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THE CENTRAL AFRICA REPORT



Detailed Report Focusing on Security, Domestic News and
Developments that Impact the Central African Region

*Angola – Cameroon – Central African Republic – Chad- Republic of Congo –
Democratic Republic of the Congo – Equatorial Guinea – Gabon – São Tomé and
Príncipe*

APRIL 7 – 20, 2014

About MS Risk

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MS Risk is always mindful and compliant to legislation and guidelines on the use of private security services including, but not limited to the US FCPA (1977), UK Bribery Act (2010), Canadian Bill C-48 (2007), ASX 8 Corporate Governance Principles, and the World Bank/IFC Voluntary Principles on the Use of Government and Private Security Forces. MS Risk is a signatory of the Swiss government's International Code of Conduct. It is transparent and compliant to market expectations on legal and ethical conduct in the performance of services.

MS Risk has a dedicated team of researchers, a 24/7 hotline service and a pool of trained and experienced consultants to support client needs.

MS Risk supports clients in a variety of business sectors with the following services:

- Security Consulting
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 - Due diligence and investigations.
- Project Management
 - Interim Security
 - Training
 - Special Assignments
- Crisis Response
 - Crisis Response
 - Business continuity management
 - Hostile operations support to commercial interests
- Virtual Security Director service for clients lacking a full time security executive.

References are always available.

More information is found at www.msrisk.com

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The Central Africa Report ~ Summary

April 7 - 20, 2014



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Angola

- **16 April 2014** – On Wednesday, after a rare meeting with its long-time president, Angola's main opposition party, The National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA).

Cameroon

- **16 April 2014** – According to residents and local government officials, Nigeria's extremist Islamist group, Boko Haram, are believed to be actively recruiting fighters across the border in Cameroon's Far North Region.

Central African Republic

On the Ground Reporting

- **17 April 2014** – A bishop and three priests were kidnapped and transported to the CAR-Chad border.
- **16 April 2014** – Twenty-two people were killed in clashes between Muslim rebels and Christian militia in Grimari.
- **14 April 2014** – On Monday, a local official reported that residents of a town in the CAR have fled their homes after Muslim fighters overran the place, killing several people.
- **12 April 2014** – African peacekeepers have escorted more than 1,000 minority Muslims, who are fleeing attacks carried out by the mainly Christian militias, to neighbouring Chad.
- **11 April 2014** – According to residents and a spokesman for the French armed forces, gunmen ambushed peacekeeping troops in the crisis-torn CAR, injuring two.
- **10 April 2014** – The first European Union (EU) troops arrived in the CAR, just a day before the expected vote on a key UN resolution to authorize the deployment of peacekeepers and just days after police confirmed that fresh sectarian violence had killed at least thirty people.
- **9 April 2014** – Chad's withdrawal from the Central African Republic (CAR) will likely leave the country's Muslim population exposed.
- **8 April 2014** - Police officials reported Wednesday that at least thirty people, mostly civilians, were killed in fighting between the mainly Christian militia and predominantly Muslim rebels in the CAR.

International Developments

- **17 April 2014** – UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon released a radio message appealing for peace.
- **16 April 2014** – United Nations refugee chief Antonio Guterres warned Wednesday that the conflict in the CAR could embroil the whole region, eventually threatening global security.
 - Meanwhile the United Nations and aid groups have launched an appeal for US \$274 million to help people who have fled the CAR, warning that the dire needs of hundreds of thousands of refugees cannot be met with existing funds.
- **11 March 2014** - The United Nations refugee agency announced Friday that Christian militias in the CAR are attacking people attempting to flee the country, forcing them to take more dangerous routes across the border in a bid to escape the on going violence.
- **10 April 2014** – On Thursday, the United Nations Security Council unanimously voted to send 12,000 UN peacekeepers to the CAR, where violence between Christians and Muslims has triggered fears of genocide.

Chad

On the Ground Reporting

- **16 April 2014** – On Wednesday, officials in Chad confirmed that it had withdrawn its entire force from the CAR in the wake of accusations that its troops had waged an unprovoked attack in a market last month.
- **10 April 2014** – A small team of US Marines will soon be deployed to Chad's Zakouma National Park, tasked with training local forces in the fight against poaching that is threatening the area's elephant herds.

Regional Reporting

- **10 April 2014** – Lawyers for Chad’s former dictator, Hissene Habre, stated Thursday that his prosecution in Senegal for crimes against humanity was politically motivated and driven by the Chadian spy agency.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On the Ground Reporting

- **15 April 2014** – The director of the Democratic Republic of Congo’s Virunga Park, Africa’s oldest national park, survived an attack by unidentified gunmen while driving the country’s volatile eastern borderlands on Tuesday.
 - Meanwhile the UN mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo is seeking to locate a group of militia fighters who surrendered to the Congolese army, after their leader was killed in custody. Militia leader Paul Sadala, also known as “Morgan,” died on Monday in disputed circumstances.
- **14 April 2014** – Government officials have stated that a militia leader, who has been accused of kidnap, rape and cannibalism in the Democratic Republic of Congo was killed on Monday alongside four other people during a fire fight as he sought to escape his army captors.

International Developments

- **9 April 2014** – On Wednesday, the International Criminal Court (ICC) stated that Congolese ex-militia boss Germain Katanga and his prosecutors have appealed his war-crimes conviction for arming an ethnic militia that massacred scores of villagers in 2003.
- **8 April 2014** – Doctors Without Borders, which goes by its French acronym MSF, has indicated that it is worried that intense fighting between the military and armed groups in north eastern Congo could endanger its staff members who were taken hostage nine months ago.

Central Africa Report ~ Security Summary

Angola – MS Risk advises against all but essential travel to certain regions of Angola. Specifically, we advise against all but essential travel to the provinces of Cabinda, Lunda Norte and Lunda Sul. There is currently a low threat from terrorism.

Cameroon – MS Risk advises against all travel to the North and Far North Regions of Cameroon.

Central African Republic – MS Risk advises against all travel to the Central African Republic

Chad - MS Risk advises against all travel to the following areas: areas within 30 kilometers (18 miles) of the border with Libya, Nigeria, Niger and the Central African Republic; areas bordering Lake Chad, including the regions of Kanem and Lac to the west of the towns of Mao and Bol; areas within 30 kilometers (18 miles) of Cameroon from Lake Chad as far as Léré; the regions of Sila, Wadi Fira, Ennedi and Tibesti; the region of Ouaddaï except the town of Abéché; the region of Borkou except within 30km of the town of Faya Largeau. MS Risk also advises against all but essential travel to all remaining parts of the country, including the towns of Faya Largeau in Borkou region and Abéché in Ouaddaï region. Currently, MS Risk does not have any travel advisory for the capital city, N'Djamena.

