

The Fang of Equatorial Guinea

The Fang people of Equatorial Guinea are part of the Beti-Fang continuum of Bantu languages, related to the Ewondo and Bulu of Cameroon. There are some significant numbers also in Cameroon and in Gabon.

Their traditional territory is the interior rainforest. They are known as the jungle fighters. Their knowledge of the jungle and their ability to survive and function in the lush tropical vegetation is legendary.

As a result of Spanish colonization, the large majority of Fang people are nominally Roman Catholic. But less than 2% have personally accepted the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Scripture has never been translated into Fang of EG, although translations exist in Bulu of Cameroon and in a related Fang language in Gabon. One of these could probably be adapted to Fang, EG.

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Primary Religion:

Christian

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

Churches:

70

Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

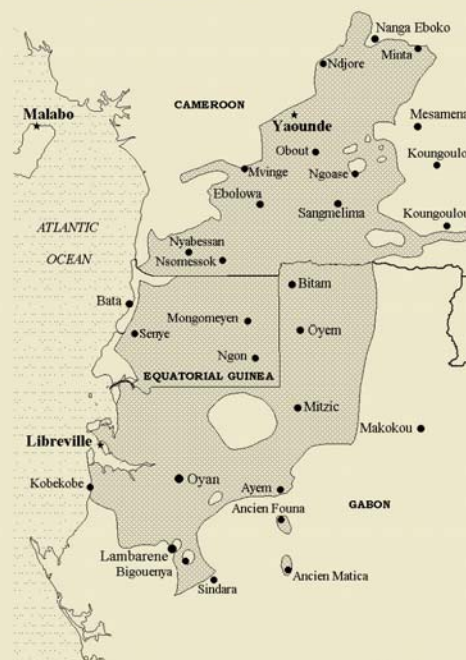
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Population (date):

650,000



FANG HOMELAND



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Item Name	Item Note	
Have They Heard The Gospel?		Profile Summary
Call Themselves Christian (%)	89	
Prophet/Good Man, But Not God's Son (%)	1	
Have Not Heard Who Jesus is (%)	?	
Believe Jesus Is A Myth (%)	?	
Number Of Pastors	30	
Number Of Missionaries Working	15	
Number Of Communities	1000+	
Number Of Churches	70	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	no	
Translation Medium	none	
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	There is need for translation or at least for dialect adaptation. There is lack of personnel and resources. The Gabon Fang needs to be tested for intelligibility with EG Fang.	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	No	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	yes	
Population All Countries		Group Description
World Population For This People	650000	
World Population (Urban Percent)	65000	
Comment (World Population)	215,000 are in Gabon, but they are a little different, 85000 are in Cameroon but oriented on the French national language.	
Countries Where People Group Lives		Group Description
Country Name	Equatorial Guinea	
Geography & Environment		Group Description
Location	West of central Africa along the coast.	
Country	Equatorial Guinea	
Ecosystem Type	Tropical Forest	
Geological Type	Interfluvial	
Elevation	0 to 5000 feet	
Longitude	10	
Latitude	2	
Climate	Tropical rainfall area over 2000mm rain per year	
Comments (Geography & Environment)	The Fang are considered to be Jungle people, not directly at the coast.	
Language & Linguistics		Group Description
Comment (Language)	40 to 50 percent monolingual, used in every domain of life except in communication with non Fang people.	
Alternate Language Names	Pamue, Pahouin, Pangwe	
Attitude Towards Mother Tongue	Very receptive	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	SPANISH	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	FRENCH	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	FRENCH	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	SPANISH	
Comment (On Other Mother Tongues)	only few in EG but a lot in Cameroon	
Comment (On Other Mother Tongues)	Many, the schooling is mostly done in Spanish, 25 to 30 % are literate in Spanish	
Linguistically Related Languages	BULU	

