe** | | | | | |
| Albania | 44 | 60 | 33 | 6 | 2.30% |
| Armenia | 45 | 59 | 49 | 30 | 1.80% |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Azerbaijan | 56 | 4 | 84 | 99 | 2.68% |
| Belarus | 59 | 21 | 83 | 98 | 2.41% |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 34 | 68 | 69 | N/A | 0.50% |
| Bulgaria | 58 | 75 | 88 | 49 | 0.20% |
| Croatia | 69 | 68 | 94 | 9 | 0.18% |
| Czech Republic | 80 | 89 | 29 | 70 | 1.67% |
| Estonia | 72 | 90 | 66 | 92 | 0.80% |
| Georgia | 36 | 60 | 53 | 56 | 2.00% |
| Hungary | 70 | 66 | 26 | 54 | -0.16% |
| Latvia | 67 | 100 | 65 | 44 | -3.97% |
| Lithuania | 65 | 91 | 87 | 79 | -1.65% |
| Macedonia (FYR) | 53 | 69 | 56 | 2 | 2.03% |
| Moldova | 23 | 36 | 81 | 67 | 2.50% |
| Poland | 74 | 74 | 38 | 12 | 2.72% |
| Romania | 62 | 56 | 70 | 62 | 0.75% |
| Russia | 73 | 18 | 90 | 8 | 4.00% |
| Serbia | 48 | 49 | 52 | 5 | 1.97% |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Montenegro | 39 | 27 | 73 | 1 | -1.70% |
| Slovak Republic | 80 | 62 | 30 | 14 | 4.06% |
| Slovenia | 81 | 27 | 36 | 65 | 1.12% |
| Ukraine | 41 | 11 | 57 | N/A | 3.68% |
| Africa | | | | | |
| Algeria | 57 | 18 | 96 | 7 | 4.55% |
| Angola | 49 | 1 | 97 | N/A | 7.05% |
| Benin | 19 | 91 | 20 | N/A | 3.22% |
| Botswana | 68 | 58 | 76 | N/A | 6.33% |
| Burkina Faso | 16 | 91 | 13 | N/A | 4.41% |
| Burundi | 2 | 91 | 6 | N/A | 3.85% |
| Cameroon | 26 | 91 | 91 | N/A | 2.58% |
| Cape Verde | 52 | 87 | 4 | N/A | 4.96% |
| Central African Republic | 9 | 91 | 32 | N/A | 3.18% |
| Chad | 22 | 91 | 89 | N/A | 4.42% |
| Congo | 52 | 87 | 87 | N/A | 12.13% |
| Côte d'Ivoire | 25 | 91 | 82 | 28 | 2.98% |
| Dem. Republic | | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Congo | 4 | 91 | 47 | N/A | 5.44% |
| Djibouti | 31 | 76 | 50 | N/A | 4.47% |
| Egypt | 37 | 20 | 24 | 69 | 5.01% |
| Equatorial Guinea | 82 | 91 | 85 | N/A | 0.94% |
| Eritrea | 1 | 3 | 1 | 18 | 1.81% |
| Ethiopia | 6 | 45 | 8 | N/A | 6.96% |
| Gabon | 64 | 91 | 96 | N/A | 5.36% |
| Gambia | 8 | 48 | 86 | N/A | 4.82% |
| Ghana | 9 | 11 | 69 | N/A | 4.50% |
| Guinea | 10 | 7 | 91 | N/A | 3.03% |
| Guinea-Bissau | 5 | 91 | 46 | N/A | 3.47% |
| Kenya | 20 | 41 | 59 | N/A | 4.11% |
| Lesotho | 13 | 40 | 12 | N/A | 2.98% |
| Liberia | 12 | 73 | 74 | N/A | 5.92% |
| Libya | 73 | 2 | 94 | N/A | 5.22% |
| Madagascar | 4 | 22 | 24 | N/A | -1.02% |
| Malawi | 7 | 25 | 55 | N/A | 5.96% |
| Mali | 20 | 91 | 82 | N/A | 5.12% |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mauritania | 15 | 13 | 93 | N/A | 4.58% |
| Mauritius | 65 | 52 | 56 | 55 | 4.10% |
| Morocco | 37 | 72 | 48 | 26 | 3.23% |
| Mozambique | 12 | 23 | 71 | N/A | 6.45% |
| Namibia | 40 | 39 | 62 | N/A | 1.70% |
| Niger | 10 | 91 | 21 | N/A | 4.41% |
| Nigeria | 30 | 6 | 61 | N/A | 6.98% |
| Rwanda | 21 | 40 | 68 | N/A | 5.39% |
| Sao Tome & Principe | 1 | 61 | 100 | N/A | 3.40% |
| Senegal | 24 | 91 | 63 | N/A | 3.44% |
| Seychelles | 60 | 67 | 97 | N/A | 4.01% |
| Sierra Leone | 5 | 10 | 39 | N/A | 4.77% |
| Somalia | 2 | 38 | 59 | N/A | 3.19% |
| South Africa | 61 | 37 | 70 | N/A | 2.59% |
| Sudan | 16 | 5 | 73 | N/A | 5.52% |
| Swaziland | 32 | 44 | 79 | N/A | 1.09% |
| Tanzania | 15 | 45 | 32 | N/A | 6.17% |
| Togo | 8 | 91 | 92 | N/A | 2.56% |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tunisia | 50 | 61 | 44 | 39 | 4.00% |
| Uganda | 11 | 17 | 54 | N/A | 5.59% |
| Zambia | 29 | 20 | 49 | N/A | 5.84% |
| Zimbabwe | 0 | 8 | 16 | N/A | 2.24% |
| **South and Central America** | | | | | |
| Argentina | 66 | 3 | 80 | 36 | 3.50% |
| Belize | 47 | 76 | 80 | N/A | 1.00% |
| Bolivia | 32 | 51 | 61 | 81 | 3.99% |
| Brazil | 71 | 47 | 78 | 11 | 5.50% |
| Chile | 78 | 25 | 92 | 73 | 4.72% |
| Columbia | 47 | 52 | 34 | 47 | 2.25% |
| Costa Rica | 60 | 42 | 39 | 57 | 3.45% |
| Ecuador | 43 | 76 | 75 | 64 | 2.51% |
| El Salvador | 35 | 76 | 67 | N/A | 1.04% |
| Guatemala | 46 | 59 | 58 | N/A | 2.52% |
| Honduras | 27 | 47 | 58 | N/A | 2.00% |
| Mexico | 69 | 42 | 52 | 61 | 4.07% |
| Nicaragua | 23 | 49 | 42 | N/A | 1.75% |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Panama | 66 | 76 | 72 | 45 | 5.00% |
| Paraguay | 35 | 46 | 66 | 16 | 5.27% |
| Peru | 59 | 66 | 75 | 22 | 6.33% |
| Suriname | 58 | 26 | 81 | 59 | 4.02% |
| Uruguay | 70 | 26 | 27 | N/A | 5.71% |
| Venezuela | 55 | 1 | 28 | 13 | -2.63% |
| **Caribbean** | | | | | |
| Antigua & Barbuda | 72 | 76 | 15 | N/A | -2.01% |
| Bahamas | 74 | 76 | 45 | 87 | -0.50% |
| Barbados | 67 | 76 | 33 | 15 | -0.50% |
| Bermuda | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Cuba | 45 | 76 | 18 | 95 | 0.25% |
| Dominica | 53 | 76 | 65 | N/A | 1.40% |
| Dominican Republic | 54 | 39 | 43 | 4 | 3.50% |
| Grenada | 63 | 76 | 48 | N/A | 0.80% |
| Guyana | 28 | 56 | 17 | N/A | 4.36% |
| Haiti | 11 | 27 | 89 | N/A | -8.50% |
| Jamaica | 42 | 9 | 85 | 19 | -0.28% |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| St Lucia | 55 | 76 | 67 | N/A | 1.14% |
| St Vincent & Grenadines | 49 | 76 | 95 | N/A | 0.50% |
| Trinidad & Tobago | 82 | 37 | 77 | 72 | 2.13% |
| **Middle East** | | | | | |
| Bahrain | 84 | 76 | 62 | 91 | 3.48% |
| Iran | 51 | 19 | 40 | 58 | 3.01% |
| Iraq | 48 | 9 | 8 | N/A | 7.27% |
| Israel | 87 | 62 | 12 | 48 | 3.20% |
| Jordan | 41 | 51 | 3 | N/A | 4.10% |
| Kuwait | 96 | 4 | 99 | N/A | 3.10% |
| Lebanon | 63 | 54 | 2 | N/A | 6.00% |
| Oman | 76 | 16 | 88 | N/A | 4.71% |
| Qatar | 99 | 16 | 83 | N/A | 18.54% |
| Saudi Arabia | 76 | 8 | 98 | N/A | 3.70% |
| Syria | 61 | 24 | 40 | N/A | 5.00% |
| Turkey | 75 | 23 | 27 | 60 | 5.20% |
| United Arab Emirates | 96 | 24 | 98 | 94 | 1.29% |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Yemen | 28 | 2 | 78 | N/A | 7.78% |
| **Asia** | | | | | |
| Afghanistan | 17 | 70 | 74 | N/A | 8.64% |
| Bangladesh | 13 | 43 | 25 | N/A | 5.38% |
| Bhutan | 24 | 55 | 5 | N/A | 6.85% |
| Brunei | 78 | 19 | 99 | 75 | 0.48% |
| Cambodia | 18 | 67 | 42 | N/A | 4.77% |
| China | 54 | 90 | 19 | 68 | 11.03% |
| Hong Kong | 89 | 76 | 14 | 82 | 5.02% |
| India | 31 | 38 | 34 | 35 | 8.78% |
| Indonesia | 42 | 46 | 37 | 31 | 6.00% |
| Japan | 88 | 89 | 6 | 71 | 1.90% |
| Kazakhstan | 62 | 13 | 76 | 42 | 2.40% |
| Korea North | 18 | 65 | 23 | N/A | 1.50% |
| Korea South | 83 | 63 | 22 | 85 | 4.44% |
| Kyrgyz Republic | 24 | 15 | 84 | 88 | 4.61% |
| Laos | 17 | 54 | 7 | N/A | 7.22% |
| Macao | 91 | 76 | 14 | 82 | 3.00% |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Malaysia | 68 | 65 | 44 | 90 | 4.72% |
| Maldives | 44 | 55 | 17 | N/A | 3.45% |
| Mongolia | 33 | 5 | 77 | 93 | 7.22% |
| Myanmar | 3 | 41 | 72 | N/A | 5.26% |
| Nepal | 3 | 14 | 25 | N/A | 2.97% |
| Pakistan | 19 | 15 | 31 | 41 | 3.00% |
| Papua New Guinea | 75 | 50 | 11 | N/A | 7.96% |
| Philippines | 30 | 48 | 53 | 43 | 3.63% |
| Singapore | 93 | 75 | 63 | 40 | 5.68% |
| Sri Lanka | 38 | 22 | 10 | N/A | 5.50% |
| Taiwan | 84 | 88 | 35 | 89 | 6.50% |
| Tajikistan | 6 | 6 | 60 | 97 | 4.00% |
| Thailand | 56 | 64 | 90 | 96 | 5.46% |
| Turkmenistan | 51 | 53 | 68 | N/A | 12.00% |
| Uzbekistan | 40 | 10 | 60 | 100 | 8.00% |
| Vietnam | 25 | 12 | 20 | N/A | 6.04% |
| **Pacific** | | | | | |
| Australia | 96 | 63 | 31 | 46 | 2.96% |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fiji | 46 | 53 | 3 | N/A | 2.06% |
| Marshall Islands | 27 | 76 | 46 | N/A | 1.08% |
| Micronesia (Fed. States) | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| New Caledonia | 96 | 73 | 51 | 52 | 2.00% |
| New Zealand | 98 | 73 | 51 | 52 | 2.00% |
| Samoa | 34 | 88 | 64 | N/A | -2.77% |
| Solomon Islands | 14 | 71 | 1 | N/A | 3.36% |
| Tonga | 26 | 57 | 38 | N/A | 0.60% |
| Vanuatu | 33 | 58 | 47 | N/A | 3.80% |

Source:

CountryWatch Inc. www.countrywatch.com

Updated:

This material was produced in 2010; it is subject to updating in 2012.

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# Chapter 4

# Investment Overview

# Foreign Investment Climate

## Background

Togo is heavily dependent on both commercial and subsistence agriculture, which provides employment for 65 percent of the labor force. Some basic foodstuffs must still be imported. Cocoa, coffee, and cotton generate about 40 percent of export earnings, with cotton being the most important cash crop. Togo is the world's fourth-largest producer of phosphate. The government's decade-long effort, supported by the World Bank and the IMF, to implement economic reform measures, encourage foreign investment, and bring revenues in line with expenditures has moved slowly. Progress depends on following through on privatization, increased openness in government financial operations, progress toward legislative elections, and continued support from foreign donors. Togo is working with donors to write a Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF) that could eventually lead to a debt reduction plan. Economic growth remains marginal due to declining cotton production, underinvestment in phosphate mining, and strained relations with donors.

## Foreign Investment Assessment

Togo has traditionally open and hospitable to foreign investment, with a rather western-orientation to trade and business. As well, the country has been regarded as an entrepreneurial hub within a region of Africa where centralized state control has been the norm. The 1990 investment code and associated regulations were designed to facilitate foreign investment for the purpose of diversifying and developing the economy. In particular there has been a desire to move the country from dependence on exports such as agricultural cash crops and phosphates to telecommunications and tourism. Political unrest -- most recently in the early 1990s and again in 2005 following the death of the country's long serving leader -- has been regarded with caution. The main deterrent to foreign investment, however, has been the lack of judicial and regulatory transparency.

## Labor Force

Labor force: 1.74 million
Labor force - by occupation:

agriculture 65%, industry 5%, services 30%

## Agriculture and Industry

Agriculture - products: coffee, cocoa, cotton, yams, cassava (tapioca), corn, beans, rice, millet, sorghum; livestock; fish
Industries: phosphate mining, agricultural processing, cement; handicrafts, textiles, beverages

## Import Commodities and Import Partners

Imports - commodities: machinery and equipment, foodstuffs, petroleum products
Imports - partners: France 21.1%, Netherlands 12.1%, Cote d'Ivoire 5.9%, Germany 4.6%, Italy 4.4%, South Africa 4.3%, China 4.1%

## Export Commodities and Export Partners

Exports - commodities: reexports, cotton, phosphates, coffee, cocoa
Exports - partners: Burkina Faso 16.6%, Ghana 15.4%, Netherlands 13%, Benin 9.6%, Mali 7.7%

## Telephone System

Telephones - main lines in use: 60,600
Telephones - mobile cellular: 220,000

*general assessment:* fair system based on a network of microwave radio relay routes supplemented by open-wire lines and a mobile cellular system

*domestic:* microwave radio relay and open-wire lines for conventional system; cellular system has capacity of 10,000 telephones

*international:* country code - 228
satellite earth stations - 1 Intelsat (Atlantic Ocean) and 1 Symphonie

## Internet Users

Internet hosts: 82
Internet users: 210,000

## Roads, Airports, Ports and Harbors

Railways: total: 568 km
Highways: total: 7,520 km
Ports and harbors: Kpeme, Lome
Airports: 9; with paved runways: total: 2

## Legal System and Considerations

French-based court system. Regarding dispute settlement, the investment code provides for the resolution of investment disputes involving foreigners through the provisions of bilateral agreements between the government of Togo and the investor's government, or through conciliation and arbitration procedures agreed to between the interested parties. Indeed, Togo is a member of the international center for the settlement of investment disputes.

## Corruption Perception Ranking

See Corruption Perception index reported by Transparency International elsewhere in this report, from least to most corrupt countries.

## Cultural Considerations

Western norms influence business with French and English being spoken among the educated elite. That said, it should be noted that Togo is an African country inhabited by a complex constellation of ethnic and tribal associations.

## Country Website

N/A

## Foreign Investment Index

Foreign Investment Index

**The Foreign Investment Index** is a proprietary index measuring attractiveness to international investment flows. The Foreign Investment Index is calculated using an established methodology by CountryWatch's Editor-in-Chief and is based on a given country's economic stability (sustained economic growth, monetary stability, current account deficits, budget surplus), economic risk (risk of non-servicing of payments for goods or services, loans and trade-related finance, risk of sovereign default), business and investment climate (property rights, labor force and laws, regulatory transparency, openness to foreign investment, market conditions, and stability of government). Scores are assigned from 0-10 using the aforementioned criteria. A score of 0 marks the lowest level of foreign investment viability, while a score of 10 marks the highest level of foreign investment viability, according to this proprietary index.

| Country | Assessment |
|---|---|
| | |
| Afghanistan | 2 |
| Albania | 4.5 |
| Algeria | 6 |
| Andorra | 9 |
| Angola | 4.5-5 |
| Antigua | 8.5 |
| Argentina | 5 |
| Armenia | 5 |
| | |

| | |
|---|---|
| Australia | 9.5 |
| Austria | 9-9.5 |
| Azerbaijan | 5 |
| Bahamas | 9 |
| Bahrain | 7.5 |
| Bangladesh | 4.5 |
| Barbados | 9 |
| Belarus | 4 |
| Belgium | 9 |
| Belize | 7.5 |
| Benin | 5.5 |
| Bhutan | 4.5 |
| Bolivia | 4.5 |
| Bosnia-Herzegovina | 5 |
| Botswana | 7.5-8 |
| Brazil | 8 |
| Brunei | 7 |
| Bulgaria | 5.5 |
| | |

| | |
|---|---|
| Burkina Faso | 4 |
| Burma (Myanmar) | 4.5 |
| Burundi | 4 |
| Cambodia | 4.5 |
| Cameroon | 5 |
| Canada | 9.5 |
| Cape Verde | 6 |
| Central African Republic | 3 |
| Chad | 4 |
| Chile | 9 |
| China | 7.5 |
| China: Hong Kong | 8.5 |
| China: Taiwan | 8.5 |
| Colombia | 7 |
| Comoros | 4 |
| Congo DRC | 4 |
| Congo RC | 5 |
| Costa Rica | 8 |
| | |

| | |
|---|---|
| Cote d'Ivoire | 4.5 |
| Croatia | 7 |
| Cuba | 4.5 |
| Cyprus | 7 |
| Czech Republic | 8.5 |
| Denmark | 9.5 |
| Djibouti | 4.5 |
| Dominica | 6 |
| Dominican Republic | 6.5 |
| East Timor | 4.5 |
| Ecuador | 5.5 |
| Egypt | 4.5-5 |
| El Salvador | 6 |
| Equatorial Guinea | 4.5 |
| Eritrea | 3.5 |
| Estonia | 8 |
| Ethiopia | 4.5 |
| Fiji | 5 |
| | |

| | |
|---|---|
| Finland | 9 |
| Former Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia | 5 |
| France | 9-9.5 |
| Gabon | 5.5 |
| Gambia | 5 |
| Georgia | 5 |
| Germany | 9-9.5 |
| Ghana | 5.5 |
| Greece | 5 |
| Grenada | 7.5 |
| Guatemala | 5.5 |
| Guinea | 3.5 |
| Guinea-Bissau | 3.5 |
| Guyana | 4.5 |
| Haiti | 4 |
| Holy See (Vatican) | n/a |
| Hong Kong (China) | 8.5 |
| Honduras | 5.5 |
| | |

| | |
|---|---|
| Hungary | 8 |
| Iceland | 8-8.5 |
| India | 8 |
| Indonesia | 5.5 |
| Iran | 4 |
| Iraq | 3 |
| Ireland | 8 |
| Israel | 8.5 |
| Italy | 8 |
| Jamaica | 5.5 |
| Japan | 9.5 |
| Jordan | 6 |
| Kazakhstan | 6 |
| Kenya | 5 |
| Kiribati | 5.5 |
| Korea, North | 1 |
| Korea, South | 9 |
| Kosovo | 4.5 |
| | |

| | |
|---|---|
| Kuwait | 8.5 |
| Kyrgyzstan | 4.5 |
| Laos | 4 |
| Latvia | 7 |
| Lebanon | 5 |
| Lesotho | 5.5 |
| Liberia | 3.5 |
| Libya | 3 |
| Liechtenstein | 9 |
| Lithuania | 7.5 |
| Luxembourg | 9-9.5 |
| Madagascar | 4.5 |
| Malawi | 4.5 |
| Malaysia | 8.5 |
| Maldives | 6.5 |
| Mali | 5 |
| Malta | 9 |
| Marshall Islands | 5 |
| | |

| | |
|---|---|
| Mauritania | 4.5 |
| Mauritius | 7.5-8 |
| Mexico | 6.5-7 |
| Micronesia | 5 |
| Moldova | 4.5-5 |
| Monaco | 9 |
| Mongolia | 5 |
| Montenegro | 5.5 |
| Morocco | 7.5 |
| Mozambique | 5 |
| Namibia | 7.5 |
| Nauru | 4.5 |
| Nepal | 4 |
| Netherlands | 9-9.5 |
| New Zealand | 9.5 |
| Nicaragua | 5 |
| Niger | 4.5 |
| Nigeria | 4.5 |
| | |

| | |
|---|---|
| Norway | 9-9.5 |
| Oman | 8 |
| Pakistan | 4 |
| Palau | 4.5-5 |
| Panama | 7 |
| Papua New Guinea | 5 |
| Paraguay | 6 |
| Peru | 6 |
| Philippines | 6 |
| Poland | 8 |
| Portugal | 7.5-8 |
| Qatar | 9 |
| Romania | 6-6.5 |
| Russia | 6 |
| Rwanda | 4 |
| Saint Kitts and Nevis | 8 |
| Saint Lucia | 8 |
| Saint Vincent and Grenadines | 7 |
| | |

| | |
|---|---|
| Samoa | 7 |
| San Marino | 8.5 |
| Sao Tome and Principe | 4.5-5 |
| Saudi Arabia | 7 |
| Senegal | 6 |
| Serbia | 6 |
| Seychelles | 5 |
| Sierra Leone | 4 |
| Singapore | 9.5 |
| Slovak Republic (Slovakia) | 8.5 |
| Slovenia | 8.5-9 |
| Solomon Islands | 5 |
| Somalia | 2 |
| South Africa | 8 |
| Spain | 7.5-8 |
| Sri Lanka | 5.5 |
| Sudan | 4 |
| Suriname | 5 |
| | |

| | |
|---|---|
| Swaziland | 4.5 |
| Sweden | 9.5 |
| Switzerland | 9.5 |
| Syria | 2.5 |
| Tajikistan | 4 |
| Taiwan (China) | 8.5 |
| Tanzania | 5 |
| Thailand | 7.5-8 |
| Togo | 4.5-5 |
| Tonga | 5.5-6 |
| Trinidad and Tobago | 8-8.5 |
| Tunisia | 6 |
| Turkey | 6.5-7 |
| Turkmenistan | 4 |
| Tuvalu | 7 |
| Uganda | 5 |
| Ukraine | 4.5-5 |
| United Arab Emirates | 8.5 |
| | |

| | |
|---|---|
| United Kingdom | 9 |
| United States | 9 |
| Uruguay | 6.5-7 |
| Uzbekistan | 4 |
| Vanuatu | 6 |
| Venezuela | 5 |
| Vietnam | 5.5 |
| Yemen | 3 |
| Zambia | 4.5-5 |
| Zimbabwe | 3.5 |

Editor's Note:

As of 2015, the global economic crisis (emerging in 2008) had affected many countries across the world, resulting in changes to their rankings. Among those countries affected were top tier economies, such as the United Kingdom, Iceland, Switzerland and Austria. However, in all these cases, their rankings have moved back upward in the last couple of years as anxieties have eased. Other top tier countries, such as Spain, Portugal, Ireland, and Italy, suffered some effects due to debt woes and the concomitant effect on the euro zone. Greece, another euro zone nation, was also downgraded due to its sovereign debt crisis; however, Greece's position on the precipice of default incurred a sharper downgrade than the other four euro zone countries mentioned above. Cyprus' exposure to Greek bank yielded a downgrade in its case. Slovenia and Latvia have been slightly downgraded due to a mix of economic and political concerns but could easily be upgraded in a future assessment, should these concerns abate. Meanwhile, the crisis in eastern Ukraine fueled downgrades in that country and neighboring Russia.

Despite the "trifecta of tragedy" in Japan in 2011 -- the earthquake, the ensuing tsunami, and the

resulting nuclear crisis -- and the appreciable destabilization of the economic and political terrain therein, this country has only slightly been downgraded. Japan's challenges have been assessed to be transient, the government remains accountable, and there is little risk of default. Both India and China retain their rankings; India holds a slightly higher ranking than China due to its record of democratic representation and accountability.

There were shifts in opposite directions for Mali and Nigeria versus the Central African Republic, Burkina Faso, and Burundi. Mali was slightly upgraded due to its efforts to return to constitutional order following the 2012 coup and to neutralize the threat of separatists and Islamists. Likewise, a new government in Nigeria generated a slight upgrade as the country attempts to confront corruption, crime, and terrorism. But the Central African Republic was downgraded due to the takeover of the government by Seleka rebels and the continued decline into lawlessness in that country. Likewise, the attempts by the leaders of Burundi and Burkina Faso to hold onto power by by-passing the constitution raised eybrows and resulted in downgrades.

Political unrest in Libya and Algeria have contributed to a decision to marginally downgrade these countries as well. Syria incurred a sharper downgrade due to the devolution into de facto civil war and the dire security threat posed by Islamist terrorists. Iraq saw a similar downgrade as a result of the takeover of wide swaths of territory and the threat of genocide at the hands of Islamist terrorists. Yemen, likewise, has been downgraded due to political instability at the hands of secessionists, terrorists, Houthi rebels, and the intervention of external parties. Conversely, Egypt and Tunisia saw slight upgrades as their political environments stabilize.

At the low end of the spectrum, devolving security conditions and/or economic crisis have resulted in countries like Pakistan, Afghanistan, Somalia, and Zimbabwe maintaining their low ratings.

The United States continues to retain its previous slight downgrade due to the enduring threat of default surrounding the debt ceiling in that country, matched by a conflict-ridden political climate. In the case of Mexico, there is limited concern about default, but increasing alarm over the security situation in that country and the government's ability to contain it. In Argentina, a default to bond holders resulted in a downgrade to that country. Finally, a small but significant upgrade was attributed to Cuba due to its recent pro-business reforms and its normalization of ties with the Unitd States.

