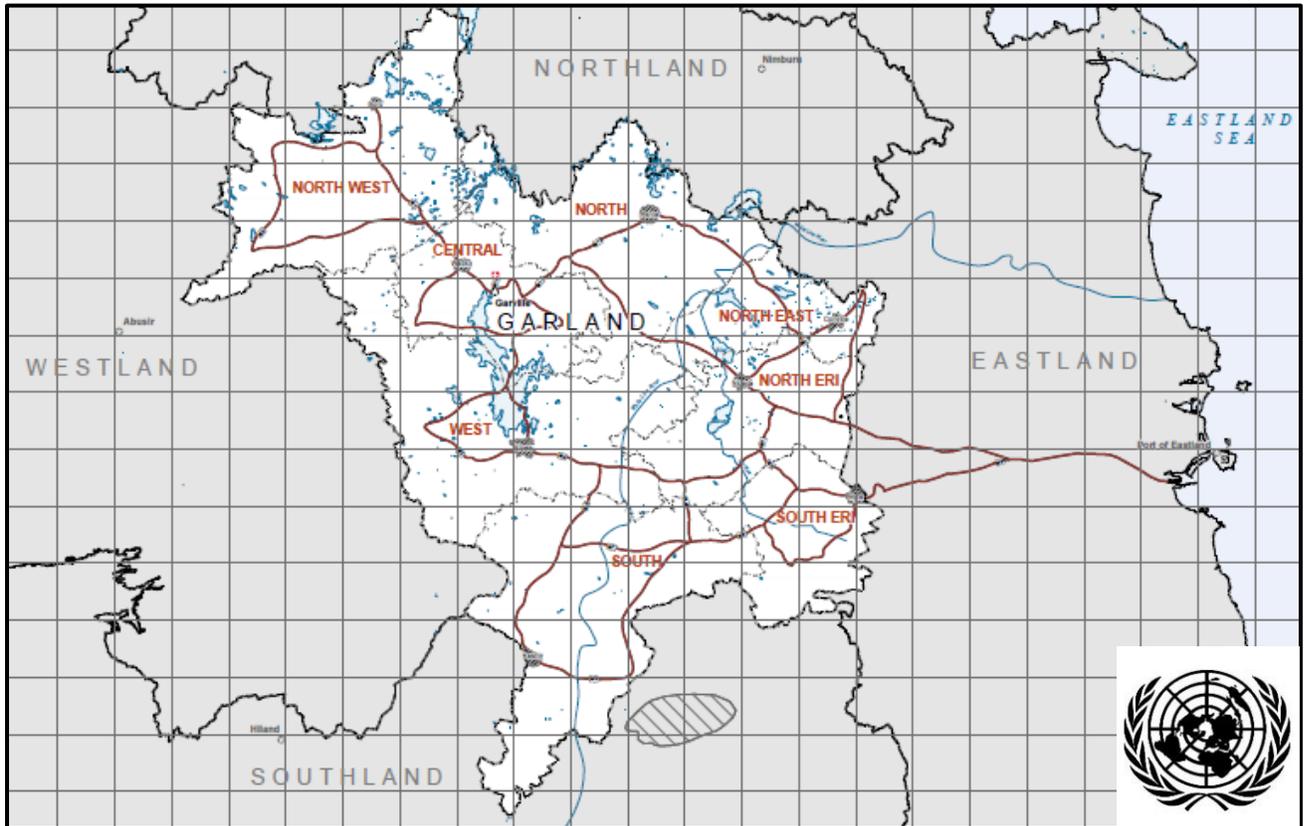


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GARLAND Country Profile



1. Geography

Garland is a landlocked country on the Eighth Continent. The country is bordered by Northland to the north, Eastland to the east, Southland to the south, and Westland to the west. The capital, Garville, is situated on the centre of the country.

Garland has a landmass of 74,978 km² and a population that is currently estimated to be about 10 million including the large influx of returnees and refugees in recent years. The average number of people per km² is 13, making Garland one of the least densely populated countries. Most of the desert areas in South and West provinces are uninhabited. The Garland population is concentrated around the main cities. The capital Garville is the administrative and economic centre of the country and its metropolitan area is home to almost half of the country's population. The other more populous cities are the provincial capitals.