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Item Name	Item Note	
Linguistically Related Languages	EWONDO	
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Linguistically Related Languages	BULU	
Comments (Related Languages)	Part of the Beti- Fang continuum of Bantu languages.	
Neighboring Languages	BULU	
Literacy		Group Description
Literacy Attitude	Somewhat receptive	
Active Literacy Program	Yes	
Comment (Literacy)	A literacy program could really help the people. The government is open to that.	
Economics		Group Description
Subsistence Type	Hunter-gatherers	
Occupation	farmers, military and government positions, teachers, artisans and carpenters.	
Income Sources	lumber, crafts, jungle produce and meat, military and civil service	
Products / Crafts	Furniture, houses, lumber, traditional crafts and souvenirs.	
Trade Partners	other EG people, Cameroon, Gabon, China, Spain and France.	
Modernization / Utilities	Limited, no public water utility, sporadic electricity in Bata and a few diesel generators elsewhere.	
Comment (Economy)	Much of the trade means exploiting people and resources in exchange for basic foodstuffs from Cameroon, Gabon and Spain.	
Community Development		Group Description
Health Care (Quality)	Poor	
Comment (Health Care)	one hospital in each district, various clinics in some village, but limited medical supply. Only the hospital in Bata has trained staff and the facility to do surgery. The clinics essentially distribute drugs, but are unable to give more care.	
Diet (Quality)	Fair	
Comment (Diet)	Yucca, greens, malanga, forest meat, peanuts, many fruits and fish. There is usually no lack of food, but not always nutritional balance.	
Water (Quality)	Fair	
Comment (Water)	There is plenty of water, but it should be filtered or at least boiled. Only few do. There is malnutrition, bleeding diarrhea and tropical illnesses as leading causes for death.	
Energy/Fuel (Quality)	Poor	
Comment (Energy)	primary fuel is wood and very limited some kerosene. Electricity sporadically in the main town Bata and in a few places, where there are diesel generators,	
Society & Culture		Group Description
Family Structures	Patriarchal, single family dwellings and if polygamous a house for each wife. Extended family communities.	
Neighbor Relations	Marriage generally within Fang , but no strong prohibition against outside marriages. Relations good with all. The Fang are very hospitable people.	
Authority / Rule	It used to be a village chief and paramount chiefs over some groupings in the last century, but now they have completely accepted the current government system of authority and rule.	
Social Habits/Groupings	Mostly they are monogamous, but about 30% are polygamous. Everyone still maintains the concept of tribe and village and is expected to marry outside the tribe. The big drum "mbeng" and the small hollowed out log "nku" are used to herald the news between villages. Distinct rhythms announce the various celebrations.	
Cultural Change Pace	Slow	
Identification With National Culture	Distinct	
Self Image	Depressed	
Local Language Broadcasting	> 1 hour daily	

