

Power outages malabo

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The power outages have been caused by ongoing technical repair work at the Djibloho hydroelectric power plant. The electricity outages are expected to continue to disrupt transportation, provision of essential services, and commerce in Bata in the coming days, as Equatorial Guinean officials have not yet officially announced the exact date on which the hydroelectric plant repairs will be completed and power will be restored.

Equatorial Guinean Minister of Industry and Energy Eugenio Edu Ndong announced on state television in early September that the Djibloho hydroelectric plant repairs would cut power to Bata for 33 days. Among other problems, power cuts in Equatorial Guinea regularly result in more frequent fires as citizens resort to candles and oil lamps for lighting, and overloaded and dangerous power connections for electricity.

Individuals in Equatorial Guinea are advised to follow all directions issued by local authorities and to anticipate continued travel disruptions in Bata due to the ongoing power outages. Keep battery-powered devices charged as much as possible in preparation for continued power outages expected over the coming days.

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Equatorial Guinea has two main electricity systems, for Bioko Island, and for the continental Rio Muni region. SEGESA has 730 employees across the three business units in Malabo for the Bioko system, and 823 employees in Bata and the continental region.

The primary lawmaking body for national electricity policy in Equatorial Guinea is the Ministry of Industry and Energy. The Ministry is responsible for regulation and compliance in the sector. Specific laws that deal with power sector management, tariffs and operations were passed in 2002 and 2005. Private companies wishing to invest in the sector must obtain licenses from the Ministry and can enter partnerships with SEGESA.

The institutional framework for the power sector in Equatorial Guinea has a vertical structure. The Ministry of Industry and Energy defines the strategy for the power company (guided by the government's Horizon 2020 diversification plan). The ministry administers and assigns financing for projects and hands them over to SEGESA for implementation through its three business units.

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Over the last decade, SEGESA and the government have implemented a range of generation, transmission and distribution projects to ensure that the country no longer suffers power outages. The power grid in Equatorial Guinea is divided in two parts: the island grid (Malabo, Bioko Island) and the continental grid (Bata, Rio Muni). The high voltage power grid in the Rio Muni region has allowed the government to invest in interconnection points with Gabon and Cameroon.

The Bioko grid is powered by the Malabo Turbogás gas-fired power plant at Punta Europa (near Malabo) with 154.2 MW capacity. It has eight turbines: 3 x 42 MW, 2 x 10 MW, 2 x 5.2 MW and a 4 MW turbine. These supply the city of Malabo and Bioko Island via 33kV and 66kV transmission lines.

In addition to the Punta Europa gas complex, the island has the SEMU power station that has 7.2 MW capacity (4 x 1.8 MW), the hydroelectric station at Riaba at 3 MW (2 x 1.5 MW) and the hydroelectric station at Musola. The latter two are out of service.

The demand for energy on Bioko Island in 2016 was about 79 MW (7% more than the previous year's demand). The current oversupply of electricity on the island facilitates development.

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