



# HIGHLIGHTS

Office of Inspector General  
United States Department of State

ISP-I-19-16

## What OIG Inspected

OIG inspected the executive direction, program and policy implementation, and resource management operations of Embassy Libreville. OIG also inspected embassy operations in São Tomé and Príncipe.

## What OIG Recommends

OIG made 28 recommendations: 1 to the Director General of the Foreign Service and Director of Human Resources to address a nepotism issue; 5 to improve embassy leadership; 2 to the Bureau of African Affairs to improve executive direction and to seek Department authorization to establish a post in São Tomé and Príncipe; 1 to the U.S. Agency for Global Media to improve physical security at its transmitting station in São Tomé; 1 to improve operations at the American Corner in São Tomé; 6 to improve foreign assistance grants and political/economic, public diplomacy, and consular operations; 9 to improve management operations; and 3 to improve information management operations.

In its comments on the draft report, the Department and the U.S. Agency for Global Media concurred with 25 recommendations and disagreed with 3. OIG considers 26 recommendations resolved and 2 unresolved. The Department's and the U.S. Agency for Global Media's responses to each recommendation, and OIG's reply, can be found in the Recommendations section of this report. The Department's and the U.S. Agency for Global Media's formal written responses are reprinted in their entirety in Appendix B.

June 2019

OFFICE OF INSPECTIONS

BUREAU OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS

## Inspection of Embassy Libreville, Gabon

### What OIG Found

- The Ambassador and the Deputy Chief of Mission did not set a positive and professional tone for Embassy Libreville and did not form an effective leadership team.
- The Deputy Chief of Mission may have violated anti-nepotism guidelines when he urged embassy staff to identify an embassy job for his spouse.
- Embassy Libreville has had an office in the island nation of São Tomé and Príncipe since 2001 that the Department of State has not formally authorized.
- The embassy did not comply with Department of State guidelines on acceptance of gifts, including gifts from a U.S. company for which the Ambassador engaged in commercial advocacy.
- The Ambassador reestablished diplomatic contact with the host government but did not formally report on his meetings with Government of Gabon officials and on his commercial advocacy for a U.S. firm. In addition, he did not integrate public diplomacy outreach and social media engagement into his efforts to advance U.S. goals.
- The embassy did not produce official cable reporting in accordance with Department guidance.
- The Ambassador and the Deputy Chief of Mission did not provide adequate guidance and direction to the American employees they supervised.
- The embassy did not have an ongoing management controls program and did not prepare its annual Chief of Mission Management Control Statement of Assurance in accordance with Department of State guidance.
- The lack of an adequate perimeter fence around the U.S. Agency for Global Media transmitting station in São Tomé created a potential hazard for the public.