Source:

CountryWatch Inc. www.countrywatch.com

Updated:

2015

## Corruption Perceptions Index

Corruption Perceptions Index

**Transparency International: Corruption Perceptions Index**

Editor's Note:

Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index is a composite index which ranks countries in terms of the degree to which corruption is perceived to exist among public officials. This index indicates the views of national and international business people and analysts about the levels of corruption in each country. The highest (and best) level of transparency is indicated by the number, 10. The lower (and worse) levels of transparency are indicated by lower numbers.

| Rank | Country/Territory | CPI 2009 Score | Surveys Used | Confidence Range |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | New Zealand | 9.4 | 6 | 9.1 - 9.5 |
| 2 | Denmark | 9.3 | 6 | 9.1 - 9.5 |
| 3 | Singapore | 9.2 | 9 | 9.0 - 9.4 |
| 3 | Sweden | 9.2 | 6 | 9.0 - 9.3 |
| 5 | Switzerland | 9.0 | 6 | 8.9 - 9.1 |
| 6 | Finland | 8.9 | 6 | 8.4 - 9.4 |
| 6 | Netherlands | 8.9 | 6 | 8.7 - 9.0 |
| 8 | Australia | 8.7 | 8 | 8.3 - 9.0 |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | Canada | 8.7 | 6 | 8.5 - 9.0 |
| 8 | Iceland | 8.7 | 4 | 7.5 - 9.4 |
| 11 | Norway | 8.6 | 6 | 8.2 - 9.1 |
| 12 | Hong Kong | 8.2 | 8 | 7.9 - 8.5 |
| 12 | Luxembourg | 8.2 | 6 | 7.6 - 8.8 |
| 14 | Germany | 8.0 | 6 | 7.7 - 8.3 |
| 14 | Ireland | 8.0 | 6 | 7.8 - 8.4 |
| 16 | Austria | 7.9 | 6 | 7.4 - 8.3 |
| 17 | Japan | 7.7 | 8 | 7.4 - 8.0 |
| 17 | United Kingdom | 7.7 | 6 | 7.3 - 8.2 |
| 19 | United States | 7.5 | 8 | 6.9 - 8.0 |
| 20 | Barbados | 7.4 | 4 | 6.6 - 8.2 |
| 21 | Belgium | 7.1 | 6 | 6.9 - 7.3 |
| 22 | Qatar | 7.0 | 6 | 5.8 - 8.1 |
| 22 | Saint Lucia | 7.0 | 3 | 6.7 - 7.5 |
| 24 | France | 6.9 | 6 | 6.5 - 7.3 |
| 25 | Chile | 6.7 | 7 | 6.5 - 6.9 |
| 25 | Uruguay | 6.7 | 5 | 6.4 - 7.1 |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 27 | Cyprus | 6.6 | 4 | 6.1 - 7.1 |
| 27 | Estonia | 6.6 | 8 | 6.1 - 6.9 |
| 27 | Slovenia | 6.6 | 8 | 6.3 - 6.9 |
| 30 | United Arab Emirates | 6.5 | 5 | 5.5 - 7.5 |
| 31 | Saint Vincent and the Grenadines | 6.4 | 3 | 4.9 - 7.5 |
| 32 | Israel | 6.1 | 6 | 5.4 - 6.7 |
| 32 | Spain | 6.1 | 6 | 5.5 - 6.6 |
| 34 | Dominica | 5.9 | 3 | 4.9 - 6.7 |
| 35 | Portugal | 5.8 | 6 | 5.5 - 6.2 |
| 35 | Puerto Rico | 5.8 | 4 | 5.2 - 6.3 |
| 37 | Botswana | 5.6 | 6 | 5.1 - 6.3 |
| 37 | Taiwan | 5.6 | 9 | 5.4 - 5.9 |
| 39 | Brunei Darussalam | 5.5 | 4 | 4.7 - 6.4 |
| 39 | Oman | 5.5 | 5 | 4.4 - 6.5 |
| 39 | Korea (South) | 5.5 | 9 | 5.3 - 5.7 |
| 42 | Mauritius | 5.4 | 6 | 5.0 - 5.9 |
| 43 | Costa Rica | 5.3 | 5 | 4.7 - 5.9 |
| 43 | Macau | 5.3 | 3 | 3.3 - 6.9 |

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| 45 | Malta | 5.2 | 4 | 4.0 - 6.2 |
| 46 | Bahrain | 5.1 | 5 | 4.2 - 5.8 |
| 46 | Cape Verde | 5.1 | 3 | 3.3 - 7.0 |
| 46 | Hungary | 5.1 | 8 | 4.6 - 5.7 |
| 49 | Bhutan | 5.0 | 4 | 4.3 - 5.6 |
| 49 | Jordan | 5.0 | 7 | 3.9 - 6.1 |
| 49 | Poland | 5.0 | 8 | 4.5 - 5.5 |
| 52 | Czech Republic | 4.9 | 8 | 4.3 - 5.6 |
| 52 | Lithuania | 4.9 | 8 | 4.4 - 5.4 |
| 54 | Seychelles | 4.8 | 3 | 3.0 - 6.7 |
| 55 | South Africa | 4.7 | 8 | 4.3 - 4.9 |
| 56 | Latvia | 4.5 | 6 | 4.1 - 4.9 |
| 56 | Malaysia | 4.5 | 9 | 4.0 - 5.1 |
| 56 | Namibia | 4.5 | 6 | 3.9 - 5.1 |
| 56 | Samoa | 4.5 | 3 | 3.3 - 5.3 |
| 56 | Slovakia | 4.5 | 8 | 4.1 - 4.9 |
| 61 | Cuba | 4.4 | 3 | 3.5 - 5.1 |
| 61 | Turkey | 4.4 | 7 | 3.9 - 4.9 |

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| 63 | Italy | 4.3 | 6 | 3.8 - 4.9 |
| 63 | Saudi Arabia | 4.3 | 5 | 3.1 - 5.3 |
| 65 | Tunisia | 4.2 | 6 | 3.0 - 5.5 |
| 66 | Croatia | 4.1 | 8 | 3.7 - 4.5 |
| 66 | Georgia | 4.1 | 7 | 3.4 - 4.7 |
| 66 | Kuwait | 4.1 | 5 | 3.2 - 5.1 |
| 69 | Ghana | 3.9 | 7 | 3.2 - 4.6 |
| 69 | Montenegro | 3.9 | 5 | 3.5 - 4.4 |
| 71 | Bulgaria | 3.8 | 8 | 3.2 - 4.5 |
| 71 | FYR Macedonia | 3.8 | 6 | 3.4 - 4.2 |
| 71 | Greece | 3.8 | 6 | 3.2 - 4.3 |
| 71 | Romania | 3.8 | 8 | 3.2 - 4.3 |
| 75 | Brazil | 3.7 | 7 | 3.3 - 4.3 |
| 75 | Colombia | 3.7 | 7 | 3.1 - 4.3 |
| 75 | Peru | 3.7 | 7 | 3.4 - 4.1 |
| 75 | Suriname | 3.7 | 3 | 3.0 - 4.7 |
| 79 | Burkina Faso | 3.6 | 7 | 2.8 - 4.4 |
| 79 | China | 3.6 | 9 | 3.0 - 4.2 |

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| 79 | Swaziland | 3.6 | 3 | 3.0 - 4.7 |
| 79 | Trinidad and Tobago | 3.6 | 4 | 3.0 - 4.3 |
| 83 | Serbia | 3.5 | 6 | 3.3 - 3.9 |
| 84 | El Salvador | 3.4 | 5 | 3.0 - 3.8 |
| 84 | Guatemala | 3.4 | 5 | 3.0 - 3.9 |
| 84 | India | 3.4 | 10 | 3.2 - 3.6 |
| 84 | Panama | 3.4 | 5 | 3.1 - 3.7 |
| 84 | Thailand | 3.4 | 9 | 3.0 - 3.8 |
| 89 | Lesotho | 3.3 | 6 | 2.8 - 3.8 |
| 89 | Malawi | 3.3 | 7 | 2.7 - 3.9 |
| 89 | Mexico | 3.3 | 7 | 3.2 - 3.5 |
| 89 | Moldova | 3.3 | 6 | 2.7 - 4.0 |
| 89 | Morocco | 3.3 | 6 | 2.8 - 3.9 |
| 89 | Rwanda | 3.3 | 4 | 2.9 - 3.7 |
| 95 | Albania | 3.2 | 6 | 3.0 - 3.3 |
| 95 | Vanuatu | 3.2 | 3 | 2.3 - 4.7 |
| 97 | Liberia | 3.1 | 3 | 1.9 - 3.8 |
| 97 | Sri Lanka | 3.1 | 7 | 2.8 - 3.4 |

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| 99 | Bosnia and Herzegovina | 3.0 | 7 | 2.6 - 3.4 |
| 99 | Dominican Republic | 3.0 | 5 | 2.9 - 3.2 |
| 99 | Jamaica | 3.0 | 5 | 2.8 - 3.3 |
| 99 | Madagascar | 3.0 | 7 | 2.8 - 3.2 |
| 99 | Senegal | 3.0 | 7 | 2.5 - 3.6 |
| 99 | Tonga | 3.0 | 3 | 2.6 - 3.3 |
| 99 | Zambia | 3.0 | 7 | 2.8 - 3.2 |
| 106 | Argentina | 2.9 | 7 | 2.6 - 3.1 |
| 106 | Benin | 2.9 | 6 | 2.3 - 3.4 |
| 106 | Gabon | 2.9 | 3 | 2.6 - 3.1 |
| 106 | Gambia | 2.9 | 5 | 1.6 - 4.0 |
| 106 | Niger | 2.9 | 5 | 2.7 - 3.0 |
| 111 | Algeria | 2.8 | 6 | 2.5 - 3.1 |
| 111 | Djibouti | 2.8 | 4 | 2.3 - 3.2 |
| 111 | Egypt | 2.8 | 6 | 2.6 - 3.1 |
| 111 | Indonesia | 2.8 | 9 | 2.4 - 3.2 |
| 111 | Kiribati | 2.8 | 3 | 2.3 - 3.3 |
| 111 | Mali | 2.8 | 6 | 2.4 - 3.2 |

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| 111 | Sao Tome and Principe | 2.8 | 3 | 2.4 - 3.3 |
| 111 | Solomon Islands | 2.8 | 3 | 2.3 - 3.3 |
| 111 | Togo | 2.8 | 5 | 1.9 - 3.9 |
| 120 | Armenia | 2.7 | 7 | 2.6 - 2.8 |
| 120 | Bolivia | 2.7 | 6 | 2.4 - 3.1 |
| 120 | Ethiopia | 2.7 | 7 | 2.4 - 2.9 |
| 120 | Kazakhstan | 2.7 | 7 | 2.1 - 3.3 |
| 120 | Mongolia | 2.7 | 7 | 2.4 - 3.0 |
| 120 | Vietnam | 2.7 | 9 | 2.4 - 3.1 |
| 126 | Eritrea | 2.6 | 4 | 1.6 - 3.8 |
| 126 | Guyana | 2.6 | 4 | 2.5 - 2.7 |
| 126 | Syria | 2.6 | 5 | 2.2 - 2.9 |
| 126 | Tanzania | 2.6 | 7 | 2.4 - 2.9 |
| 130 | Honduras | 2.5 | 6 | 2.2 - 2.8 |
| 130 | Lebanon | 2.5 | 3 | 1.9 - 3.1 |
| 130 | Libya | 2.5 | 6 | 2.2 - 2.8 |
| 130 | Maldives | 2.5 | 4 | 1.8 - 3.2 |
| 130 | Mauritania | 2.5 | 7 | 2.0 - 3.3 |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 130 | Mozambique | 2.5 | 7 | 2.3 - 2.8 |
| 130 | Nicaragua | 2.5 | 6 | 2.3 - 2.7 |
| 130 | Nigeria | 2.5 | 7 | 2.2 - 2.7 |
| 130 | Uganda | 2.5 | 7 | 2.1 - 2.8 |
| 139 | Bangladesh | 2.4 | 7 | 2.0 - 2.8 |
| 139 | Belarus | 2.4 | 4 | 2.0 - 2.8 |
| 139 | Pakistan | 2.4 | 7 | 2.1 - 2.7 |
| 139 | Philippines | 2.4 | 9 | 2.1 - 2.7 |
| 143 | Azerbaijan | 2.3 | 7 | 2.0 - 2.6 |
| 143 | Comoros | 2.3 | 3 | 1.6 - 3.3 |
| 143 | Nepal | 2.3 | 6 | 2.0 - 2.6 |
| 146 | Cameroon | 2.2 | 7 | 1.9 - 2.6 |
| 146 | Ecuador | 2.2 | 5 | 2.0 - 2.5 |
| 146 | Kenya | 2.2 | 7 | 1.9 - 2.5 |
| 146 | Russia | 2.2 | 8 | 1.9 - 2.4 |
| 146 | Sierra Leone | 2.2 | 5 | 1.9 - 2.4 |
| 146 | Timor-Leste | 2.2 | 5 | 1.8 - 2.6 |
| 146 | Ukraine | 2.2 | 8 | 2.0 - 2.6 |

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| 146 | Zimbabwe | 2.2 | 7 | 1.7 - 2.8 |
| 154 | Côte d´Ivoire | 2.1 | 7 | 1.8 - 2.4 |
| 154 | Papua New Guinea | 2.1 | 5 | 1.7 - 2.5 |
| 154 | Paraguay | 2.1 | 5 | 1.7 - 2.5 |
| 154 | Yemen | 2.1 | 4 | 1.6 - 2.5 |
| 158 | Cambodia | 2.0 | 8 | 1.8 - 2.2 |
| 158 | Central African Republic | 2.0 | 4 | 1.9 - 2.2 |
| 158 | Laos | 2.0 | 4 | 1.6 - 2.6 |
| 158 | Tajikistan | 2.0 | 8 | 1.6 - 2.5 |
| 162 | Angola | 1.9 | 5 | 1.8 - 1.9 |
| 162 | Congo Brazzaville | 1.9 | 5 | 1.6 - 2.1 |
| 162 | Democratic Republic of Congo | 1.9 | 5 | 1.7 - 2.1 |
| 162 | Guinea-Bissau | 1.9 | 3 | 1.8 - 2.0 |
| 162 | Kyrgyzstan | 1.9 | 7 | 1.8 - 2.1 |
| 162 | Venezuela | 1.9 | 7 | 1.8 - 2.0 |
| 168 | Burundi | 1.8 | 6 | 1.6 - 2.0 |
| 168 | Equatorial Guinea | 1.8 | 3 | 1.6 - 1.9 |
| 168 | Guinea | 1.8 | 5 | 1.7 - 1.8 |

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| 168 | Haiti | 1.8 | 3 | 1.4 - 2.3 |
| 168 | Iran | 1.8 | 3 | 1.7 - 1.9 |
| 168 | Turkmenistan | 1.8 | 4 | 1.7 - 1.9 |
| 174 | Uzbekistan | 1.7 | 6 | 1.5 - 1.8 |
| 175 | Chad | 1.6 | 6 | 1.5 - 1.7 |
| 176 | Iraq | 1.5 | 3 | 1.2 - 1.8 |
| 176 | Sudan | 1.5 | 5 | 1.4 - 1.7 |
| 178 | Myanmar | 1.4 | 3 | 0.9 - 1.8 |
| 179 | Afghanistan | 1.3 | 4 | 1.0 - 1.5 |
| 180 | Somalia | 1.1 | 3 | 0.9 - 1.4 |

Methodology:

As noted above, the highest (and best) level of transparency with the least perceived corruption is indicated by the number, 10. The lower (and worse) levels of transparency are indicated by lower numbers.

According to Transparency International, the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) table shows a country's ranking and score, the number of surveys used to determine the score, and the confidence range of the scoring.

The rank shows how one country compares to others included in the index. The CPI score indicates the perceived level of public-sector corruption in a country/territory.

The CPI is based on 13 independent surveys. However, not all surveys include all countries. The surveys used column indicates how many surveys were relied upon to determine the score for that country.

The confidence range indicates the reliability of the CPI scores and tells us that allowing for a margin of error, we can be 90% confident that the true score for this country lies within this range.

Note:

Kosovo, which separated from the Yugoslav successor state of Serbia, is not listed above. No calculation is available for Kosovo at this time, however, a future corruption index by Transparency International may include the world's newest country in its tally. Taiwan has been listed above despite its contested status; while Taiwan claims sovereign status, China claims ultimate jurisdiction over Taiwan. Hong Kong, which is also under the rubric of Chinese sovereignty, is listed above. Note as well that Puerto Rico, which is a United States domain, is also included in the list above. These inclusions likely have to do with the size and fairly autonomous status of their economies.

Source:

Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index; available at URL: http://www.transparency.org

Updated:

Uploaded in 2011 using most recent ranking available; reviewed in 2015.

## Competitiveness Ranking

Competitiveness Ranking

Editor's Note:

The Global Competitiveness Report's competitiveness ranking is based on the Global Competitiveness Index (GCI), which was developed for the World Economic Forum. The GCI is based on a number of competitiveness considerations, and provides a comprehensive picture of the competitiveness landscape in countries around the world. The competitiveness considerations are: institutions, infrastructure, macroeconomic environment, health and primary education, higher education and training, goods market efficiency, labour market efficiency, financial market development, technological readiness, market size, business sophistication, and innovation. The rankings are calculated from both publicly available data and the Executive Opinion Survey.

| Country/Economy | GCI 2010 Rank | GCI 2010 Score | GCI 2009 Rank | Change 2009-2010 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Switzerland | 1 | 5.63 | 1 | 0 |
| Sweden | 2 | 5.56 | 4 | 2 |
| Singapore | 3 | 5.48 | 3 | 0 |
| United States | 4 | 5.43 | 2 | -2 |
| Germany | 5 | 5.39 | 7 | 2 |
| Japan | 6 | 5.37 | 8 | 2 |
| Finland | 7 | 5.37 | 6 | -1 |
| Netherlands | 8 | 5.33 | 10 | 2 |
| Denmark | 9 | 5.32 | 5 | -4 |
| Canada | 10 | 5.30 | 9 | -1 |
| Hong Kong SAR | 11 | 5.30 | 11 | 0 |
| United Kingdom | 12 | 5.25 | 13 | 1 |
| Taiwan, China | 13 | 5.21 | 12 | -1 |
| Norway | 14 | 5.14 | 14 | 0 |
| France | 15 | 5.13 | 16 | 1 |
| Australia | 16 | 5.11 | 15 | -1 |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Qatar | 17 | 5.10 | 22 | 5 |
| Austria | 18 | 5.09 | 17 | -1 |
| Belgium | 19 | 5.07 | 18 | -1 |
| Luxembourg | 20 | 5.05 | 21 | 1 |
| Saudi Arabia | 21 | 4.95 | 28 | 7 |
| Korea, Rep. | 22 | 4.93 | 19 | -3 |
| New Zealand | 23 | 4.92 | 20 | -3 |
| Israel | 24 | 4.91 | 27 | 3 |
| United Arab Emirates | 25 | 4.89 | 23 | -2 |
| Malaysia | 26 | 4.88 | 24 | -2 |
| China | 27 | 4.84 | 29 | 2 |
| Brunei Darussalam | 28 | 4.75 | 32 | 4 |
| Ireland | 29 | 4.74 | 25 | -4 |
| Chile | 30 | 4.69 | 30 | 0 |
| Iceland | 31 | 4.68 | 26 | -5 |
| Tunisia | 32 | 4.65 | 40 | 8 |
| Estonia | 33 | 4.61 | 35 | 2 |
| Oman | 34 | 4.61 | 41 | 7 |

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kuwait | 35 | 4.59 | 39 | 4 |
| Czech Republic | 36 | 4.57 | 31 | -5 |
| Bahrain | 37 | 4.54 | 38 | 1 |
| Thailand | 38 | 4.51 | 36 | -2 |
| Poland | 39 | 4.51 | 46 | 7 |
| Cyprus | 40 | 4.50 | 34 | -6 |
| Puerto Rico | 41 | 4.49 | 42 | 1 |
| Spain | 42 | 4.49 | 33 | -9 |
| Barbados | 43 | 4.45 | 44 | 1 |
| Indonesia | 44 | 4.43 | 54 | 10 |
| Slovenia | 45 | 4.42 | 37 | -8 |
| Portugal | 46 | 4.38 | 43 | -3 |
| Lithuania | 47 | 4.38 | 53 | 6 |
| Italy | 48 | 4.37 | 48 | 0 |
| Montenegro | 49 | 4.36 | 62 | 13 |
| Malta | 50 | 4.34 | 52 | 2 |
| India | 51 | 4.33 | 49 | -2 |
| Hungary | 52 | 4.33 | 58 | 6 |

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| Panama | 53 | 4.33 | 59 | 6 |
| South Africa | 54 | 4.32 | 45 | -9 |
| Mauritius | 55 | 4.32 | 57 | 2 |
| Costa Rica | 56 | 4.31 | 55 | -1 |
| Azerbaijan | 57 | 4.29 | 51 | -6 |
| Brazil | 58 | 4.28 | 56 | -2 |
| Vietnam | 59 | 4.27 | 75 | 16 |
| Slovak Republic | 60 | 4.25 | 47 | -13 |
| Turkey | 61 | 4.25 | 61 | 0 |
| Sri Lanka | 62 | 4.25 | 79 | 17 |
| Russian Federation | 63 | 4.24 | 63 | 0 |
| Uruguay | 64 | 4.23 | 65 | 1 |
| Jordan | 65 | 4.21 | 50 | -15 |
| Mexico | 66 | 4.19 | 60 | -6 |
| Romania | 67 | 4.16 | 64 | -3 |
| Colombia | 68 | 4.14 | 69 | 1 |
| Iran | 69 | 4.14 | n/a | n/a |
| Latvia | 70 | 4.14 | 68 | -2 |

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bulgaria | 71 | 4.13 | 76 | 5 |
| Kazakhstan | 72 | 4.12 | 67 | -5 |
| Peru | 73 | 4.11 | 78 | 5 |
| Namibia | 74 | 4.09 | 74 | 0 |
| Morocco | 75 | 4.08 | 73 | -2 |
| Botswana | 76 | 4.05 | 66 | -10 |
| Croatia | 77 | 4.04 | 72 | -5 |
| Guatemala | 78 | 4.04 | 80 | 2 |
| Macedonia, FYR | 79 | 4.02 | 84 | 5 |
| Rwanda | 80 | 4.00 | n/a | n/a |
| Egypt | 81 | 4.00 | 70 | -11 |
| El Salvador | 82 | 3.99 | 77 | -5 |
| Greece | 83 | 3.99 | 71 | -12 |
| Trinidad and Tobago | 84 | 3.97 | 86 | 2 |
| Philippines | 85 | 3.96 | 87 | 2 |
| Algeria | 86 | 3.96 | 83 | -3 |
| Argentina | 87 | 3.95 | 85 | -2 |
| Albania | 88 | 3.94 | 96 | 8 |

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ukraine | 89 | 3.90 | 82 | -7 |
| Gambia, The | 90 | 3.90 | 81 | -9 |
| Honduras | 91 | 3.89 | 89 | -2 |
| Lebanon | 92 | 3.89 | n/a | n/a |
| Georgia | 93 | 3.86 | 90 | -3 |
| Moldova | 94 | 3.86 | n/a | n/a |
| Jamaica | 95 | 3.85 | 91 | -4 |
| Serbia | 96 | 3.84 | 93 | -3 |
| Syria | 97 | 3.79 | 94 | -3 |
| Armenia | 98 | 3.76 | 97 | -1 |
| Mongolia | 99 | 3.75 | 117 | 18 |
| Libya | 100 | 3.74 | 88 | -12 |
| Dominican Republic | 101 | 3.72 | 95 | -6 |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 102 | 3.70 | 109 | 7 |
| Benin | 103 | 3.69 | 103 | 0 |
| Senegal | 104 | 3.67 | 92 | -12 |
| Ecuador | 105 | 3.65 | 105 | 0 |
| Kenya | 106 | 3.65 | 98 | -8 |

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bangladesh | 107 | 3.64 | 106 | -1 |
| Bolivia | 108 | 3.64 | 120 | 12 |
| Cambodia | 109 | 3.63 | 110 | 1 |
| Guyana | 110 | 3.62 | 104 | -6 |
| Cameroon | 111 | 3.58 | 111 | 0 |
| Nicaragua | 112 | 3.57 | 115 | 3 |
| Tanzania | 113 | 3.56 | 100 | -13 |
| Ghana | 114 | 3.56 | 114 | 0 |
| Zambia | 115 | 3.55 | 112 | -3 |
| Tajikistan | 116 | 3.53 | 122 | 6 |
| Cape Verde | 117 | 3.51 | n/a | n/a |
| Uganda | 118 | 3.51 | 108 | -10 |
| Ethiopia | 119 | 3.51 | 118 | -1 |
| Paraguay | 120 | 3.49 | 124 | 4 |
| Kyrgyz Republic | 121 | 3.49 | 123 | 2 |
| Venezuela | 122 | 3.48 | 113 | -9 |
| Pakistan | 123 | 3.48 | 101 | -22 |
| Madagascar | 124 | 3.46 | 121 | -3 |
| | | | | |

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| Malawi | 125 | 3.45 | 119 | -6 |
| Swaziland | 126 | 3.40 | n/a | n/a |
| Nigeria | 127 | 3.38 | 99 | -28 |
| Lesotho | 128 | 3.36 | 107 | -21 |
| Côte d'Ivoire | 129 | 3.35 | 116 | -13 |
| Nepal | 130 | 3.34 | 125 | -5 |
| Mozambique | 131 | 3.32 | 129 | -2 |
| Mali | 132 | 3.28 | 130 | -2 |
| Timor-Leste | 133 | 3.23 | 126 | -7 |
| Burkina Faso | 134 | 3.20 | 128 | -6 |
| Mauritania | 135 | 3.14 | 127 | -8 |
| Zimbabwe | 136 | 3.03 | 132 | -4 |
| Burundi | 137 | 2.96 | 133 | -4 |
| Angola | 138 | 2.93 | n/a | n/a |
| Chad | 139 | 2.73 | 131 | -8 |

Methodology:

The competitiveness rankings are calculated from both publicly available data and the Executive Opinion Survey, a comprehensive annual survey conducted by the World Economic Forum

together with its network of Partner Institutes (leading research institutes and business organizations) in the countries covered by the Report.

Highlights according to WEF --

- The United States falls two places to fourth position, overtaken by Sweden and Singapore in the rankings of the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report 2010-2011
- The People's Republic of China continues to move up the rankings, with marked improvements in several other Asian countries
- Germany moves up two places to fifth place, leading the Eurozone countries
- Switzerland tops the rankings

Source:

World Economic Forum; available at URL: http://www.weforum.org

Updated:

2011 using most recent ranking available; reviewed in 2015.

# Taxation

The various tax advantages that were previously bestowed under both special conventions and the 1990 investment code are being eliminated. These advantages were often maintained beyond the period prescribed, hampering revenue enhancement efforts. The 1995 finance law terminated all incentives that had been maintained beyond their legal duration. Remaining special conventions will not be renewed, and no new exonerations will be granted. To the extent that some incentives are retained, they will occur within the tax code, and address depreciation, treatment of losses, taxation of capital goods, and relief on intermediate inputs for export goods.

In September 1996, the general corporate profits tax in Togo was 40 percent, with a special rate of 37 percent for industrial enterprises. A minimum tax of 0.5 percent of turnover is imposed on all non-exempt enterprises

Togo made a great deal of progress in 1997 with plans to rationalize the tax system and its administration, bringing about both simplification and revenue enhancement. The value added tax

has been unified at 18 percent (as opposed to the previous two-rate structure of seven percent and 18 percent.) Further revisions that had been expected in 1998 were not enacted. The World Bank continues to strongly encourage revisions to the tax code.

## Stock Market

The Bourse Regionale des Valeurs Mobilieres (BRVM) was opened in September 1998 to serve as a regional financial market for the member-states of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UMOEA), which includes Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo. At the end of the 1990's, the BRVM had 35 listed companies.

Listing requirements include: a share capital of CFAF 200-500 million; 15-20 percent public ownership; five annual reports; balance sheet.

The BRVM has computerized trading with satellite links. Trading occurs on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Trading is decentralized so that member-countries can trade simultaneously from their national bourse via satellite links.

For more information on the Bourse Regionale des Valeurs Mobilieres, see URL: http://www.brvm.org/.

**Partner Links**

Partner Links

# Chapter 5

# Social Overview

# People

Introduction

Togo's population of around six million is a mosaic of an estimated 43 ethnic groups. The Ewe and Mina in the south, the Kabye of the Kara region, and the Moba north of the Kara make up the majority of the population. All ethnic groups other than the Ewe came to Togo fairly late. During the 18th and 19th centuries the surrounding areas were under pressure from the Akwamu Confederacy, the Ashanti Kingdom to the west and from the Kingdom of Dahomey to the east. These pressures forced people into present day Togo concurrent with the heights of the slave trade.

Cultural Demography

Local religions are still major spiritual forces in nearly every people group. Togo has one of the highest percentages of non-evangelized local religions of any country in Africa. Some estimate that as many as half of the Togolese population practices some form of indigenous animism. Around 30 percent of the population claims to be Christian, and most of that population practices some syncretic blend of local religion and Christianity. Christian outreach has often been achieved through schools. Islam, in Togo since the 1700s, is also growing, mainly in the north, and now claims about 20 percent of the population as adherents.

It should be noted that these estimates are quite broad, precisely because of the degree of blending between local animist practices with traditional religions, namely Christianity and Islam. Thus, these religious estimates should be understood as approximations rather than precise indicators of the religious breakdown for Togo.