Republic of Congo - MS Risk currently advises against all travel to the Likouala province. This is due to a large influx of displaced people coming in from neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The UNHCR currently estimates that there are around 110,000 refugees in Likouala province. MS Risk also advises against all but essential travel to the Pool region. There is currently a low level of terrorism in the Republic of the Congo.

Democratic Republic of the Congo - MS Risk advises against all travel to eastern and north-eastern DRC, including Goma. The only exception to this is the town of Bukavu, to which MS Risk advises against all but essential travel. MS Risk currently advises against all but essential travel to the remainder of the DRC. There is currently a low threat from terrorism.

Equatorial Guinea - There are currently no travel advisories for Equatorial Guinea

Gabon - There are currently no travel advisories for Gabon.

São Tomé and Príncipe - There are currently no travel advisories for Sao Tome and Principe. However due to the current political situation, coupled with fears of a possible military coup, MS Risk advises all travellers to the country to remain vigilant and to monitor reporting on the political situation.

Angola

Security Summary ~ MS Risk advises against all but essential travel to certain regions of Angola. Specifically, we advise against all but essential travel to the provinces of Cabinda, Lunda Norte and Lunda Sul. There is currently a low threat from terrorism. We advise that all international companies and organizations operating throughout Angola have strict security rules and regulations for their staff.

Luanda

There is a high level of crime in Luanda. Muggings, particularly to steal mobile telephones and other valuables, as well as armed robberies can occur in any area at any time during the day and night. It is advised that you avoid wearing jewelry or watches in public places. Do not change or withdraw large sums of money in busy public areas. Areas that are popular with foreigners are particularly targeted. You should avoid walking around Luanda, especially after dark.

Theft from slow-moving or stationary cars is common, especially in central Luanda. It is advised to keep valuables out of sight and do not use mobiles or laptops while in traffic. When driving, we wary if another car signals you to pull over. Thieves use the pretext of a minor traffic incident to get you out of your car in order to either steal the vehicle or rob you. A high proportion of the civilian population is armed.



If you choose to travel outside Luanda, and the provincial capitals, it is advised that you do so in the company of persons or organizations experience in local conditions as conditions can be difficult. There is a widespread of poverty, social exclusion and disease.

Cabinda Province

MS Risk advises against all but essential travel to Cabinda Province. There are regular violent incidents, including rape, murder and kidnappings that involve foreigners and Angolans. Groups claiming responsibility for these attacks have declared their intention to continue attacks against foreigners.

Lunda Norte and Lunda Sul

MS Risk advises against all but essential travel to the provinces of Lunda Norte and Lunda Sul. Angolan authorities are sensitive to the presence of foreigners in the diamond producing areas. Consequently all travellers to the region may be subjected to movement restrictions or detention by security forces.

The presence of diamonds also increases the threat of crime and banditry, particularly on roads that lead to and from these areas. Armed hold-ups do occur from time to time.

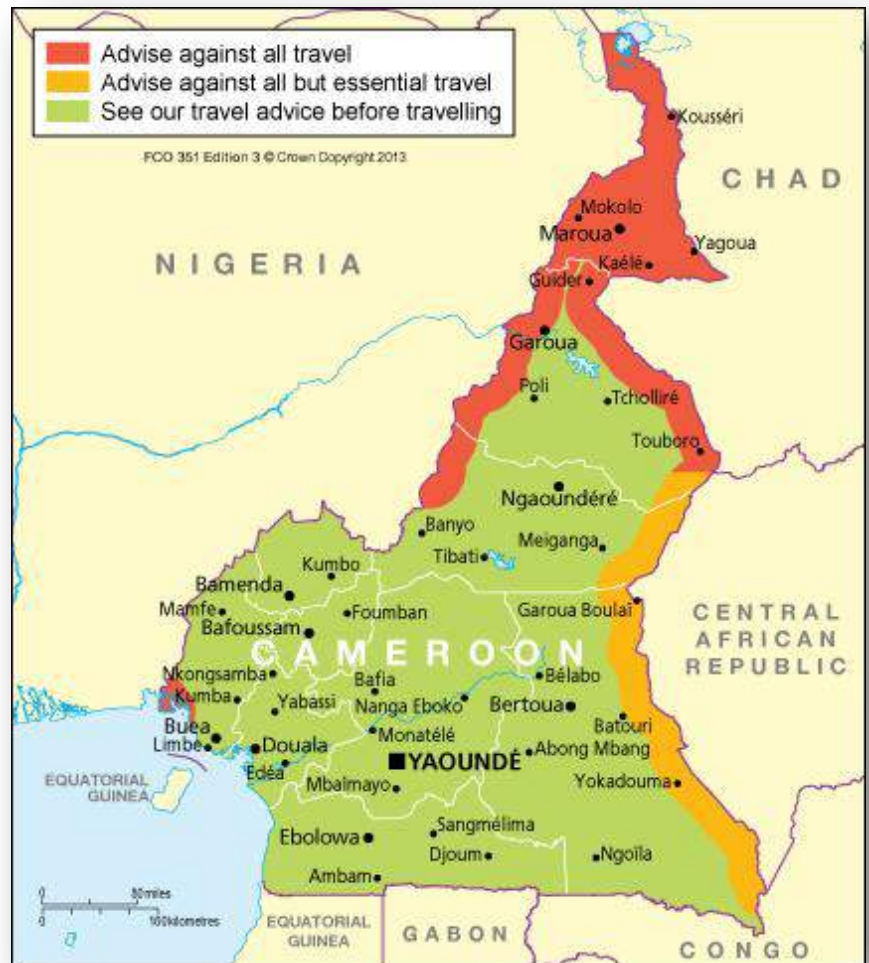
International Developments

- **16 April 2014** – On Wednesday, after a rare meeting with its long-time president, Angola's main opposition party, The National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA). Expressed concern about what it called the deteriorating state of democracy in the oil-producing southern African country. Unita said it feared a reversal in progress made since a devastating civil war with its rival, the ruling MPLA party, ended more than a decade ago. Speaking a day after meeting with President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, Unita's party leader Isaias Samakuva stated "since 2002 we have started a process of democratisation and national reconciliation, but for some time now we have been backsliding," adding "we are concerned that this regression assumes dangerous proportions which could drag the country back to a situation of instability." Encounters between the opposition leader and Dos Santos, who will soon celebrate 35 years in power, are very rare. The pair met for an hour on Tuesday, their first meeting since 2011. Unita lost against the ruling Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) during elections in 2008 and 2012.

