



Guinea

Guinea: Introduction

Blessing Chipanda

Last updated 07 April 2025 using IFs v8.34

Guinea: Introduction

Chart 1: Political map of Guinea

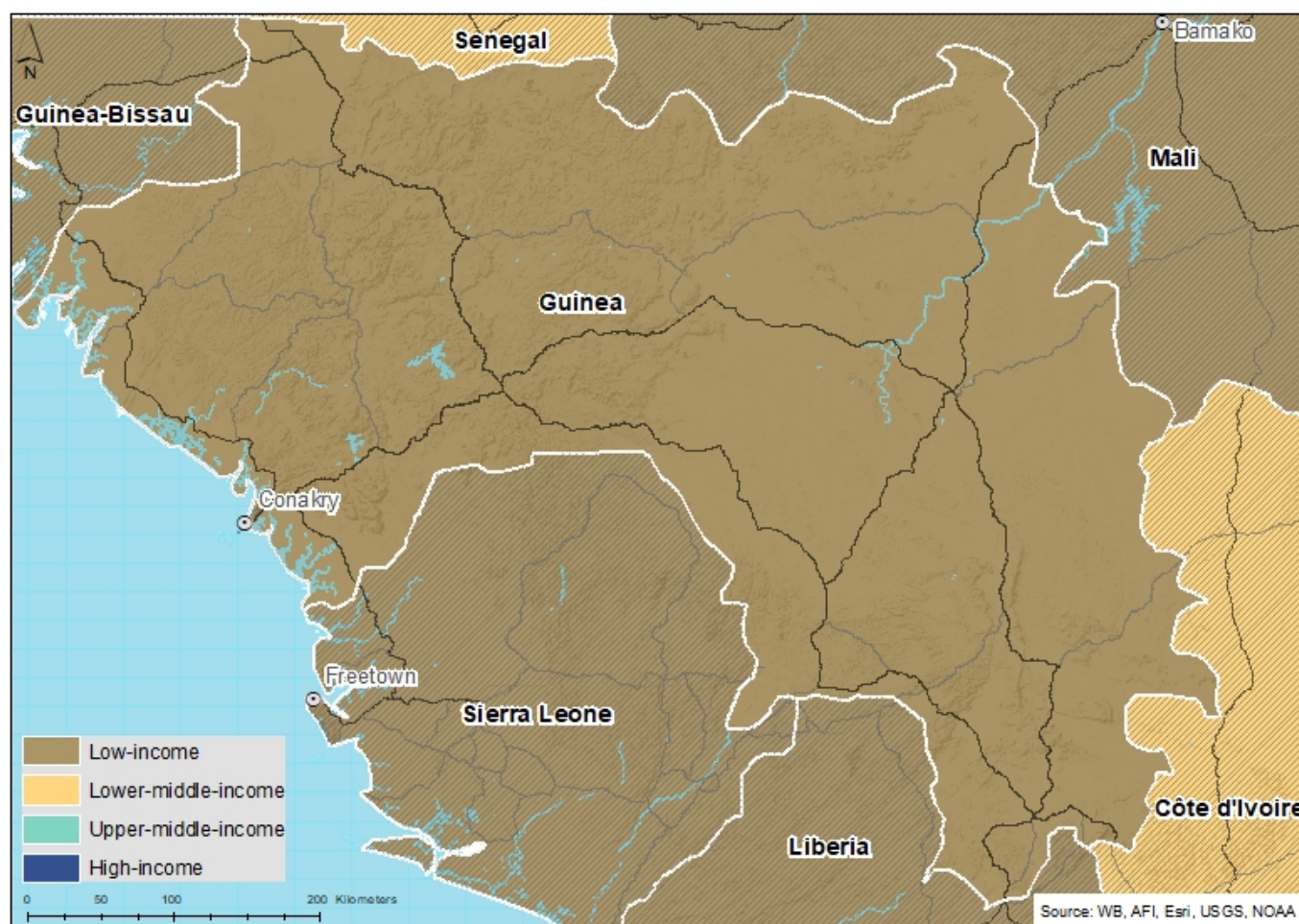


Chart 1 is a political map of Guinea.

Previously low-income, in 2023, the World Bank classified Guinea as one of Africa's 23 lower-middle-income countries. It is located in West Africa, and it is not to be confused with the other Guinea nations of Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Papua New Guinea. Guinea is bordered by six different countries, namely Guinea-Bissau, Senegal, Mali, Côte d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone and Liberia, as well as the Atlantic Ocean to the west. The country is divided into eight administrative regions, which are subdivided into 33 prefectures.

Guinea was the first former French colony in Africa to gain independence. It officially achieved independence in October 1958, following a referendum on the Constitution of the Fifth Republic in France held in September 1958, with Sékou Touré becoming its first president. The country became the 82nd member of the United Nations (UN) in December 1958 and one of the founding members of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in June 1975.

