

Guinea-Bissau

I.

Country with 36,125,000 km², Guinea-Bissau is located in the west coast of Africa and has 1,500,000 people.

Different ethnic groups make Guinea-Bissau a very interesting linguistic and cultural mosaic which is perfectly integrated, harmonious and peaceful. Bathed by Atlantic at west, the country has beautiful beaches as well as fauna and flora with high level of biodiversity.

Guinea-Bissau is bordered by Senegal to the north and Guinea(Conakry) to the south and east. It is endowed of big archipelago with about 80 islands, which constitute a potential and enviable on tourism board. Guinea-Bissau is also a country rich in various mineral resources, as well as in oil, natural gas, gold, bauxite and phosphate, and so on. It possesses woods of high quality and luxuriates forests habituated by diverse fauna and flora. Guinea-Bissau results from a long struggle against portuguese colonialism, which now has a parliament, a government elected in every four years, as well as a President elected in every five years, having all sovereignty organs, such as Courts and so on.

II. AGRICULTURE

Guinea-Bissau has sufficient arable land to combat malnutrition that has

affected an important part of its different populations, provided that the country makes the necessary investments required for developing an agriculture that is modern, sustainable and, obviously, "environmentally friendly". Thus, studies conducted nationwide provide the following key indicators:

The total area of the country is 36,125 km² and its population stands at 1,449,320 inhabitants. On the other hand, the average rate of population growth is 2.2 %, with a population density of 400 inhabitants per km². The total population economically active in agriculture amounts to 330,790 people, of which the active female population engaged in agriculture, made up of 206 080 peasants. The male population, active in agriculture, is 124,710 people. The share of agriculture in GDP is over 50 % and the share of the State's General Budget allocated to agriculture in 2012 was 11.47 %.

EXISTING POTENTIALS

Guinea-Bissau has approximately 1.41 million Ha of arable land distributed as follows:

Plateau: 1,104,000 Ha

Lowland: 200,000 Ha

Mangrove: 106, 000 Ha

Out of this existing potential, the following share is utilized:

Plateau: 300, 964 Ha

Lowland Fond: 29, 368 Ha

Mangrove: 51, 000 Ha

III. FISHERIES

Despite a coastline of about 280 km, the continental shelf of Guinea-Bissau covers approximately 45,000 km² out of 150,000 km² of its EEZ, with shallow depths, making it one of the largest among the countries of West Africa. Thus the marine ecosystems shelter a diversity and abundance of fish resources. The potential yield sustainable for all demersal and pelagic resources has been estimated at 250,4 million tons, figure that is influenced by annual variations of climatic and environmental factors, and is the result of evaluations with a degree of uncertainty that is embedded and the demersal resources found on the continental shelf of Guinea-Bissau consist of cuttlefish, octopus, sea bass and snappers. The potential of this group of species has been estimated for decades between 40,000 and 100,000 tons. Regarding specifically the shrimp (*Penaeus notialis*), although in the late eighties its potential has been estimated at 4,500 to 5,000 tons, there are indications of a significant decrease to less than 3,000 tons. Pelagic resources are abundant in the waters of Guinea-Bissau, where the coastal areas and estuaries the role of spawning and juvenile growth areas for several of these species.

IV. NATURAL RESOURCES

The geological mapping and exploration work prove the existence of several important minerals such as heavy sands in Varela (northwest of the country, whose elements show the existence of zirconium, ilmenite and rutile in these sands). Its potential is estimated at 110,000 tons of ore. There is also gold and diamonds in a corridor that descends along the north (borders with Senegal to the north and Guinea to the east), making a long journey to Madina do Boé, where the existence of significant quantities of bauxite has been detected, with reserves estimated at 110 million tons. There are phosphates in the region of Farim, estimated at 94 million tons. There are also important deposits of construction materials such as sand, clay, gravel, laterite, stones (dolerite, sandstone, granite and quartzite). In order to have an idea of the country's potential in minerals and natural resources, it is necessary to carry out serious and systematic studies of the country's geological mapping with prospecting and aerogeophysical research, using indirect methodologies such as aeromagnemetry, radiometry, taking into account the geological context of the territory (large sedimentary cover and lack of tenure).