The official language is French, but only the more educated speak it. Local languages are taught in schools at the grade school level. Additionally, some Togolese have been educated in Ghana and speak English, especially those in the hospitality industries.

Health and Welfare

An estimated 60.9 percent of the population is literate -- although the rate for males is significantly higher (75.4 percent) than for females (46.9 percent). Still, over 70 percent of the children receive formal primary education. These incongruent figures imply that education is improving rapidly, many children who are enrolled in school don't attend, or schools are too poor to teach basic literacy. With a 68 percent rural subsistence population, it is most likely that children attend regularly until they are old enough to work in the fields (generally second year) and then leave school. Complicating matters is the fact that clearly, females are less encouraged to stay in school than are their male counterparts.

Forty-six percent of the population is under the age of 15, making it of average age as compared to other sub-Saharan African countries, but young compared to most of the world. At 2.17 percent, the population growth rate is slightly faster than the sub-continent as a whole. The average life expectancy in Togo is 57.1 years of age according to recent estimates. The infant mortality rate is 66.61 deaths per 1,000 live births.

Note: About 5.9 percent of GDP in this country is spent on health expenditures. About 4.6 percent of GDP is spent on educational expenditures.

Human Development

HIV/AIDS in Togo infects an estimated 4.1 percent of the adult population, according to the available statistics from recent years. Studies estimate that 80 percent of sex workers are infected. With a steady increase in the number percentage of the population infected and 10,000 AIDS related deaths in 2003 alone, there is reason for concern that even though the infection levels do not reach the epidemic proportions of some other African countries, Togo must take significant measures if it is to avoid a similar crisis.

One notable indicator used to measure a country's quality of life is the Human Development Index (HDI), which is compiled annually since 1990 by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The HDI is a composite of several indicators, which measure a country's achievements in three main areas of human development: longevity, knowledge and education, as well as economic standard of living. In a ranking of 169 countries, the HDI places Togo in the low human development category, at 139th place. Although the concept of human development is complicated and cannot be properly captured by values and indices, the HDI, which is calculated and updated annually, offers a wide-ranging assessment of human development in certain countries, not based solely upon traditional economic and financial indicators.

Written by Dr. Denise Youngblood Coleman, Editor in Chief at Countrywatch.com; see Bibliography for research sources.

## Human Development Index

Human Development Index

**Human Development Index (Ranked Numerically)**

The Human Development Index (HDI) is used to measure quality of life in countries across the world. The HDI has been compiled since 1990 by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on a regular basis. The HDI is a composite of several indicators, which measure a country's achievements in three main arenas of human development: longevity, education, and economic standard of living. Although the concept of human development is complicated and cannot be properly captured by values and indices, the HDI offers a wide-ranging assessment of human development in certain countries, not based solely upon traditional economic and financial indicators. For more information about the methodology used to calculate the HDI, please see the "Source Materials" in the appendices of this review.

| Very High Human Development | High Human Development | Medium Human Development | Low Human Development |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Norway | 43. Bahamas | 86. Fiji | 128. Kenya |
| 2. Australia | 44. Lithuania | 87. Turkmenistan | 129. Bangladesh |
| 3. New Zealand | 45. Chile | 88. Dominican Republic | 130. Ghana |
| 4. United States | 46. Argentina | 89. China | 131. Cameroon |
| 5. Ireland | 47. Kuwait | 90. El Salvador | 132. Myanmar (Burma) |
| 6. Liechtenstein | 48. Latvia | 91. Sri Lanka | 133. Yemen |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7. Netherlands | 49. Montenegro | 92. Thailand | 134. Benin |
| 8. Canada | 50. Romania | 93. Gabon | 135. Madagascar |
| 9. Sweden | 51. Croatia | 94. Surname | 136. Mauritania |
| 10. Germany | 52. Uruguay | 95. Bolivia | 137. Papua New Guinea |
| 11. Japan | 53. Libya | 96. Paraguay | 138. Nepal |
| 12. South Korea | 54. Panama | 97. Philippines | 139. Togo |
| 13. Switzerland | 55. Saudi Arabia | 98. Botswana | 140. Comoros |
| 14. France | 56. Mexico | 99. Moldova | 141. Lesotho |
| 15. Israel | 57. Malaysia | 100. Mongolia | 142. Nigeria |
| 16. Finland | 58. Bulgaria | 101. Egypt | 143. Uganda |
| 17. Iceland | 59. Trinidad and Tobago | 102. Uzbekistan | 144. Senegal |
| 18. Belgium | 60. Serbia | 103. Micronesia | 145. Haiti |
| 19. Denmark | 61. Belarus | 104. Guyana | 146. Angola |
| 20. Spain | 62. Costa Rica | 105. Namibia | 147. Djibouti |
| 21. Hong King | 63. Peru | 106. Honduras | 148. Tanzania |
| 22. Greece | 64. Albania | 107. Maldives | 149. Cote d'Ivoire |
| 23. Italy | 65. Russian Federation | 108. Indonesia | 150. Zambia |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 24. Luxembourg | 66. Kazakhstan | 109. Kyrgyzstan | 151. Gambia |
| 25. Austria | 67. Azerbaijan | 110. South Africa | 152. Rwanda |
| 26. United Kingdom | 68. Bosnia and Herzegovina | 111. Syria | 153. Malawi |
| 27. Singapore | 69. Ukraine | 112. Tajikistan | 154. Sudan |
| 28. Czech Republic | 70. Iran | 113. Vietnam | 155. Afghanistan |
| 29. Slovenia | 71. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | 114. Morocco | 156. Guinea |
| 30. Andorra | 72. Mauritius | 115. Nicaragua | 157. Ethiopia |
| 31. Slovakia | 73. Brazil | 116. Guatemala | 158. Sierra Leone |
| 32. United Arab Emirates | 74. Georgia | 117. Equatorial Guinea | 159. Central African Republic |
| 33. Malta | 75. Venezuela | 118. Cape Verde | 160. Mali |
| 34. Estonia | 76. Armenia | 119. India | 161. Burkina Faso |
| 35. Cyprus | 77. Ecuador | 120. East Timor | 162. Liberia |
| 36. Hungary | 78. Belize | 121. Swaziland | 163. Chad |
| 37. Brunei | 79. Colombia | 122. Laos | 164. Guinea-Bissau |
| 38. Qatar | 80. Jamaica | 123. Solomon Islands | 165. Mozambique |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 39. Bahrain | 81. Tunisia | 124. Cambodia | 166. Burundi |
| 40. Portugal | 82. Jordan | 125. Pakistan | 167. Niger |
| 41. Poland | 83. Turkey | 126. Congo RC | 168. Congo DRC |
| 42. Barbados | 84. Algeria | 127. Sao Tome and Principe | 169. Zimbabwe |
| | 85. Tonga | | |

Methodology:

For more information about the methodology used to calculate the HDI, please see the "Source Materials" in the appendices of this Country Review.

Reference:

As published in United Nations Development Programme's Human Development Report 2010.

Source:

United Nations Development Programme's Human Development Index available at URL: http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/

Updated:

Uploaded in 2011 using ranking available; reviewed in 2015

## Life Satisfaction Index

Life Satisfaction Index

## Life Satisfaction Index

Created by Adrian G. White, an Analytic Social Psychologist at the University of Leicester, the "Satisfaction with Life Index" measures subjective life satisfaction across various countries. The data was taken from a metastudy (see below for source) and associates the notion of subjective happiness or life satisfaction with qualitative parameters such as health, wealth, and access to basic education. This assessment serves as an alternative to other measures of happiness that tend to rely on traditional and quantitative measures of policy on quality of life, such as GNP and GDP. The methodology involved the responses of 80,000 people across the globe.

| Rank | Country | Score |
|---|---|---|
| | | |
| 1 | Denmark | 273.4 |
| 2 | Switzerland | 273.33 |
| 3 | Austria | 260 |
| 4 | Iceland | 260 |
| 5 | The Bahamas | 256.67 |
| 6 | Finland | 256.67 |
| 7 | Sweden | 256.67 |
| 8 | Iran | 253.33 |
| 9 | Brunei | 253.33 |
| 10 | Canada | 253.33 |
| 11 | Ireland | 253.33 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 12 | Luxembourg | 253.33 |
| 13 | Costa Rica | 250 |
| 14 | Malta | 250 |
| 15 | Netherlands | 250 |
| 16 | Antiguaand Barbuda | 246.67 |
| 17 | Malaysia | 246.67 |
| 18 | New Zealand | 246.67 |
| 19 | Norway | 246.67 |
| 20 | Seychelles | 246.67 |
| 21 | Saint Kitts and Nevis | 246.67 |
| 22 | United Arab Emirates | 246.67 |
| 23 | United States | 246.67 |
| 24 | Vanuatu | 246.67 |
| 25 | Venezuela | 246.67 |
| 26 | Australia | 243.33 |
| 27 | Barbados | 243.33 |
| 28 | Belgium | 243.33 |
| 29 | Dominica | 243.33 |
| | | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 30 | Oman | 243.33 |
| 31 | Saudi Arabia | 243.33 |
| 32 | Suriname | 243.33 |
| 33 | Bahrain | 240 |
| 34 | Colombia | 240 |
| 35 | Germany | 240 |
| 36 | Guyana | 240 |
| 37 | Honduras | 240 |
| 38 | Kuwait | 240 |
| 39 | Panama | 240 |
| 40 | Saint Vincent and the Grenadines | 240 |
| 41 | United Kingdom | 236.67 |
| 42 | Dominican Republic | 233.33 |
| 43 | Guatemala | 233.33 |
| 44 | Jamaica | 233.33 |
| 45 | Qatar | 233.33 |
| 46 | Spain | 233.33 |
| 47 | Saint Lucia | 233.33 |
| | | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 48 | Belize | 230 |
| 49 | Cyprus | 230 |
| 50 | Italy | 230 |
| 51 | Mexico | 230 |
| 52 | Samoa | 230 |
| 53 | Singapore | 230 |
| 54 | Solomon Islands | 230 |
| 55 | Trinidad and Tobago | 230 |
| 56 | Argentina | 226.67 |
| 57 | Fiji | 223.33 |
| 58 | Israel | 223.33 |
| 59 | Mongolia | 223.33 |
| 60 | São Tomé and Príncipe | 223.33 |
| 61 | El Salvador | 220 |
| 62 | France | 220 |
| 63 | Hong Kong | 220 |
| 64 | Indonesia | 220 |
| 65 | Kyrgyzstan | 220 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 66 | Maldives | 220 |
| 67 | Slovenia | 220 |
| 68 | Taiwan | 220 |
| 69 | East Timor | 220 |
| 70 | Tonga | 220 |
| 71 | Chile | 216.67 |
| 72 | Grenada | 216.67 |
| 73 | Mauritius | 216.67 |
| 74 | Namibia | 216.67 |
| 75 | Paraguay | 216.67 |
| 76 | Thailand | 216.67 |
| 77 | Czech Republic | 213.33 |
| 78 | Philippines | 213.33 |
| 79 | Tunisia | 213.33 |
| 80 | Uzbekistan | 213.33 |
| 81 | Brazil | 210 |
| 82 | China | 210 |
| 83 | Cuba | 210 |
| | | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 84 | Greece | 210 |
| 85 | Nicaragua | 210 |
| 86 | Papua New Guinea | 210 |
| 87 | Uruguay | 210 |
| 88 | Gabon | 206.67 |
| 89 | Ghana | 206.67 |
| 90 | Japan | 206.67 |
| 91 | Yemen | 206.67 |
| 92 | Portugal | 203.33 |
| 93 | Sri Lanka | 203.33 |
| 94 | Tajikistan | 203.33 |
| 95 | Vietnam | 203.33 |
| 96 | Bhutan | 200 |
| 97 | Comoros | 196.67 |
| 98 | Croatia | 196.67 |
| 99 | Poland | 196.67 |
| 100 | Cape Verde | 193.33 |
| 101 | Kazakhstan | 193.33 |
| | | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 102 | South Korea | 193.33 |
| 103 | Madagascar | 193.33 |
| 104 | Bangladesh | 190 |
| 105 | Republic of the Congo | 190 |
| 106 | The Gambia | 190 |
| 107 | Hungary | 190 |
| 108 | Libya | 190 |
| 109 | South Africa | 190 |
| 110 | Cambodia | 186.67 |
| 111 | Ecuador | 186.67 |
| 112 | Kenya | 186.67 |
| 113 | Lebanon | 186.67 |
| 114 | Morocco | 186.67 |
| 115 | Peru | 186.67 |
| 116 | Senegal | 186.67 |
| 117 | Bolivia | 183.33 |
| 118 | Haiti | 183.33 |
| 119 | Nepal | 183.33 |
| | | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 120 | Nigeria | 183.33 |
| 121 | Tanzania | 183.33 |
| 122 | Benin | 180 |
| 123 | Botswana | 180 |
| 124 | Guinea-Bissau | 180 |
| 125 | India | 180 |
| 126 | Laos | 180 |
| 127 | Mozambique | 180 |
| 128 | Palestinian Authority | 180 |
| 129 | Slovakia | 180 |
| 130 | Myanmar | 176.67 |
| 131 | Mali | 176.67 |
| 132 | Mauritania | 176.67 |
| 133 | Turkey | 176.67 |
| 134 | Algeria | 173.33 |
| 135 | Equatorial Guinea | 173.33 |
| 136 | Romania | 173.33 |
| 137 | Bosnia and Herzegovina | 170 |
| | | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 138 | Cameroon | 170 |
| 139 | Estonia | 170 |
| 140 | Guinea | 170 |
| 141 | Jordan | 170 |
| 142 | Syria | 170 |
| 143 | Sierra Leone | 166.67 |
| 144 | Azerbaijan | 163.33 |
| 145 | Central African Republic | 163.33 |
| 146 | Republic of Macedonia | 163.33 |
| 147 | Togo | 163.33 |
| 148 | Zambia | 163.33 |
| 149 | Angola | 160 |
| 150 | Djibouti | 160 |
| 151 | Egypt | 160 |
| 152 | Burkina Faso | 156.67 |
| 153 | Ethiopia | 156.67 |
| 154 | Latvia | 156.67 |
| 155 | Lithuania | 156.67 |
| | | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 156 | Uganda | 156.67 |
| 157 | Albania | 153.33 |
| 158 | Malawi | 153.33 |
| 159 | Chad | 150 |
| 160 | Côte d'Ivoire | 150 |
| 161 | Niger | 150 |
| 162 | Eritrea | 146.67 |
| 163 | Rwanda | 146.67 |
| 164 | Bulgaria | 143.33 |
| 165 | Lesotho | 143.33 |
| 166 | Pakistan | 143.33 |
| 167 | Russia | 143.33 |
| 168 | Swaziland | 140 |
| 169 | Georgia | 136.67 |
| 170 | Belarus | 133.33 |
| 171 | Turkmenistan | 133.33 |
| 172 | Armenia | 123.33 |
| 173 | Sudan | 120 |
| | | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 174 | Ukraine | 120 |
| 175 | Moldova | 116.67 |
| 176 | Democratic Republic of the Congo | 110 |
| 177 | Zimbabwe | 110 |
| 178 | Burundi | 100 |

Commentary:

European countries, such as Denmark, Iceland, Finland, Sweden, Switzerland, Austria resided at the top of the ranking with highest levels of self-reported life satisfaction. Conversely, European countries such as Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Belarus and Ukraine ranked low on the index. African countries such as Democratic Republic of Congo, Zimbabwe and Burundi found themselves at the very bottom of the ranking, and indeed, very few African countries could be found in the top 100. Japan was at the mid-way point in the ranking, however, other Asian countries such as Brunei and Malaysia were in the top tier, while Pakistan was close to the bottom with a low level of self-identified life satisfaction. As a region, the Middle East presented a mixed bad with Saudi Arabians reporing healthy levels of life satisfaction and Egyptians near the bottom of the ranking. As a region, Caribbean countries were ranked highly, consistently demonstrating high levels of life satisfaction. The findings showed that health was the most crucial determining factor in life satisfaction, followed by prosperity and education.

Source:

White, A. (2007). A Global Projection of Subjective Well-being: A Challenge To Positive Psychology? Psychtalk 56, 17-20. The data was extracted from a meta-analysis by Marks, Abdallah, Simms & Thompson (2006).

Uploaded:

Based on study noted above in "Source" ; reviewed in 2015

## Happy Planet Index

Happy Planet Index

The Happy Planet Index (HPI) is used to measure human well-being in conjunction with environmental impact. The HPI has been compiled since 2006 by the New Economics Foundation. The index is a composite of several indicators including subjective life satisfaction, life expectancy at birth, and ecological footprint per capita.

As noted by NEFA, the HPI "reveals the ecological efficiency with which human well-being is delivered." Indeed, the index combines environmental impact with human well-being to measure the environmental efficiency with which, country by country, people live long and happy lives. The countries ranked highest by the HPI are not necessarily the ones with the happiest people overall, but the ones that allow their citizens to live long and fulfilling lives, without negatively impacting this opportunity for either future generations or citizens of other countries. Accordingly, a country like the United States will rank low on this list due to its large per capital ecological footprint, which uses more than its fair share of resources, and will likely cause planetary damage.

It should be noted that the HPI was designed to be a counterpoint to other well-established indices of countries' development, such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which measures overall national wealth and economic development, but often obfuscates the realities of countries with stark variances between the rich and the poor. Moreover, the objective of most of the world's people is not to be wealthy but to be happy. The HPI also differs from the Human Development Index (HDI), which measures quality of life but not ecology, since it [HPI] also includes sustainability as a key indicator.

| Rank | Country | HPI |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Costa Rica | 76.1 |
| 2 | Dominican Republic | 71.8 |
| 3 | Jamaica | 70.1 |
| 4 | Guatemala | 68.4 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 5 | Vietnam | 66.5 |
| 6 | Colombia | 66.1 |
| 7 | Cuba | 65.7 |
| 8 | El Salvador | 61.5 |
| 9 | Brazil | 61.0 |
| 10 | Honduras | 61.0 |
| 11 | Nicaragua | 60.5 |
| 12 | Egypt | 60.3 |
| 13 | Saudi Arabia | 59.7 |
| 14 | Philippines | 59.0 |
| 15 | Argentina | 59.0 |
| 16 | Indonesia | 58.9 |
| 17 | Bhutan | 58.5 |
| 18 | Panama | 57.4 |
| 19 | Laos | 57.3 |
| 20 | China | 57.1 |
| 21 | Morocco | 56.8 |
| 22 | Sri Lanka | 56.5 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 23 | Mexico | 55.6 |
| 24 | Pakistan | 55.6 |
| 25 | Ecuador | 55.5 |
| 26 | Jordan | 54.6 |
| 27 | Belize | 54.5 |
| 28 | Peru | 54.4 |
| 29 | Tunisia | 54.3 |
| 30 | Trinidad and Tobago | 54.2 |
| 31 | Bangladesh | 54.1 |
| 32 | Moldova | 54.1 |
| 33 | Malaysia | 54.0 |
| 34 | Tajikistan | 53.5 |
| 35 | India | 53.0 |
| 36 | Venezuela | 52.5 |
| 37 | Nepal | 51.9 |
| 38 | Syria | 51.3 |
| 39 | Burma | 51.2 |
| 40 | Algeria | 51.2 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 41 | Thailand | 50.9 |
| 42 | Haiti | 50.8 |
| 43 | Netherlands | 50.6 |
| 44 | Malta | 50.4 |
| 45 | Uzbekistan | 50.1 |
| 46 | Chile | 49.7 |
| 47 | Bolivia | 49.3 |
| 48 | Armenia | 48.3 |
| 49 | Singapore | 48.2 |
| 50 | Yemen | 48.1 |
| 51 | Germany | 48.1 |
| 52 | Switzerland | 48.1 |
| 53 | Sweden | 48.0 |
| 54 | Albania | 47.9 |
| 55 | Paraguay | 47.8 |
| 56 | Palestinian Authority | 47.7 |
| 57 | Austria | 47.7 |
| 58 | Serbia | 47.6 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 59 | Finland | 47.2 |
| 60 | Croatia | 47.2 |
| 61 | Kyrgyzstan | 47.1 |
| 62 | Cyprus | 46.2 |
| 63 | Guyana | 45.6 |
| 64 | Belgium | 45.4 |
| 65 | Bosnia and Herzegovina | 45.0 |
| 66 | Slovenia | 44.5 |
| 67 | Israel | 44.5 |
| 68 | South Korea | 44.4 |
| 69 | Italy | 44.0 |
| 70 | Romania | 43.9 |
| 71 | France | 43.9 |
| 72 | Georgia | 43.6 |
| 73 | Slovakia | 43.5 |
| 74 | United Kingdom | 43.3 |
| 75 | Japan | 43.3 |
| 76 | Spain | 43.2 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 77 | Poland | 42.8 |
| 78 | Ireland | 42.6 |
| 79 | Iraq | 42.6 |
| 80 | Cambodia | 42.3 |
| 81 | Iran | 42.1 |
| 82 | Bulgaria | 42.0 |
| 83 | Turkey | 41.7 |
| 84 | Hong Kong | 41.6 |
| 85 | Azerbaijan | 41.2 |
| 86 | Lithuania | 40.9 |
| 87 | Djibouti | 40.4 |
| 88 | Norway | 40.4 |
| 89 | Canada | 39.4 |
| 90 | Hungary | 38.9 |
| 91 | Kazakhstan | 38.5 |
| 92 | Czech Republic | 38.3 |
| 93 | Mauritania | 38.2 |
| 94 | Iceland | 38.1 |
| | | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 95 | Ukraine | 38.1 |
| 96 | Senegal | 38.0 |
| 97 | Greece | 37.6 |
| 98 | Portugal | 37.5 |
| 99 | Uruguay | 37.2 |
| 100 | Ghana | 37.1 |
| 101 | Latvia | 36.7 |
| 102 | Australia | 36.6 |
| 103 | New Zealand | 36.2 |
| 104 | Belarus | 35.7 |
| 105 | Denmark | 35.5 |
| 106 | Mongolia | 35.0 |
| 107 | Malawi | 34.5 |
| 108 | Russia | 34.5 |
| 109 | Chad | 34.3 |
| 110 | Lebanon | 33.6 |
| 111 | Macedonia | 32.7 |
| 112 | Republic of the Congo | 32.4 |
| | | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 113 | Madagascar | 31.5 |
| 114 | United States | 30.7 |
| 115 | Nigeria | 30.3 |
| 116 | Guinea | 30.3 |
| 117 | Uganda | 30.2 |
| 118 | South Africa | 29.7 |
| 119 | Rwanda | 29.6 |
| 120 | Democratic Republic of the Congo | 29.0 |
| 121 | Sudan | 28.5 |
| 122 | Luxembourg | 28.5 |
| 123 | United Arab Emirates | 28.2 |
| 124 | Ethiopia | 28.1 |
| 125 | Kenya | 27.8 |
| 126 | Cameroon | 27.2 |
| 127 | Zambia | 27.2 |
| 128 | Kuwait | 27.0 |
| 129 | Niger | 26.9 |
| 130 | Angola | 26.8 |
| | | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 131 | Estonia | 26.4 |
| 132 | Mali | 25.8 |
| 133 | Mozambique | 24.6 |
| 134 | Benin | 24.6 |
| 135 | Togo | 23.3 |
| 136 | Sierra Leone | 23.1 |
| 137 | Central African Republic | 22.9 |
| 138 | Burkina Faso | 22.4 |
| 139 | Burundi | 21.8 |
| 140 | Namibia | 21.1 |
| 141 | Botswana | 20.9 |
| 142 | Tanzania | 17.8 |
| 143 | Zimbabwe | 16.6 |

***Source:*** *This material is derived from the Happy Planet Index issued by the New Economics Foundation (NEF).*

***Methodology:*** *The methodology for the calculations can be found at URL: http://www.happyplanetindex.org/*

# Status of Women

**Gender Related Development Index (GDI) Rank:**
112th out of 140

**Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM) Rank:**
Not Ranked

**Female Population:**
2.6 million

**Female Life Expectancy at birth:**
60 years

**Total Fertility Rate:**
5.5

**Maternal Mortality Ratio (2000):**
570

**Total Number of Women Living with HIV/AIDS:**
31,000-95,000

**Ever Married Women, Ages 15-19 (%):**
20%

**Mean Age at Time of Marriage:**
21

**Contraceptive Use Among Married Women, Any Method (%):**
26%

**Female Adult Literacy Rate:**
46.9%

**Combined Female Gross enrollment ratio for Primary, Secondary and Tertiary schools:**
52%

**Female-Headed Households (%):**
N/A

**Economically Active Females (%):**
53.5%

**Female Contributing Family Workers (%):**
N/A

**Female Estimated Earned Income:**
$1,092

**Seats in Parliament held by women (%):**
*Lower or Single House:* 6.2%
*Upper House or Senate:* N/A

**Year Women Received the Right to Vote:**
1945

**Year Women Received the Right to Stand for Election:**
1945

*The Gender Development Index (GDI) is a composite index which measures the average achievement in a country. While very similar to the Human Development Index in its use of the same variables, the GDI adjusts the average achievement of each country in terms of life expectancy, enrollment in schools, income, and literacy in accordance to the disparities between males and females.

*The Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM) is a composite index measuring gender inequality in three of the basic dimensions of empowerment; economic participation and decision-making, political participation and decision-making, and power over economic resources.

*Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is defined as the average number of babies born to women during their reproductive years. A TFR of 2.1 is considered the replacement rate; once a TFR of a population reaches 2.1 the population will remain stable assuming no immigration or emigration takes place. When the TFR is greater than 2.1 a population will increase and when it is less than 2.1 a population will eventually decrease, although due to the age structure of a population it will take years before a low TFR is translated into lower population.

*Maternal Mortality Rate is the number of deaths to women per 100,000 live births that resulted from conditions related to pregnancy and or delivery related complications.

*Economically Active Females are the share of the female population, ages 15 and above, whom supply, or are able to supply, labor for the production of goods and services.

*Female Contributing Family Workers are those females who work without pay in an economic enterprise operated by a relative living in the same household.

*Estimated Earned Income is measured according to Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) in US dollars.

