

# Africa

## Constellation: AF Central C4.1

Chad, Cameroon, Congo, Guinea East, Gabon



### NEEDS

Continent: **Africa**

Constellation: **AF Central C4.1**

Country: **Chad**

#### Cry of the Earth

- inadequate supplies of potable water
- improper waste disposal in rural areas and poor farming practices contribute to soil and water pollution
- desertification

#### Cry of the Poor

- Former president Habré was recently convicted for serious international crimes against humanity, including torture, rape, and sexual slavery
  - Need for reparations and healing for victims and victims' families
- 40% of Chad's population lives below the poverty line
- mortality rate is high and life expectancy is low
  - Chad has the world's third highest maternal mortality rate
    - Among the primary risk factors are poverty, anemia, rural habitation, high fertility, poor education, and a lack of access to family planning and obstetric care
- Only about a quarter of women are literate, less than 5% use contraceptives, and more than 40% undergo female genital mutilation
- ISIS-West Africa and Boko Haram conduct kidnappings, bombings, and assaults
  - Internal displacement and immigration as people flee

Continent: **Africa**

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Country: **Cameroon**

#### Cry of the Earth

- waterborne diseases are prevalent

### Commitments

- deforestation and overgrazing result in erosion, desertification, and reduced quality of pastureland
- Poaching
- overfishing; overhunting

#### Cry of the Poor

- Life expectancy remains low at about 55 years due to the prevalence of HIV and AIDs and an elevated maternal mortality rate
- Cameroon, particularly the northern region, is vulnerable to food insecurity largely because of government mismanagement, corruption, high production costs, inadequate infrastructure, and natural disasters
- poverty is on the rise, and is most prevalent in rural areas, which are especially affected by a shortage of jobs, declining incomes, poor school and health care infrastructure, and a lack of clean water and sanitation
- ISIS-West Africa and Boko Haram conduct kidnappings, bombings, and assaults
  - Internal displacement and immigration as people flee
- Oppression of and brutality against political protesters

Continent: **Africa**

Constellation: **AF Central C4.1**

Country: **Republic of the Congo**

#### Cry of the Earth

- air pollution from vehicle emissions
- water pollution from raw sewage
- tap water is not potable
- deforestation
- wildlife protection

#### Cry of the Poor

- government's inability to pay civil servant salaries has resulted in multiple rounds of strikes by many groups, including doctors, nurses, and teachers
- a source and destination country for children, men, and women, subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking
  - most trafficking victims are from Benin, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and, to a lesser extent, other neighboring countries
  - subjected to domestic servitude and market vending by West African and Congolese nationals
  - adults and children, the majority from the DRC, are also sex trafficked in Congo, mainly Brazzaville; internal trafficking victims, often from rural areas,

are exploited as domestic servants or forced to work in quarries, bakeries, fishing, and agriculture

Continent: **Africa**

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Country: **Equatorial Guinea**

#### Cry of the Earth

- deforestation (forests are threatened by agricultural expansion, fires, and grazing)
- desertification
- water pollution (tap water is non-potable)
- wildlife preservation

#### Cry of the Poor

- elections since 1996 have generally been labeled as flawed. The president exerts almost total control over the political system and has placed legal and bureaucratic barriers that hinder political opposition
- agricultural sector, Equatorial Guinea's main employer, continues to deteriorate because of a lack of investment and the migration of rural workers to urban areas.
- About three-quarters of the population lives below the poverty line.
- Because of wealth from oil industry, Equatorial Guinea is now ineligible for most low-income World Bank and the IMF funding.
  - However, gov has been widely criticized for its lack of transparency and misuse of oil revenues
  - authoritarianism, corruption, and resource mismanagement have concentrated the benefits of oil production among a small elite
    - perpetuated income inequality and unbalanced development, such as low public spending on education and health care
- Equatorial Guinea is a source country for children subjected to sex trafficking and destination country for men, women, and children subjected to forced labor
  - Girls may be encouraged by their parents to engage in the sex trade in urban centers
  - children are also trafficked from nearby countries for work as domestic servants, market laborers, ambulant vendors, and launderers
  - women are trafficked to Equatorial Guinea from Cameroon, Benin, other neighboring countries, and China for forced labor or prostitution

#### General notes

- One of the smallest countries in Africa

Continent: **Africa**

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Country: **Gabon**

Cry of the Earth

- deforestation (the forests that cover three-quarters of the country are threatened by excessive logging)
- burgeoning population exacerbating disposal of solid waste
- oil industry contributing to water pollution
- wildlife poaching

Cry of the Poor

- oil revenues have given Gabon one of the highest per capita income levels in sub-Saharan Africa, but the wealth is not evenly distributed and poverty is widespread
- Unemployment is especially prevalent among the large youth population
- Slums in Libreville full of migrant workers from Senegal, Nigeria, Cameroon, Benin, Togo, and elsewhere in West Africa
- Power cuts and water shortages are frequent
- Gabon is primarily a destination and transit country for adults and children from West and Central African countries subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking
  - Boys are forced to work as street vendors, mechanics, or in the fishing sector
  - girls are subjected to domestic servitude or forced to work in markets or roadside restaurants;
  - West African women are forced into domestic servitude or prostitution
  - men are reportedly forced to work on cattle farms
    - Foreign adults end up in forced labor in Gabon after initially seeking the help of human smugglers to help them migrate clandestinely