The terrain gradually rises from plains in the north and centre to eastern highlands where the Eastern Mountain Range is the main feature. The area along the border with Southland and Westland is mostly desert area that extends into the neighbours countries. Altitudes in Garland range from 600 to 3,000 meters above sea level.

The country is well supplied with waterways. The White Line River, which flows out of Southland, is the major geographic feature of the country. Tributaries of the White Line River occupy the eastern part of the country's territory. It supports agriculture and diverse wild animal populations.

A moist savanna climate prevails in most parts of the country but this is not true for the arid south and extreme west and the equatorial forest zone in the southeast. During the rainy season (from August to December) heavy rainstorms occur and often lead to flooding, degrading of already strained infrastructure causing a host of attendant issues in health and sanitation, particularly in poor areas. Early morning fog is typical in forested areas. Maximum annual precipitation is 1,800 mm, occurring from August to September in the White Line River basin, and in the Eastern Mountain Range annual precipitation averages 1,500 mm.

Temperatures are typically above 25°C and can rise above 35°C, particularly during the dry season, which lasts from January to August. The air is dry and it is warm during the day but considerably cooler at night. The skies are generally clear. Sandstorms and dust storms occur in the extreme southwest.

For pastoralists, the hot, dry conditions trigger seasonal human and livestock migration from south to north, which serve as dry season grazing pastures. These seasonal migrations have a direct bearing on resumption and escalation of conflicts among the pastoralists and other groups in their search for water. When the main rains occur (August - September), people and cattle return to the southern areas. Seasonal movements are less pronounced in the more agricultural areas such as along the course of the White Line River, and in forested areas, like the East National Park (semi-dense forest) and Eri National Park (rain forest).

2. Regional History

What is now the Garlandian sub-region comprising Northland, Eastland, Garland, Southland and Westland was the unified Kingdom of Garlandia (circa 1100-1675), ruled by the lineage of hereditary Garlandian Kings of the powerful clans of the Dotan people. The Dotan were a warrior-class and their capital was located in what is now the East National Park.

The Garlandian Empire was comprised of Dotans west of the Eastern Mountain Range (in today's North East, North Eri and South Eri provinces), Eastarians along the coast in today's Eastland, Sunkans (semi-nomadic traders in the Southland Desert area), Abu (farmers of the western plains) and the Northarian people in the northern rainforests.

2.1. The War of One Hundred Moons (circa 1080-1100)

According to the history of the region, the Dotan clans, under the leadership of their Garlandian King, banded together in 1080 to invade the Abu territory to their west. The Abu had been peaceful farmers with no martial history. The Dotan, who relied heavily on trade, seized the Abu land and organized it into collective farming communities to feed the growing Dotan military. The Abu became indentured servants to the Dotan, forfeiting as much as two-thirds of their crops and livestock. The Dotan next embarked on a campaign to control the desert trading routes to the south. Establishing military outposts throughout the desert area they offered "protection" to the Sunka clans in exchange for one-third of their traded goods.

The Dotan ensured that the living standards of the Abu people, although living in servitude, were marginally better under Dotan rule than under their former king. The Dotan eventually brought Sunka traders into the ranks of their army, promising them one-third of all goods plundered throughout the wars of conquest. The Garlandian Empire was growing.

With their eastern flank protected by the Eastarian Mountain range and their western and southern flanks secured and supplied, Garlandia embarked on a long military campaign to subdue the more powerful Northarian tribes located to the north. The Northarians enjoyed maritime trade and were quite wealthy, with a vast array of precious metals and stones. The Northarians were also excellent hunters and traders and successfully repulsed the Dotan until their King died without an heir. Political in-fighting then led to divisions among the Northarian tribes. Garlandian forces were able to negotiate a truce between the warring factions. Gaining allies from among opposition tribes, Garlandian forces invaded and swept through the Northarian territory, slaughtering the former ruling tribe.