Cameroon

Executive Summary ~ With the kidnapping of two Italian priests and one Canadian nun during the early morning hours of 5 April 2014, MS Risk advises against all travel to the North and Far North regions of Cameroon. The threat of kidnapping and hostage taking remains high at this time, with further such incidents likely to occur. While officials in Nigeria have requested Cameroon to increase security along the shared border between these two countries, the border regions continue to be porous and remain a safe haven for Boko Haram militants seeking shelter from the ongoing military operation in northern Nigeria.

The killing of a Cameroonian police officer on 19 August has prompted officials in Cameroon to close its border with the Central African Republic (CAR). The death of the officer occurred after a number of Seleka fighters crossed over the border into Cameroon, where they were stopped by officers patrolling the border region. Despite being escorted over the border, the fighters returned and attacked the police. It is currently not known how long the border will be closed. Consequently MS Risk advises against all travel to the border regions with the CAR as it is highly likely that militant groups and pro-Seleka fighters may be patrolling the areas and may at times attempt to cross into Cameroon. On 14 May 2013, the Government of Nigeria declared a state of emergency in the states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe. Both Adamawa and Borno border Cameroon's far North, North and Adamaoua provinces. It is possible that military operations there might have an impact across the border in Cameroon. MS RISK advises against all travel to the Bakassi Peninsula as well as within 20km of the border with Nigeria in the Ndian Division of the South West Province. We also advise against all travel to within 40km of the border



with Chad in the North and Far North Provinces. This is due to a heightened risk of banditry and armed poachers in Bouba Ndjidda National Park in the North Province. There is currently a travel advisory north of Maroula in the Far North Province resulting from the heightened threat of armed banditry and other threats associated with the borders of Chad and Nigeria. The Government of Cameroon is expected to cut fuel subsidies in the near future, which may cause strikes and civil unrest throughout the country. Finally, there have been attacks on commercial shipping vessels in the Gulf of Guinea, including the coastline of Cameroon around the port of Douala. Vessels travelling throughout this area have been advised to exercise extreme caution.

On the Ground Reporting

- **16 April 2014** – According to residents and local government officials, Nigeria’s extremist Islamist group, Boko Haram, are believed to be actively recruiting fighters across the border in Cameroon’s Far North Region. Since 2012, more than 100 suspected Boko Haram fighters and preachers, the latter presumed to have links with the militant group, have been arrested in the Far North Region, however many have been released due to lack of evidence. According to a local security official, “there are many Muslim brothers coming from Nigeria with the aim of preaching to the youths. The government has warned against this practice, but they still reach out to the young people because they make them promises and give them money.” Residents of the Mayo-Sava area in the Far North Region have recently reported that unidentified preachers are secretly reaching out to youths in their locality. The threat of Boko Haram is widespread in Cameroonian villages bordering north-eastern Nigeria. A Nigerian military offensive launched in May 2013 has since pushed back the militants from major towns in the country’s northeast to remote areas. However attacks by the insurgent’s have since become more deadly and frequent. There are also some suspicions that Boko Haram may also be recruiting from neighbouring Niger. Some observers have also linked the group with Islamist insurgents who seized Mali’s north after the March 2012 overthrow of the government in Bamako.

Central African Republic

Security Summary ~ MS Risk advises against all travel to the Central African Republic (CAR). Despite French troops deploying into CAR in early December, the situation throughout the country has continued to deteriorate. There have been reports of rebel activity, banditry and hostage-taking across the country. The situation in the capital, Bangui, remains fragile with reports of continued isolated killings, looting and gunfire. There is also an underlying threat from terrorism. Attacks can be indiscriminate, including in places that are visited by foreigners. The official curfew in the CAR is from 8PM to 5AM.

Despite the French military intervention, Operation Sangaris, being launched in early December, security throughout the CAR remains unstable. MS Risk strongly advises you not to travel around Bangui after dark. At other times, it is advised that you take extreme care, and travel in groups if possible. There are armed patrols at night in Bangui and you may encounter



several roadblocks, both official and unofficial, that are likely to be manned by armed personnel. We advise that you take particular care when approaching these.

Crime

Incidents of theft and robbery occur regularly. Armed gangs are known to operate in the outlying areas of Bangui. You are advised to take personal security precautions and be vigilant in public places at all times. Avoid carrying valuables or wearing jewelry in public. Do not walk alone at night and avoid any isolated or poorer areas.

On the Ground Reporting

- **17 April 2014** – A bishop and three priests were kidnapped on 16 April in Batangafo and transported to Kabo on the border with Chad. The group was on a pastoral visit as part of Holy Week celebrations when they were abducted. African Union peacekeepers (MISCA) were able to stop the ex-Seleka convoy as it was on its way to Chad. The group was released on 17 April.
- **16 April 2014** – Twenty-two people have been killed in clashes between mainly Muslim rebels and Christian militia in Grimari. Among the 22 dead, five Seleka members were killed, and two anti-balaka. Most of the others killed were civilians, including four women hit with stray bullets.
- **14 April 2014** – On Monday, a local official reported that residents of a town in the CAR have fled their homes after Muslim fighters overran the place, killing several people. According to sources, the fighters, who are believed to be former members of the Seleka rebel alliance, along with Muslim herders had arrived in Grimari, which is located in the country's centre, a day earlier. They knocked down doors and set fire to homes and slit the throats of a number of people. It remains unclear as to how many people were killed as residents have not returned to the town. Capt. Ahmat Nidjad Ibrahim of the Seleka rebel alliance has stated that Christian militias had attacked the town and that his fighters were merely chasing them. He added that his group had been fighting with the Christian militias in that area because they had killed a Muslim herder.
- **12 April 2014** – African peacekeepers have escorted more than 1,000 minority Muslims, who are fleeing attacks carried out by the mainly Christian militias, to neighbouring Chad. According to a police source, "not a single Muslim remains in Bossangoa," a town that is located in the north-western region of the CAR. He added that they left for Chad on Thursday after gathering at a Koranic school. Large-scale violence between Christians and Muslims has been raging in Bossangoa and nearby Bouca since last September. Thousands have been killed and a quarter of the country's 4.6 million people are displaced, most of them Muslims, who make up around one-fifth of the overall population.
- **11 April 2014** – According to residents and a spokesman for the French armed forces, gunmen ambushed peacekeeping troops in the crisis-torn CAR, injuring two. A hospital employee also indicated that French troops and Congolese soldiers from the African Union (AU) peacekeeping force (MISCA) were "ambushed" outside the hospital in the central mining town of Bria while they were making their way back to their airport base on Thursday. According to the employee, gunfire broke out for around half an hour outside the hospital, which is located in the city centre. Sebastien Isern, a communications officer for the French force stationed in the capital Bangui confirmed Thursday's incident stating "we have been attacked by an armed enemy group," adding "we did not have any fatalities, but two soldiers from the MISCA force have been injured." While the communications officer did not provide further details of the nature of their injuries he did state that the situation in the area remained "complex and volatile." However a contradicting statement has been released by a representative of the Seleka rebel group. General Moussa Dhaffane has stated that the French army had started the hostilities, adding "one of their

