



The Republic of Equatorial Guinea

The UNEP/CMS Secretariat welcomes the accession of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea to CMS. Equatorial Guinea will be 114th Party to the Convention with effect from 1 August 2010.

The Republic of Equatorial Guinea is located in Central Africa, bordering the Bay of Biafra. Due to the variety of bio-geographical regions within its territory, Equatorial Guinea possesses a high degree of biological diversity. In its area of more than 28,051 km², the country also embraces a combination of complex vegetation zones. Beyond the coastal plains, the mainland provinces are hilly at a level of approximately 2,000 feet, with some 4,000-foot peaks. In addition Equatorial Guinea hosts many sources of water, thanks to its continental rivers and volcanic islands.

Equatorial Guinea engages in extensive work to conserve and manage the world's resources of flora and fauna and is a member of several relevant treaties and conventions, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the International Tropical Timber Organization. The country also contributes to the debate on the sustainable management of forests and the protection of the ecosystems on the continent and in the central African sub- region. It is an active member of the Inter-African Association of Forest Industries (Association IFIA), animator of the Brazzaville process which led to the 1996 Conference on Humid and Dense Forest Ecosystems of Central African Rainforests (CEFDHAC).

At present Equatorial Guinea has three sites designated as Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention: the Island of Annobon; the Muni Estuary Natural Reserve, and the Ntem and as well as the Campo River, with a total surface area of about 136,000 hectares. These wetlands are represent extraordinary nature reserves and are most important natural habitats for a wide range of indigenous as well as migratory species of wild animals. Equatorial Guinea's environment represents a most valuable contribution to biodiversity, where such precious wild animal species as the Western Lowland Gorilla, the West African Manatee as well as a great selection of cetaceans, marine turtles and birds periodically roam. As a Party to the African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) as well as a signatory to the Memoranda of Understanding on the Conservation of Marine Turtles, Small Cetaceans and Manatees and Raptors, Equatorial Guinea has already demonstrated its great awareness of the conservation of the country's precious biodiversity.

The UNEP/CMS Secretariat is looking forward to a fruitful cooperation in implementing the Convention in Equatorial Guinea.