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Item Name	Item Note	
Youth		Group Description
Labor and tasks (6-12 year olds)	Help father and mother in every thing, learn his trade and her work. Fish and trap for boys, replace roof thatching and care for younger siblings.	
Youth Problems (Teens)	Teen pregnancy is not perceived as a problem. Alcoholism, thievery. Everyone knows that there are a couple of thieves in each town, but not so in smaller villages.	
Youth Greatest Needs (teens)	Spiritual outreach, community health, nutritional education, basic education and training. Corresponsibility with those who have skills.	
Comment (Youth)	A bilingual literacy program could have tremendous results in the education in Spanish and in the educational advancement of the people. The government is open to receive help from those who are sincerely committed to helping and not exploiting in some way. There is seemingly an open door for professional teachers and health professionals. It is an ideal situation for Latin Americans and Spaniards who want to serve and help.	
Education		Group Description
Percent Of Eligible Students Enrolled	98	
Teacher To Pupil Ratio	11	
Language Of Instruction Early Years	Spanish	
Language Of Textbooks Early Years	Spanish	
Language Of Instruction Later Years	Spanish	
Comment (Education)	There is one school in every village, but not always teachers available. Fang has been prohibited as a means of teaching. There is very little school material and books, the classes have 20 to 40 pupils in private schools and 100 to 120 in public schools.	
Church Growth		Status of Christianity
Reached Status	Evaluated	
Lay Leaders	70	
Bible Schools	2	
Comment (Church Growth)	This is not counting the Roman Catholics whose statistics would have to be researched.	
Religion & Response		Status of Christianity
Religious Practices & Ceremonies	There is a lot of spiritism and syncretism. There are about 3% Protestants and a few sects. 87% are Roman Catholics 20% of them are active. All the Catholic practices are kept. Non Catholics have various activities during the week and /or a daily morning prayer meetings.	
Attitude To Christianity	Very receptive	
Attitude To Religious Change	Somewhat receptive	
Resistance / Receptivity	When presented in Fang in a culturally sensitive way the Gospel is effective. Most people are open to missions and missionaries. There are 7000 or more evangelical indigenous churches planted. In them are 20 workers/missionaries.	
Religious Analogies & Bridges	The Fang would relate to the simple lifestyle the BIBLE TEACHES. Also a Latin American might be culturally most able to relate to them and to reach them. Or a Spaniard if they can prove genuine love for the people rather than the exploitation that motivated many colonists.	
Spiritual Climate And Openness	The group is at a critical point culturally. They have endured pressures from many sources, and now need the stability and hope that can only come from genuine Christianity and a relationship to Jesus Christ.	
Recommended Approaches	Speak their language and show them your genuine love and Christ.	
Current Needs	Training culturally sensitive evangelism and church planting. Medical and community development workers. Vernacular development: literacy, literature, bilingual education, translation.	
Items For Prayer	Translation to provide adequate Scriptures Teachers and Literacy specialists to provide literacy and general education Medical and community development workers. Church planting and evangelism work.	

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Item Name	Item Note	
History Of Christianity In Group		Status of Christianity
By Whom	Methodist	
Significant Events	Late 1800 the Methodist came from the USA. Gradual growths until the 1960 when national turmoil cut contact with missionaries completely and many Christians lost their lives, which led to near extinction of evangelical witness. Doors opened again in the 1980's and in the first half of 1990's a true awakening began.	
Comments (History of Christianity)	The entire country seems to have a good attitude to and receptivity towards missionaries, if it is evident that the missionaries are actually there motivated by love and desire to help and serve. There is need for collaboration and training, but not for white supremacy and exploiting manipulation	
Scripture		Status of Christianity
Translation Status	Probable	
Available Scripture	None	
Comment (Scripture)	There is work in progress. Scripture in Spanish, French, Bulu and Gabon Fang is available, but very few are able to make use of it. A few of the Presbyterian pastors have studied in Cameroon and can read Bulu. The majority of the churches do standup translations from Spanish.	
Missions and Churches		Status of Christianity
Organization Name	Assemblies of God	
Main Ministry	Other	
Main Ministry	Other	
Year Started	88	
Number Of Adherents	300	
Number Of Expatriate Workers	3	
Organization Name	Youth with a Mission	
Main Ministry	Literacy	
Year Started	92	
Number Of Expatriate Workers	8	
Organization Name	Pioneer Bible Translators	
Main Ministry	Bible Translation	
Main Ministry	Bible Translation	
Year Started	95	
Organization Name	Southern Baptist Convention (USA)	
Country Of Origin	United States	
Main Ministry	Church Planting	
Main Ministry	Church Planting	
Year Started	83	
Number Of Adherents	40	
Number Of Expatriate Workers	2	
Christian Literature And Media Status		Status of Christianity
Literature Available	None in Fang, very little in Spanish.	
Audio Recordings Available	none	
Films Available	none	
Radio Programs Available	15 minutes on some Sundays, a Presbyterian pastor speaks in Fang.	
Videos Available	none	
Audio Visual Available	none	