## Global Gender Gap Index

Global Gender Gap Index

Editor's Note:

The Global Gender Gap Index by the World Economic Forum ranks most of the world's countries in terms of the division of resources and opportunities among males and females. Specifically, the ranking assesses the gender inequality gap in these four arenas:

1. Economic participation and opportunity (salaries and high skilled employment participation levels)
2. Educational attainment (access to basic and higher level education)
3. Political empowerment (representation in decision-making structures)
4. Health and survival (life expectancy and sex ratio)

| | 2010 rank | 2010 score | 2010 rank among 2009 countries | 2009 rank | 2009 score | 2008 rank | 2008 score | 2007 rank |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Country | | | | | | | | |
| Iceland | 1 | 0.8496 | 1 | 1 | 0.8276 | 4 | 0.7999 | 4 |
| Norway | 2 | 0.8404 | 2 | 3 | 0.8227 | 1 | 0.8239 | 2 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Finland | 3 | 0.8260 | 3 | 2 | 0.8252 | 2 | 0.8195 | 3 |
| Sweden | 4 | 0.8024 | 4 | 4 | 0.8139 | 3 | 0.8139 | 1 |
| New Zealand | 5 | 0.7808 | 5 | 5 | 0.7880 | 5 | 0.7859 | 5 |
| Ireland | 6 | 0.7773 | 6 | 8 | 0.7597 | 8 | 0.7518 | 9 |
| Denmark | 7 | 0.7719 | 7 | 7 | 0.7628 | 7 | 0.7538 | 8 |
| Lesotho | 8 | 0.7678 | 8 | 10 | 0.7495 | 16 | 0.7320 | 26 |
| Philippines | 9 | 0.7654 | 9 | 9 | 0.7579 | 6 | 0.7568 | 6 |
| Switzerland | 10 | 0.7562 | 10 | 13 | 0.7426 | 14 | 0.7360 | 40 |
| Spain | 11 | 0.7554 | 11 | 17 | 0.7345 | 17 | 0.7281 | 10 |
| South Africa | 12 | 0.7535 | 12 | 6 | 0.7709 | 22 | 0.7232 | 20 |
| Germany | 13 | 0.7530 | 13 | 12 | 0.7449 | 11 | 0.7394 | 7 |
| Belgium | 14 | 0.7509 | 14 | 33 | 0.7165 | 28 | 0.7163 | 19 |
| United Kingdom | 15 | 0.7460 | 15 | 15 | 0.7402 | 13 | 0.7366 | 11 |
| Sri Lanka | 16 | 0.7458 | 16 | 16 | 0.7402 | 12 | 0.7371 | 15 |
| Netherlands | 17 | 0.7444 | 17 | 11 | 0.7490 | 9 | 0.7399 | 12 |
| Latvia | 18 | 0.7429 | 18 | 14 | 0.7416 | 10 | 0.7397 | 13 |
| United States | 19 | 0.7411 | 19 | 31 | 0.7173 | 27 | 0.7179 | 31 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Canada | 20 | 0.7372 | 20 | 25 | 0.7196 | 31 | 0.7136 | 18 |
| Trinidad and Tobago | 21 | 0.7353 | 21 | 19 | 0.7298 | 19 | 0.7245 | 46 |
| Mozambique | 22 | 0.7329 | 22 | 26 | 0.7195 | 18 | 0.7266 | 43 |
| Australia | 23 | 0.7271 | 23 | 20 | 0.7282 | 21 | 0.7241 | 17 |
| Cuba | 24 | 0.7253 | 24 | 29 | 0.7176 | 25 | 0.7195 | 22 |
| Namibia | 25 | 0.7238 | 25 | 32 | 0.7167 | 30 | 0.7141 | 29 |
| Luxembourg | 26 | 0.7231 | 26 | 63 | 0.6889 | 66 | 0.6802 | 58 |
| Mongolia | 27 | 0.7194 | 27 | 22 | 0.7221 | 40 | 0.7049 | 62 |
| Costa Rica | 28 | 0.7194 | 28 | 27 | 0.7180 | 32 | 0.7111 | 28 |
| Argentina | 29 | 0.7187 | 29 | 24 | 0.7211 | 24 | 0.7209 | 33 |
| Nicaragua | 30 | 0.7176 | 30 | 49 | 0.7002 | 71 | 0.6747 | 90 |
| Barbados | 31 | 0.7176 | 31 | 21 | 0.7236 | 26 | 0.7188 | n/a |
| Portugal | 32 | 0.7171 | 32 | 46 | 0.7013 | 39 | 0.7051 | 37 |
| Uganda | 33 | 0.7169 | 33 | 40 | 0.7067 | 43 | 0.6981 | 50 |
| Moldova | 34 | 0.7160 | 34 | 36 | 0.7104 | 20 | 0.7244 | 21 |
| Lithuania | 35 | 0.7132 | 35 | 30 | 0.7175 | 23 | 0.7222 | 14 |
| Bahamas | 36 | 0.7128 | 36 | 28 | 0.7179 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Austria | 37 | 0.7091 | 37 | 42 | 0.7031 | 29 | 0.7153 | 27 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Guyana | 38 | 0.7090 | 38 | 35 | 0.7108 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Panama | 39 | 0.7072 | 39 | 43 | 0.7024 | 34 | 0.7095 | 38 |
| Ecuador | 40 | 0.7072 | 40 | 23 | 0.7220 | 35 | 0.7091 | 44 |
| Kazakhstan | 41 | 0.7055 | 41 | 47 | 0.7013 | 45 | 0.6976 | 32 |
| Slovenia | 42 | 0.7047 | 42 | 52 | 0.6982 | 51 | 0.6937 | 49 |
| Poland | 43 | 0.7037 | 43 | 50 | 0.6998 | 49 | 0.6951 | 60 |
| Jamaica | 44 | 0.7037 | 44 | 48 | 0.7013 | 44 | 0.6980 | 39 |
| Russian Federation | 45 | 0.7036 | 45 | 51 | 0.6987 | 42 | 0.6994 | 45 |
| France | 46 | 0.7025 | 46 | 18 | 0.7331 | 15 | 0.7341 | 51 |
| Estonia | 47 | 0.7018 | 47 | 37 | 0.7094 | 37 | 0.7076 | 30 |
| Chile | 48 | 0.7013 | 48 | 64 | 0.6884 | 65 | 0.6818 | 86 |
| Macedonia, FYR | 49 | 0.6996 | 49 | 53 | 0.6950 | 53 | 0.6914 | 35 |
| Bulgaria | 50 | 0.6983 | 50 | 38 | 0.7072 | 36 | 0.7077 | 25 |
| Kyrgyz Republic | 51 | 0.6973 | 51 | 41 | 0.7058 | 41 | 0.7045 | 70 |
| Israel | 52 | 0.6957 | 52 | 45 | 0.7019 | 56 | 0.6900 | 36 |
| Croatia | 53 | 0.6939 | 53 | 54 | 0.6944 | 46 | 0.6967 | 16 |
| Honduras | 54 | 0.6927 | 54 | 62 | 0.6893 | 47 | 0.6960 | 68 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Colombia | 55 | 0.6927 | 55 | 56 | 0.6939 | 50 | 0.6944 | 24 |
| Singapore | 56 | 0.6914 | 56 | 84 | 0.6664 | 84 | 0.6625 | 77 |
| Thailand | 57 | 0.6910 | 57 | 59 | 0.6907 | 52 | 0.6917 | 52 |
| Greece | 58 | 0.6908 | 58 | 85 | 0.6662 | 75 | 0.6727 | 72 |
| Uruguay | 59 | 0.6897 | 59 | 57 | 0.6936 | 54 | 0.6907 | 78 |
| Peru | 60 | 0.6895 | 60 | 44 | 0.7024 | 48 | 0.6959 | 75 |
| China | 61 | 0.6881 | 61 | 60 | 0.6907 | 57 | 0.6878 | 73 |
| Botswana | 62 | 0.6876 | 62 | 39 | 0.7071 | 63 | 0.6839 | 53 |
| Ukraine | 63 | 0.6869 | 63 | 61 | 0.6896 | 62 | 0.6856 | 57 |
| Venezuela | 64 | 0.6863 | 64 | 69 | 0.6839 | 59 | 0.6875 | 55 |
| Czech Republic | 65 | 0.6850 | 65 | 74 | 0.6789 | 69 | 0.6770 | 64 |
| Tanzania | 66 | 0.6829 | 66 | 73 | 0.6797 | 38 | 0.7068 | 34 |
| Romania | 67 | 0.6826 | 67 | 70 | 0.6805 | 70 | 0.6763 | 47 |
| Malawi | 68 | 0.6824 | 68 | 76 | 0.6738 | 81 | 0.6664 | 87 |
| Paraguay | 69 | 0.6804 | 69 | 66 | 0.6868 | 100 | 0.6379 | 69 |
| Ghana | 70 | 0.6782 | 70 | 80 | 0.6704 | 77 | 0.6679 | 63 |
| Slovak Republic | 71 | 0.6778 | 71 | 68 | 0.6845 | 64 | 0.6824 | 54 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Vietnam | 72 | 0.6776 | 72 | 71 | 0.6802 | 68 | 0.6778 | 42 |
| Dominican Republic | 73 | 0.6774 | 73 | 67 | 0.6859 | 72 | 0.6744 | 65 |
| Italy | 74 | 0.6765 | 74 | 72 | 0.6798 | 67 | 0.6788 | 84 |
| Gambia, The | 75 | 0.6762 | 75 | 75 | 0.6752 | 85 | 0.6622 | 95 |
| Bolivia | 76 | 0.6751 | 76 | 82 | 0.6693 | 80 | 0.6667 | 80 |
| Brueni Darussalem | 77 | 0.6748 | 77 | 94 | 0.6524 | 99 | 0.6392 | n/a |
| Albania | 78 | 0.6726 | 78 | 91 | 0.6601 | 87 | 0.6591 | 66 |
| Hungary | 79 | 0.6720 | 79 | 65 | 0.6879 | 60 | 0.6867 | 61 |
| Madagascar | 80 | 0.6713 | 80 | 77 | 0.6732 | 74 | 0.6736 | 89 |
| Angola | 81 | 0.6712 | 81 | 106 | 0.6353 | 114 | 0.6032 | 110 |
| Bangladesh | 82 | 0.6702 | 82 | 93 | 0.6526 | 90 | 0.6531 | 100 |
| Malta | 83 | 0.6695 | 83 | 88 | 0.6635 | 83 | 0.6634 | 76 |
| Armenia | 84 | 0.6669 | 84 | 90 | 0.6619 | 78 | 0.6677 | 71 |
| Brazil | 85 | 0.6655 | 85 | 81 | 0.6695 | 73 | 0.6737 | 74 |
| Cyprus | 86 | 0.6642 | 86 | 79 | 0.6706 | 76 | 0.6694 | 82 |
| Indonesia | 87 | 0.6615 | 87 | 92 | 0.6580 | 93 | 0.6473 | 81 |
| Georgia | 88 | 0.6598 | 88 | 83 | 0.6680 | 82 | 0.6654 | 67 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tajikistan | 89 | 0.6598 | 89 | 86 | 0.6661 | 89 | 0.6541 | 79 |
| El Salvador | 90 | 0.6596 | 90 | 55 | 0.6939 | 58 | 0.6875 | 48 |
| Mexico | 91 | 0.6577 | 91 | 98 | 0.6503 | 97 | 0.6441 | 93 |
| Zimbabwe | 92 | 0.6574 | 92 | 95 | 0.6518 | 92 | 0.6485 | 88 |
| Belize | 93 | 0.6536 | 93 | 87 | 0.6636 | 86 | 0.6610 | 94 |
| Japan | 94 | 0.6524 | 94 | 101 | 0.6447 | 98 | 0.6434 | 91 |
| Mauritius | 95 | 0.6520 | 95 | 96 | 0.6513 | 95 | 0.6466 | 85 |
| Kenya | 96 | 0.6499 | 96 | 97 | 0.6512 | 88 | 0.6547 | 83 |
| Cambodia | 97 | 0.6482 | 97 | 104 | 0.6410 | 94 | 0.6469 | 98 |
| Malaysia | 98 | 0.6479 | 98 | 100 | 0.6467 | 96 | 0.6442 | 92 |
| Maldives | 99 | 0.6452 | 99 | 99 | 0.6482 | 91 | 0.6501 | 99 |
| Azerbaijan | 100 | 0.6446 | 100 | 89 | 0.6626 | 61 | 0.6856 | 59 |
| Senegal | 101 | 0.6414 | 101 | 102 | 0.6427 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Suriname | 102 | 0.6407 | 102 | 78 | 0.6726 | 79 | 0.6674 | 56 |
| United Arab Emirates | 103 | 0.6397 | 103 | 112 | 0.6198 | 105 | 0.6220 | 105 |
| Korea, Rep. | 104 | 0.6342 | 104 | 115 | 0.6146 | 108 | 0.6154 | 97 |
| Kuwait | 105 | 0.6318 | 105 | 105 | 0.6356 | 101 | 0.6358 | 96 |
| Zambia | 106 | 0.6293 | 106 | 107 | 0.6310 | 106 | 0.6205 | 101 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tunisia | 107 | 0.6266 | 107 | 109 | 0.6233 | 103 | 0.6295 | 102 |
| Fiji | 108 | 0.6256 | 108 | 103 | 0.6414 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Guatemala | 109 | 0.6238 | 109 | 111 | 0.6209 | 112 | 0.6072 | 106 |
| Bahrain | 110 | 0.6217 | 110 | 116 | 0.6136 | 121 | 0.5927 | 115 |
| Burkina Faso | 111 | 0.6162 | 111 | 120 | 0.6081 | 115 | 0.6029 | 117 |
| India | 112 | 0.6155 | 112 | 114 | 0.6151 | 113 | 0.6060 | 114 |
| Mauritania | 113 | 0.6152 | 113 | 119 | 0.6103 | 110 | 0.6117 | 111 |
| Cameroon | 114 | 0.6110 | 114 | 118 | 0.6108 | 117 | 0.6017 | 116 |
| Nepal | 115 | 0.6084 | 115 | 110 | 0.6213 | 120 | 0.5942 | 125 |
| Lebanon* | 116 | 0.6084 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Qatar | 117 | 0.6059 | 116 | 125 | 0.5907 | 119 | 0.5948 | 109 |
| Nigeria | 118 | 0.6055 | 117 | 108 | 0.6280 | 102 | 0.6339 | 107 |
| Algeria | 119 | 0.6052 | 118 | 117 | 0.6119 | 111 | 0.6111 | 108 |
| Jordan | 120 | 0.6048 | 119 | 113 | 0.6182 | 104 | 0.6275 | 104 |
| Ethiopia | 121 | 0.6019 | 120 | 122 | 0.5948 | 122 | 0.5867 | 113 |
| Oman | 122 | 0.5950 | 121 | 123 | 0.5938 | 118 | 0.5960 | 119 |
| Iran | 123 | 0.5933 | 122 | 128 | 0.5839 | 116 | 0.6021 | 118 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Syria | 124 | 0.5926 | 123 | 121 | 0.6072 | 107 | 0.6181 | 103 |
| Egypt | 125 | 0.5899 | 124 | 126 | 0.5862 | 124 | 0.5832 | 120 |
| Turkey | 126 | 0.5876 | 125 | 129 | 0.5828 | 123 | 0.5853 | 121 |
| Morocco | 127 | 0.5767 | 126 | 124 | 0.5926 | 125 | 0.5757 | 122 |
| Benin | 128 | 0.5719 | 127 | 131 | 0.5643 | 126 | 0.5582 | 123 |
| Saudi Arabia | 129 | 0.5713 | 128 | 130 | 0.5651 | 128 | 0.5537 | 124 |
| Côte d'Ivoire* | 130 | 0.5691 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Mali | 131 | 0.5680 | 129 | 127 | 0.5860 | 109 | 0.6117 | 112 |
| Pakistan | 132 | 0.5465 | 130 | 132 | 0.5458 | 127 | 0.5549 | 126 |
| Chad | 133 | 0.5330 | 131 | 133 | 0.5417 | 129 | 0.5290 | 127 |
| Yemen | 134 | 0.4603 | 132 | 134 | 0.4609 | 130 | 0.4664 | 128 |
| Belarus | n/a | n/a | n/a | 34 | 0.7141 | 33 | 0.7099 | 23 |
| Uzbekistan | n/a | n/a | n/a | 58 | 0.6913 | 55 | 0.6906 | 41 |
| | | | | | | | | |

*new country 2010

Commentary:

According to the report's index, Nordic countries, such as Iceland, Norway, Finland, and Sweden

have continued to dominate at the top of the ranking for gender equality. Meanwhile, France has seen a notable decline in the ranking, largely as a result of decreased number of women holding ministerial portfolios in that country. In the Americas, the United States has risen in the ranking to top the region, predominantly as a result of a decreasing wage gap, as well as higher number of women holding key positions in the current Obama administration. Canada has continued to remain as one of the top ranking countries of the Americas, followed by the small Caribbean island nation of Trinidad and Tobago, which has the distinction of being among the top three countries of the Americans in the realm of gender equality. Lesotho and South African ranked highly in the index, leading not only among African countries but also in global context. Despite Lesotho still lagging in the area of life expectancy, its high ranking was attributed to high levels of female participation in the labor force and female literacy. The Philippines and Sri Lanka were the top ranking countries for gender equality for Asia, ranking highly also in global context. The Philippines has continued to show strong performance in all strong performance on all four dimensions (detailed above) of the index. Finally, in the Arab world, the United Arab Emirates held the highest-rank within that region of the world; however, its placement near the bottom of the global list highlights the fact that Arab countries are generally poor performers when it comes to the matter of gender equality in global scope.

Source:

This data is derived from the latest edition of The Global Gender Gap Report by the World Economic Forum.

Available at URL:

http://www.weforum.org/en/Communities/Women%20Leaders%20and%20Gender%20Parity/Gende

Updated:

Based on latest available data as set forth in chart; reviewed in 2014

# Culture and Arts

**Content coming soon.**

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# Etiquette

**Cultural Dos and Taboos**

1. Expect to bargain in the marketplace.

2. Always ask before photographing people.

3. Dress modestly.

4. Suggested topics of conversation include culture, sightseeing and sports.

# Travel Information

**Please Note**

**This is a generalized travel guide and it is intended to coalesce several resources, which a traveler might find useful, regardless of a particular destination. As such, it does not include travel warnings for specific "hot spot" destinations.**

**For travel alerts and warnings, please see the United States Department of State's listings available at URL:**
**http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/alertswarnings.html**

**Please note that travel to the following countries, based on these warnings, is ill-advised, or should be undertaken with the utmost precaution:**

**Afghanistan, Algeria, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea, Honduras, Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, North Korea, Pakistan, Palestinian Territories of West Bank and Gaza,**

**Philippines areas of Sulu Archipelago, Mindanao, and southern Sulu Sea, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, Venezuela, and Yemen.**

## International Travel Guide

### Checklist for Travelers

**1.** Take out travel insurance to cover hospital treatment or medical evacuation. Overseas medical costs are expensive to most international travelers, where one's domestic, nationalized or even private health insurance plans will not provide coverage outside one's home country. Learn about "reciprocal insurance plans" that some international health care companies might offer.
**2.** Make sure that one's travel insurance is appropriate. If one intends to indulge in adventurous activities, such as parasailing, one should be sure that one is fully insured in such cases. Many traditional insurance policies do not provide coverage in cases of extreme circumstances.
**3.** Take time to learn about one's destination country and culture. Read and learn about the place one is traveling. Also check political, economic and socio-cultural developments at the destination by reading country-specific travel reports and fact sheets noted below.
**4.** Get the necessary visas for the country (or countries) one intends to visit - but be aware that a visa does not guarantee entry. A number of useful sites regarding visa and other entry requirements are noted below.
**5.** Keep in regular contact with friends and relatives back at home by phone or email, and be sure to leave a travel itinerary.
**6.** Protect one's personal information by making copies of one's passport details, insurance policy, travelers checks and credit card numbers. Taking copies of such documents with you, while leaving another collection copies with someone at home is also good practice for travelers. Taking copies of one's passport photograph is also recommended.
**7.** Stay healthy by taking all possible precautions against illness. Also, be sure to take extra supplies of prescription drugs along for the trip, while also taking time to pack general pharmaceutical supplies, such as aspirin and other such painkillers, bandages, stomach ailment medication, anti-inflammatory medication and anti-bacterial medication.
**8.** Do not carry illicit drugs. Understand that the punishment for possession or use of illegal drugs in some countries may be capital punishment. Make sure your prescription drugs are legal in the countries you plan to visit.
**9.** Know the laws of one's destination country and culture; be sure to understand the repercussions of breaking those laws and regulations. Often the transparency and freedoms of the juridical system at home is not consistent with that of one's destination country. Become aware of these complexities and subtleties before you travel.
**10.** For longer stays in a country, or where the security situation is volatile, one should register

one's self and traveling companions at the local embassy or consulate of one's country of citizenship.
**11.** Women should take care to be prepared both culturally and practically for traveling in a different country and culture. One should be sure to take sufficient supplies of personal feminine products and prescription drugs. One should also learn about local cultural standards for women, including norms of dressing. Be aware that it is simply inappropriate and unsafe for women to travel alone in some countries, and take the necessary precautions to avoid risk-filled situations.
**12.** If one is traveling with small children, one should pack extra supplies, make arrangements with the travel carrier for proper seating that would adequately accommodate children, infants or toddlers. Note also that whether one is male of female, traveling with children means that one's hands are thus not free to carry luggage and bags. Be especially aware that this makes one vulnerable to pickpockets, thieves and other sorts of crime.
**13.** Make proper arrangements for accommodations, well in advance of one's arrival at a destination. Some countries have limited accommodation, while others may have culturally distinctive facilities. Learning about these practicalities before one travels will greatly aid the enjoyment of one's trip.
**14.** Travel with different forms of currency and money (cash, traveler's checks and credit cards) in anticipation that venues may not accept one or another form of money. Also, ensuring that one's financial resources are not contained in one location, or by one person (if one is traveling with others) can be a useful measure, in the event that one loses a wallet or purse.
**15.** Find out about transportation in the destination country. In some places, it might be advisable to hire a local driver or taxi guide for safety reasons, while in other countries, enjoying one's travel experience may well be enhanced by renting a vehicle and seeing the local sights and culture independently. Costs may also be prohibitive for either of these choices, so again, prior planning is suggested.

## Tips for Travelers

A passport and visa are required. Travelers should obtain visas prior to arrival, as only visas of limited validity are available at the airport and some border posts. Travelers applying for visa extensions have experienced significant delays. Travelers may obtain the latest information and details from the nearest Embassy of the Republic of Togo

In an effort to prevent international child abduction, many governments have initiated procedures at entry/exit points. These often include requiring documentary evidence of relationship and permission for the child's travel from the parent(s) or legal guardian not present. Having such documentation on hand, even if not required, may facilitate entry/departure.

Togo has experienced periodic violence, strikes, and political tensions since 1990. These periods of unrest often lead to a clampdown by security forces, particularly in Lome. In addition, the

government has in the past been known to open/close its border with Ghana from time to time. Motorists should be prepared to stop at numerous police checkpoints in Lome and upcountry. Visitors should avoid political rallies and street demonstrations and maintain security awareness at all times. When driving, keep windows rolled up and doors locked. If possible, carry a working mobile phone in your car.

Pickpocketing and theft are common, especially along the beach and in the market areas of Lome. Residential burglary is becoming more common, as are carjackings.

The loss or theft abroad of a passport should be reported immediately to local police and the nearest appropriate embassy or consulate.

Medical facilities in Togo are limited. There is no emergency medical care. While some medicines are available through local pharmacies, travelers should carry needed prescription medicines and medication with them.

When making a decision regarding health insurance, you should consider that many foreign doctors and hospitals require payment in cash prior to providing service and that a medical evacuation back to your country can be very expensive. Uninsured travelers who require medical care overseas often face extreme difficulties. When consulting with your insurer prior to your trip, ascertain whether payment will be made to the overseas healthcare provider or whether you will be reimbursed later for expenses you incur. Some insurance policies also include coverage for psychiatric treatment and for disposition of remains in the event of death.

Malaria is endemic in Togo, and anti-malaria prophylaxis is strongly recommended. Travelers who contract malaria while taking an anti-malaria prophylaxis should discuss their treatment options with their physician due to potentially fatal drug interactions between treatment drugs commonly used in Togo and the prophylaxis.

While in a foreign country, you may encounter road conditions that differ significantly from those in your own country. The information below concerning Togo is provided for general reference only, and may not be totally accurate in a particular location or circumstance.

Safety of Public Transportation: Poor
Urban Road Conditions/Maintenance: Poor
Rural Road Conditions/Maintenance: Poor
Availability of Roadside Assistance: Poor

Urban roads are generally paved, but driving conditions are hazardous due to the presence of pedestrians and livestock on the roadways. Overland travel off the main network of roads generally requires a four-wheel-drive vehicle. Poorly marked armed checkpoints, often manned by

undisciplined soldiers, exist throughout the country.

Nighttime travel on unfamiliar roads is dangerous. Banditry, including demands for bribes at checkpoints, has been reported on major inter-city highways, including the Lome-Cotonou coastal highway. The presence of many small motorbikes and poorly maintained vehicles add to the danger of driving in Togo. Travelers are advised to be aware of their surroundings, and drive defensively.

Visitors should also be aware of the possibility of staged accidents when driving in Lome. Motorbikes have been known to cut in front of a vehicle, cause a collision, and draw a crowd, which can turn hostile if you attempt to leave the scene of the so-called accident. Such encounters appear designed to extort money from the vehicle driver. Pedestrians can also cause staged accidents. Travelers should drive with their doors locked and windows closed, and have a radio or cell phone in the vehicle. If you are involved in this kind of accident and can drive away, leave the scene, drive to a safe location, and alert both the police and the appropriate embassy.

Although Togo is taking measures to increase its energy-generating capacity, tourist facilities, especially those upcountry, often experience power outages.

Only certain credit cards are accepted in Togo. Most major hotels and the restaurants attached to them accept American Express, MasterCard, and Visa, while smaller hotels and restaurants do not. Travelers planning to use credit cards should know which cards are accepted before they commit to any transaction. Keep all credit card receipts, as unauthorized card use and overcharging are common.

While in a foreign country, you are subject to that country's laws and regulations. Persons violating Togolese law, even unknowingly, may be expelled, arrested or imprisoned. Penalties for possession, use, or trafficking in illegal drugs in Togo are strict and convicted offenders can expect jail sentences and heavy fines.

Taking pictures of, or near, government or military buildings is strictly prohibited. Government buildings may not always be clearly identifiable, as they vary from very well marked to not marked at all. In addition, taking pictures of government or military personnel is strictly prohibited. Cameras and film may be confiscated.

Note: This information is directly quoted from the United States Department of State Consular Information Sheet.

Sources: *United States Department of State Consular Information Sheet*

**Business Culture: Information for Business Travelers**

Doing business in Togo is similar to doing business in other developing countries. The personal touch is often necessary. Official corruption in Togo was formerly much less prevalent than in many other African countries, but the years of economic difficulty have brought an increase in requests for bribes and "gifts" in order to get business done.

