

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.)	1,208,106
Share of people living in urban areas, 2019 (%)	43.8
Total MSW generated, 2014 (tons/year)	291,644

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.¹ The country comprises nine administrative regions and runs a semi-presidential republic system of government.²

Guinea-Bissau's overall GDP (PPP) in 2019 was approximately \$3.8 billion and it reported a GDP (PPP) per capita of \$1,989.^{3,4} 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).⁵ Majority of Guinea-Bissau's residents—56.2 percent of the total population (2019)—live in rural areas.⁶ In 2014, just over 1.2 million of Guinea-Bissau's residents, resided along the country's coastline,⁷ 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 percent of the imports.⁸ In that same year, no plastic products or resin were exported from Guinea-Bissau.⁹

¹ CIA, *The World Factbook: Guinea-Bissau* (Langley, VA: CIA, 2021), <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/guinea-bissau/>.

² Ibid.

³ GDP, PPP (constant 2017 international dollars) and GDP per capita, PPP (constant 2017 international dollars).

⁴ World Bank Group, "World Development Indicators," 2020.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Jambeck et al., "Plastic Waste Inputs from Land into the Ocean."

⁸ UN Comtrade, "UN Comtrade Database," 2019.

⁹ Ibid.

Solid Waste Management

Guinea-Bissau generates 0.6 kg of MSW per capita per day, amounting to an overall daily MSW generation of 724,864 kg.¹⁰ About 83.5 percent of MSW generated in Guinea-Bissau is inadequately managed.¹¹

Plastic waste accounts for about 9 percent of MSW arisings, with a daily generation rate of about 64,875 kg, of which 83.5 percent is inadequately managed¹²; 1,298 kg/day of plastic waste is noted to leak into the environment.¹³

Legislation, Policies, and Other Initiatives

The main government ministry responsible for municipal waste management in Guinea-Bissau is the Ministry of Health.¹⁴ 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 16/2013.¹⁵

¹⁰ Jambeck et al., "Plastic Waste Inputs from Land into the Ocean."

¹¹ Ibid.

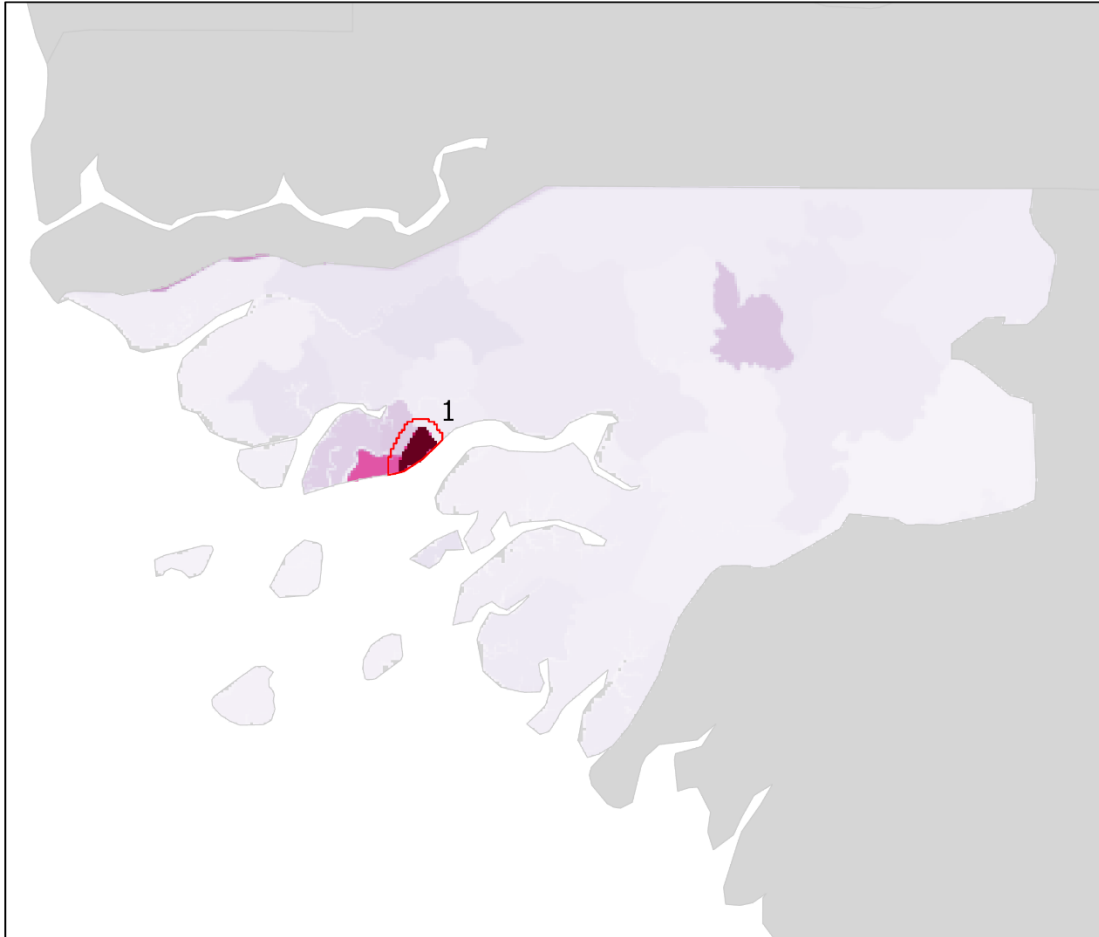
¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Katia Ferrari, Strengh 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.

¹⁵ 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



Hotspot
Extent



Location in Region

