



Guam

Country Profile

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[FINAL DRAFT]

Prepared by SPC Strategic Engagement, Policy and Planning Facility

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Guam Country Facts¹	
Country or territory official name	Guam
Location	13.28° N, 144.47 °E
Capital city	Hagatna (formerly known as Agana)
Government and legal status	Self-governing territory of the United States of America.
Head of state	President George W. Bush
Head of government	Governor Felix P. Camacho
Land area	541 square kilometres
Exclusive economic zone (EEZ)	218 square kilometres
Population (mid-2004 estimate)	178,980
Population density (mid-2004 estimate)	331 persons per square kilometre
Annual intercensal population growth rate	2.8 per cent
GDP (2005)	USD3.7 billion
GDP per capita (2005)	USD22,661
Real GDP growth	NA
CPI annual change (2007)	6.8 per cent
Exports (2007)	USD91,353 million
Imports (2007)	USD687,530 million
Trade balance (2007)	USD-596,177 million
Crude birth rate per 1,000	19.5
Crude death rate per 1,000	5.4
Total fertility rate	2.7 children per woman
Infant mortality rate per 1,000	9.8
Male life expectancy at birth	71.1 years
Female life expectancy at birth	76.1 years
Urban population	93 per cent
Dependency ratio (15-64)	64
Median age	28.5 years
Youth (15-24)	16.5 per cent
Male labour force participation rate (2004)	62 per cent
Female labour force participation rate (2004)	
Religions	Roman Catholic (85%).
Languages	English, Chamorro, Philippine languages, other Pacific and Asian languages
Official currency	United States dollar (USD)

¹ Principal source: SPC Statistics and Demography Programme (and its Pacific Regional Information System – PRISM www.spc.int/prism)

Introduction to the Country Profile

SPC country profiles document the nature and extent of the organisation's services to individual members.

This country profile presents basic country facts and a synopsis of Guam's development background and a narrative summary of SPC's assistance during 2008. Annexes include specific country and human resource development activities.

Guam Development Background

Located approximately 3,300 miles West of Hawaii, 1,500 miles east of the Philippines and 1,550 miles south of Japan, the Island of Guam is the Western most territory of the United States and one of the leading tourist destinations in the Western Pacific.

The original inhabitants of² Guam, the ancient Chamorro, are widely believed to have been of Indo-Malaya descent with linguistic and cultural similarities to Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines. The first known contact with West occurred with the visit of Ferdinand Magellan in 1521. Guam was formally claimed by Spain in 1565. Jesuit missionaries arrived in 1668 to establish their brand of European civilisation, Christianity and trade. During the Spanish period, the Catholic Church became the focal point for village activities and Guam became a regular port-of-call for the Spanish treasure galleons that crisscrossed the Pacific Ocean from Mexico to the Philippines.

Guam was ceded to the United States following the Spanish American War in 1898 and formally purchased from Spain in 1899. Placed under the administrative jurisdiction of the U.S. Navy, Guam experienced improvements in the areas of agriculture, public health, sanitation, education, land management, taxes, and public works. In 1949, U.S. President Harry S. Truman signed the Organic Act, making Guam an unincorporated territory of the United States with limited self-governing authority, which it remains to this day.



Guam's economy receives some 60% of its income from the US military/armed forces that reside in Guam. The second highest contributor to the Guam economy is tourism, namely for diving and for the historical (war) aspects of Guam. Tourists come mainly from Japan and South Korea. Petroleum and textile/apparel companies were key businesses in the 1970s and 1980s but have somewhat declined or disappeared. Instead fishing enterprises and services-based and retail businesses have become economically more important. Other significant industries include trans-shipment services, concrete products, printing and publishing, and food processing. Imports in 2007 amounted to some USD687,530 million, mainly from Singapore, South Korea and Japan. Exports, amounting to some USD91,353 million (in 2007) were mainly trans-shipments of refined petroleum products, construction materials, fish, food and beverage products³.

² Source: Guam-online

³ Source: www.dfat.gov.au

An estimated 1 out of 5 employed persons in Guam work for the territorial Government and about 6% of the total island employment is in federal government. Guam's labour laws mirror those of the US mainland and are regulated by the Guam Labour Department. Minimum wage is determined by the prevailing US rates.⁴

Summary of SPC Assistance to Guam in 2008

In 2008 SPC programmes carried out a variety of assistance and supporting work to Guam, as summarised below (see also Annex 1). Annex 2 is a summary of SPC human resource development initiatives for Guam nationals.