Sources: *United States Department of State Commercial Guides*

**Online Resources Regarding Entry Requirements and Visas**

Foreign Entry Requirements for Americans from the United States Department of State
http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1765.html

Visa Services for Non-Americans from the United States Department of State
http://travel.state.gov/visa/visa_1750.html

Visa Bulletins from the United States Department of State
http://travel.state.gov/visa/frvi/bulletin/bulletin_1360.html

Visa Waivers from the United States Department of State
http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/without/without_1990.html - new

Passport and Visa Information from the Government of the United Kingdom
http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/

Visa Information from the Government of Australia
http://www.dfat.gov.au/visas/index.html

Passport Information from the Government of Australia
https://www.passports.gov.au/Web/index.aspx

Passport Information from the Government of Canada
http://www.voyage.gc.ca/preparation_information/passport_passeport-eng.asp

Visa Information from the Government of Canada

http://www.voyage.gc.ca/preparation_information/visas-eng.asp

Online Visa Processing by Immigration Experts by VisaPro
http://www.visapro.com

Sources: United States Department of State, United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Government of Australia: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Government of Canada Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade

Useful Online Resources for Travelers

Country-Specific Travel Information from United States
http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1765.html

Travel Advice by Country from Government of United Kingdom
http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travelling-and-living-overseas/travel-advice-by-country/

General Travel Advice from Government of Australia
http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/zw-cgi/view/Advice/General

Travel Bulletins from the Government of Australia
http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/zw-cgi/view/TravelBulletins/

Travel Tips from Government of Australia
http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/tips/index.html

Travel Checklist by Government of Canada
http://www.voyage.gc.ca/preparation_information/checklist_sommaire-eng.asp

Travel Checklist from Government of United Kingdom
http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travelling-and-living-overseas/staying-safe/checklist

Your trip abroad from United States Department of State
http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/brochures/brochures_1225.html

A safe trip abroad from United States Department of State
http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/safety/safety_1747.html

Tips for expatriates abroad from United States Department of State
http://travel.state.gov/travel/living/residing/residing_1235.html

Tips for students from United States Department of State
http://travel.state.gov/travel/living/studying/studying_1238.html http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/broch

Medical information for travelers from United States Department of State
http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/health/health_1185.html

US Customs Travel information
http://www.customs.gov/xp/cgov/travel/

Sources: United States Department of State; United States Customs Department, United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Government of Australia; Government of Canada: Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade

Other Practical Online Resources for Travelers

Foreign Language Phrases for Travelers
http://www.travlang.com/languages/
http://www.omniglot.com/language/phrases/index.htm

World Weather Forecasts
http://www.intellicast.com/
http://www.wunderground.com/
http://www.worldweather.org/

Worldwide Time Zones, Map, World Clock
http://www.timeanddate.com/
http://www.worldtimezone.com/

International Airport Codes
http://www.world-airport-codes.com/

International Dialing Codes
http://www.kropla.com/dialcode.htm
http://www.countrycallingcodes.com/

International Phone Guide
http://www.kropla.com/phones.htm

International Mobile Phone Guide

http://www.kropla.com/mobilephones.htm

International Internet Café Search Engine
http://cybercaptive.com/

Global Internet Roaming
http://www.kropla.com/roaming.htm

World Electric Power Guide
http://www.kropla.com/electric.htm
http://www.kropla.com/electric2.htm

World Television Standards and Codes
http://www.kropla.com/tv.htm
International Currency Exchange Rates
http://www.xe.com/ucc/

Banking and Financial Institutions Across the World
http://www.123world.com/banks/index.html

International Credit Card or Automated Teller Machine (ATM) Locator
http://visa.via.infonow.net/locator/global/
http://www.mastercard.com/us/personal/en/cardholderservices/atmlocations/index.html

International Chambers of Commerce
http://www.123world.com/chambers/index.html

World Tourism Websites
http://123world.com/tourism/

Diplomatic and Consular Information

United States Diplomatic Posts Around the World
http://www.usembassy.gov/

United Kingdom Diplomatic Posts Around the World
http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-the-fco/embassies-and-posts/find-an-embassy-overseas/

Australia's Diplomatic Posts Around the World
http://www.dfat.gov.au/missions/

http://www.dfat.gov.au/embassies.html

Canada's Embassies and High Commissions
http://www.international.gc.ca/ciw-cdm/embassies-ambassades.aspx

Resources for Finding Embassies and other Diplomatic Posts Across the World
http://www.escapeartist.com/embassy1/embassy1.htm

Safety and Security

Travel Warnings by Country from Government of Australia
http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/zw-cgi/view/Advice/

Travel Warnings and Alerts from United States Department of State
http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html
http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_1766.html

Travel Reports and Warnings by Government of Canada
http://www.voyage.gc.ca/countries_pays/menu-eng.asp
http://www.voyage.gc.ca/countries_pays/updates_mise-a-jour-eng.asp

Travel Warnings from Government of United Kingdom
http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travelling-and-living-overseas/travel-advice-by-country/
http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travelling-and-living-overseas/travel-advice-by-country/?action=noTravelAll#noTravelAll

Sources: United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the United States Department of State, the Government of Canada: Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Government of Australia: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Other Safety and Security Online Resources for Travelers

United States Department of State Information on Terrorism
http://www.state.gov/s/ct/

Government of the United Kingdom Resource on the Risk of Terrorism
http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1044011304926

Government of Canada Terrorism Guide

http://www.international.gc.ca/crime/terrorism-terrorisme.aspx?lang=eng

Information on Terrorism by Government of Australia
http://www.dfat.gov.au/icat/index.html

FAA Resource on Aviation Safety
http://www.faasafety.gov/

In-Flight Safety Information for Air Travel (by British Airways crew trainer, Anna Warman)
http://www.warman.demon.co.uk/anna/inflight.html

Hot Spots: Travel Safety and Risk Information
http://www.airsecurity.com/hotspots/HotSpots.asp

Information on Human Rights
http://www.state.gov/g/drl/hr/

Sources: The United States Department of State, the United States Customs Department, the Government of Canada, the Government of United Kingdom, the Government of Australia, the Federal Aviation Authority, Anna Warman's In-flight Website, Hot Spots Travel and Risk Information

# Diseases/Health Data

**Please Note: Most of the entry below constitutes a generalized health advisory, which a traveler might find useful, regardless of a particular destination.**

**As a supplement, however, the reader will also find below a list of countries flagged with current health notices and alerts issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Please note that travel to the following countries, based on these 3 levels of**

**warnings, is ill-advised, or should be undertaken with the utmost precaution:**

**Level 3 (highest level of concern; avoid non-essential travel) --**

**Guinea - Ebola**
**Liberia - Ebola**
**Nepal - Eathquake zone**
**Sierra Leone - Ebola**

**Level 2 (intermediate level of concern; use utmost caution during travel) --**

**Cameroon - Polio**
**Somalia - Polio**
**Vanuatu - Tropical Cyclone zone**
**Throughout Middle East and Arabia Peninsula - MERS ((Middle East Respiratory Syndrome)**

**Level 1 (standard level of concern; use practical caution during travel) -**

**Australia - Ross River disease**
**Bosnia-Herzegovina - Measles**
**Brazil - Dengue Fever**
**Brazil - Malaria**
**Brazil - Zika**
**China - H7N9 Avian flu**
**Cuba - Cholera**
**Egypt - H5N1 Bird flu**
**Ethiopia - Measles**
**Germany - Measles**
**Japan - Hand, foot, and mouth disease (HFMD)**
**Kyrgyzstan - Measles**
**Malaysia -Dengue Fever**
**Mexico - Chikungunya**
**Mexico - Hepatitis A**
**Nigeria - Meningitis**
**Philippines - Measles**
**Scotland - Mumps**
**Singapore - Hand, foot, and mouth disease (HFMD)**
**South Korea - MERS ((Middle East Respiratory Syndrome)**
**Throughout Caribbean - Chikungunya**
**Throughout Central America - Chikungunya**

**Throughout South America - Chikungunya**
**Throughout Pacific Islands - Chikungunya**

**For specific information related to these health notices and alerts please see the CDC's listing available at URL:**
**http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices**

***

**Health Information for Travelers to Togo**

Food and waterborne diseases are the number one cause of illness in travelers. Travelers' diarrhea can be caused by viruses, bacteria, or parasites, which are found throughout the region and can contaminate food or water. Infections may cause diarrhea and vomiting (*E. coli, Salmonella*, cholera, and parasites), fever (typhoid fever and toxoplasmosis), or liver damage (hepatitis). Make sure your food and drinking water are safe. (See below.)

Malaria is a preventable infection that can be fatal if left untreated. Prevent infection by taking prescription antimalarial drugs and protecting yourself against mosquito bites (see below). Most travelers to malaria risk areas in this region should take mefloquine to prevent malaria. Your risk of malaria is high in all parts of these countries, including cities, except for most of the Cape Verde Islands. For more detailed information about the risk in specific locations, see Malaria in West Africa (http://www.cdc.gov/travel/regionalmalaria/wafrica.htm).

Yellow fever vaccination is recommended and may be required for entry into certain of these countries. If you travel to West Africa, the easiest and safest thing to do is get a yellow fever vaccination and a signed certificate. For detailed information, see Comprehensive Yellow Fever Vaccination Requirements (http://www.cdc.gov/travel/yelfever.htm).

Dengue, filariasis, leishmaniasis, onchocerciasis, and trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness) are diseases carried by insects that also occur in this region. Protecting yourself against insect bites (see below) will help to prevent these diseases.

Schistosomiasis, a parasitic infection, is found in fresh water in the region. Do not swim in fresh water (except in well-chlorinated swimming pools) in these countries. (For more information, please see the Swimming Precautions on the Making Travel Safe page at URL http://www.cdc.gov/travel/safety.htm.)

Because motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of injury among travelers, walk and drive defensively. Avoid nighttime travel if possible and always use seat belts.

**CDC Recommends the Following Vaccines (as Appropriate for Age):**

See your doctor at least 4-6 weeks before your trip to allow time for shots to take effect.

• Hepatitis A or immune globulin (IG).
• Hepatitis B, if you might be exposed to blood (for example, health-care workers), have sexual contact with the local population, stay longer than 6 months, or be exposed through medical treatment.
• Meningococcal meningitis, for travel to most of these countries (see meningitis map at URL http://www.cdc.gov/travel/meninmap.htm) from December through June.
• Yellow fever.
• Rabies, if you might be exposed to wild or domestic animals through your work or recreation.
• Typhoid, particularly if you are visiting developing countries in this region.
• As needed, booster doses for tetanus-diphtheria, measles, and a one-time dose of polio vaccine for adults. Hepatitis B vaccine is now recommended for all infants and for children ages 11-12 years who did not complete the series as infants.

**To Stay Healthy, Do:**

• Wash hands often with soap and water.
• Drink only bottled or boiled water, or carbonated (bubbly) drinks in cans or bottles. Avoid tap water, fountain drinks, and ice cubes. If this is not possible, make water safer by BOTH filtering through an "absolute 1-micron or less" filter AND adding iodine tablets to the filtered water. "Absolute 1-micron filters" are found in camping/outdoor supply stores.
• Eat only thoroughly cooked food or fruits and vegetables you have peeled yourself. Remember: boil it, cook it, peel it, or forget it.
• Take your malaria prevention medication before, during, and after travel, as directed. (See your doctor for a prescription.)
• Protect yourself from insects by remaining in well-screened areas, using repellents (applied sparingly at 4-hour intervals) and permethrin-impregnated mosquito nets, and wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants from dusk through dawn.
• To prevent fungal and parasitic infections, keep feet clean and dry, and do not go barefoot.
• Always use latex condoms to reduce the risk of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases.

**To Avoid Getting Sick:**

• Don't eat food purchased from street vendors.
• Don't drink beverages with ice.

• Don't eat dairy products unless you know they have been pasteurized.
• Don't share needles with anyone.
• Don't handle animals (especially monkeys, dogs, and cats), to avoid bites and serious diseases (including rabies and plague). (For more information, please see the Animal-Associated Hazards on the Making Travel Safe page.)
• Don't swim in fresh water. Salt water is usually safer. (For more information, please see the Swimming Precautions on the Making Travel Safe page.)

**What You Need To Bring with You:**

• Long-sleeved shirt and long pants to wear while outside whenever possible, to prevent illnesses carried by insects (e.g., malaria, dengue, filariasis, leishmaniasis, and onchocerciasis).
• Insect repellent containing DEET (diethylmethyltoluamide), in 30%-35% strength for adults and 6%-10% for children. Unless you are staying in air-conditioned or well-screened housing, purchase a bed net impregnated with the insecticide permethrin. (Bed nets can be purchased in camping or military supply stores.)
• Over-the-counter antidiarrheal medicine to take if you have diarrhea.
• Iodine tablets and water filters to purify water if bottled water is not available. See Do's above for more details about water filters.
• Sunblock, sunglasses, hat.
• Prescription medications: make sure you have enough to last during your trip, as well as a copy of the prescription(s).

**After You Return Home:**

If you have visited an area where there is risk for malaria, continue taking your malaria medication weekly for 4 weeks after you leave the area.
If you become ill after your trip-even as long as a year after you return-tell your doctor where you have traveled.

**For More Information:**

Ask your doctor or check the CDC web sites for more information about how to protect yourself against diseases that occur in West Africa, such as:

**For information about diseases-**

Carried by Insects
Dengue, Malaria, Yellow Fever

Carried in Food or Water

Cholera, *Escherichia coli,* diarrhea, Hepatitis A, Schistosomiasis, Typhoid Fever

Person-to-Person Contact
Hepatitis B, HIV/AIDS

For more information about these and other diseases, please check the Diseases (http://www.cdc.gov/travel/diseases.htm) section and the Health Topics A-Z (http://www.cdc.gov/health/diseases.htm).

An outbreak of meningitis occurred in recent years in several central, east, and west African countries, including Ethiopia, Chad, Cameroon, Burkino Faso, and Benin. For more information on this outbreak and recommendations, see the following sites:

Travelers' Health Information on Meningococcal Disease
(http://www.cdc.gov/travel/diseases/menin.htm)

World Health Organization Disease Outbreak News
(http://www.who.int/disease-outbreak-news/)

*Note:*

*This country is located in the West Africa health region.*

*Sources:*

*The Center for Disease Control Destinations Website:*
*http://www.cdc.gov/travel/indianrg.htm*

# Chapter 6

# Environmental Overview

# Environmental Issues

**General Overview:**

On the coastline, Togo has experienced a host of environmental problems including coastal and water pollution, while internally, it suffers from deforestation, and the associated problem of soil erosion. The problem of deforestation and the depletion of arable land are both exacerbated by the slash-and-burn agricultural techniques used to clear the dense forests for fuelwood.

**Current Issues:**

-deforestation
-depletion of arable land
-coastal pollution
-water pollution
-soil erosion

**Total Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Mtc):**

1.6

**Country Rank (GHG output):**

143rd

**Natural Hazards:**

-hot, dry harmattan winds (can reduce visibility in the north during the winter)
-periodic droughts

# Environmental Policy

**Regulation and Jurisdiction:**

The regulation and protection of the environment in Togo is under the jurisdiction of the following:

- Ministry of the Environment and Forest Resources
- Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Breeding and Fisheries

**Major Non-Governmental Organizations:**

N/A

**International Environmental Accords:**

*Party to:*

- Biodiversity
- Climate Change
- Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol
- Desertification
- Endangered Species
- Law of the Sea
- Nuclear Test Ban
- Ozone Layer Protection
- Ship Pollution
- Tropical Timber 83
- Tropical Timber 94
- Wetlands

*Signed but not ratified:*

- None

*Kyoto Protocol Status (year ratified):*

2004

## Greenhouse Gas Ranking

Greenhouse Gas Ranking

### GHG Emissions Rankings

| Country Rank | Country |
|---|---|
| 1 | United States |
| 2 | China |
| 4 | Russia |
| 5 | Japan |
| 6 | India |
| 7 | Germany |
| 8 | United Kingdom |

| | |
|---|---|
| 9 | Canada |
| 10 | Korea, South |
| 11 | Italy |
| 12 | Mexico |
| 13 | France |
| 14 | South Africa |
| 15 | Iran |
| 16 | Indonesia |
| 17 | Australia |
| 18 | Spain |
| 19 | Brazil |
| 20 | Saudi Arabia |
| 21 | Ukraine |
| 22 | Poland |
| 23 | Taiwan |
| 24 | Turkey |
| 25 | Thailand |
| 26 | Netherlands |
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|---|---|
| 27 | Kazakhstan |
| 28 | Malaysia |
| 29 | Egypt |
| 30 | Venezuela |
| 31 | Argentina |
| 32 | Uzbekistan |
| 33 | Czech Republic |
| 34 | Belgium |
| 35 | Pakistan |
| 36 | Romania |
| 37 | Greece |
| 38 | United Arab Emirates |
| 39 | Algeria |
| 40 | Nigeria |
| 41 | Austria |
| 42 | Iraq |
| 43 | Finland |
| 44 | Philippines |
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|---|---|
| 45 | Vietnam |
| 46 | Korea, North |
| 47 | Israel |
| 48 | Portugal |
| 49 | Colombia |
| 50 | Belarus |
| 51 | Kuwait |
| 52 | Hungary |
| 53 | Chile |
| 54 | Denmark |
| 55 | Serbia & Montenegro |
| 56 | Sweden |
| 57 | Syria |
| 58 | Libya |
| 59 | Bulgaria |
| 60 | Singapore |
| 61 | Switzerland |
| 62 | Ireland |
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|---|---|
| 63 | Turkmenistan |
| 64 | Slovakia |
| 65 | Bangladesh |
| 66 | Morocco |
| 67 | New Zealand |
| 68 | Oman |
| 69 | Qatar |
| 70 | Azerbaijan |
| 71 | Norway |
| 72 | Peru |
| 73 | Cuba |
| 74 | Ecuador |
| 75 | Trinidad & Tobago |
| 76 | Croatia |
| 77 | Tunisia |
| 78 | Dominican Republic |
| 79 | Lebanon |
| 80 | Estonia |
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|---|---|
| 81 | Yemen |
| 82 | Jordan |
| 83 | Slovenia |
| 84 | Bahrain |
| 85 | Angola |
| 86 | Bosnia & Herzegovina |
| 87 | Lithuania |
| 88 | Sri Lanka |
| 89 | Zimbabwe |
| 90 | Bolivia |
| 91 | Jamaica |
| 92 | Guatemala |
| 93 | Luxembourg |
| 94 | Myanmar |
| 95 | Sudan |
| 96 | Kenya |
| 97 | Macedonia |
| 98 | Mongolia |
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|---|---|
| 99 | Ghana |
| 100 | Cyprus |
| 101 | Moldova |
| 102 | Latvia |
| 103 | El Salvador |
| 104 | Brunei |
| 105 | Honduras |
| 106 | Cameroon |
| 107 | Panama |
| 108 | Costa Rica |
| 109 | Cote d'Ivoire |
| 110 | Kyrgyzstan |
| 111 | Tajikistan |
| 112 | Ethiopia |
| 113 | Senegal |
| 114 | Uruguay |
| 115 | Gabon |
| 116 | Albania |
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|---|---|
| 117 | Nicaragua |
| 118 | Botswana |
| 119 | Paraguay |
| 120 | Tanzania |
| 121 | Georgia |
| 122 | Armenia |
| 123 | Congo, RC |
| 124 | Mauritius |
| 125 | Nepal |
| 126 | Mauritius |
| 127 | Nepal |
| 128 | Mauritania |
| 129 | Malta |
| 130 | Papua New Guinea |
| 131 | Zambia |
| 132 | Suriname |
| 133 | Iceland |
| 134 | Togo |
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|---|---|
| 135 | Benin |
| 136 | Uganda |
| 137 | Bahamas |
| 138 | Haiti |
| 139 | Congo, DRC |
| 140 | Guyana |
| 141 | Mozambique |
| 142 | Guinea |
| 143 | Equatorial Guinea |
| 144 | Laos |
| 145 | Barbados |
| 146 | Niger |
| 147 | Fiji |
| 148 | Burkina Faso |
| 149 | Malawi |
| 150 | Swaziland |
| 151 | Belize |
| 152 | Afghanistan |
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|---|---|
| 153 | Sierra Leone |
| 154 | Eritrea |
| 155 | Rwanda |
| 156 | Mali |
| 157 | Seychelles |
| 158 | Cambodia |
| 159 | Liberia |
| 160 | Bhutan |
| 161 | Maldives |
| 162 | Antigua & Barbuda |
| 163 | Djibouti |
| 164 | Saint Lucia |
| 165 | Gambia |
| 166 | Guinea-Bissau |
| 167 | Central African Republic |
| 168 | Palau |
| 169 | Burundi |
| 170 | Grenada |
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|---|---|
| 171 | Lesotho |
| 172 | Saint Vincent & the Grenadines |
| 173 | Solomon Islands |
| 174 | Samoa |
| 175 | Cape Verde |
| 176 | Nauru |
| 177 | Dominica |
| 178 | Saint Kitts & Nevis |
| 179 | Chad |
| 180 | Tonga |
| 181 | Sao Tome & Principe |
| 182 | Comoros |
| 183 | Vanuatu |
| 185 | Kiribati |
| Not Ranked | Andorra |
| Not Ranked | East Timor |
| Not Ranked | Holy See |
| Not Ranked | Hong Kong |
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|---|---|
| Not Ranked | Liechtenstein |
| Not Ranked | Marshall Islands |
| Not Ranked | Micronesia |
| Not Ranked | Monaco |
| Not Ranked | San Marino |
| Not Ranked | Somalia |
| Not Ranked | Tuvalu |

* European Union is ranked 3rd
Cook Islands are ranked 184th
Niue is ranked 186th

# Global Environmental Snapshot

## Introduction

The countries of the world face many environmental challenges in common. Nevertheless, the nature and intensity of problem vary from region to region, as do various countries' respective capacities, in terms of affluence and infrastructure, to remediate threats to environmental quality.

Consciousness of perils affecting the global environment came to the fore in the last third or so of the 20th century has continued to intensify well into the new millennium. According to the United Nations Environment Programme, considerable environmental progress has been made at the level of institutional developments, international cooperation accords, and public participation. Approximately two-dozen international environmental protection accords with global implications have been promulgated since the late 1970s under auspices of the United Nations and other international organizations, together with many additional regional agreements. Attempts to address and rectify environmental problems take the form of legal frameworks, economic instruments,

environmentally sound technologies and cleaner production processes as well as conservation efforts. Environmental impact assessments have increasingly been applied across the globe.

Environmental degradation affects the quality, or aesthetics, of human life, but it also displays potential to undermine conditions necessary for the sustainability of human life. Attitudes toward the importance of environmental protection measures reflect ambivalence derived from this bifurcation. On one hand, steps such as cleaning up pollution, dedicating parkland, and suchlike, are seen as embellishments undertaken by wealthy societies already assured they can successfully perform those functions deemed, ostensibly, more essential-for instance, public health and education, employment and economic development. On the other hand, in poorer countries, activities causing environmental damage-for instance the land degradation effects of unregulated logging, slash-and-burn agriculture, overgrazing, and mining-can seem justified insofar as such activities provide incomes and livelihoods.

Rapid rates of resource depletion are associated with poverty and high population growth, themselves correlated, whereas consumption per capita is much higher in the most developed countries, despite these nations' recent progress in energy efficiency and conservation. It is impossible to sequester the global environmental challenge from related economic, social and political challenges.

First-tier industrialized countries have recently achieved measurable decreases in environmental pollution and the rate of resource depletion, a success not matched in middle income and developing countries. It is believed that the discrepancy is due to the fact that industrialized countries have more developed infrastructures to accommodate changes in environmental policy, to apply environmental technologies, and to invest in public education. The advanced industrialized countries incur relatively lower costs in alleviating environmental problems, in comparison to developing countries, since in the former even extensive environmental programs represent a rather minuscule percentage of total expenditures. Conversely, budget constraints, lagged provision of basic services to the population, and other factors such as debt service and militarization may preclude institution of minimal environmental protection measures in the poorest countries.

A synopsis for the current situation facing each region of the world follows:

## Regional Synopsis: Africa

The African continent, the world's second-largest landmass, encompasses many of the world's least developed countries. By global standards, urbanization is comparatively low but rising at a rapid rate. More heavily industrialized areas at the northern and southern ends of the continent experience the major share of industrial pollution. In other regions the most serious environmental problems typically stem from inefficient subsistence farming methods and other forms of land

degradation, which have affected an increasingly extensive area under pressure of a widely impoverished, fast-growing population. Africa's distribution of natural resources is very uneven. It is the continent at greatest risk of desertification, especially in the Sahel region at the edge of the Sahara but also in other dry-range areas. Yet at the same time, Africa also harbors some of the earth's richest and most diverse biological zones.

Key Points:

Up to half a billion hectares of African land are moderately to severely degraded, an occurrence reflecting short-fallow shifting cultivation and overgrazing as well as a climatic pattern of recurrent droughts.

Soil degradation is severe along the expanse directly south of the Sahara, from the west to the east coasts. Parts of southern Africa, central-eastern Africa, and the neighboring island of Madagascar suffer from serious soil degradation as well.

Africa contains about 17 percent of the world's forest cover, concentrated in the tropical belt of the continent. Many of the forests, however, are severely depleted, with an estimated 70 percent showing some degree of degradation.

Population growth has resulted in continuing loss of arable land, as inefficient subsistence farming techniques affect increasingly extensive areas. Efforts to implement settled, sustainable agriculture have met with some recent success, but much further progress in this direction is needed. Especially in previously uninhabited forestlands, concern over deforestation is intensifying.

By contrast, the African savanna remains the richest grassland in the world, supporting a substantial concentration of animal and plant life. Wildlife parks are sub-Saharan Africa's greatest tourist attraction, and with proper management-giving local people a stake in conservation and controlling the pace of development-could greatly enhance African economies.

Significant numbers of mammal species in parts of northern, southern and eastern Africa are currently threatened, while the biological diversity in Mauritania and Madagascar is even further compromised with over 20 percent of the mammal species in these two countries currently under threat.

With marine catch trends increasing from 500,000 metric tons in the 1950s to over 3,000,000 metric tons by 2000, there was increasing concern about the reduction in fisheries and marine life, should this trend continue unabated.

Water resource vulnerability is a major concern in northeastern Africa, and a moderate concern across the rest of the continent. An exception is central Africa, which has plentiful water supplies.

Many Africans lack adequate access to resources, not just (if at all) because the resources are unevenly distributed geographically, but also through institutional failures such as faulty land tenure systems or political upheaval. The quality of Africa's natural resources, despite their spotty distribution, is in fact extraordinarily rich. The infrastructure needed to protect and benefit from this natural legacy, however, is largely lacking.

## Regional Synopsis: Asia and the Pacific

Asia-earth's largest landmass-and the many large and nearly innumerable small islands lying off its Pacific shore display extraordinarily contrasting landscapes, levels of development, and degrees of environmental stress. In the classification used here, the world's smallest continent, Australia, is also included in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Asia-Pacific region is home to 9 of the world's 14 largest urban areas, and as energy use for utilities, industry and transport increases in developing economies, urban centers are subject to worsening air quality. Intense population density in places such as Bangladesh or Hong Kong is the quintessential image many people have of Asia, yet vast desert areas such as the Gobi and the world's highest mountain range, the Himalayas, span the continent as well. Forested areas in Southeast Asia and the islands of Indonesia and the Philippines were historically prized for their tropical hardwood, but in many places this resource is now severely depleted. Low-lying small island states are extremely vulnerable to the effects of global warming, both rising sea levels and an anticipated increase in cyclones.

Key Points:

Asian timber reserves are forecast to be depleted in the next 40 years. Loss of natural forest is irreversible in some areas, but plantation programs to restore tree cover may ameliorate a portion of the resulting land degradation.

Increased usage of fossil fuels in China and other parts of southern Asia is projected to result in a marked increase in emissions, especially in regard to carbon dioxide. The increased usage of energy has led to a marked upsurge in air pollution across the region.

Acidification is an emerging problem regionally, with sulfur dioxide emissions expected to triple by 2010 if the current growth rate is sustained. China, Thailand, India, and Korea seem to be suffering from particularly high rates of acid deposition. By contrast, Asia's most highly developed economy, Japan, has effected substantial improvements in its environmental indicators.

Water pollution in the Pacific is an urgent concern since up to 70 percent of the water discharged

into the region's waters receives no treatment. Additionally, the disposal of solid wastes, in like manner, poses a major threat in a region with many areas of high population density.

The Asia-Pacific region is the largest expanse of the world's land that is adversely affected by soil degradation.

The region around Australia reportedly suffers the largest degree of ozone depletion.

The microstates of the Pacific suffer land loss due to global warming, and the consequent rise in the levels of ocean waters. A high-emissions scenario and anthropogenic climate impact at the upper end of the currently predicted range would probably force complete evacuation of the lowest-elevation islands sometime in this century.

The species-rich reefs surrounding Southeast Asia are highly vulnerable to the deleterious effects of coastal development, land-based pollution, over-fishing and exploitative fishing methods, as well as marine pollution from oil spills and other activities.

With marine catch trends increasing from 5,000,000 metric tons in the 1950s to over 20,000,000 metric tons by 2000, there was increasing concern about the reduction in fisheries and marine life, should this trend continue unabated.

Significant numbers of mammal species in parts of China and south-east Asia are currently threatened, while the biological diversity in India, Japan, Australia, the Philippines, Indonesia and parts of Malaysia is even further compromised with over 20 percent of the mammal species in these countries currently under threat.

Water resource vulnerability is a serious concern in areas surrounding the Indian subcontinent.

## Regional Synopsis: Central Asia

The Central Asian republics, formerly in the Soviet Union, experience a range of environmental problems as the result of poorly executed agricultural, industrial, and nuclear programs during the Soviet era. Relatively low population densities are the norm, especially since upon the breakup of the U.S.S.R. many ethnic Russians migrated back to European Russia. In this largely semi-arid region, drought, water shortages, and soil salinization pose major challenges.

Key Points:

The use of agricultural pesticides, such as DDT and other chemicals, has contributed to the contamination of soil and groundwater throughout the region.

Land and soil degradation, and in particular, increased salinization, is mostly attributable to faulty irrigation practices.

Significant desertification is also a problem in the region.

Air pollution is prevalent, mostly due to use of low octane automobile fuel.

Industrial pollution of the Caspian Sea and the Aral Sea, as a result of industrial effluents as well as mining and metal production, presents a challenge to the countries bordering these bodies of water.

One of the most severe environmental problems in the region is attributable to the several billion tons of hazardous materials stored in landfills across Central Asia.