President Touré was the president until his death in March 1984, when Louis Lansana Beavogui (Prime Minister at the time) became the interim president. President Beavogui was succeeded by Colonel Lansana Conté, who formed the Military Committee for National Recovery (MCNR) in 1984. The MCNR banned political parties and dissolved the parliament. Nearly six years after the coup, a new constitution was approved in a referendum in December 1990.

In December 1993, Lansana Conté was elected as the third president of Guinea, in contested elections. Conté moved Guinea toward a market-based economy, opening the country to foreign investment, particularly in mining. However, his government is described as being plagued by widespread corruption, nepotism and a lack of infrastructure development.

Conté was the president of Guinea until his death in December 2008, when Captain Moussa Dadis Camara assumed leadership and announced the suspension of the constitution. The leadership change in 2008 prompted international responses, including from the AU and EU. The AU subsequently imposed diplomatic sanctions (suspension of membership) and the EU suspended economic assistance. In 2009, the AU further imposed travel restrictions and an assets freeze, targeting the military junta. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) also suspended Guinea's membership, while the United States (US) government imposed economic sanctions against the military junta.

In November 2010, Alpha Condé was elected president of Guinea with 53% of the vote in the second round of presidential elections, subsequent to which the AU and ECOWAS lifted diplomatic and economic sanctions.

In 2021, Guinea underwent a leadership transition under the National Committee of Reconciliation and Development (CNRD), leading to its suspension from ECOWAS and the AU.

The coup was preceded by a series of demonstrations against constitutional amendments that enabled Condé to contest the elections for a third term and subsequently win amidst allegations of fraud. Colonel Mamady Doumbouya was sworn in as the President of the Transition in October 2021.

The transition to civilian governance, initially targeted for December 2024, is ongoing, with discussions on the implementati

Guinea is known for its diverse landscape, including coastal plains, mountains and savannas. Its geography is divided into four regions: Maritime Guinea on the low-lying Atlantic coast, the Fouta Djallon or Middle Guinea highlands, the Upper Guinea savanna region in the northeast, and the Guinée forestière region of tropical forests. The climate is tropical, with a dry harmattan season in the winter and a rainy season in the summer.

Conakry is Guinea's capital and its largest city, with a population of over two million people. Nzérékoré, located in the Guinée forestière region in Southern Guinea, is the second-largest city.

Guinea's total population was 14.4 million people in 2023. Approximately 84% of the country's population are Muslim, 11% are Christian, and 5% follow indigenous religions or other belief systems.

Endowed with abundant natural resources, Guinea has the potential to be an economic leader in the extractives sector. The country has the largest reserves of bauxite (aluminium ore) and the largest untapped deposits of highgrade of iron ore in the world. Guinea also has diamonds, gold, uranium, alumina and some oil deposits. The Simandou iron ore mine is located in the Simandou mountain range of southern Guinea's Nzérékoré Region. It is known for its high-grade iron ore deposits and has been the subject of numerous mining disputes given its potential of becoming a significant source of iron ore globally.

The country's hilly and mountain landscape provides excellent conditions for hydroelectric dam construction. Guinea also experiences heavy rainfall, particularly in its tropical and forested regions, which ensures water supply to its rivers and dams for most of the year. Hydroelectric power offers a clean and renewable energy source, which aligns with global efforts to reduce carbon emissions and combat climate change.

Donors and sponsors



Reuse our work

- All visualizations, data, and text produced by African Futures are completely open access under the [Creative Commons BY license](#). You have the permission to use, distribute, and reproduce these in any medium, provided the source and authors are credited.
- The data produced by third parties and made available by African Futures is subject to the license terms from the original third-party authors. We will always indicate the original source of the data in our documentation, so you should always check the license of any such third-party data before use and redistribution.
- All of our charts [can be embedded](#) in any site.

Cite this research

Blessing Chipanda (2025) Guinea. Published online at futures.issafrica.org. Retrieved from <https://futures.issafrica.org/geographic/countries/guinea/> [Online Resource] Updated 07 April 2025.

About the authors

Dr Blessing Chipanda joined the African Futures and Innovation (AFI) programme in January 2023. Before joining the ISS he worked as an assistant lecturer/research assistant at the University of Pretoria, Department of Economics. He is particularly interested in tasks within the wider realm of international trade, development economics, public policy, monetary policy, and econometric modelling. Equally interested in economic and socio-economic activities that impact social welfare. Blessing has a PhD in economics from the University of Pretoria, South Africa.

About African Futures & Innovation

Scenarios and forecasting can help Africa identify and respond to opportunities and threats. The work of the African Futures & Innovation (AFI) program at the Institute for Security Studies aims to understand and address a widening gap between indices of wellbeing in Africa and elsewhere in the world. The AFI helps stakeholders understand likely future developments. Research findings and their policy implications are widely disseminated, often in collaboration with in-country partners. Forecasting tools inspire debate and provide insights into possible trajectories that inform planning, prioritisation and effective resource allocation. Africa's future depends on today's choices and actions by governments and their non-governmental and international partners. The AFI provides empirical data that informs short- and medium-term decisions with long-term implications. The AFI enhances Africa's capacity to prepare for and respond to future challenges. The program is headed by Dr Jakkie Cilliers.