Land Resources

The Land Resources Division conducted a scoping study and held discussions held with Guam counterparts regarding the development and implementation of sustainable land management strategies. LRD also continued to advise on the rhinoceros beetle eradication programme. In the area of quarantine, two officers from Guam attended a one-week training of quarantine operations at the University of Guam. A new development has been the establishment of a close relationship with the United States Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) office in Guam (which is responsible for American Samoa, CNMI and Guam), whose work revolves around improving agricultural productivity and competitiveness.

Marine Resources

In the marine resources sector, SPC has provided regular scientific advice to the Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council, which manages the exclusive economic zones of Guam (travel costs paid by WPRFMC). SPC has also provided funding support for a one participant to attend the Ecosystems Approach (EACFA) and Aquatic Biosecurity meeting in Noumea.

Social Resources

The Human Development Programme has provided support for capacity and skills development, in partnership with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS). In October 2008, SPC will be co-hosting with PIFS a Technical and Vocational Education and Training summit for TVET providers, including the Guam Trades Academy. This will be followed by a PATVET executive board meeting.

The Public Health Programme under its Pacific Regional Influenza Preparedness Plan (PRIPPP) has provided significant support for in-country surveillance activities for influenza with immune – fluorescence testing, and with sentinel surveillance activities. In addition, assistance has been provided with the procurement of antiviral and supplies for Rapid Containment; and orientation to planning process and planned testing exercises processes

⁴ Source: Guam Economic Development and Commerce Authority

ANNEX 1: 2008 SPC Notable Activities in Guam

Division/Programme	Notable Activity
Land Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Two officers attended the 1 week training of quarantine operations at the UOG; * Link established with the USDA-APIS office in Guam (responsible for American Samoa, CNMI and Guam); * On-going consultations on the rhinoceros beetle eradication programme; and * Scoping study and discussions with Guam counterparts regarding the implementation of sustainable land management (SFM) and SFM strategies.
Marine Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Work of regional maritime associations: RMP maintains the Secretariat for four maritime associations, namely the Pacific Islands Maritime Association (PacMA), Pacific International Maritime Law Association (PIMLA), Pacific Countries Ports Association (PCPA) and Pacific Women in Maritime Association (PacWIMA). During the 2007/2008 period, annual general meetings were held for members of PacMA, PCPA and PIMLA; * Took regular part in the Scientific and Statistical Committee of the Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council, which manages the EEZ fisheries of American Samoa, Northern Marianas Islands and Guam; * Provided regular scientific advice to the Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council which manages EEZ fisheries of Guam (travel costs paid by WPRFMC); and * 1 participant to the Ecosystems Approach (EACFA) and Aquatic Biosecurity meeting in Noumea.
Social Resources: Human Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Sub-regional and country level interventions in Guam; * In partnership with PIFS, preparatory support to Guam for capacity and skills development; and *(planned) sub-regional training on gender indicators for Northern Pacific member countries.
Social Resources: Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Support for in country surveillance activities for influenza with immune – fluorescence testing, with sentinel surveillance activities; * PRIPPP – Procurement of antiviral and supplies for Rapid Containment; and * Orientation to planning process and planned testing exercises processes

ANNEX 2: SPC 2008 Human Resource Development Initiatives for Guam

SPC Programme/ Section	Training subject area (or course title)	Month	Year	Duration	Type: Workshop (course) Attachment at SPC or On-the-job (in-country)	Location (city/town, country)	Number Guam Participants	Male	Female	Number person days
SRD - Public Health HIV & STI	HIV Care Assessment	January	2008	2 days	Training	Guam	64	17	47	128
SRD - Regional Media Centre	Media and Communications	April	2008	1 day	Workshop	Suva, Fiji	1	0	1	1
SRD - Regional Media Centre	Documentary Film Production	June	2008	12 days	Workshop	Pohnpei, FSM	1	0	1	12
LRD – Animal Health Programme	Quarantine (UOG)		2008	5 days	Training	Guam	2	2	0	10
SRD - Public Health Surveillance & Communicable Disease Control	CDC Influenza Surveillance Lab Training	August	2008		Attachment	Melbourne, Australia	1	0	1	
						Total	69	19	50	151