helicopters fired on the vehicle of one of our commanders in the area.” He further noted that “we have no problem with France, it is a problem of method. There is a crisis of confidence between Sangaris (the French peacekeeping force) and Seleka.” Earlier in the day, when foreign troops had entered the town, which is located 400 kilometres (250 miles) from Bangui, they were stoned by Muslim youths. According to an eyewitness, the stone-throwers were young Muslims who had been manipulated by Seleka rebels. He added that one young man was killed in the incident, however no further details of his death have been released. Tensions in Bria were high on Friday, with shops closed while youths armed with knives roamed the streets. Although initially deployed in the south and central regions of the landlocked nation, the foreign troops have now started to move eastwards and towards the northern border with Chad and Sudan. They are heading into territory where Seleka fighters fell back after being chased out of the capital, Bangui.

- **10 April 2014** – The first European Union (EU) troops arrived in the CAR, just a day before the expected vote on a key UN resolution to authorize the deployment of peacekeepers and just days after police confirmed that fresh sectarian violence had killed at least thirty people. On Wednesday, an initial contingent of 55 EU troops made their first patrols in the capital Bangui, their arrival coming a day before the Security Council is expected to give the green light on the deployment of some 12,000 peacekeepers who will be tasked with helping end the on going violence. According to French army spokesman Francois Guillermet, the EU troops have been tasked with maintaining security and training local officers. The deployment of the 55 soldiers comes a week after the EU announced that it would be sending around 800 troops, its first major ground operation in six years. They are expected to be fully operational by the end of May. The United Nations peacekeeping force, which will comprise of 10,000 soldiers and 1,800 police officers, is not expected to begin its operations until mid-September, however the international body may provide logistical assistance sooner. The deployment of additional troops to the CAR comes as Chad has withdrawn 850 troops, a move that has sparked fears of continued unrest and attacks against Muslims. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has warned that the conflict has turned into an “ethno-religious cleansing, with lynching’s, decapitations and sexual violence all going unpunished. On Saturday, the UN chief, who was in Bangui for a brief visit while en route to Rwanda to commemorate the anniversary of the 1994 genocide, told parliamentarians that they had a duty to prevent a recurrence of such atrocities. According to the United Nations figures, the proportion of Muslims in the overall population has decreased from around 15% to 2% since the crisis began. The UN’s peacekeeping resolution is expected to be submitted by France on Thursday at 1400 GMT. If passed, it will authorize soldiers from France to “use all necessary means” to provide support to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA). Priorities for the new peacekeeping force will include the protection of civilians and humanitarian convoys, maintaining order, supporting the political transition and respect for human rights.
- **9 April 2014** – Chad’s withdrawal from the Central African Republic (CAR) will likely leave the country’s Muslim population exposed. In the wake of Chad’s decision to withdraw its troops from

the CAR, after it was accused of killing dozens of civilians, Jean-Marie Michel Mokoko, head of the International Support Mission to the Central African Republic (MISCA) has raised the alarm, stating that he regrets Chad's decision which he says leaves the UN-backed peacekeeping mission worryingly short on troops. According to Mr Mokoko, "we would have preferred that they withdraw in a manner that was convenient for us....But apparently the decision is irrevocable and immediate. As soon as they are able to quit Central African Republic, they will do so." On Friday, amidst a dispute over clashes last weekend in the capital, Bangui, which left more than thirty civilians dead, Chad began withdrawing its 850 troops. While the Chadian forces maintain that they were returning fire, a preliminary investigation carried out by UN officials has found that they shot indiscriminately into a crowd of civilians. Mr Mokoko has stated that the withdrawal of the Chadian soldiers will have consequences for the 6,000-strong mission as "we have one unit less now....And I don't have the time to find replacements for them on short notice." Moreover, the sudden departure of Chadian troops further inflame the already tense situation on the ground, with Mr Mokoko explaining that "the Muslim population are worried and saw the Chadian contingent as their protectors," adding "their leaving, especially in the central region of Bossangoa, will be difficult for the Muslims." Over the past few months, forces from the Chadian contingent have helped to evacuate tens of thousands of Muslims fleeing the violence in the CAR. While the UN Security Council is due to approve, later this week, a 12,000-strong UN peacekeeping force for the CAR, which will take over authority from African Union (AU) troops, the UN peacekeepers are not expected to arrive until September, increasing fears of a security vacuum as the country's interim government continues to struggle to control the inter-communal violence which has already killed more than 2,000 people since December.

- **8 April 2014** - Police officials reported Wednesday that at least thirty people, mostly civilians, were killed in fighting between the mainly Christian militia and predominantly Muslim rebels in the CR. According to one police official, the victims, "the majority of them civilians," died in clashes on Tuesday in the central town of Dekoa. The incident also left more than ten people wounded. Sources have indicated that the Christian militia attacked Seleka positions in Dekoa, which is located some 300 kilometres (180 miles) north of the capital city, during the early morning hours on Tuesday. The fighting later escalated, prompting Seleka rebels to call in reinforcements, which resulted in the clashes lasting more than four hours. A police source has indicated that "most of the victims were civilians who were hit by stray bullets."

