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. The country comprises nine administrative regions and runs a semi-presidential republic system of government.

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. 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). Majority of Guinea-Bissau’s residents—56.2 percent of the total population (2019)—live in rural areas. In 2014, just over 1.2 million of Guinea-Bissau’s residents, resided along the country’s coastline, 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

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184 Jambeck et al., “Plastic Waste Inputs from Land into the Ocean.”
187 Ibid.
188 GDP, PPP (constant 2017 international dollars) and GDP per capita, PPP (constant 2017 international dollars).
190 Ibid.
191 Ibid.
192 Jambeck et al., “Plastic Waste Inputs from Land into the Ocean.”
percent of the imports.\textsuperscript{193} In that same year, no plastic products or resin were exported from Guinea-Bissau.\textsuperscript{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.\textsuperscript{195} About 83.5 percent of MSW generated in Guinea-Bissau is inadequately managed.\textsuperscript{196} Plastic waste accounts for about 9 percent of MSW arisings \textsuperscript{197} 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.\textsuperscript{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.\textsuperscript{199}

\begin{flushright}
\textsuperscript{193} UN Comtrade, “UN Comtrade Database,” 2019.
\textsuperscript{194} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{196} Jambeck et al., “Plastic Waste Inputs from Land into the Ocean.”
\textsuperscript{197} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{199} Chatham House, “Policies.”
\end{flushright}
Plastic Waste in Guinea-Bissau

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Locale</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Plastic Waste (kt)</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Area (km^2)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Bissau</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>8.6601</td>
<td>605,937</td>
<td>230.75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Annual National Plastic Waste Generation: 29.04 kt

West Africa Regional Gap Analysis: Plastics Circularity