BENIN

GOVERNMENT
Chief of State
President Patrice TALON
Head of Government
President Patrice TALON
Government Type
presidential republic
Capital
Porto-Novo (constitutional capital); Cotonou (seat of government)
Legislature
unicameral National Assembly (83 seats)
Judiciary
Supreme Court (consists of chief justice and 16 justices); Constitutional Court (consists of 7 members, including court president); High Court of Justice (consists of Constitutional Court members, 6 members appointed by the National Assembly, and the Supreme Court president)
Ambassador to US
Charge d’Affaires Gafari DANGO
US Ambassador
Ambassador Patricia MAHONEY

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
free market economy; cotton a key export commodity, with export earnings significantly impacted by the price of cotton in the broader market; economy began deflating in 2017
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)
$25.39 billion (2017 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)
$2,300 (2017 est.)
Exports
$1.974 billion (2017 est.)
partners: Bangladesh 18.1%, India 10.7%, Ukraine 9%, Niger 8.1%, China 7.7%, Nigeria 7.2%, Turkey 4% (2017)
Imports
$2.787 billion (2017 est.)
partners: Thailand 18.1%, India 15.9%, France 8.5%, China 7.5%, Togo 5.9%, Netherlands 4.3%, Belgium 4.3% (2017)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
12.9 million (July 2020 est.)
Population Growth
3.4% (2020 est.)
Ethnicity
Fon and related 38.4%, Adja and related 15.1%, Yoruba and related 12%, Bariba and related 9.6%, Fulaini and related 8.6%, Ottamari and related 6.1%, other 10.8% (2013 est.)
Language
French (official), Fon and Yoruba (most common vernaculars in south), tribal languages (at least six major ones in north)
Religion
Muslim 27.7%, Roman Catholic 25.5%, Protestant 13.5%, Vodoun 11.6%, other Christian 9.5%, other traditional religions 2.6%, other 2.6%, none 5.8% (2013 est.)
Urbanization
urban population: 48.4% of total population (2020)
rate of urbanization: 3.89% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)
Literacy
42.4% (2018)

as of February 2020

GEOGRAPHY
Area
Total: 112,622 sq km
Land: 110,622 sq km
Water: 2,000 sq km
Climate
tropical; hot, humid in south; semiarid in north
Natural Resources
small offshore oil deposits, limestone, marble, timber