International Developments

- **17 April 2014** – United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon released a radio message appealing to all Central Africans to rebuild the country through peace. Ban said, "Your future is not partition and bloodshed. It must be unity and peace," and stated that the Muslims and Christians in the nation have always lived peacefully together. This is the second time in 2014 that the Secretary General has made a personal appeal to the nation's citizens. Ban also issued a warning that those committing human rights abuses will be brought to justice.

- **16 April 2014** – United Nations refugee chief Antonio Guterres warned Wednesday that the conflict in the CAR could embroil the whole region, eventually threatening global security. Speaking to reporters, Mr Guterres stated “it’s not easy to put Central African Republic on the map of concerns of public opinion in general and governments in particular....But the truth is that Central African Republic has the potential of generating levels of insecurity at a regional level that can bind with other crises.” The resource-rich, but impoverished country, borders violence-wracked South-Sudan, Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Other countries in the region, such as Mali and Nigeria, have also been mired in conflict and drought. While Central Africa has endured decades of coups, army mutinies and general strikes, since last year, the conflict has taken on an ethno-religious tone in a country where Christians and Muslims had long lived peacefully. According to Mr Guterres, “we see fighters going from country to country, and now that a religious dimension was added to the Central African Republic crisis, all this can contribute to an increase in threats to global peace and global security.” In the past four months, nearly 200,000 people have fled the country, mostly to neighbouring Chad and Cameroon. The UN also forecasts that refugee numbers are expected to reach 362,000 by the end of this year.

 - Meanwhile the United Nations and aid groups have launched an appeal for US \$274 million to help people who have fled the CAR, warning that the dire needs of hundreds of thousands of refugees cannot be met with existing funds. The appeal is separate from the US \$574 million that the global body asked donors for earlier this year to help some 600,000 people displaced inside the CAR. A statement released by the agency indicated that “the mainly women and children fleeing atrocities in CAR are arriving in neighbouring countries deeply traumatized, many wounded by machete or gunshots, malnourished and exhausted from weeks of walking and hiding.” UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Antonio Guterres, told diplomats in Geneva “all agencies working in the region are dramatically underfunded.” Mr Guterres further noted that his agency is already spending three times as much as it has received so far, adding, “this cannot be sustained.” The money sought by the UN refugee agency, and fourteen other humanitarian organizations, will be used to pay for shelter, food, water, sanitation, health care, education and basic needs. According to the UN refugee agency, since December, nearly 200,000 people have sought refuge in neighbouring countries, and this figure is expected to rise to over 360,000 by the end of the year.
- **11 March 2014** - The United Nations refugee agency announced Friday that Christian militias in the CAR are attacking people attempting to flee the country, forcing them to take more dangerous routes across the border in a bid to escape the on going violence. UNHCR spokeswoman Melissa Fleming confirmed Friday that the agency had registered four wounded refugees in Cameroon in recent days, three of which had been hacked with machetes while the fourth had been shot. According to Ms Fleming, people arriving in Cameroon told UNHCR that militias have blocked the main roads across the border, effectively forcing them to travel through the bush, sometimes for periods of up to three months. According to agency numbers from March, more than 300,00 people have fled the CAR, which descended into sectarian violence following a coup last March.

- **10 April 2014** – On Thursday, the United Nations Security Council unanimously voted to send 12,000 UN peacekeepers to the CAR, where violence between Christians and Muslims has triggered fears of genocide. The Security Council adopted Resolution 2149 in a vote called by Nigeria, which currently holds the body's rotating presidency. The resolution, which was submitted by France, will deploy up to 10,000 military personnel and 1,800 police to the former French colony, where over the past year, sectarian violence has killed thousands. The mandate of the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) is to protect civilians and humanitarian convoys, maintain order, support and political transition and promote human rights. The UN peacekeeping mission however is scheduled to take over on 15 September 2014. It will take over from 2,000 French and 6,000 African Union (AU) soldiers who are already in place as humanitarian needs in the CAR escalate. In the meantime, the African peacekeeping force will lose 850 soldiers from Chad, which announced it was withdrawing last week after being accused repeatedly of siding with Muslims. A statement released by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon indicated that the resolution must now lead to the "immediate, concrete and sustainable support that the Central African people need and deserve." The UN chief also called for an "immediate cessation of the killings, targeted attacks and other atrocious human rights violations that continue with total impunity." Meanwhile France has hailed what its UN ambassador called a "key turning point" and urged the UN and African Union (AU) to "do everything possible to allow a swift and effective deployment." US Ambassador Samantha Power, who recently returned from the CAR, also stated that she could "personally attest to the critical urgency" of bringing more security to the CAR, adding that the country was on "edge of disaster" and that the 25th anniversary of the genocide in Rwanda had taught the international community the price of inaction. The United States has pledged US \$67 million in humanitarian aid for the CAR this financial year. The aid will focus on health, protection, economic recovery, water and sanitation.

Chad

Executive Summary ~ MS Risk advises against all travel to the following areas: areas within 30 kilometers (18 miles) of the border with Libya, Nigeria, Niger and the Central African Republic; areas bordering Lake Chad, including the regions of Kanem and Lac to the west of the towns of Mao and Bol; areas within 30 kilometers (18 miles) of Cameroon from Lake Chad as far as Léré; the regions of Sila, Wadi Fira, Ennedi and Tibesti; the region of Ouaddaï except the town of Abéché; the region of Borkou except within 30km of the town of Faya Largeau. MS Risk also advises against all but essential travel to all remaining parts of the country, including the towns of Faya Largeau in Borkou region and Abéché in Ouaddaï region. Currently, MS Risk does not have any travel advisory for the capital city, N'Djamena.

MS Risk advises that you should only undertake travel to those parts of the country to which we advise against all but essential travel if:

- You are confident that you have in place adequate security precautions to protect you from violent crime;*
- The correct Chadian authorities are aware of your journey;*
- You have in place the right permits if required;*
- And you hold comprehensive travel insurance.*



There is currently a low threat from terrorism.

Armed robberies, particularly from cars, in residential areas of N'Djamena are common, with foreigners sometimes being targeted. MS Risk advises all travellers to the capital city to remain vigilant and to take care particularly in the capital. Keep doors locked and windows closed at all times. Do not carry any large sums of money, jewelry, or other valuables. Avoid isolated or less developed areas of the city and do not travel alone at night.

There have been a number of kidnappings in eastern Chad involving Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) workers and business people. Further such kidnappings are likely to occur. MS Risk advises all travellers to this region of Chad to be vigilant and take care at all times.