Dividing its forces, the Garlandian Empire invaded the land of the Eastarian people in 1094. The Eastarian tribes were mainly wealthy, maritime traders whilst their mountain tribes were fiercely independent with

martial traditions, born from their skills as mountain hunters and trackers. It took the Garlandian army two years to build supply routes and battle the Eastarian mountain people, before they were ready to lay siege to the capital (what is now Port of Eastland). The Eastarian coastal tribes repulsed three sea-borne invasions, wiping out Garland-Northland flotillas and successfully resisted the siege on their capital for two years. When the capital fell to the Garlandian army, it was looted and burned. For their staunch resistance and the costs of the campaign on the Garlandian treasury, the Eastarian peoples suffered under brutal conditions of occupation and were not accepted as Imperial citizens, until the age of Garlandian enlightenment (circa 1430).

2.2. Colonial Rule

In 1648, ships from Middleland (an empire from a distant continent) anchored at the rebuilt port city of Eastland. A trading colony was established and flourished for more than ten years. In 1658 an armada of ships from Middleland's imperial competitor, Farland, anchored off the Garland-Northland coast to the north. The Garlandian King saw an advantage in manipulating the trading competition between the two overseas powers and welcomed both empires as trading partners, despite the protests from Middleland.

Middleland and Farland were waging a protracted land war on their own continent and needed the natural resources, precious metals and stones of the Garlandian Empire. The Garland's warmed to the trade terms offered by Farland, attacked and destroyed the Middleland settlements (slaughtering the colonists) and handed the Port of Eastland to Farland. Middleland, in turn, invaded and a savage war of reprisals/counter-reprisals broke out along ethnic lines.

In 1675, Middleland and Farland signed a peace treaty and divided the lands of the Garlandian Empire between them. Farland established colonies in what is today Northland, whilst Middleland colonized the balance of the Garlandian Empire. As one of the strategies for subduing the Garlandians, the once great mountain city of Garlandian kings was destroyed, and half of the Dotan population was sent into exile into the Northland border area.

The former Garlandian Empire was then called the Eastland Protectorate of Middleland. Ethnic Eastarian people were elevated to the status of "indigenous administrators" within the local colonial bureaucracies and became more highly educated. Over the centuries, the Eastarian tribes came to dominate the Dotan, Abu and Sunka tribes in both wealth and education.

Given their martial traditions, Middleland began recruiting the Dotan into colonial regiments to augment their army's force structure. Between 1720 and 1965, the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Garland Light Infantry Regiments (primarily Dotan and named for their former imperial army), gained fame throughout Middleland's imperial military history. However, with the great force reduction of 1966, the regiments of the Eastland Protectorate were disbanded. Between 1970 and 1975, the former soldiers of the Eastland regiments were employed in private security forces in other colonial departments during the drawdown of Middleland's colonial period. By the time Middleland withdrew from Eastland, the remnants of those private security forces were unemployed. They did hire themselves out as mercenaries, fighting in several post-colonial wars on the continent.

2.3. Post-Colonial Period

Colonial rule gradually came to an end in the 1970s. Northland gained its independence from Farland in 1973. Middleland slowly conceded territory, giving the Abu and Sunka people their pre-Garlandian Empire lands back in 1975, establishing the present-day nation-states of Westland and Southland. Eastland gained its independence from Middleland in 1977, maintaining its capital in the Port of Eastland.

In 1981, the Dotan staged a rebellion, forming the Garland Liberation Army (GLA) against the Eastland government and fought a successfully decisive civil war of secession, gaining its independence in 1983. Harkening back to its pre-colonial history, they named their new state Garland, establishing its capital city, Garville, at the confluence of highways linking Garland with the regional border-states. The first President

was John Malik who maintained a firm grip on power for many years. After establishing the Garland Armed Forces (GAF), the Garland government immediately rotated units in mercenary roles throughout the continent to subsidize military pay and benefits, acquire up-to-date weapons and gain practical combat experience. It is suspected that the former colonial powers funded GAF expeditions as a proxy force to advance/protect their interests on the continent.

As the dominant military force in the region, Garland invaded Eastland in 1988, in an attempt to carve out territory to gain access to the Eastland Sea. They succeeded in capturing territory East of Garland's North East Province. However, they were forced to halt their advance due to international pressure and threats of military action by Northland. The GAF did secure considerable territory adding it to the North East Province in 1990. Garland placed Dotan citizens in the North East Province to reduce the influence of ethnic Eastarian tribes.

In 1993, the Garland government forcibly removed the ethnic Eastarian population from the large swath of land surrounding the former imperial capital and established the Eastern National Park. This ethnic Eastarian population was largely dispersed throughout Garland and were forced into roles of laborers and domestic servants.

