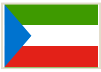

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

LEGAL & TAX FRAMEWORK FOR INVESTMENT — JULY 2026 EDITION

A Central African hydrocarbons producer and a member of **CEMAC**, Equatorial Guinea has a distinctive profile: it is the **only Spanish-speaking** country in the **OHADA** area, heir to a Spanish legal tradition yet applying the uniform business law harmonised across 17 states. An economy dominated by **oil and gas**, it is going through a **marked economic downturn** — hydrocarbons production is declining. The country operates within the **CEMAC monetary zone** (BEAC, XAF — fixed EUR parity), applies **OHADA** business law and the **SYSCOHADA** accounting framework. A structural point of attention: **no France–Equatorial Guinea tax treaty exists**, unlike Gabon or Congo. This factsheet summarises the key macroeconomic, tax and legal data for an investment entry decision.

POPULATION	CURRENCY	GDP GROWTH
~2.0 M	**CFA FRANC XAF**	**~-4.0%**
2025-26 est. (UN / Worldometer)	BEAC/CEMAC — fixed parity 1 EUR = 655.957 XAF	2025e (AfDB/IMF) · ~-2.7% projected 2026 (IMF WEO, April 2026) — hydrocarbons decline

INFLATION	GDP PER CAPITA	HEAD OF STATE
~2.4%	**≈ $7,750**	**T. OBIANG NGUEMA**
2025e · ~2.6-3.2% projected 2026 (AfDB/IMF)	2025 (Worldometer / IMF)	Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo — President, in office since August 1979

CAPITAL	BUSINESS FRAMEWORK	SPECIFICITY
MALABO	**OHADA / CEMAC**	**HISPANOPHONE**
Bioko Island; Ciudad de la Paz = future administrative capital, under construction	17 OHADA states · CEMAC/BEAC (XAF zone)	The only Spanish-tradition state that is an OHADA member

AN OIL & GAS ECONOMY IN CONTRACTION, A UNIQUE SPANISH-SPEAKING LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Equatorial Guinea's economy remains **dominated by oil and gas**, which drive the bulk of fiscal revenues and exports — but hydrocarbons output is declining: after **-5.1% in 2023** and a rebound to **+1.7% in 2024**, growth has turned back into **recession, at around -4.0% in 2025**, with a contraction still projected at **~-2.7% in 2026** (IMF WEO, April 2026; AfDB). On the legal side, Equatorial Guinea stands out as the **only Spanish-speaking** country in the **OHADA** area — a Spanish-language administrative and tax environment layered onto the harmonised (French-drafted) business law of the 17 member states. This duality, combined with the **absence of a tax treaty with France**, calls for particular care over the translation of official texts and the structuring of cross-border flows.

A HARMONISED BUSINESS-LAW FRAMEWORK, A SPANISH-SPEAKING COUNTRY

- **OHADA** — Equatorial Guinea applies all 9 OHADA Uniform Acts (companies, security interests, debt recovery, insolvency, arbitration, etc.), a particularly notable asset for a Spanish-speaking country. Disputes may be referred to the **CCJA** (Common Court of Justice and Arbitration), whose awards are enforceable across the 17 member states.
- **CEMAC monetary zone** — CFA franc **XAF**, fixed parity **1 EUR = 655.957 XAF**, managed by the **BEAC**. Cross-border financial flows are subject to CEMAC foreign-exchange rules (Regulation 02/18): mandatory repatriation of export proceeds, licensed intermediaries, declaration obligations. The country obtained additional time for its implementation, now extended to all sectors including oil.
- **Revised SYSCOHADA accounting** — the mandatory OHADA accounting framework, readable across the 17 member states.
- Also a member of the **African Union**, the **AfCFTA**, **OAPI** (intellectual property) and **CIMA** (insurance).

COMMON OHADA COMPANY FORMS

FORM	MIN. CAPITAL
SA	XAF 10,000,000 (OHADA standard)
SAS	Freely set by the by-laws
SARL (LLC)	Freely set by the by-laws
Branch	Tied to the foreign company (OHADA time limit)

One-stop registration via the RCCM. Investment promotion: INVEST-EG (Decree 77/2025).