Uzbekistan's particular problem involves the contraction of the Aral Sea, which has decreased in size by a third, as a consequence of river diversions and poor irrigation practices. The effect has been the near-total biological destruction of that body of water.

Kazakhstan, as a consequence of being the heartland of the former Soviet Union's nuclear program, has incurred a high of cancerous malignancies, biogenetic abnormalities and radioactive contamination.

While part of the Soviet Union, the republics in the region experienced very high levels of greenhouse gas emissions, as a consequence of rapid industrialization using cheap but dirty energy sources, especially coal.

By contrast, however, there have recently been substantial reductions in the level of greenhouse gas emissions, especially those attributable to coal burning, with further decreases anticipated over the next decade. These changes are partially due to the use of cleaner energy technologies, such as natural gas, augmented by governmental commitment to improving environmental standards.

## Regional Synopsis: Europe

Western Europe underwent dramatic transformation of its landscape, virtually eliminating large-scale natural areas, during an era of rapid industrialization, which intensified upon its recovery from World War II. In Eastern Europe and European Russia, intensive land development has been less prevalent, so that some native forests and other natural areas remain. Air and water pollution from use of dirty fuels and industrial effluents, however, are more serious environmental problems in Eastern than in Western Europe, though recent trends show improvement in many indicators. Acid rain has inflicted heavy environmental damage across much of Europe, particularly on forests.

Europe and North America are the only regions in which water usage for industry exceeds that for agriculture, although in Mediterranean nations agriculture is the largest water consumer.

Key Points:

Europe contributes 36 percent of the world's chlorofluorocarbon emissions, 30 percent of carbon dioxide emissions, and 25 percent of sulfur dioxide emissions.

Sulfur and nitrogen oxide emissions are the cause of 30 to 50 percent of Central and Eastern Europe's deforestation.

Acid rain has been an environmental concern for decades and continues to be a challenge in parts of Western Europe.

Overexploitation of up to 60 percent of Europe's groundwater presents a problem in industrial and urban areas.

With marine catch trends increasing from 5,000,000 metric tons in the 1950s to over 20,000,000 metric tons by 2000, there was increasing concern about the reduction in fisheries and marine life, should this trend continue unabated.

Significant numbers of mammal species in parts of western Europe, Eastern Europe and Russia are currently threatened, while the biological diversity on the Iberian Peninsula is even further compromised with over 40 percent of the mammal species in this region currently under threat. As a result, there has been a 10 percent increase in protected areas of Europe.

A major environmental issue for Europe involves the depletion of various already endangered or threatened species, and most significantly, the decline of fish stocks. Some estimates suggest that up to 50 percent of the continent's fish species may be considered endangered species. Coastal fisheries have been over-harvested, resulting in catch limits or moratoriums on many commercially important fish species.

Fortunately, in the last few years, these policies have started to yield measurable results with decreasing trends in marine fish catch.

Recently, most European countries have adopted cleaner production technologies, and alternative methods of waste disposal, including recycling.

The countries of Eastern Europe have made air quality a major environmental priority. This is exemplified by the Russian Federation's addition to the 1995 "Berlin Mandate" (transnational legislation based on resolutions of the Rio Earth Summit) compelling nations to promote "carbon

sinks" to absorb greenhouse gases.

On a relative basis, when compared with the degree of industrial emissions emitted by many Eastern European countries until the late 1980s, there has been some marked increase in air quality in the region, as obsolete plants are closed and a transition to cleaner fuels and more efficient energy use takes place.

## Regional Synopsis: The Middle and Near East

Quite possibly, the Middle East will exemplify the adage that, as the 20th century was a century fixated on oil, the 21st century will be devoted to critical decisions about water. Many (though far from all) nations in the Middle East rank among those countries with the largest oil and gas reserves, but water resources are relatively scarce throughout this predominantly dry region. Effects of global warming may cause moderately high elevation areas that now typically receive winter "snowpack" to experience mainly rain instead, which would further constrain dry-season water availability. The antiquities and religious shrines of the region render it a great magnet for tourism, which entails considerable economic growth potential but also intensifies stresses on the environment.

Key Points:

Water resource vulnerability is a serious concern across the entire region. The increased usage of, and further demand for water, has exacerbated long-standing water scarcity in the region. For instance, river diversions and industrial salt works have caused the Dead Sea to shrink by one-third from its original surface area, with further declines expected.

The oil industry in the region contributes to water pollution in the Persian Gulf, as a result of oil spills, which have averaged 1.2 million barrels of oil spilt per year (some sources suggest that this figure is understated). The consequences are severe because even after oil spills have been cleaned up, environmental damage to the food webs and ecosystems of marine life will persist for a prolonged period.

The region's coastal zone is considered one of the most fragile and endangered ecosystems of the world. Land reclamation, shoreline construction, discharge of industrial effluents, and tourism (such as diving in the Red Sea) contribute to widespread coastal damage.

Significant numbers of mammal species in parts of the Middle East are currently threatened.

Since the 1980s, 11 percent of the region's natural forest has been depleted.

## Regional Synopsis: Latin America and the Caribbean

The Latin American and Caribbean region is characterized by exceedingly diverse landforms that have generally seen high rates of population growth and economic development in recent decades. The percentage of inhabitants residing in urban areas is quite high at 73.4 percent; the region includes the megacities of Mexico City, Sao Paulo, and Rio de Janeiro. The region also includes the world's second-highest mountain range, the Andes; significant expanses of desert and grassland; the coral reefs of the Caribbean Sea; and the world's largest contiguous tropical forest in the Amazon basin. Threats to the latter from subsistence and commercial farming, mineral exploitation and timbering are well publicized. Nevertheless, of eight countries worldwide that still retain at least 70 percent of their original forest cover, six are in Latin America. The region accounts for nearly half (48.3 percent) of the world's greenhouse gas emissions derived from land clearing, but as yet a comparatively minuscule share (4.3 percent) of such gases from industrial sources.

Key Points:

Although Latin America is one of the most biologically diverse regions of the world, this biodiversity is highly threatened, as exemplified by the projected extinction of up to 100,000 species in the next few decades. Much of this loss will be concentrated in the Amazon area, although the western coastline of South America will also suffer significant depletion of biological diversity. The inventory of rainforest species with potentially useful commercial or medical applications is incomplete, but presumed to include significant numbers of such species that may become extinct before they are discovered and identified.

Up to 50 percent of the region's grazing land has lost its soil fertility as a result of soil erosion, salinization, alkalinization and overgrazing.

The Caribbean Sea, the Atlantic Ocean, and the Pacific Ocean have all been contaminated by agricultural wastes, which are discharged into streams that flow into these major waters. Water pollution derived from phosphorous, nitrates and pesticides adversely affects fish stocks, contributes to oxygen depletion and fosters overgrowth of aquatic vegetation. Marine life will continue to be severely compromised as a result of these conditions.

Due to industrial development in the region, many beaches of eastern Latin America and the Caribbean suffer from tar deposits.

Most cities in the region lack adequate sewage treatment facilities, and rapid migration of the rural poor into the cities is widening the gap between current infrastructure capacity and the much greater level needed to provide satisfactory basic services.

The rainforest region of the Amazon Basin suffers from dangerously high levels of deforestation, which may be a significant contributory factor to global warming or "the greenhouse effect." In the late 1990s and into the new millennium, the rate of deforestation was around 20 million acres of rainforest being destroyed annually.

Deforestation on the steep rainforest slopes of Caribbean islands contributes to soil erosion and landslides, both of which then result in heavy sedimentation of nearby river systems. When these sedimented rivers drain into the sea and coral reefs, they poison the coral tissues, which are vital to the maintenance of the reef ecosystem. The result is marine degradation and nutrient depletion. Jamaica's coral reefs have never quite recovered from the effects of marine degradation.

The Southern Cone of Latin America (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay) suffers the effects of greatly increased ultraviolet-B radiation, as a consequence of more intense ozone depletion in the southern hemisphere.

Water resource vulnerability is an increasingly major concern in the northwestern portion of South America.

## Regional Synopsis: North America

North American nations, in particular the United States and Canada, rank among the world's most highly developed industrial economies-a fact which has generated significant pollution problems, but also financial resources and skills that have enabled many problems to be corrected. Although efforts to promote energy efficiency, recycling, and suchlike have helped ease strains on the environment in a part of the world where per capita consumption levels are high, sprawling land development patterns and recent preferences many households have demonstrated for larger vehicles have offset these advances.

Meanwhile, a large portion of North America's original forest cover has been lost, though in many cases replaced by productive second-growth woodland. In recent years, attitudes toward best use of the region's remaining natural or scenic areas seem to be shifting toward recreation and preservation and away from resource extraction. With increasing attention on the energy scarcity in the United States, however, there is speculation that this shift may be short-lived. Indeed, the energy shortage on the west coast of the United States and associated calls for energy exploration, indicate a possible retrenchment toward resource extraction. At the same time, however, it has also served to highlight the need for energy conservation as well as alternative energy sources.

Despite generally successful anti-pollution efforts, various parts of the region continue to suffer significant air, water and land degradation from industrial, vehicular, and agricultural emissions and

runoff. Mexico, as a middle-income country, displays environmental problems characteristic of a developing economy, including forest depletion, pollution from inefficient industrial processes and dirty fuels, and lack of sufficient waste-treatment infrastructure.

Key Points:

Because of significantly greater motor vehicle usage in the United States (U.S.) than in the rest of the world, the U.S. contribution of urban air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, especially carbon dioxide, is disproportionately high in relation to its population.

Acid rain is an enduring issue of contention in the northeastern part of the United States, on the border with Canada.

Mexico's urban areas suffer extreme air pollution from carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, and other toxic air pollutants. Emissions controls on vehicles are in their infancy, compared to analogous regulations in the U.S.

The cities of Mexico, including those on the U.S. border, also discharge large quantities of untreated or poorly treated sewage, though officials are currently planning infrastructure upgrades.

Deforestation is noteworthy in various regions of the U.S., especially along the northwest coastline. Old growth forests have been largely removed, but in the northeastern and upper midwestern sections of the United States, evidence suggests that the current extent of tree cover probably surpasses the figure for the beginning of the 20$^{th}$ century.

Extreme weather conditions in the last few years have resulted in a high level of soil erosion along the north coast of California; in addition, the coastline itself has shifted substantially due to soil erosion and concomitant landslides.

Agricultural pollution-including nitrate contamination of well water, nutrient runoff to waterways, and pesticide exposure-is significant in various areas. Noteworthy among affected places are California's Central Valley, extensive stretches of the Midwest, and land in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Inland waterways, especially around the Great Lakes, have substantially improved their water quality, due to concentrated efforts at reducing water pollution by governmental, commercial and community representatives. Strict curbs on industrial effluents and near-universal implementation of sewage treatment are the chief factors responsible for this improvement.

A major environmental issue for Canada and the United States involves the depletion of various

already endangered or threatened species, and most significantly, the decline of fish stocks. Coastal fisheries have been over-harvested, resulting in catch limits or moratoriums on many commercially important fish species. In the last few years, these policies have started to yield measurable results with decreasing trends in marine fish catch.

Due to the decay of neighboring ecosystems in Central America and the Caribbean, the sea surrounding Florida has become increasingly sedimented, contributing to marine degradation, nutrient depletion of the ecosystem, depletion of fish stocks, and diseases to coral species in particular.

### Polar Regions

Key Points:

The significant rise in sea level, amounting 10 to 25 centimeters in the last 100 years, is due to the melting of the Arctic ice sheets, and is attributed to global warming.

The Antarctic suffers from a significant ozone hole, first detected in 1976. By 1985, a British scientific team reported a 40 percent decrease in usual regeneration rates of the ozone. Because a sustained increase in the amount of ultraviolet-B radiation would have adverse consequences upon all planetary life, recent environmental measures have been put into effect, aimed at reversing ozone depletion. These measures are projected to garner significant results by 2050.

Due to air and ocean currents, the Arctic is a sink for toxic releases originally discharged thousands of miles away. Arctic wildlife and Canada's Inuit population have higher bodily levels of contaminants such as PCB and dioxin than those found in people and animals in much of the rest of the world.

## Global Environmental Concepts

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### 1. Global Warming and Greenhouse Gases

**The Greenhouse Effect:**

In the early 19th century, the French physicist, Jean Fourier, contended that the earth's atmosphere functions in much the same way as the glass of a greenhouse, thus describing what is now understood as the "greenhouse effect." Put simply, the "greenhouse effect" confines some of the sun's energy to the earth, preserving some of the planet's warmth, rather than allowing it to flow back into space. In so doing, all kinds of life forms can flourish on earth. Thus, the "greenhouse effect" is necessary to sustain and preserve life forms and ecosystems on earth.

In the late 19th century, a Swedish chemist, Svante Arrhenius, noticed that human activities, such as the burning of coal and other fossil fuels for heat, and the removal of forested lands for urban development, led to higher concentrations of greenhouse gases, like carbon dioxide and methane, in the atmosphere. This increase in the levels of greenhouse gases was believed to advance the "greenhouse effect" exponentially, and might be related to the trend in global warming.

In the wake of the Industrial Revolution, after industrial development took place on a large scale and the total human population burgeoned simultaneously with industrialization, the resulting increase in greenhouse gas emissions could, many scientists believe, be significant enough to have some bearing on climate. Indeed, many studies in recent years support the idea that there is a linkage between human activities and global warming, although there is less consensus on the extent to which this linkage may be relevant to environmental concerns.

That said, some scientists have argued that temperature fluctuations have existed throughout the evolution of the planet. Indeed, Dr. S. Fred Singer, the president of the Science and Environment Policy Project has noted that 3,000-year-old geological records of ocean sediment reveal changes in the surface temperature of the ocean. Hence, it is possible that climate variability is merely a normal fact of the planet's evolution. Yet even skeptics as to anthropogenic factors concur that any substantial changes in global temperatures would likely have an effect upon the earth's ecosystems, as well as the life forms that inhabit them.

**The Relationship Between Global Warming and Greenhouse Gases:**

A large number of climatologists believe that the increase in atmospheric concentrations of "greenhouse gas emissions," mostly a consequence of human activities such as the burning of fossil fuels, are contributing to global warming. The cause notwithstanding, the planet has reportedly warmed 0.3°C to 0.6°C over the last century. Indeed, each year during the 1990s was one of the very warmest in the 20th century, with the mean surface temperature for 1999 being the fifth warmest on record since 1880.

In early 2000, a panel of atmospheric scientists for the National Research Council concluded in a report that global warming was, indeed, a reality. While the panel, headed by Chairman John Wallace, a professor of atmospheric sciences at the University of Washington, stated that it

remained unclear whether human activities have contributed to the earth's increasing temperatures, it was apparent that global warming exists.

In 2001, following a request for further study by the incoming Bush administration in the United States, the National Academy of Sciences again confirmed that global warming had been in existence for the last 20 years. The study also projected an increase in temperature between 2.5 degrees and 10.4 degrees Fahrenheit by the year 2100. Furthermore, the study found the leading cause of global warming to be emissions of carbon dioxide from the burning of fossil fuels, and it noted that greenhouse gas accumulations in the earth's atmosphere was a result of human activities.

Within the scientific community, the controversy regarding has centered on the difference between surface air and upper air temperatures. Information collected since 1979 suggests that while the earth's surface temperature has increased by about a degree in the past century, the atmospheric temperature five miles above the earth's surface has indicated very little increase. Nevertheless, the panel stated that this discrepancy in temperature between surface and upper air does not invalidate the conclusion that global warming is taking place. Further, the panel noted that natural events, such as volcanic eruptions, can decrease the temperature in the upper atmosphere.

The major consequences of global warming potentially include the melting of the polar ice caps, which, in turn, contribute to the rise in sea levels. Many islands across the globe have already experienced a measurable loss of land as a result. Because global warming may increase the rate of evaporation, increased precipitation, in the form of stronger and more frequent storm systems, is another potential outcome. Other consequences of global warming may include the introduction and proliferation of new infectious diseases, loss of arable land (referred to as "desertification"), destructive changes to existing ecosystems, loss of biodiversity and the isolation of species, and concomitant adverse changes in the quality of human life.

**International Policy Development in Regard to Global Warming:**

Regardless of what the precise nature of the relationship between greenhouse gas emissions and global warming may be, it seems that there is some degree of a connection between the phenomena. Any substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and global warming trends will likely involve systematic changes in industrial operations, the use of advanced energy sources and technologies, as well as global cooperation in implementing and regulating these transformations.

In this regard, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) stipulated the following objectives:

1. To stabilize "greenhouse gas" concentrations within the atmosphere, in such a manner that would preclude hazardous anthropogenic intervention into the existing biosphere and ecosystems of the world. This stabilization process would facilitate the natural adaptation of ecosystems to

changes in climate.

2. To ensure and enable sustainable development and food production on a global scale.

*** See section on "International Environmental Agreements and Associations" for information related to international policies related to limiting greenhouse gases and controlling climate change emanating from historic summits at Kyoto, Copenhagen, Doha, and Paris. ***

## 2. Air Pollution

Long before global warming reared its head as a significant issue, those concerned about the environment and public health noted the deleterious effects of human-initiated combustion upon the atmosphere. Killer smogs from coal burning triggered acute health emergencies in London and other places. At a lower level of intensity motor vehicle, power plant, and industrial emissions impaired long-range visibility and probably had some chronic adverse consequences on the respiratory systems of persons breathing such air.

In time, scientists began associating the sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides released from coal burning with significant acid deposition in the atmosphere, eventually falling as "acid rain." This phenomenon has severely degraded forestlands, especially in Europe and a few parts of the United States. It has also impaired some aquatic ecosystems and eaten away the surface of some human artifacts, such as marble monuments. Scrubber technology and conversion to cleaner fuels have enabled the level of industrial production to remain at least constant while significantly reducing acid deposition. Technologies aimed at cleaning the air and curtailing acid rain, soot, and smog may, nonetheless, boomerang as the perils of global warming become increasingly serious. In brief, these particulates act as sort of a sun shade -- comparable to the effect of volcanic eruptions on the upper atmosphere whereby periods of active volcanism correlate with temporarily cooler weather conditions. Thus, while the carbon dioxide releases that are an inevitable byproduct of combustion continue, by scrubbing the atmosphere of pollutants, an industrial society opens itself to greater insolation (penetration of the sun's rays and consequent heating), and consequently, it is likely to experience a correspondingly greater rise in ambient temperatures.

The health benefits of removing the sources of acid rain and smog are indisputable, and no one would recommend a return to previous conditions. Nevertheless, the problematic climatic effects of continually increasing emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases pose a major global environmental challenge, not as yet addressed adequately.

## 3. Ozone Depletion

The stratospheric ozone layer functions to prevent ultraviolet radiation from reaching the earth. Normally, stratospheric ozone is systematically disintegrated and regenerated through natural photochemical processes. The stratospheric ozone layer, however, has been depleted unnaturally as a result of anthropogenic (man-made) chemicals, most especially chlorine and bromide compounds such as chloroflorocarbons (CFCs), halons, and various industrial chemicals in the form of solvents, refrigerants, foaming agents, aerosol propellants, fire retardants, and fumigants. Ozone depletion is of concern because it permits a greater degree of ultraviolet-B radiation to reach the earth, which then increases the incidences of cancerous malignancies, cataracts, and human immune deficiencies. In addition, even in small doses, ozone depletion affects the ecosystem by disturbing food chains, agriculture, fisheries and other forms of biological diversity.

Transnational policies enacted to respond to the dangers of ozone depletion include the 1985 Vienna Convention on the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the 1987 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. The Montreal Protocol was subsequently amended in London in 1990, Copenhagen in 1992 and Vienna in 1995. By 1996, 155 countries had ratified the Montreal Protocol, which sets out a time schedule for the reduction (and eventual elimination) of ozone depleting substances (OPS), and bans exports and imports of ODS from and to non-participant countries.

In general, the Protocol stipulates that developed countries must eliminate halon consumption by 1994 and CFC consumption by 1996, while developing countries must eliminate these substances by 2010. Consumption of methyl bromide, which is used as a fumigant, was to be frozen at the 1995 in developed countries, and fully eliminated in 2010, while developing countries are to freeze consumption by 2002, based on average 1995-1998 consumption levels. Methyl chloroform is to be phased out by 2005. Under the Montreal Protocol, most ODS will be completely eliminated from use by 2010.

## 4. Land Degradation

In recent decades, land degradation in more arid regions of the world has become a serious concern. The problem, manifest as both "desertification" and "devegetation," is caused primarily by climate variability and human activities, such as "deforestation," excessive cultivation, overgrazing, and other forms of land resource exploitation. It is also exacerbated by inadequate irrigation practices. Although the effects of droughts on drylands have been temporary in the past, today, the productivity and sustainability of these lands have been severely compromised for the long term. Indeed, in every region of the world, land degradation has become an acute issue.

**Desertification and Devegetation:**

"Desertification" is a process of land degradation causing the soil to deteriorate, thus losing its nutrients and fertility, and eventually resulting in the loss of vegetation, known as "devegetation." As aforementioned, "desertification" and "devegetation" are caused by human activities, yet human beings are also the greatest casualties. Because these forms of land degradation affect the ability of the soil to produce crops, they concomitantly contribute to poverty. As population increases and demographic concentrations shift, the extent of land subject to stresses by those seeking to wrest subsistence from it has inexorably risen.

In response, the United Nations has formed the Convention to Combat Desertification-aimed at implementing programs to address the underlying causes of desertification, as well as measures to prevent and minimize its effects. Of particular significance is the formulation of policies on transboundary resources, such as areas around lakes and rivers. At a broader level, the Convention has established a Conference of Parties (COP), which includes all ratifying governments, for directing and advancing international action.

To ensure more efficacious use of funding, the Convention intends to reconfigure international aid to utilize a consultative and coordinated approach in the disbursement and expenditure of donor funds. In this way, local communities that are affected by desertification will be active participants in the solution-generation process. In-depth community education projects are envisioned as part of this new international aid program, and private donor financing is encouraged. Meanwhile, as new technologies are developed to deal with the problem of desertification, they need to be distributed for application across the world. Hence, the Convention calls for international cooperation in scientific research in this regard.

Desertification is a problem of sustainable development. It is directly connected to human challenges such as poverty, social and economic well-being and environmental protection as well. Broader environmental issues, such as climate change, biological diversity, and freshwater supplies, are indirectly related, so any effort to resolve this environmental challenge must entail coordinated research efforts and joint action.

**Deforestation:**

Deforestation is not a recent phenomenon. For centuries, human beings have cut down trees to clear space for land cultivation, or in order to use the wood for fuel. Over the last 200 years, and most especially after World War II, deforestation increased because the logging industry became a globally profitable endeavor, and so the clearing of forested areas was accelerated for the purposes of industrial development. In the long term, this intensified level of deforestation is considered problematic because the forest is unable to regenerate itself quickly. The deforestation that has

occurred in tropical rainforests is seen as an especially serious concern, due to the perceived adverse effects of this process upon the entire global ecosystem.

The most immediate consequence of deforestation is soil degradation. Soil, which is necessary for the growth of vegetation, can be a fragile and vital property. Organically, an extensive evolution process must take place before soil can produce vegetation, yet at the same time, the effects of natural elements, such as wind and rain, can easily and quickly degrade this resource. This phenomenon is known as soil erosion. In addition, natural elements like wind and rain reduce the amount of fertile soil on the ground, making soil scarcity a genuine problem. When fertile topsoil that already exists is removed from the landscape in the process of deforestation, soil scarcity is further exacerbated. Equally significant is the fact that once land has been cleared so that the topsoil can be cultivated for crop production, not only are the nutrient reserves in the soil depleted, thus producing crops of inferior quality, but the soil structure itself becomes stressed and deteriorates further.

Another direct result of deforestation is flooding. When forests are cleared, removing the cover of vegetation, and rainfall occurs, the flow of water increases across the surface of land. When extensive water runoff takes place, the frequency and intensity of flooding increases. Other adverse effects of deforestation include the loss of wildlife and biodiversity within the ecosystem that supports such life forms.

At a broader level, tropical rainforests play a vital role in maintaining the global environmental system. Specifically, destruction of tropical rainforests affects the carbon dioxide cycle. When forests are destroyed by burning (or rotting), carbon dioxide is released into the air, thus contributing to an intensified "greenhouse effect." The increase in greenhouse gas emissions like carbon dioxide is a major contributor to global warming, according to many environmental scientists. Indeed, trees themselves absorb carbon dioxide in the process of photosynthesis, so their loss also reduces the absorption of greenhouse gases.

Tropical rainforest destruction also adversely affects the nitrogen cycle. Nitrogen is a key nutrient for both plants and animals. Plants derive nitrogen from soil, while animals obtain it via nitrogen-enriched vegetation. This element is essential for the formation of amino acids, and thereby for proteins and biochemicals that all living things need for metabolism and growth. In the nitrogen cycle, vegetation acquires these essential proteins and biochemicals, and then cyclically returns them to the atmosphere and global ecosystem. Accordingly, when tropical rainforest ecosystems are compromised, not only is vegetation removed; the atmosphere is also affected and climates are altered. At a more immediate level, the biodiversity within tropical rainforests, including wildlife and insect species and a wealth of plant varieties, is depleted. Loss of rare plants is of particular concern because certain species as yet unknown and unused could likely yield many practical benefits, for instance as medicines.

As a result of the many challenges associated with deforestation, many environmental groups and agencies have argued for government policies on the sustainable development of forests by governments across the globe. While many countries have instituted national policies and programs aimed at reducing deforestation, and substantial research has been advanced in regard to sustainable and regenerative forestry development, there has been very little progress on an international level. Generally speaking, most tropical rainforests are located in developing and less developed countries, where economic growth is often dependent upon the exploitation of tropical rainforests. Timber resources as well as wildlife hunting tend to be particularly lucrative arenas.

In places such as the Amazon, where deforestation takes place for the construction of energy plants aimed at industrialization and economic development, there is an exacerbated effect on the environment. After forests are cleared in order to construct such projects, massive flooding usually ensues. The remaining trees then rot and decay in the wake of the flooding. As the trees deteriorate, their biochemical makeup becomes more acidic, producing poisonous substances such as hydrogen sulphide and methane gases. Acidified water subsequently corrodes the mechanical equipment and operations of the plants, which are already clogged by rotting wood after the floodwaters rise.

Deforestation generally arises from an economically plausible short-term motivation, but nonetheless poses a serious global concern because the effects go beyond national boundaries. The United Nations has established the World Commission on Forest and Sustainable Development. This body's task is to determine the optimal means of dealing with the issue of deforestation, without unduly affecting normal economic development, while emphasizing the global significance of protecting tropical forest ecosystems.

## 5. Water Resources

For all terrestrial fauna, including humans, water is the most immediate necessity to sustain life. As the population has increased and altered an ever-greater portion of the landscape from its natural condition, demand on water resources has intensified, especially with the development of industrialization and large-scale irrigation. The supply of freshwater is inherently limited, and moreover distributed unevenly across the earth's landmasses. Moreover, not just demand for freshwater but activities certain to degrade it are becoming more pervasive. By contrast, the oceans form a sort of "last wilderness," still little explored and in large part not seriously affected by human activity. However, coastal environments - the biologically richest part of the marine ecosystem-are experiencing major depletion due to human encroachment and over-exploitation.

### Freshwater:

In various regions, for instance the Colorado River in the western United States, current withdrawals of river water for irrigation, domestic, and industrial use consume the entire streamflow so that almost no water flows into the sea at the river's mouth. Yet development is ongoing in many such places, implying continually rising demand for water. In some areas reliant on groundwater, aquifers are being depleted at a markedly faster rate than they are being replenished. An example is the San Joaquin Valley in California, where decades of high water withdrawals for agriculture have caused land subsidence of ten meters or more in some spots. Naturally, the uncertainty of future water supplies is particularly acute in arid and semi-arid regions. Speculation that the phenomenon of global warming will alter geographic and seasonal rainfall patterns adds further uncertainty.

