

Guinea-Bissau



Indicator	Data
Population, 2019 (no.)	1,920,922
Population density, 2018 (people per sq. km of land area)	66.65
Coastal population, 2014 (no.) ¹⁸⁴	1,208,106
Share of people living in urban areas, 2019 (%)	43.8
Total MSW generated, 2016 (tons/year) ¹⁸⁵	289,514

Socioeconomic Profile

Guinea-Bissau is a low-income country in West Africa bordered by Senegal and Guinea. Guinea Bissau's economy is dependent on subsistence farming and cashew nut exports.¹⁸⁶ The country comprises nine administrative regions and runs a semi-presidential republic system of government.¹⁸⁷

Guinea-Bissau's overall GDP (purchasing power parity) in 2019 was approximately \$3.8 billion and it reported a GDP (purchasing power parity) per capita of \$1,989.^{188, 189} With an area of 36,125 km², Guinea-Bissau has a population is 1,920,922 (2019) and a population density of 66.7 people per km² (2018).¹⁹⁰ Majority of Guinea-Bissau's residents—56.2 percent of the total population (2019)—live in rural areas.¹⁹¹ In 2014, just over 1.2 million of Guinea-Bissau's residents, resided along the country's coastline,¹⁹² particularly in the capital city of Bissau.

Plastic Industry and Ecosystem

In 2018 and 2019, Guinea-Bissau had no domestic resin production. Its conversion industry processed 2 kt of PE resin in 2018 and 2019. Similar to its regional neighbors, Guinea-Bissau is a net importer of plastics. In 2019, 5.2 million kg of plastics were imported into the country, with PE and PP making up about 93.2

¹⁸⁴ Jambeck et al., "Plastic Waste Inputs from Land into the Ocean."

¹⁸⁵ Kaza, Silpa, Lisa Yao, Perinaz Bhada-Tata, and Frank Van Woerden. 2018. What a Waste 2.0: A Global Snapshot of Solid Waste Management to 2050. Urban Development Series. Washington, DC: World Bank

¹⁸⁶ CIA, *The World Factbook: Guinea-Bissau* (Langley, VA: CIA, 2021), <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/guinea-bissau/>.

¹⁸⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸⁸ GDP, PPP (constant 2017 international dollars) and GDP per capita, PPP (constant 2017 international dollars).

¹⁸⁹ World Bank Group, "World Development Indicators," 2020.

¹⁹⁰ Ibid.

¹⁹¹ Ibid.

¹⁹² Jambeck et al., "Plastic Waste Inputs from Land into the Ocean."

percent of the imports.¹⁹³ In that same year, no plastic products or resin were exported from Guinea-Bissau.¹⁹⁴

Solid Waste Management

Guinea-Bissau generates 0.45 kg of MSW per capita per day, amounting to an overall daily MSW generation of 793,000 kg.¹⁹⁵ About 83.5 percent of MSW generated in Guinea-Bissau is inadequately managed.¹⁹⁶ Plastic waste accounts for about 9 percent of MSW arisings¹⁹⁷ with a daily generation rate of about 79,500 kg.

Legislation, Policies, and Other Initiatives

The main government ministry responsible for municipal waste management in Guinea-Bissau is the Ministry of Health.¹⁹⁸ Currently, there are no overarching laws dealing specifically with waste management in Guinea-Bissau. However, in 2013 the government introduced a ban on the use, manufacture, import, sale, and distribution of plastic bags through Decree Law 16/2013.¹⁹⁹

¹⁹³ UN Comtrade, "UN Comtrade Database," 2019.