TAX REGIME — THE ESSENTIALS

TAX	RATE	NOTES
Corporate income tax (CIT)	**25%**	Standard rate. Source: PwC/WTS — Equatorial Guinea (Nov. 2025).
VAT	**15%**	The lowest rate in the CEMAC zone. Reduced rate: 5% (basic goods, books). Zero rate on a list of products/equipment. Registration threshold to be confirmed against the tax code in force.
Minimum tax	**1.5%**	1.5% of the year's turnover, a creditable advance against the final CIT.
Withholding (non-residents)	**10–15%**	Services: 10% (since 01/01/2025). Dividends / interest: 15%. Royalties outside CEMAC: 10% (CEMAC residents: max 10%). Oil & gas: dedicated specific regime (3/10/5%).
Tax treaties	**NEAR-EMPTY NETWORK**	**No France–Equatorial Guinea tax treaty** — not to be confused with the France–Guinea treaty (1999), which covers Guinea-Conakry, a separate country outside the franc zone. No foreign tax credit.

Source: PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries — Equatorial Guinea (Nov. 2025) · BOFiP (absence of France treaty) · OHADA Uniform Act on Company Law (AUSCGIE).

ATTRACTIVE SECTORS

- **Oil & gas** — dominate GDP and exports; declining revenue (economy in recession), a major diversification challenge for the years ahead.
- **Oil services & logistics** — the upstream value chain and associated services tied to the hydrocarbons sector.
- **Emerging diversification** — agribusiness, fisheries, tourism: still under-developed strategic priorities.
- **Spanish-speaking niche market** — a distinctive position for Hispanophone and Ibero-American operators within a predominantly Francophone OHADA area.

INCENTIVES & WORK PERMITS

- **Investment Code** — a common framework (UDEAC legacy) and a special investment regime; tax and customs benefits during the setup phase.
- **INVEST-EG** (Decree 77/2025) — investment-promotion and foreign-trade-expansion agency, created in 2025.
- **Oil & gas local content** — obligations and opportunities for subcontracting and local participation on oil projects.
- **Work permits for expatriates** — residence and work permits issued to staff holding a local contract; free transfer of salaries after payment of Equatoguinean taxes and social contributions.

FOREIGN-EXCHANGE REGULATION

- **Strict CEMAC framework (Regulation 02/18).** Cross-border financial flows must go through licensed banks (domiciliation requirement, BEAC declarations). The XAF is pegged to the EUR at a fixed parity (655.957). Mandatory repatriation of export proceeds, now extended to the oil sector.
- **Repatriation of dividends and capital.** Transfer abroad of profits, dividends and disposal proceeds is permitted, subject to documenting the flows and paying the taxes due — to be structured and documented from the moment of entry into the capital.
- **Good practice.** Fund the investment in foreign currency from day one; keep full documentary traceability of each flow to secure later transfers.

SECURING THE INVESTMENT

In a Spanish-speaking market dominated by declining hydrocarbons and subject to a demanding CEMAC foreign-exchange regime, the OHADA asset — harmonised law and CCJA arbitration — is a decisive source of predictability for the foreign investor, alongside upfront structuring of flows given the absence of a tax treaty with France.

THE UGGC ANGLE — OHADA LEVERS

§ **CCJA arbitration** — awards enforceable across the 17 OHADA member states; a common legal reference despite the country's Hispanophone specificity.

§ **Security interests (Uniform Act)** — mortgage, pledge, autonomous guarantee, security agent; essential to secure financing for oil projects.

§ **Absence of a France treaty** — structure cross-border flows with the absence of a foreign tax credit in mind, in the absence of a France–Equatorial Guinea treaty.

§ **CEMAC FX & repatriation** — Regulation 02/18: structure dividend and capital repatriation via a licensed BEAC bank from day one.

UGGC Africa supports you in Equatorial Guinea through its pan-African platform — africa@uggc.com.

Disclaimer. This country factsheet is provided for general information, as at July 2026; it does not constitute legal or tax advice and cannot bind UGGC Africa. The figures are drawn from public sources and are subject to change (notably through Equatoguinean finance acts). Any investment decision should be the subject of a tailored analysis.

Sources: IMF (WEO April 2026 / country report) · AfDB (African Economic Outlook 2025) · Worldometer / UN (population, 2025-26) · PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries — Equatorial Guinea (Nov. 2025) · BOFiP (absence of France–Equatorial Guinea treaty) · Decree 77/2025 (INVEST-EG creation) · BEAC (CEMAC Regulation 02/18) · OHADA (ohada.com) · uggcafrica.com.