Nearly 350,000 Sudanese and Central African refugees and 100,000 internally displaced persons (IDP) are living in and around camps in eastern Chad. Although the Joint Border Force between Sudan and Chad has partially stabilized the situation, banditry and violent crime in eastern Chad continues to exist. Consequently the border between Chad and Sudan is subject to closures with minimal notice.

The area bordering Libya is also subject to closure and is heavily land-mined. The northern regions of Borkou, Ennedi and Tibesti continue to be unsafe.

On the Ground Reporting

- **16 April 2014** – On Wednesday, officials in Chad confirmed that it had withdrawn its entire force from the CAR in the wake of accusations that its troops had waged an unprovoked attack in a market last month. Speaking during a ceremony in the southern town of Sarh, which is located about 100 kilometres (60 miles) from the frontier, Souleyman Adam, the head of the Chadian peacekeeping unit, stated that “the last soldier crossed the border on April 13.” Chad President Idriss Deby Itno had ordered the pull-out after the United Nations stated that Chadian troops had opened fire in a crowded market in the capital Bangui on 29 March in an attack that left around thirty people dead. The UN Human Rights Commission stated that an investigation had found that the troops fired “without any provocation,” claims which have been branded as defamatory by Chad. However over the past several months, the Chadian troops have faced repeated accusations of siding with Muslims in the CAR’s bloody sectarian conflict. Chad has always denied these charges, stating that it wants to keep working with its neighbour to rebuild security there. The pull-out of more than 800 troops, who made up a key contingent in the African peacekeeping force MISCA which is struggling to restore security in the CAR, came despite appeals by French officials for Chad to reverse its decision. A total of 883 Chadian soldiers have returned home after a mission that left fifteen of their comrades dead.
- **10 April 2014** – A small team of US Marines will soon be deployed to Chad’s Zakouma National Park, tasked with training local forces in the fight against poaching that is threatening the area’s elephant herds. A military official has confirmed that around 15 marines are to arrive in the

Central African country by the end of April and will stay for around a month. The troops will train a group of approximately 100 rangers from the Chadian ministry's mobile brigade, which is tasked with tracking poachers. The marines will train the Chadian rangers on small unit tactics, as well as patrolling, shooting and navigation. A statement released by the US Marines Corps indicated that "these skills will help prevent poaching, investigate incidents and pursue criminals." The marines deployed to Chad will come from a special unit assigned to the NATO base in Sigonella Italy. The Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force conducts cooperation missions in Africa. An increasing poaching in the Zakouma region has led to a sharp decline in the elephant population. According to the African Parks conservation group, in 2005, there were 4,000 elephants and in five years, this number has decreased to just 450. In February 2014, authorities incinerated a tone of ivory that was confiscated from poachers in the park. According to several conservation groups, the price of a kilogram of ivory has surpassed US \$2,000 on the Asian black market. The demand for ivory is constantly on the rise. Central African countries are exploited by vast poaching operations that are organized by armed groups, which take advantage of gaps in border security, effectively allowing illicit goods to pass from country to country. According to a 2013 report produced by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), at about US \$19 billion a year, poaching has become the world's fourth largest illegal market, after drugs, fake currency, and human trafficking.

Regional Reporting

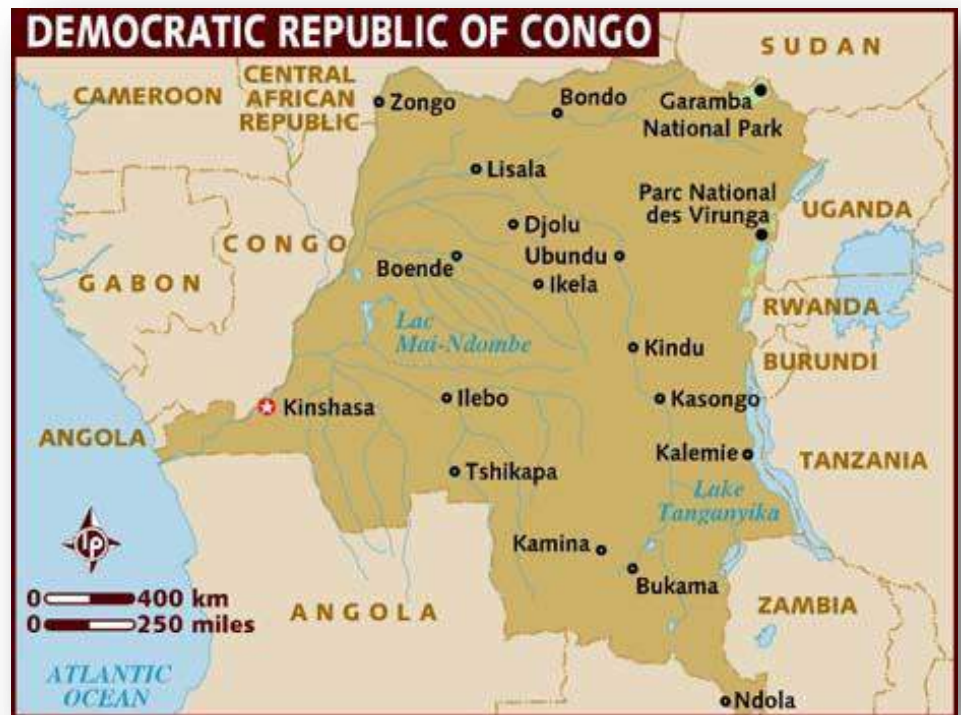
- 10 April 2014** – Lawyers for Chad's former dictator, Hissene Habre, stated Thursday that his prosecution in Senegal for crimes against humanity was politically motivated and driven by the Chadian spy agency. Francois Serres, one of Mr Habre's lawyers, told reporters in Dakar that "we are faced with the execution of a political mandate. This investigation has from the outset been manipulated by the Chadian intelligence services." He added that the former dictator would not receive a fair trial and accused Mbacke Fall, the chief prosecutor of a special court set up in Dakar in February last year to try Mr Habre, of violating the presumption of his client's innocence. Mr Habre's lawyers have also accused Mr Fall of a "violation of the secrecy of the investigation" adding that they have been barred from seeing their client or accessing the prosecution case. The 71-year-old is facing accusations of war crimes, crimes against humanity and torture that were carried out during his regime in Chad between 1982 and 1990, when some 40,000 people were killed, according to rights groups. Mr Habre's regime was marked by fierce repression of his opponents and the targeting of ethnic groups, and in 1990, he fled to Senegal after being ousted by the current president Idriss Deby Itno. He was arrested in July 2013 after more than two decades in exile in Senegal, Mr Habre, once dubbed "Africa's Pinochet," was placed on remand in the Senegalese capital Dakar, where he is to stand trial in 2015 after years of delays. Mr Habre's regime was marked by fierce repression of his opponents and the targeting of ethnic groups, and in 1990, he fled to Senegal after being ousted by the current president Idriss Deby Itno. Chad's

Commission of Inquiry into Mr Habre's alleged crimes estimates that only 4,000 victims have ever been identified.