¹⁹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁹⁵ Kaza, Silpa, Lisa Yao, Perinaz Bhada-Tata, and Frank Van Woerden. 2018. *What a Waste 2.0: A Global Snapshot of Solid Waste Management to 2050*. Urban Development Series. Washington, DC: World Bank

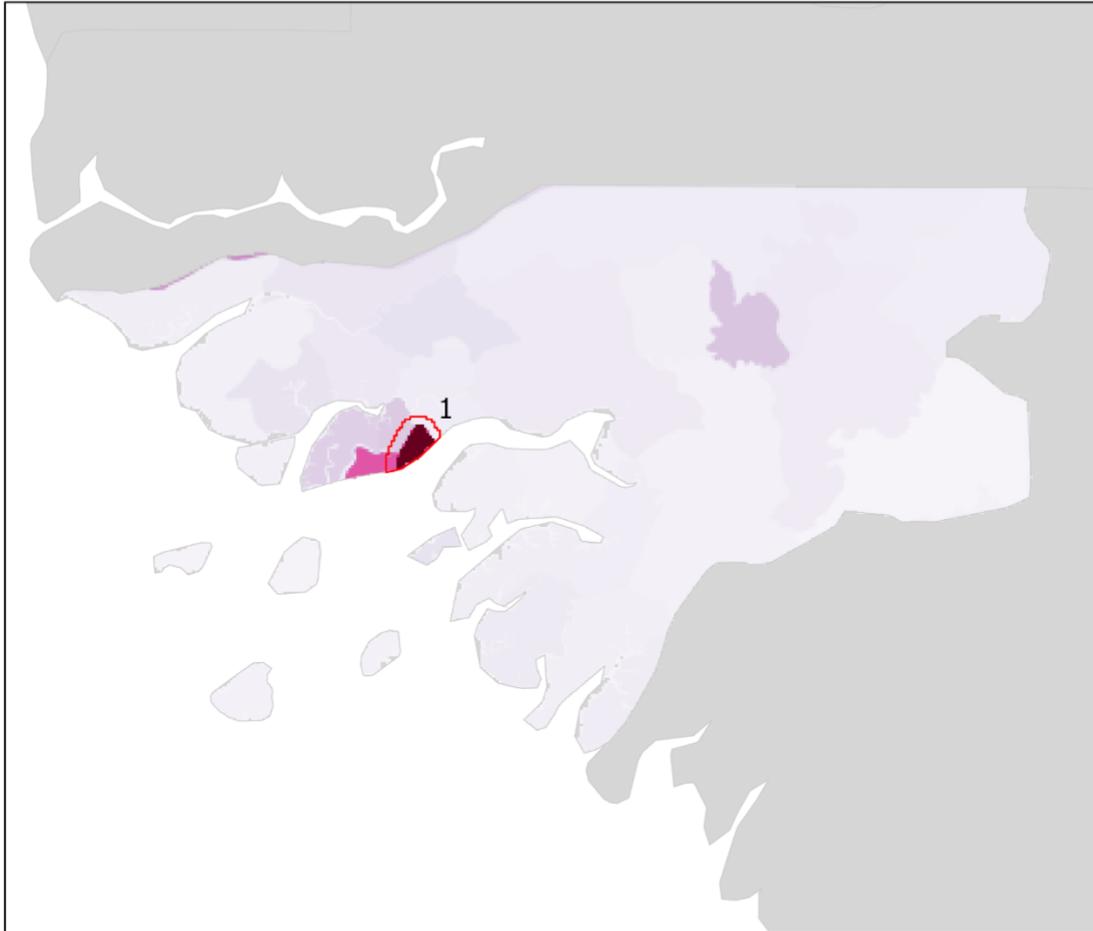
¹⁹⁶ Jambeck et al., "Plastic Waste Inputs from Land into the Ocean."

¹⁹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁹⁸ Katia Ferrari, Strenge Cerise, Rita Gamberini, Bianca Rimini, and Francesco Lolli, "An International Partnership for the Sustainable Development of Municipal Solid Waste Management in Guinea-Bissau, West Africa," XXI Summer School "Francesco Turco," September 2016, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/309373688_An_international_partnership_for_the_sustainable_development_of_Municipal_Solid_Waste_Management_in_Guinea-Bissau_West_Africa.

¹⁹⁹ Chatham House, "Policies."

Plastic Waste in Guinea-Bissau



Plastic Generation Hotspots

ID	Locale	Rank	Plastic Waste (kt)	Population	Area (km ²)
1	Bissau	31	8,6601	605,937	230.75

Total Annual National Plastic Waste Generation: 29.04 kt



Location in Region



West Africa Regional Gap Analysis: Plastics Circularity

World Bank Group