



HIGHLIGHTS

Office of Inspector General
United States Department of State

ISP-I-24-23

What OIG Inspected

OIG inspected the operating environment, executive direction, policy and program implementation, resource management, and information management operations of Embassy Malabo.

What OIG Recommends

OIG made 30 recommendations to Embassy Malabo. In its comments on the draft report, the embassy concurred with all 30 recommendations. OIG considers all 30 recommendations resolved. The embassy's response to each recommendation, and OIG's reply, can be found in the Recommendations section of this report. The embassy's formal response is reprinted in its entirety in Appendix B.

August 2024

OFFICE OF INSPECTIONS

BUREAU OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS

Inspection of Embassy Malabo, Equatorial Guinea

What OIG Found

- Embassy Malabo operated in a challenging environment that negatively impacted operations. Embassy staff demonstrated commendable resilience in this environment, but they strained to maintain internal controls and meet Department of State standards in operational matters.
- The Ambassador and Deputy Chief of Mission inconsistently modeled some of the Department's leadership and management principles.
- The Ambassador fulfilled his responsibilities to oversee the embassy's strategic planning and activities under a difficult operating environment.
- Attendance by U.S. direct-hire staff and families at a weekly happy hour hosted by U.S.-based oil companies likely violated Department policies on the receipt of gifts.
- The Political-Economic Section's reporting and advocacy advanced Department and Integrated Country Strategy priorities.
- The Consular Section did not have an active American Liaison Network to assist in communicating with U.S. citizens in Equatorial Guinea.
- The contracting officer's representative did not document some required tasks for the local employee health insurance contract.
- The embassy did not manage controlled substances in the Health Unit in accordance with Department standards.
- Spotlight on Success: The embassy played an important role in coordinating a large interagency team to successfully contain an outbreak of the Marburg virus disease in Equatorial Guinea.
- Spotlight on Success: The Public Diplomacy Section has its locally employed staff annually provide feedback on the performance of the Public Affairs Officer, leading to increased communication, trust, and understanding in the section.