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Executive Summary ~ MS Risk advises against all travel to eastern and north-eastern DRC, including Goma. The only exception to this is the town of Bukavu, to which MS Risk advises against all but essential travel. MS Risk currently advises against all but essential travel to the remainder of the DRC. There is currently a low threat from terrorism.

The security situation in eastern DRC, including Goma, remains unstable. Any foreigners in North Kivu, including Goma, are currently advised to keep their security situation under review. During fighting in the region in recent months, shells landed on Goma, causing a number of civilian deaths and injuries. There was also shelling around the border with Rwanda and explosions in the town of Gisenyi on the Rwandan side of the border. Further shelling may occur. You are therefore advised to avoid travelling alone and at night.



In the Katanga Province, there has been unrest and reports of fighting which occurred on 7 January 2014. The current situation remains tense across the province, particularly around the town of Pweto. MS Risk therefore advises all travellers to the region to exercise a high level of caution.

There were shooting incidents in Kinshasa on 30 December 2013. The incidents occurred around the national TV and radio station RTNC, the airport and the main army barracks and Ministry of Defence at Ngaliema. There were also reports of fighting in Lubumbashi, Katanga Province and in Kindu, Maniema Province. While the situation in Kinshasa now appears to be returning to normal, the situation remains to be fragile and security forces continue to be on alert.

On the Ground Reporting

- **15 April 2014** – The director of the Democratic Republic of Congo's Virunga Park, Africa's oldest national park, survived an attack by unidentified gunmen while driving the country's volatile eastern borderlands on Tuesday. According to one of his colleagues, Emmanuel de Merode was shot four times on the road which links the park's headquarters in Rumangabo to Goma, the capital of North Kivu province. The colleague further indicated "he was attacked around 4:30 PM (11:30 AM ET) and was evacuated by the Congolese army," adding "we were informed when he reached Heal Africa hospital in Goma." Sources have indicated that the bullets missed vital organs and his life is not in danger. Dr Merode, a Belgian prince, was appointed director of the Virunga National Park in 2008 and lives at the park headquarters. He chose to remain there during fighting between the Congolese army and M23 rebel forces that raged through the park for twenty months until November 2013. Virunga National Park was established in 1925 as Africa's first national park and has been a UNESCO-designated World Heritage Site since 1979. The densely forested hinterlands around Goma are home to a number of rebel groups that compete for control of land and of the Congo's vast natural resource wealth. Park rangers are regularly killed in clashes with militias in the park. The motive behind the attack on Mr Merode was not immediately clear.
 - Meanwhile the UN mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo is seeking to locate a group of militia fighters who surrendered to the Congolese army, after their leader was killed in custody. Militia leader Paul Sadala, also known as "Morgan," died on Monday in disputed circumstances. He had turned himself in on Saturday, along with around forty of his followers whom the UN mission now wants to locate. A spokesman for the Congo's UN mission (MONUSCO) has confirmed that a team would travel to Sadala's stronghold in Orientale province in a bid to locate the surrendered fighters whom the government says are in army custody in the militia leader's remote village. According to a source, the mission will also attempt to establish how Sadala died, adding "there is a worry that other warlords will not come forward to surrender because its unclear what happened to Sadala." Government spokesman Lambert Mende had indicated late on Monday that Sadala was shot during an escape attempt and bled to death while being flown to hospital in a UN helicopter. However that version of events has since been denied by MONUSCO's military spokesman, Colonel Felix Basse, who has stated "when we received Sadala he was already dead. The operation up to that point had been entirely led by the Congolese army." Mr Mende conceded on Tuesday that Sadala had died before reaching the UN helicopter, adding that he only had seven of his men with him when they attacked the Congolese soldiers guard them, sparking a gun battle. He further noted that four of his fighters and two soldiers were also killed but that more than thirty remaining militant, who were not with Sadala at the time of his death, remain under guard in the village.
- **14 April 2014** – Government officials have stated that a militia leader, who has been accused of kidnap, rape and cannibalism in the Democratic Republic of Congo was killed on Monday

alongside four other people during a fire fight as he sought to escape his army captors. Paul Sadala, a poacher-turned-militia leader known as “Morgan,” who operated in the Congo’s Orientale province, surrendered on Saturday with around forty of his followers. According to government spokesman Lambert Mende, he was being brought by the army to the town of Buina when he attacked the soldiers who were escorting him. Mr Mende has further indicated that Sadala had “...caused a shootout which resulted in the deaths of two army soldiers and two of his own men. He tried to flee but suffered a serious injury.” Sadala was taken by helicopter for treatment however he died on his way as a result of excessive bleeding. The government has had an arrest warrant out for Sadala since November 2012 on charges of war crimes and crimes of sexual violence. Since 2012, Sadala has repeatedly attacked populations in the Okapi Fauna Reserve, which is a World Heritage site. United Nations experts indicated in December that he had switched his focus from poaching elephants to attacking gold mines. They have accused him and his men of kidnapping people to carry looted goods and of forcing women into being sexual slaves for militia members. In a report that was released last July, the UN indicated that former captives had told them the group, known as “Mai Mai Morgan,” had engaged in cannibalism on several occasions. Sadala’s militia is just one part of a complex and deadly network of armed groups in the Congo’s lawless eastern region. Most of these groups finance their operations by competing for control of the country’s vast deposits of minerals, including gold, diamonds, tin, copper and coltan. In November 2013, the Congolese army, alongside UN peacekeeping troops, defeated the main M23 rebel group, seen as the greatest threat to President Joseph Kabila in more than a decade. Government spokesman Mende also indicated on Monday that not all of Sadala’s followers had surrendered, urging them to do so. Sadala’s group operates deep in the jungle, a long way from where M23 was based, and its numbers are not known.