Water conservation measures have great potential to alleviate supply shortages. Some city water systems are so old and beset with leaking pipes that they lose as much water as they meter. Broad-scale irrigation could be replaced by drip-type irrigation, actually enhancing the sustainability of agriculture. In many areas where heavy irrigation has been used for decades, the result is deposition of salts and other chemicals in the soil such that the land becomes unproductive for farming and must be abandoned.

Farming is a major source of water pollution. Whereas restrictions on industrial effluents and other "point sources" are relatively easy to implement, comparable measures to reform hydraulic practices at farms and other "nonpoint sources" pose a significantly knottier challenge. Farm-caused water pollution takes the following main forms:

- Nitrate pollution found in wells in intensive farming areas as a consequence of heavy fertilizer use is a threat to human health. The most serious danger is to infants, who by ingesting high-nitrate water can contract methemoglobinemia, sometimes called "blue baby syndrome," a potentially fatal condition.

- Fertilizer runoff into rivers and lakes imparts unwanted nutrients that cause algae growth and eventual loss of oxygen in the body of water, degrading its ability to support fish and other desirable aquatic life.

- Toxic agricultural chemicals - insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides - are detectable in some aquifers and waterways.

In general, it is much easier to get a pollutant into water than to retrieve it out. Gasoline additives, dry cleaning chemicals, other industrial toxins, and in a few areas radionucleides have all been found in water sources intended for human use. The complexity and long time scale of subterranean hydrological movements essentially assures that pollutants already deposited in aquifers will continue to turn up for decades to come. Sophisticated water treatment processes are available, albeit expensive, to reclaim degraded water and render it fit for human consumption. Yet

source protection is unquestionably a more desirable alternative.

In much of the developing world, and even some low-income rural enclaves of the developed world, the population lacks ready access to safe water. Surface water and shallow groundwater supplies are susceptible to contamination from untreated wastewater and failing septic tanks, as well as chemical hazards. The occurrence of waterborne disease is almost certainly greatly underreported.

**Marine Resources:**

Coastal areas have always been desirable places for human habitation, and population pressure on them continues to increase. Many types of water degradation that affect lakes and rivers also affect coastal zones: industrial effluents, untreated or partially treated sewage, nutrient load from agriculture figure prominently in both cases. Prospects for more extreme storms as a result of global warming, as well as the pervasiveness of poorly planned development in many coastal areas, forebode that catastrophic hurricanes and landslides may increase in frequency in the future. Ongoing rise in sea levels will force remedial measures and in some cases abandonment of currently valuable coastal property.

Fisheries over much of the globe have been overharvested, and immediate conservation measures are required to preserve stocks of many species. Many governments subsidized factory-scale fishing fleets in the 1970s and 1980s, and the resultant catch increase evidently surpassed a sustainable level. It is uncertain how much of the current decline in fish stocks stems from overharvesting and how much from environmental pollution. The deep ocean remains relatively unaffected by human activity, but continental shelves near coastlines are frequently seriously polluted, and these close-to-shore areas are the major biological nurseries for food fish and the smaller organisms they feed on.

## 6. Environmental Toxins

Toxic chemical pollution exploded on the public consciousness with disclosure of spectacularly polluted industrial areas such as Love Canal near Buffalo, New York. There is no question that pollutants such as organophosphates or radionucleides can be highly deleterious to health, but evidence to date suggests that seriously affected areas are a localized rather than universal problem.

While some explore the possibilities for a lifestyle that fully eschews use of modern industrial chemicals, the most prevalent remediative approach is to focus on more judicious use. The most efficient chemical plants are now able to contain nearly all toxic byproducts of their production processes within the premises, minimizing the release of such substances into the environment.

Techniques such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM) dictate limited rather than broadcast use of pesticides: application only when needed using the safest available chemical, supplemented as much as possible with nontoxic controls.

While heightened public awareness and growing technical sophistication suggest a hopeful outlook on limiting the damage from manmade environmental toxins, one must grant that previous incidents of their misuse and mishandling have already caused environmental damage that will have to be dealt with for many years to come. In the case of the most hazardous radioactive substances, the time scale for successful remediation actually extends beyond that of the recorded history of civilization. Moreover, in this era of high population density and rapid economic growth, quotidian activities such as the transport of chemicals will occasionally, seemingly inevitably result in accidents with adverse environmental consequences.

## 7. "Islandization" and Biodiversity

With increased awareness regarding the adverse effects of unregulated hunting and habitat depletion upon wildlife species and other aspects of biodiversity, large-scale efforts across the globe have been initiated to reduce and even reverse this trend.

In every region of the world, many species of wildlife and areas of biodiversity have been saved from extinction. Nationally, many countries have adopted policies aimed at preservation and conservation of species, and one of the most tangible measures has been the proliferation of protected habitats. Such habitats exist in the form of wildlife reserves, marine life reserves, and other such areas where biodiversity can be protected from external encroachment and exploitation.

Despite these advances in wildlife and biodiversity protection, further and perhaps more intractable challenges linger. Designated reserves, while intended to prevent further species decline, exist as closed territories, fragmented from other such enclaves and disconnected from the larger ecosystem. This environmental scenario is referred to as "islandization." Habitat reserves often serve as oversized zoos or game farms, with landscapes and wildlife that have effectively been "tamed" to suit. Meanwhile, the larger surrounding ecosystem continues to be seriously degraded and transformed, while within the islandized habitat, species that are the focus of conservation efforts may not have sufficient range and may not be able to maintain healthy genetic variability.

As a consequence, many conservationists and preservationists have demanded that substantially larger portions of land be withheld as habitat reserves, and a network of biological corridors to connect continental reserves be established. While such efforts to combat islandization have considerable support in the United States, how precisely such a program would be instituted, especially across national boundaries, remains a matter of debate. International conservationists and preservationists say without a network of reserves a massive loss of biodiversity will result.

The concept of islandization illustrates why conservation and preservation of wildlife and biodiversity must consider and adopt new, broader strategies. In the past, conservation and preservation efforts have been aimed at specific species, such as the spotted owl and grizzly bear in North America, the Bengal tiger in Southeast Asia, the panda in China, elephants in Africa. Instead, the new approach is to simultaneously protect many and varied species that inhabit the same ecosystem. This method, referred to as "bio-regional conservation," may more efficaciously generate longer-term and more far-reaching results precisely because it is aimed at preserving entire ecosystems, and all the living things within.

**More About Biodiversity Issues:**

This section is directly taken from the United Nations Environmental Program: "Biodiversity Assessment"

The Global Biodiversity Assessment, completed by 1500 scientists under the auspices of United Nations Environmental Program in 1995, updated what is known (or unknown) about global biological diversity at the ecosystem, species and genetic levels. The assessment was uncertain of the total number of species on Earth within an order of magnitude. Of its working figure of 13 million species, only 13 percent are scientifically described. Ecological community diversity is also poorly known, as is its relationship to biological diversity, and genetic diversity has been studied for only a small number of species. The effects of human activities on biodiversity have increased so greatly that the rate of species extinctions is rising to hundreds or thousands of times the background level. These losses are driven by increasing demands on species and their habitats, and by the failure of current market systems to value biodiversity adequately. The Assessment calls for urgent action to reverse these trends.

There has been a new recognition of the importance of protecting marine and aquatic biodiversity. The first quantitative estimates of species losses due to growing coral reef destruction predict that almost 200,000 species, or one in five presently contributing to coral reef biodiversity, could die out in the next 40 years if human pressures on reefs continue to increase.

Since Rio, many countries have improved their understanding of the status and importance of their biodiversity, particularly through biodiversity country studies such as those prepared under the auspices of UNEP/GEF. The United Kingdom identified 1250 species needing monitoring, of which 400 require action plans to ensure their survival. Protective measures for biodiversity, such as legislation to protect species, can prove effective. In the USA, almost 40 percent of the plants and animals protected under the Endangered Species Act are now stable or improving as a direct result of recovery efforts. Some African countries have joined efforts to protect threatened species through the 1994 Lusaka Agreement, and more highly migratory species are being protected by

specialized cooperative agreements among range states under the Bonn Agreement.

There is an emerging realization that a major part of conservation of biological diversity must take place outside of protected areas and involve local communities. The extensive agricultural areas occupied by small farmers contain much biodiversity that is important for sustainable food production. Indigenous agricultural practices have been and continue to be important elements in the maintenance of biodiversity, but these are being displaced and lost. There is a new focus on the interrelationship between agrodiversity conservation and sustainable use and development practices in smallholder agriculture, with emphasis on use of farmers' knowledge and skills as a source of information for sustainable farming.

Perhaps even more important than the loss of biodiversity is the transformation of global biogeochemical cycles, the reduction in the total world biomass, and the decrease in the biological productivity of the planet. While quantitative measurements are not available, the eventual economic and social consequences may be so significant that the issue requires further attention.

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Online resources used generally in the Environmental Overview:

Environmental Protection Agency Global Warming Site. URL: http://www.epa.gov/globalwarming

Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations: Forestry. URL: http://www.fao.org/forestry/site/sofo/en/

Global Warming Information Page. URL: http://globalwarming.org

United Nations Environmental Program. URL: http://www.unep.org/GEO/GEO_Products/Assessment_Reports/

United Nations Global Environmental Outlook. URL: http://www.unep.org/geo/geo4/media/

Note on Edition Dates:

The edition dates for textual resources are noted above because they were used to formulate the original content. We also have used online resources (cited above) to update coverage as needed.

Information Resources

For more information about environmental concepts, CountryWatch recommends the following resources:

The United Nations Environmental Program Network (with country profiles)

<http://www.unep.net/>

The United Nations Environment Program on Climate Change

<http://climatechange.unep.net/>

The United Nations Environmental Program on Waters and Oceans

<http://www.unep.ch/earthw/Pdepwat.htm>

The United Nations Environmental Program on Forestry: "Forests in Flux"

<http://www.unep-wcmc.org/forest/flux/homepage.htm>

FAO "State of the World's Forests"

<http://www.fao.org/forestry/FO/SOFO/SOFO99/sofo99-e.stm>

World Resources Institute.

<http://www.wri.org/>

Harvard University Center for Health and the Global Environment

<http://www.med.harvard.edu/chge/the-review.html>

The University of Wisconsin Center for Sustainability and the Global Environment

http://sage.aos.wisc.edu/

# International Environmental Agreements and Associations

## International Policy Development in Regard to Global Warming:

### Introduction

Regardless of what the precise nature of the relationship between greenhouse gas emissions and global warming may be, it seems that there is some degree of a connection between the phenomena. Any substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and global warming trends will likely involve systematic changes in industrial operations, the use of advanced energy sources and technologies, as well as global cooperation in implementing and regulating these transformations.

In this regard, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) stipulated the following objectives:

1. To stabilize "greenhouse gas" concentrations within the atmosphere, in such a manner that would preclude hazardous anthropogenic intervention into the existing biosphere and ecosystems of the world. This stabilization process would facilitate the natural adaptation of ecosystems to changes in climate.

2. To ensure and enable sustainable development and food production on a global scale.

Following are two discusssions regarding international policies on the environment, followed by listings of international accords.

### *Special Entry: The Kyoto Protocol*

The UNFCCC was adopted at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, and entered into force in 1994. Over 175 parties were official participants.

Meanwhile, however, many of the larger, more industrialized nations failed to reach the emissions' reduction targets, and many UNFCCC members agreed that the voluntary approach to reducing emissions had not been successful. As such, UNFCCC members reached a consensus that legally binding limits were necessitated, and agreed to discuss such a legal paradigm at a meeting in Kyoto, Japan in 1997. At that meeting, the UNFCCC forged the Kyoto Protocol. This concord is the first legally binding international agreement that places limits on emissions from industrialized countries. The major greenhouse gas emissions addressed in the Kyoto Protocol include carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, sulfur hexafluoride, and methane.

The provisions of the Kyoto Protocol stipulate that economically advanced nations must reduce their combined emissions of greenhouse gases, by approximately five percent from their 1990

levels, before the 2008-2010 deadline. Countries with the highest carbon dioxide emissions, such as the United States (U.S.), many of the European Union (EU) countries, and Japan, are to reduce emissions by a scale of 6 to 8 percent. All economically advanced nations must show "demonstrable progress" by 2005. In contrast, no binding limits or timetable have been set on developing countries. Presumably, this distinction is due to the fact that most developing countries -- with the obvious exceptions of India and China -- simply do not emit as many greenhouse gases as do more industrially advanced countries. Meanwhile, these countries are entrenched in the process of economic development.

Regardless of the aforementioned reasoning, there has been strong opposition against the asymmetrical treatment assigned to emissions limits among developed and developing countries. Although this distinction might be regarded as unfair in principle, associations such as the Alliance of Small Island States have been vocal in expressing how global warming -- a result of greenhouse gas emissions - has contributed to the rise in sea level, and thus deleteriously affected their very existence as island nation states. For this reason, some parties have suggested that economically advanced nations, upon returning to their 1990 levels, should be required to further reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by a deadline of 2005. In response, interested parties have observed that even if such reductions were undertaken by economically advanced nations, they would not be enough to completely control global warming. Indeed, a reduction in the rate of fossil fuel usage by developing nations would also be necessary to have substantial ameliorative effect on global warming. Indeed, a reduction in the rate of fossil fuel usage by developing nations would also be necessary to have substantial ameliorative effect on global warming.

As such, the Protocol established a "Clean Development Mechanism" which permits developed countries to invest in projects aimed at reducing emissions within developing countries in return for credit for the reductions. Ostensibly, the objective of this mechanism is to curtail emissions in developing countries without unduly penalizing them for their economic development. Under this model, the countries with more potential emissions credits could sell them to other signatories of the Kyoto Protocol, whose emissions are forecast to significantly rise in the next few years. Should this trading of emissions credits take place, it is estimated that the Kyoto Protocol's emissions targets could still be met.

In 1999, the International Energy Outlook projected that Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union and Newly Independent States, as well as parts of Asia, are all expected to show a marked decrease in their level of energy-related carbon emissions in 2010. Nations with the highest emissions, specifically, the U.S., the EU and Japan, are anticipated to reduce their emissions by up to 8 percent by 2012. By 2000, however, the emissions targets were not on schedule for achievement. Indeed, the U.S. Department of Energy estimates forecast that by 2010, there will be a 34 percent increase in carbon emissions from the 1990 levels, in the absence of major shifts in policy, economic growth, energy prices, and consumer trends. Despite this assessment in the U.S., international support for the Kyoto Protocol remained strong, especially among European countries

and island states, who view the pact as one step in the direction away from reliance on fossil fuels and other sources of greenhouse gases.

In 2001, U.S. President, George W. Bush, rejected his country's participation in the Kyoto Protocol, saying that the costs imposed on the global economic system, and especially, on the US, overshadowed the benefits of the Protocol. He also cited the unfair burden on developed nations to reduce emissions, as another primary reasons for withdrawal from the international pact, as well as insufficient evidence regarding the science of global warming. Faced with impassioned international disapproval for his position, the U.S. president stated that his administration remained interested in dealing with the matter of global warming, but would endorse alternative measures to combat the problem, such as voluntary initiatives limiting emissions. Critics of Bush's position, however, have noted that it was the failure of voluntary initiatives to reduce emissions following the Rio Summit that led to the establishment of the Kyoto Protocol in the first place.

In the wake of the Bush administration's decision, many participant countries resigned themselves to the reality that the goals of the Kyoto Protocol might not be achieved without U.S. involvement. Nevertheless, in Bonn, Germany, in July 2001, the remaining participant countries struck a political compromise on some of the key issues and sticking points, and planned to move forward with the Protocol, irrespective of the absence of the U.S. The key compromise points included the provision for countries to offset their targets with carbon sinks (these are areas of forest and farmland which can absorb carbon through the process of photosynthesis). Another compromise point within the broader Bonn Agreement was the reduction of emissions cuts of six gases from over 5 percent to a more achievable 2 percent. A third key change was the provision of funding for less wealthy countries to adopt more progressive technologies.

In late October and early November 2001, the UNFCC's 7$^{th}$ Conference of the Parties met in Marrakesh, Morocco, to finalize the measures needed to make the Kyoto Protocol operational. Although the UNFCC projected that ratification of the Protocol would make it legally binding within a year, many critics noted that the process had fallen short of implementing significant changes in policy that would be necessary to actually stop or even slow climate change. They also maintained that the absence of U.S. participation effectively rendered the Protocol into being a political exercise without any substance, either in terms of transnational policy or in terms of environmental concerns.

The adoption of the compromises ensconced within the Bonn Agreement had been intended to make the provisions of the Kyoto Protocol more palatable to the U.S. In this regard, it failed to achieve its objective as the Bush administration continued to eschew participation in the international accord. Still, however, the Bonn Agreement did manage to render a number of other positive outcomes. Specifically, in 2002, key countries, such as Russia, Japan and Canada agreed to ratify the protocol, bringing the number of signatories to 178. The decision by key countries to

ratify the protocol was regarded as "the kiss of life" by observers.

By 2005, on the eve of a climate change conference in London, British Prime Minister Tony Blair was hoping to deal with the problems of climate change beyond the provisions set forth in the Kyoto Protocol. Acknowledging that the Kyoto Protocol could not work in its current form, Blair wanted to open the discussion for a new climate change plan.

Blair said that although most of the world had signed on to Kyoto, the protocol could not meet any of its practical goals of cutting greenhouse gas emissions without the participation of the United States, the world's largest polluter. He also noted that any new agreement would have to include India and China -- significant producers of greenhouse gas emissions, but exempt from Kyoto because they have been classified as developing countries. Still, he said that progress on dealing with climate change had been stymied by "a reluctance to face up to reality and the practical action needed to tackle problem."

Blair also touted the "huge opportunities" in technology and pointed toward the possibilities offered by wind, solar and nuclear power, along with fuel cell technology, eco-friendly biofuels, and carbon capture and storage which could generate low carbon power. Blair also asserted that his government was committed to achieving its domestic goal of reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 20 percent by 2010.

In the United States, President George W. Bush has said that global warming remained a debatable issue and despite conclusions reached by his own Environmental Protection Agency, he has not agreed with the conclusion that global warming and climate change are linked with human activities. Bush has also refused to ratify Kyoto on the basis of its economic costs.

Australia, an ally of the United States, has taken a similarly dim view of the Kyoto Protocol. Ahead of the November 2005 climate change meeting in Canada in which new goals for the protocol were to be discussed, Australia 's Environment Minister, Ian Campbell, said that negotiating new greenhouse gas emission levels for the Kyoto Protocol would be a waste of time. Campbell said, "There is a consensus that the caps, targets and timetables approach is flawed. If we spend the next five years arguing about that, we'll be fiddling and negotiating while Rome burns." Campbell, like the Bush administration, has also advocated a system of voluntary action in which industry takes up new technologies rather than as a result of compelling the reduction of emissions. But the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) has called on its government to ratify the Kyoto Protocol, to establish a system of emissions trading, and to set binding limits on emissions. Interestingly, although it did not sign on to Kyoto , Australia was expected to meet its emissions target by 2012 (an 8 percent increase in 1990 levels in keeping with the country's reliance on coal). But this success has nothing to do with new technologies and is due to state-based regulations on land clearing.

Note: The Kyoto Protocol calls for developed nations to cut greenhouse emissions by 5.2 percent

of 1990 levels by 2012.

***Special Entry: Climate Change Summit in Copenhagen (2009) --***

In December 2009, the United Nations Climate Change Summit opened in the Danish capital of Copenhagen. The summit was scheduled to last from Dec. 7-18, 2009. Delegates from more than 190 countries were in attendance, and approximately 100 world leaders, including British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and United States President Barack Obama, were expected to participate. At issue was the matter of new reductions targets on greenhouse gas emissions by 2020.

Despite earlier fears that little concurrence would come from the conference, effectively pushing significant actions forward to a 2010 conference in Mexico City, negotiators were now reporting that the talks were productive and several key countries, such as South Africa, had pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The two main issues that could still lead to cleavages were questions of agreement between the industrialized countries and the developing countries of the world, as well as the overall effectiveness of proposals in seriously addressing the perils of climate change.

On Dec. 9, 2009, four countries -- the United Kingdom, Australia, Mexico and Norway -- presented a document outlining ideas for raising and managing billions of dollars, which would be intended to help vulnerable countries dealing with the perils of climate change. Described as a "green fund," the concept could potentially help small island states at risk because of the rise in sea level. Bangladesh identified itself as a potential recipient of an assistance fund, noting that as a country plagued by devastating floods, it was particularly hard-hit by climate change. The "green fund" would fall under the rubric of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, for which developed countries have been committed to quantifying their emission reduction targets, and also to providing financial and technical support to developing countries.

The United Kingdom, Australia, Mexico and Norway also called for the creation of a new legal treaty that would replace the Kyoto Protocol. This new treaty, which could go into force in 2012, would focus largely on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2020. But Australia went even further in saying that the successor treaty to the Kyoto Protocol, should be one with provisions covering all countries. Such a move would be a departure from the structure of the Kyoto Protocol, which contained emissions targets for industrialized countries due to the prevailing view that developed countries had a particular historic responsibility to be accountable for climate change. More recently, it has become apparent that substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions demanded by scientists would only come to pass with the participation also of significant developing nation states, such as China and India. Indeed, one of the most pressing critiques of the Kyoto Protocol was that it was a "paper tiger" that failed to address the impact of the actions of emerging economies like China and India, with its focus on the developed economies.

Now, in 2009, China -- as the world's biggest greenhouse gas emitter -- was responding this dubious distinction by vocalizing its criticism of the current scenario and foregrounding its new commitments. Ahead of the Copenhagen summit, China had announced it would reduce the intensity of its carbon emissions per unit of its GDP in 2020 by 40 to 45 percent against 2005 levels. With that new commitment at hand, China was now accusing the United States and the European Union of shirking their own responsibilities by setting weak targets for greenhouse gas emissions cuts. Senior Chinese negotiator, Su Wei, characterized the goals of the world's second largest greenhouse gas emitter -- the United States -- as "not notable," and the European Union's target as "not enough." Su Wei also took issue with Japan for setting implausible preconditions.

On Dec. 11, 2009, China demanded that developed and wealthy countries in Copenhagen should help deliver a real agreement on climate change by delivering on their promises to reduce carbon emissions and provide financial support for developing countries to adapt to global warming. In so doing, China's Vice Foreign Minister He Yafei said his country was hoping that a "balanced outcome" would emerge from the discussions at the summit. Echoing the position of the Australian government, He Yafei spoke of a draft agreement as follows: "The final document we're going to adopt needs to be taking into account the needs and aspirations of all countries, particularly the most vulnerable ones."

China's Vice Foreign Minister emphasized the fact that climate change was "a matter of survival" for developing countries, and accordingly, such countries need wealthier and more developed countries to accentuate not only their pledges of emissions reduction targets, but also their financial commitments under the aforementioned United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. To that end, scientists and leaders of small island states in the Indian Ocean, the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea, have highlighted the existential threat posed by global warming and the concomitant rise in sea level.

China aside, attention was also on India -- another major player in the developing world and a country with an industrializing economy that was impacting the environment. At issue was the Indian government's decision to set a carbon intensity target, which would slow emissions growth by up to 25 percent by the 2020 deadline. This strong position was resisted by some elements in India, who argued that their country should not be taking such a strong position when developed wealthy countries were yet to show accountability for their previous commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The matter grew so heated that the members of the opposition stormed out of the parliament in protest as Indian Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh defended the policy. But the political pressure at home in India was leaving the Indian delegation in Copenhagen in a state of chaos as well. In fact, India's top environmental negotiator refused to travel to Copenhagen in protest of the government's newly-announced stance.

China and India were joined by Brazil and South Africa in the crafting of a draft document calling for a new global climate treaty to be completed by June 2010. Of concern has been the realization

that there was insufficient time to find concurrence on a full legal treaty, which would leave countries only with a politically-binding text by the time the summit at Copenhagen closed. But Guyana's leader, President Bharrat Jagdeo, warned that the summit in Denmark would be classified as a failure unless a binding document was agreed upon instead of just political consensus. He urged his cohorts to act with purpose saying, "Never before have science, economics, geo-strategic self-interest and politics intersected in such a way on an issue that impacts everyone on the planet."

Likewise, Tuvalu demanded that legally binding agreements emerge from Copenhagen. Its proposal was supported by many of the vulnerable countries, from small island states and sub-Saharan Africa, all of whom warned of the catastrophic impact of climate change on their citizens. Tuvalu also called for more aggressive action, such as an amendment to the 1992 agreement, which would focus on sharp greenhouse gas emissions and the accepted rise in temperatures, due to the impact the rise in seas. The delegation from Kiribati joined the call by drawing attention to the fact that one village had to be abandoned due to waist-high water, and more such effects were likely to follow. Kiribati's Foreign Secretary, Tessie Lambourne, warned that the people of Kiribati could well be faced with no homeland in the future saying, "Nobody in this room would want to leave their homeland." But despite such impassioned pleas and irrespective of warnings from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that the rise in sea level from melting polar ice caps would deleteriously affect low-lying atolls such as such as Tuvalu and Kiribati in the Pacific, and the Maldives in the Indian Ocean, the oil-giant Saudi Arabia was able to block this move.

Meanwhile, within the developed countries, yet another power struggle was brewing. The European Union warned it would only agree to raise its target of 20 percent greenhouse gas emissions reductions to 30 percent if the United States demonstrated that it would do more to reduce its own emissions. It was unknown if such pressure would yield results. United States President Barack Obama offered a "provisional" 2020 target of 17 percent reductions, noting that he could not offer greater concessions at Copenhagen due to resistance within the United States Congress, which was already trying to pass a highly controversial "cap and trade" emissions legislation. However, should that emissions trading bill fail in the Senate, the United States Environment Protection Agency's declaration that greenhouse gases pose a danger to human health and the environment was expected to facilitate further regulations and limits on power plants and factories at the national level. These moves could potentially strengthen the Obama administration's offering at Copenhagen. As well, President Obama also signaled that he would be willing to consider the inclusion of international forestry credits.

Such moves indicated willingness by the Obama administration to play a more constructive role on the international environmental scene than its predecessor, the Bush administration. Indeed, ahead of his arrival at the Copenhagen summit, President Barack Obama's top environmental advisors promised to work on a substantial climate change agreement. To that end, United States

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson said at a press conference, "We are seeking robust engagement with all of our partners around the world." But would this pro-engagement assertion yield actual results?

By Dec. 12, 2009, details related to a draft document prepared by Michael Zammit Cutajar, the head of the Ad-hoc Working Group on Long-Term Cooperative Action, were released at the Copenhagen climate conference. Included in the document were calls for countries to make major reductions in carbon emissions over the course of the next decade. According to the Washington Post, industrialized countries were called on to make cuts of between 25 percent and 40 percent below 1990 levels -- reductions that were far more draconian than the United States was likely to accept. As discussed above, President Obama had offered a provisional reduction target of 17 percent. The wide gap between the released draft and the United States' actual stated position suggested there was much more negotiating in the offing if a binding agreement could be forged, despite the Obama administration's claims that it was seeking greater engagement on this issue.

In other developments, the aforementioned call for financial support of developing countries to deal with the perils of climate change was partly answered by the European Union on Dec. 11, 2009. The European bloc pledged an amount of 2.4 billion euros (US$3.5 billion) annually from 2010 to 2012. Environment Minister Andreas Carlgren of Sweden -- the country that holds the rotating presidency of the European Union at the time of the summit -- put his weight behind the notion of a "legally binding deal." Meanwhile, Yvo de Boer, a top United Nations climate change official, focused less on the essence of the agreement and more on tangible action and effects saying, "Copenhagen will only be a success if it delivers significant and immediate action that begins the day the conference ends."

The division between developed and developing countries in Copenhagen reached new heights on Dec. 14, 2009, when some of the poor and less developed countries launched a boycott at the summit. The move, which was spurred by African countries but backed by China and India, appeared to be geared toward redirecting attention and primary responsibility to the wealthier and more industrialized countries. The impasse was resolved after the wealthier and more industrialized countries offered assurances that they did not intend on shirking from their commitments to reducing greenhouse gases. As a result, the participating countries ceased the boycott.