International Developments

- **9 April 2014** – On Wednesday, the International Criminal Court (ICC) stated that Congolese ex-militia boss Germain Katanga and his prosecutors have appealed his war-crimes conviction for arming an ethnic militia that massacred scores of villagers in 2003. Last month the ICC convicted Mr Katanga of complicity in the attack on Bogoro village in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. It found that he armed the fighters who carried out the massacre however the court cleared him of rape, sexual slavery and using child soldiers. On Wednesday, the ICC confirmed that Mr Katanga’s defence has told the ICC appeals chamber that they will challenge last month’s verdict. A statement released by the ICC indicated that “the appeals will be directed to the whole of the decision of conviction and it will seek to reverse the decision of conviction on each charge.” The prosecution has also filed an appeal against the ruling, which acquitted Mr Katanga on charges of rape and sexual slavery. In court papers, the ICC’s chief prosecutor Fatou Bensouda stated “the Prosecution will request the Appeals Chamber to reverse or amend the decision, and/or order a new partial trial before a different trial chamber.” Mr Katanga, 35, went on trial more than four years ago, facing seven counts of war crimes and three counts of crimes against humanity for

his role in commanding the Patriotic Resistance Forces in Ituri (FRPI), the militia that murdered people with guns and machetes and went on a rampage of raping and looting during the attack on Bogoro. Prosecutors have stated that at least 200 people were killed in the massacre, however judges have indicated that only 60 victims, mainly women, children and the elderly, had been identified. Mr Katanga faces up to 30 years in prison if the ruling is upheld. The verdict against Mr Katanga was the third by the Hague-based court, and its second conviction since opening its doors more than a decade ago. The Ituri region, where the massacre occurred, has been riven by violence since 1999, when clashes broke out that killed at least 60,000 people. The fighting has been driven by ethnic conflict and battles between rival militias for control of the region's gold, oil and diamonds.

- **8 April 2014** – Doctors Without Borders, which goes by its French acronym MSF, has indicated that it is worried that intense fighting between the military and armed groups in north eastern Congo could endanger its staff members who were taken hostage nine months ago. It has urged forces conducting the raids against rebels in the area to ensure the safety of the hostages who are believed to be held in the region. In a statement released Tuesday, the aid group stated that four Congolese team members were kidnapped in July 2013 during an ADF-Nalu attack on Kamango, in the Beni region. The medical charity however has not been able to ascertain that the group is still holding its missing employees. MSF president Mego Terzian later stated that “despite all our efforts and the fact that we have received a large amount of information, the search for our colleagues has run up against our inability to contact them, either directly or indirectly,” adding “it is the same for the many Congolese who have had friends, relatives or colleagues abducted.” In a joint operation with a special United Nations brigade, the armed forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo have for months now been seeking out some of the dozens of rebel groups that are based in North Kivu. The joint effort has recently focused on ADF-Nalu, a Ugandan Muslim rebel group that has held strongholds in the Beni area for years. The Congolese army and several civil society groups estimate that since the start of 2013, around 800 people have been taken hostage by some of the myriad rebel groups that are based in the restive North Kivu region. During an earlier offensive, regular forces recaptured ADF-Nalu's bastions however the army is now facing the daunting task of tracking down the rebels on some of the continent's most impenetrable terrain. ADF-Nalu stands for Allied Democratic Forces – National Army for the Liberation of Uganda. It is one of the oldest, but lesser known, rebellions based in North Kivu. It is also considered to be the only Islamist organization in the region.

Republic of the Congo

Executive Summary ~ MS Risk currently advises against all travel to the Likouala province. This is due to a large influx of displaced people coming in from neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The UNHCR currently estimates that there are around 110,000 refugees in Likouala province. MS Risk also advises against all but essential travel to the Pool region. There is currently a low level of terrorism in the Republic of the Congo.

Although crime levels are low in Brazzaville and Pointe Noire, MS Risk advises all travellers to take sensible precautions in order to safeguard yourself and your belongings. We advise travellers to not walk in the streets after dark or to carry large amounts of money or valuables. The chance of being targeted by criminals is higher in the rural areas of the country. On 16 December 2013, there were reports of fighting and sporadic gunfire in Brazzaville. This is believed to have been an isolated incident as a result of resistance during a military arrest.



MS Risk also advises against all but essential travel to the Pool Region. This is due to sporadic rebel activity and armed banditry in the area. There is a very low risk of rebel attacks in the coastal town of Pointe Noire however travellers in vehicles and trains have been robbed by armed criminal gangs around the Pool region. Road travel in the Pool region requires a permit from the Congolese army.

Equatorial Guinea

Executive Summary ~ There are currently no travel advisories for Equatorial Guinea.

Compared with other countries in the region, the level of violent crime is low; however there are regular reports of petty theft which has affected both visitors and expatriates. MS Risk advises all travellers to avoid walking around Malabo and Bata at night and to avoid travelling by road after dark. Although the political situation has been calm in recent years, you should be aware that political events can lead to an increased presence of police, military or security forces on the streets. Consequently you should avoid any political rallies, demonstrations or large public gatherings. There is a low threat from terrorism; however you should be aware that attacks can occur at any time and place, including those frequented by expatriates and foreign travellers.



Gabon

Executive Summary ~ There is currently no travel advisory for Gabon. There is currently a low threat from terrorism.

Crime is on the rise in Gabon, particularly in Libreville and Port-Gentil. There have been robberies, armed attacks and rapes. Consequently MS Risk advises you to take sensible personal security precautions and maintain a high level of vigilance in public places. Avoid isolated or poorer areas of towns and walking alone at night. There have been a number of car-jackings in Libreville. There have been armed robberies of commercial shipping in the Gulf of Guinea.



São Tomé and Príncipe

Executive Summary ~ There are currently no travel advisories for Sao Tome and Principe. However due to the current political situation, coupled with fears of a possible military coup, MS Risk advises all travellers to the country to remain vigilant and to monitor reporting on the political situation.

Crime rates in Sao Tome and Principe are generally low however burglaries and armed robberies do occur. It is advised that you safeguard all valuables and cash.

Although Sao Tome and Principe is generally peaceful, economic difficulties and political rows over the handling of investments in the islands' development occasionally lead to civil unrest. MS Risk advises all travellers to avoid any demonstrations or large gatherings.