Outside the actual summit, thousands of protestors had gathered to demand crucial global warming, leading to clashes between police and demonstrators elsewhere in the Danish capital city. There were reports of scattered violence across Copenhagen and more than 1,000 people were arrested.

Nevertheless, by the second week of the climate change summit, hopes of forging a strong deal were eroding as developed and developing nations remained deadlocked on sharing cuts in greenhouse gases, and particularly on the matters of financing and temperature goals. In a bid to

shore up support for a new climate change, United States President Barack Obama joined other world leaders in Copenhagen. On Dec. 14, 2009, there was a standoff brewing between the United States and China. At issue was China's refusal to accept international monitoring of its expressed targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The United States argued that China's opposition to verification could be a deal-breaker.

By the close of the summit, the difficult process eventually resulted in some consensus being cultivated. A draft text called for $100 billion a year by 2020 to assist poor nations cope with climate change, while aiming to limit global warming to two degrees Celsius compared with pre-industrial levels. The deal also included specific targets for developed countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and called for reductions by developing countries as a share of their economies. Also included in the agreement was a mechanism to verify compliance. The details of the agreement were supported by President Barack Obama, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

This draft would stand as an interim agreement, with a legally-binding international pact unlikely to materialize until 2010. In this way, the summit in Copenhagen failed to achieve its central objective, which was to negotiate a successor to the Kyoto Protocol on greenhouse gas emissions.

Editor's Note

In the background of these developments was the growing global consciousness related to global warming and climate change. Indeed, as the Copenhagen summit was ongoing, it was clear there was enormous concurrence on the significance of the stakes with an editorial on the matter of climate change being published in 56 newspapers in 45 countries. That editorial warned that without global action, climate change would "ravage our planet." Meanwhile, a global survey taken by Globescan showed that concern over global warming had exponentially increased from 1998 -- when only 20 percent of respondents believed it to be a serious problem -- to 64 percent in 2009. Such survey data, however, was generated ahead of the accusations by climate change skeptics that some climate scientists may have overstated the case for global warming, based on emails derived in an illicit manner from a British University.

***Special Entry: Climate change talks in Doha in Qatar extend life of Kyoto Protocol (2012)***

December 2012 saw climate talks ensue in the Qatari city of Doha as representatives from countries across the world gathered to discuss the fate of the Kyoto Protocol, which seeks to minimize greenhouse gas emissions. The summit yielded results with decisions made (1) to extend the Kyoto Protocol until 2020, and (2) for wealthier countries to compensate poorer countries for the losses and damage incurred as a result of climate change.

In regards to the second matter, Malia Talakai of Nauru, a leading negotiator for the Alliance of Small Island States, explained the necessity of the compensation package as follows: “We are trying to say that if you pollute you must help us.”

This measure was being dubbed the "Loss and Damage" mechanism, and was being linked with United States President Barack Obama's request for $60 billion from Congress to deal with the devastation caused by Hurricane Sandy months before. The sight of a hurricane bearing down on the northern Atlantic seaboard, along with the reality of the scope of reconstruction, appeared to have illustrated the economic costs of climate change -- not so much as a distant environmental issue -- but as a danger to the quotidian lives of people. Still, there was blame to be placed on the United States and European countries -- some of world's largest emitters -- for failing to do more to reduce emissions.

To that latter end, there was in fact little progress made on the central issue of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Had those emissions been reduced, there would have been less of a need to financially deal with the devastation caused by climate change. One interpretation was that the global community was accepting the fact that industrialization was contributing to global warming, which had deleterious effects on the polar ice caps and concomitantly on the rise of sea level, with devastating effects for small island nations. Thus, wealthier countries were willing to pay around $10 billion a year through 2020, effectively in "damages," to the poor countries that could be viewed as the "collateral damage" of industrial progress. But damages today could potentially be destruction tomorrow, leaving in place the existential challenges and burdens to be born by some of the world's smallest and least wealthy island countries.

Perhaps not surprisingly, the representative for the small island nation states at the Doha summit responded with ire, characterizing the lack of progress on reducing emissions as follows: "We see the package before us as deeply deficient in mitigation (carbon cuts) and finance. It's likely to lock us on the trajectory to a 3,4,5C rise in global temperatures, even though we agreed to keep the global average temperature rise of 1.5C to ensure survival of all islands. There is no new finance (for adapting to climate change and getting clean energy) -- only promises that something might materialize in the future. Those who are obstructive need to talk not about how their people will live, but whether our people will live."

Indeed, in most small island countries not just in the Pacific, but also the Caribbean and Indian Ocean, ecological concerns and the climate crisis have been dominant themes with dire life and death consequences looming in the background for their people. Small island nations in these region are already at risk from the rise of sea-level, tropical cyclones, floods. But their very livelihoods of fishing and subsistence farming were also at risk as a result of ecological and environmental changes. Increasingly high storm surges can wipe out entire villages and contaminate water supplies. Accordingly, the very existence of island nations, such as Kiribati and Tuvalu, are at severe risk of being obliterated from the map. Yet even with the existential threat of being wiped

off the map in the offing, the international community has been either slow or restrictive in its efforts to deal with global warming, climate change, economic and ecological damage, as well as the emerging global challenge of environmental refugees.

A 2012 report from the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and the Pacific Regional Environment Program underlined the concerns of small island nations and their people as it concluded that the livelihoods of approximately 10 million people in Pacific island communities were increasingly vulnerable to climate change. In fact, low-lying islands in that region would likely confront losses of up to 18 percent of gross domestic product due to climate change, according to the report. The report covers 21 countries and territories, including Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa and Tonga, and recommended environmental legislation intended to deal with the climate crisis facing the small island countries particularly. As noted by David Sheppard, the director general of the Pacific Regional Environment Program that co-sponsored this study: “The findings... emphasize the need more than ever to raise the bar through collective actions that address the region's environmental needs at all levels."

Regardless of the failures of the summit in Qatar (discussed above), the meeting did facilitate a process starting in 2015, which would bind both wealthy and poor countries together in the mission of forging a new binding treaty that would replace the Kyoto Protocol and tackle the central causes of climate change.

For more information on the threats faced in small island nations by climate change and the measures being undertaken to lobby for international action, please see the Alliance for Small Island States available online at the URL: http://aosis.org/

***Special Report***

***COP 21 summit in Paris ends with historic agreement to tackle climate change; rare international consensus formed on environmental crisis facing the planet (2015) --***

In mid-December 2015, the highly-anticipated United Nations climate conference of parties (COP) in Paris, France, ended with a historic agreement. In fact, it would very likely be understood as the most significant international agreement signed by all the recognized countries of the world since the Cold War. Accordingly, the Paris Agreement was being distinguished as the first multilateral pact that would compel all countries across the world to cut its carbon emissions -- one of the major causes of increasing greenhouse gas emissions, which contribute to global warming, and its deleterious effects ranging from the dangerous rise in sea level to catastrophic climate change.

The accord, which was dubbed to be the "Paris Agreement," was the work of rigorous diplomacy

and fervent environmental advocacy, and it aimed to address the climate change crisis facing the planet. As many as 195 countries were represented in the negotiations that led to the landmark climate deal. Indeed, it was only after weeks of passionate debate that international concurrence was reached in addressing the environmental challenges confronting the world, with particular attention to moving beyond fossil fuels and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The success of the COP 21 summit in Paris and the emergence of the landmark Paris Agreement was, to some extent, attributed to the efforts of France's Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius who presided over the negotiations. The French foreign minister's experience and credentials as a seasoned diplomat and respected statesman paid dividends. He skillfully guided the delegates from almost 200 countries and interest groups along the negotiations process, with ostensibly productive results and a reasonably robust deal to show for it.

On Dec. 12, 2015, French Foreign Minister Fabius officially adopted the agreement, declaring: "I now invite the COP to adopt the decision entitled Paris Agreement outlined in the document. Looking out to the room I see that the reaction is positive, I see no objections. The Paris agreement is adopted." Once Foreign Minister Fabius' gavel was struck, symbolically inaugurating the Paris Agreement into force, the COP delegate rushed to their feet with loud and bouyant cheers as well as thunderous applause.

In general, the Paris Agreement was being hailed as a victory for enviromental activists and a triumph for international diplomats, while at the same time being understood as simply an initial -- and imperfect -- move in the direction of a sustainable future. China's chief negotiator, Xie Zhenhua, issued this message, saying that while the accord was not ideal, it should "not prevent us from marching historical steps forward."

United States President Barack Obama lauded the deal as both "ambitious" and "historic," and the work of strenuous multilateral negotiations as he declared, "Together, we've shown what's possible when the world stands as one." The United States leader acknowledged that the accord was not "perfect," but he reminded the critics that it was "the best chance to save the one planet we have. "

Former United States Vice President Al Gore, one of the world's most well known environmental advocates, issued a lengthy statement on the accompishments ensconced in the Paris Agreement. He highlighted the fact that the Paris Agreement was a first step towards a future with a reduced carbon footprint on Planet Earth as he said, "The components of this agreement -- including a strong review mechanism to enhance existing commitments and a long-term goal to eliminate global-warming pollution this century -- are essential to unlocking the necessary investments in our future. No agreement is perfect, and this one must be strengthened over time, but groups across every sector of society will now begin to reduce dangerous carbon pollution through the framework of this agreement."

The central provisions of the Paris Agreement included the following items:

- Greenhouse gas emissions should peak as quickly as possible, with a move towards balancing energy sources, and ultimately the decrease of greenhouse gases in the second half of this century
- Global temperature increase would be limited to 1.5 degrees Centigrade above pre-industrial levels and would be held "well below" the two degrees Centigrade threshold
- Progress on these goals would be reviewed every five years beginning in 2020 with new greenhouse gas reduction targets issued every five years
- $100 billion would be expended each year in climate finance for developing countries to move forward with green technologies, with further climate financing to be advanced in the years beyond

It should be noted that there both legally binding and voluntary elements contained within the Paris Agreement. Specifically, the submission of an emissions reduction target and the regular review of that goal would be legally mandatory for all countries. Stated differently, there would be a system in place by which experts would be able to track the carbon-cutting progress of each country. At the same time, the specific targets to be set by countries would be determined at the discretion of the countries, and would not be binding. While there was some criticism over this non-binding element, the fact of the matter was that the imposition of emissions targets was believed to be a major factor in the failure of climate change talks in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 2009.

In 2015, the talks faced challenges as several countries, such as China and India, objected to conditions that would stymie economic and development. In order to avoid that kind of landmine, a system Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) was developed and formed the basis of the accord. As such, the Paris Agreement would, in fact, facilitate economic growth and development, as well as technological progress, but with the goal of long-term ecological sustainability based on low carbon sources. In fact, the agreement heralded as "the beginning of the end of the fossil fuel era." As noted by Nick Mabey, the head of the climate diplomacy organization E3G, said, "Paris means governments will go further and faster to tackle climate change than ever before. The transition to a low carbon economy is now unstoppable, ensuring the end of the fossil fuel age."

A particular sticking point in the agreement was the $100 billion earmarked for climate financing for developing countries to transition from traditional fossil fuels to green energy technologies and a low carbon future. In 2014, a report by the International Energy Agency indicated that the cost of that transition would actually be around $44 trillion by the mid-century -- an amount that would render the $100 billion being promised to be a drop in the proverbial bucket. However, the general expectation was that the Republican-controlled Senate in the United States, which would have to ratify the deal in that country, was not interested in contributing significant funds for the cause of climate change.

A key strength of the Paris Agreement was the ubiquitous application of measures to all countries. Of note was the frequently utilized concept of "flexibility" with regard to the Paris Agreement. Specifically, the varying capacities of the various countries in meeting their obligations would be anticipated and accorded flexibility. This aspect presented something of a departure from the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, which drew a sharp distinction between developed and developing countries, and mandated a different set of obligations for those categories of countries. Thus, under Kyoto, China and India were not held to the same standards as the United States and European countries. In the Paris Agreement, there would be commitments from all countries across the globe.

Another notable strength of the Paris Agreement was the fact that the countries of the world were finally able to reach consensus on the vital necessity to limit global temperature increases to 1.5 degrees Centrigrade. Ahead of the global consensus on the deal, and as controversy continued to surface over the targeted global temperature limits, the leaders of island countries were sounding the alarm about the melting of the Polar ice caps and the associated rise in seal level. Prime Minister Enele Sopoaga of Tuvalu issued this dismal reminder: "Tuvalu's future … is already bleak and any further temperature increase will spell the total demise of Tuvalu. No leader in this room carries such a level of worry and responsibility. Just imagine you are in my shoes, what would you do?" It was thus something of a victory for environmental advocates that the countries of the world could find cnsensus on the lower number -- 1.5 degrees rather than 2 degrees.

A significant weak point with regard to the Paris deal was a "loss and damage" provision, which anticipates that even with all the new undertakings intended to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and move to a low carbon future, there would nonetheless be unavoidable climate change consequences. Those consequences ranged from the loss of arable land for farmers as well as soil erosion and contamination of potable water by sea water, to the decimation of territory in coastal zones and on small islands, due to the rise in sea level, with entire small island countries being rendered entirely uninhabitable. The reality was that peoples' homes across the world would be destroyed along with their way of life.

With that latter catastrophic effect being a clear and present danger for small island countries, the Association of Small Island States (AOSIS) demanded that the developed world acknowledge its responsibility for this irreversible damage.. Despite the fact that greenhouse gas emissions and the ensuing plague of global warming was, indeed, the consequence of development in the West (the United States and Europe) and the large power house countries, such as Russia, China and India, there was no appetite by those countries to sign on to unlimited liability. Under the Paris Agreement, there was a call for research on insurance mechanisms that would address loss and damage issues, with recommendations to come in the future.

The call for research was being regarded as an evasion of sorts and constituted the weakest aspect of the Paris Agreement. Not surprisingly, a coalition of small island nations demanded a "Marshall

Plan" for the Pacific. Borrowing the term "Marshall Plan" from the post-World War II reconstruction effort, the coalition of Pacific island nation, which included Kiribati, Tuvalu, Fiji, and the Marshall Islands, called for an initiative that would include investment in renewable energy and shoreline protection, cultural preservation, economic assistance for economies in transition, and a plan for migration and resettlement for these countries as they confront the catastrophic effects of the melting of the Polar ice caps and the concomitant rise in sea level. The precise contours of the initiative remained unknown, unspecified, and a mere exercise in theory at the time of writing. Yet such an initiative would, at some point, have to be addressed, given the realities of climate change and the slow motion calamity unfolding each day for low-lying island nations across the world.

As noted by Vice President Greg Stone of Conservation International, who also functions as an adviser to the government of Kiribati, “Imagine living in a place where you know it’s going to go away someday, but you don’t know what day that wave’s going to come over and wash your home away." He added, “It’s a disaster we know is going to happen.” Meanwhile, the intervening years promised to be filled with hardship for small island nations, such as Kiribati. Stone explained, “For every inch of sea-level rise, these islands lose 10 feet of their freshwater table to saltwater intrusion,” Stone explained. “So it’s not just about the day the water finally goes over the island; it’s also about the day that there’s just not enough water left and everyone has to move off the island.” Presaging the future for island nations that could face submersion, Stone said, “If you look ahead 50 years, a country like Kiribati could become the first aqueous nation. possibility of migration. That is, they own this big patch of ocean, and they administer it from elsewhere.”

Foreign Minister Minister Tony Debrum of the Marshall Islands emerged as the champion advocating on behalf of small island nation states and a loose coalition of concerned countries from the Pacific to the Caribbean, but with support from the United States. He addressed the comprehensive concerns of small island nations regarding the weaknesses of the deal, while simultaneously making clear that the Paris Agreement signified hope for the countries most at risk. In a formal statement, Debrum declared: "We have made history today. Emissions targets are still way off track, but this agreement has the tools to ramp up ambition, and brings a spirit of hope that we can rise to this challenge. I can go back home to my people and say we now have a pathway to survival.” Debrum highlighted the imperatives of Pacific island nations, saying, “Our High Ambition Coalition was the lightning rod we needed to lift our sights and expectations for a strong agreement here in Paris. We were joined by countries representing more than half the world. We said loud and clear that a bare-bones, minimalist agreement would not fly. We instead demanded an agreement to mark a turning point in history, and the beginning of our journey to the post-carbon era.”

Debrum of the Marshall Islands espoused the quintessential synopsis of the accord and its effects for those most likely to be affected by climate change as he noted, “Climate change won’t stop

overnight, and my country is not out of the firing line just yet, but today we all feel a little safer."

Editor's Entry on Environmental Policy:

The low-lying Pacific island nations of the world, including Kiribati, Tuvalu, the Marshall Islands, Fiji, among others, are vulnerable to the threats posed by global warming and cimate change, derived from carbon emissions, and resulting in the rise in sea level. Other island nations in the Caribbean, as well as poor countries with coastal zones, were also at particular risk of suffering the deleterious effects of climate change.

Political policy in these countries are often connected to ecological issues, which have over time morphed into an existential crisis of sorts. Indeed, ecological concerns and the climate crisis have also been dominant themes with life and death consequences for the people of island nations in the Pacific. Indeed, the very livelihoods of fishing and subsistence farming remain at risk as a result of ecological and environmental changes. Yet even so, these countries are threatened by increasingly high storm surges, which could wipe out entire villages and contaminate water supplies. Moreover, because these are low lying island nations, the sustained rise in sea level can potentially lead to the terrain of these countries being unihabitable at best, and submerged at worst. Stated in plain terms, these countries are at severe risk of being obliterated from the map and their plight illuminates the emerging global challenge of environmental refugees. In these manifold senses, climate change is the existential crisis of the contemporary era.

Since the time of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, there have been efforts aimed at extending the life of that agreement, with an eye on minimizing greenhouse gas emissions, and thus minimizing the effects of climate change. Those endeavors have largely ended in failure, as exemplified by the unsuccessful Copenhagen talks in 2009 and the fruitless Doha talks in 2012 respectively. The success of the COP 21 talks in France, with the adoption of the landmark Paris Agreement in 2015, was regarded as the first glimmer of hope. Not only did the Paris Agreement signify the triumph of international diplomacy and global consensus, but it also marked the start of the end of the fossil fuel era, with the path forward toward a low carbon future reliant on greener technologies. Most crucially, the Paris Agreement stood as the first significant response in recent times to the central challenge of climate change and its quotidian effects on the lives of real human beings across the world.

## 1. Major International Environmental Accords:

### General Environmental Concerns

Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, Espoo, 1991.

### Accords Regarding Atmosphere

Annex 16, vol. II (Environmental Protection: Aircraft Engine Emissions) to the 1044 Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation, Montreal, 1981

Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP), Geneva, 1079

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), New York, 1002

Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, Vienna, 1985 including the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Depleted the Ozone Layer, Montreal, 1987

### Accords Regarding Hazardous Substances

Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movements and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa, Bamako, 1991

Convention on Civil Liability for Damage Caused during Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road, Rail and Inland Navigation Vessels (CRTD), Geneva, 1989

Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (Basel Convention), Basel, 1989

Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents, Helsinki, 1992

Convention to Ban the Importation into Forum Island Countries of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes and to Control the Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within the South Pacific Region (Waigani Convention), Waigani, 1995

European Agreement Concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR), Geneva 1957

FAO International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, Rome, 1985

## 2. Major International Marine Accords:

### Global Conventions

Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (London Convention 1972), London, 1972

International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by Protocol of 1978 relation thereto (MARPOL 73/78), London, 1973 and 1978

International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage 1969 (1969 CLC), Brussels, 1969, 1976, and 1984

International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage 1971 (1971 Fund Convention), Brussels, 1971

Convention on Liability and Compensation for Damage in Connection with the Carriage of Hazardous and Noxious Substances by Sea (HNS), London 1996

International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response, and Co-operation (OPRC), London, 1990

International Convention Relation to Intervention on the High Seas in Cases of Oil Pollution Casualties (Intervention Convention), Brussels, 1969

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), Montego Bay, 1982

**Regional Conventions**

Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft (Oslo Convention), Oslo, 1972

Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution from Land-based Sources (Paris Convention), Paris, 1974

Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North East Atlantic (OSPAR Convention), Paris, 1992

Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area (1974 Helsinki Convention), Helsinki 1974

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Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution, Bucharest, 1992

Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, Cartagena de Indias, 1983

Convention for the Protection, Management, and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region, Nairobi, 1985

Kuwait Regional Convention for Co-operation on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Pollution, Kuwait, 1978

Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Region of the Mediterranean Sea (Barcelona Convention), Barcelona, 1976

Regional Convention for the Conservation of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Environment, Jeddah, 1982

Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region, Noumea, 1986

Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Area of the South-East Pacific, Lima, 1981

Convention for Co-operation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region, Abidjan, 1981

## 3. Major Conventions Regarding Living Resources:

### Marine Living Resources

Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), Canberra, 1980

International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), Rio de Janeiro, 1966

International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW), Washington, 1946

**Nature Conservation and Terrestrial Living Resources**

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**Freshwater Resources**

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**4. Major Conventions Regarding Nuclear Safety:**

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Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident (Notification Convention), Vienna, 1986

Convention on Nuclear Safety, Vienna, 1994

Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage, Vienna, 1963

## 5. Major Intergovernmental Organizations

Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)

European Union (EU): Environment

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Global Environment Facility (GEF)

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

International Labour Organization (ILO)

International Maritime Organization (IMO)

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds (IOPC Funds)

Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Environment Policy Committee (EPOC)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

World Bank

World Food Programme (WFP)

World Health Organization (WHO)

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

World Trade Organization (WTO)

## 6. Major Non-Governmental Organizations

Atmosphere Action Network East Asia (AANEA)

Climate Action Network (CAN)

Consumers International (CI)

Earth Council

Earthwatch Institute

Environmental Liaison Centre International (ELCI)

European Environmental Bureau (EEB)

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

Friends of the Earth International (FoEI)

Greenpeace International

International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)

International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU)

International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)

International Solar Energy Society (ISES)

IUCN-The World Conservation Union

Pesticide Action Network (PAN)

Sierra Club

Society for International Development (SID)

Third World Network (TWN)

Water Environment Federation (WEF)

Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)

World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)

World Federalist Movement (WFM)

World Resources Institute (WRI)

World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF)

## 7. Other Networking Instruments

Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED)

Global Legislators for a Balanced Environment (GLOBE)

Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC)

United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS)

# Appendices

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The earlier edition dates are noted above because they were used to formulate the original Country Reviews and serve as the baseline for some of the information covered. Later editions have been used in some cases, and are cited as such, while other more recent online resources (cited above) contain recent and ever-updated data sets used for research.

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Exceptions to this method were used for:
- Bosnia-Herzegovina
- Nauru
- Cuba
- Palau
- Holy See
- San Marino
- Korea, North
- Serbia & Montenegro
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- Liechtenstein
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- Tuvalu

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United States Central Intelligence Agency, World Factbook. 2001. Washington, D.C.: Printing and Photography Group. URL: http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html

United States Department of State, Background Notes. URL: http://www.state.gov/www/background_notes/index.html

United States Department of State, Commercial and Business Affairs: Travel Tips. URL: http://www.state.gov/www/about_state/business/cba_travel.html

United States Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs. URL: http://travel.state.gov/

World Health Organization. URL: http://www.who.int/home-page/

World News Connection, National Technical Information Service. Springfield, Virginia, USA.

Internet News Service, Xinhua News Agency (U.S.) Inc. Woodside, New York. URL: http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/

Note on Edition Dates:

The earlier edition dates are noted above because they were used to formulate the original country reviews and serve as the baseline for some of the information covered. Later editions have been used in some cases, and are cited as such, while other more recent online resources (cited above) contain recent and ever-updated data sets used for research.

Methodology Notes for the HDI:

Since 1990, the United Nations Development Programme, in concert with organizations across the globe, has produced the Human Development Index (or HDI). According to the UNDP, the index measures average achievement in basic human development in one simple composite index, and produces from this index a ranking of countries. The HDI is a composite of three basic components of human development: longevity, knowledge and standard of living. Longevity is measured by life expectancy. Knowledge is measured by combination of adult literacy and mean

years of schooling. Standard of living is measured by purchasing power, based on real GDP per capita (in constant US$) adjusted for differences in international living costs (or, purchasing power parity, PPP). While the index uses these social indicators to measure national performance with regard to human welfare and development, not all countries provide the same level of information for each component needed to compute the index; therefore, as in any composite indicator, the final index is predicated on projections, predictions and weighting schemes. The index is a static measure, and thus, an incomplete measure of human welfare. In fact, the UNDP says itself the concept of human development focuses on the ends rather than the means of development and progress, examining in this manner, the average condition of all people in a given country.

Specifically, the index is calculated by determining the maximum and minimum for each of the three components (as listed above) and then measuring where each country stands in relation to these scales-expressed as a value between 0 and 1. For example, the minimum adult literary rate is zero percent, the maximum is 100 percent, and the reading skills component of knowledge in the HDI for a country where the literacy rate is 75 percent would be 0.75. The scores of all indicators are then averaged into the overall index.

For a more extensive examination of human development, as well as the ranking tables for each participating country, please visit: http://www.undp.org

Note on History sections

In some CountryWatch Country Reviews, open source content from the State Department Background Notes and Country Guides have been used.

## Environmental Overview

Environmental Profiles: A Global Guide to Projects and People. 1993. Linda Sobel Katz, Sarah Orrick, and Robert Honig. New York: Garland Publishing.

The Environment Encyclopedia and Directory, 2nd Edition. 1998. London: Europa.

Environmental Protection Agency Global Warming Site. URL: http://www.epa.gov/globalwarming

Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations: Forestry. URL: http://www.fao.org/forestry/site/sofo/en/

Global Warming Information Page. URL: http://globalwarming.org

Introduction to Global Environmental Issues, 2nd Edition. 1997. Kevin Pickering and Lewis Owen.

London: Routledge.

Trends: Compendium of Data on Global Change. URL: http://cdiac.esd.ornl.gov/trends/emis/em_cont.htm

United Nations Environmental Program. URL: http://www.unep.org/GEO/GEO_Products/Assessment_Reports/

United Nations Global Environmental Outlook. URL: http://www.unep.org/geo/geo4/media/

United States Department of Energy, Country Analysis Briefs. URL: http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/contents.html

World Climate Data Online. URL: http://www.worldclimate.com

World Directory of Country Environmental Studies. 1996. The World Resource Institute.

World Factbook. US Central Intelligence Agency. Washington, D.C.: Printing and Photography Group.

1998-1999 World Resources Guide to the Global Environment by the World Resources Institute. May, 1998.

1998/1999 Yearbook of International Cooperation on Environment and Development. 1998. London: Earthscan Publications.

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## Other Sources:

General information has also been used in the compilation of this review, with the courtesy of governmental agencies from this country.

## News Services:

CANA Daily Bulletin. Caribbean Media Agency Ltd., St. Michael, Barbados.

Central and Eastern Africa Report, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs - Integrated Regional Information Network for Central and Eastern Africa.

Daily News, Panafrican News Agency. Dakar, Senegal.

PACNEWS, Pacific Islands Broadcasting Association. Suva, Fiji.

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. Washington D.C. USA.

Reuters News. Thomson Reuters. New York, New York. USA.

Southern Africa Report, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs - Integrated Regional Information Network for Southern Africa.

Voice of America, English Service. Washington D.C.

West Africa Report, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs - Integrated Regional Information Network for West Africa. 1998-1999

Note: Some or all these news services have been used to research various sections of this Country Review.

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**Examples:**

Youngblood-Coleman, Denise. *Country Review: France*. 2003. Houston, Texas: CountryWatch Publications, 2003. *Country Review:France*. Online. Available URL: http://www.countrywatch.com/cw_country.asp?vCOUNTRY=61 October, 12, 2003.
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**Examples:**

Youngblood-Coleman, Denise. "People." *CountryWatch.com: France*. 2003. Houston, Texas: CountryWatch Publications, 2003. *CountryWatch.com: France*. Online. Available URL : http://www.countrywatch.com/cw_topic.asp?vCOUNTRY=61&SECTION=SOCIAL&TOPIC=CLPEO&TYPE=TEXT. October 12, 2003.

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# CountryWatch

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