In 1996, Garland signed a non-aggression pact with Southland.

In 1997, in a surprise offensive, Garland invaded Northland to reclaim territory given during the 1675 peace treaty signed by Middleland and Farland. The "War of Dotan Liberation" lasted 11 bloody months, securing territory west of the North West Province. Given the ancient Dotan clan territorial rights, Garland expanded the North West Province to include the seized territory.

By naming the expanded territory part of the North West Province, regional and international concerns were raised that Garland may have set its sights on further territorial expansion westwards into Westland, based on historical precedence of the former Garlandian Empire. These fears of Garland expansion led both Northland and Eastland to build-up their military forces, at great financial cost, nearly plunging the sub-region into bankruptcy.

Between 2005 and 2016, a violent extremist group, calling itself the Anti-Western Fighters (AWF), began targeting government offices and western business interests and schools in the North and North East Provinces. The terror campaign was fuelled by perceptions that foreign (Western/colonial) business interests were stripping the region of their natural resources and had deliberately sabotaged the lucrative lumber industry. The group was comprised mainly of Abu and Northarian resident guest workers and former forestry employees. The 13-year terror campaign concluded after President-elect Momar personally reached out to the group, despite the objections of the GAF Army Chief of Staff. It is rumoured that the group was paid off with political favours.

Since 1988, the mountain people of both North and South Eri Provinces have attempted to gain independence from Garland. These prosperous areas are relatively isolated and maintain long standing armed opposition groups. These provinces are of great strategic value, with respect to the Garland national security interests, vis-à-vis the Eastland border areas, with the mountain ranges and difficult terrain there protecting its east flank. North and South Eri Provinces are also vital to the Garland economy, considering their rich mineral deposits. Therefore, the GAF has devoted considerable resources to policing both provinces and delivering harsh treatment as reprisals for the activities of the armed opposition groups.

In 2012, a group of Eastarian junior army officers and NCOs staged a coup attempt against the President, over his "heavy handed tactics" against the families of the armed opposition groups in South Eri Province. The coup attempt failed, with martial law subsequently declared and the officers executed. The NCOs were sentenced to hard labour with 15-25 year prison sentences. Traditionally, the officer class has been drawn from the Dotan clans given their access to higher levels of education, whilst the NCO class has been dominated by Eastarians.

3. Political

Politically, Garland is a young democracy. It is a presidential republic where the President is elected by popular vote through general elections and the Prime Minister is appointed by the President. The presidential term is six years.

Administratively, Garland is divided into eight provinces run by local governing councils, and each with its own security issues. There are three major political parties in the country which are sectarian by nature and largely affiliated with the major ethnic groups.

The Garland Liberation Movement (GLM) is a Dotan-dominated political party founded as the political wing of the GLA in 1980. When Garland became a sovereign state in 1983, GLM became the ruling party of the new republic. Since the beginning of the insurgency against Eastland, the GLM had Sunka support, but in 1998, when it became clear that President Malik intended to hold onto power indefinitely, Sunka Chief Shleiman Bashir separated from the GLM, forming the Garland Patriot Front (GPF) to better represent the interests of the Sunka people.

The Garland Democratic Movement (GDM) is an ethnic-based (Eastarian) political opposition party created in 2003. Its emergence was traced back to disputed House of Peoples' Representative elections in 2003. A number of current, senior members of the GDM failed to secure positions as official electoral nominees of the ruling party and chose to stand as independent candidates. George King, the current party chair of the GDM, ran as an independent for the gubernatorial election in North East Province and lost to a minority Dotan.

The GDM seeks to establish a pluralistic political system, with equal access to government resources for all Garlandians. The formation of the GDM was intended to lobby the ruling party and negotiate for political concessions, whilst utilising its community militia to defend and protect the group's existence from ethnic rivals and, if necessary, to retaliate with sporadic attacks to maintain political pressure on the ruling party/coalition.

The GDM has no formal links with the Eriyan insurgency. Those armed groups believe the GDM has 'sold out' and that it recognises and works within the Dotan-imposed hierarchy. The GDM has low but growing support in both North and South Eri.

3.1. 2012/2013 General Elections

As President Malik tried to stay in power more than 29 years, violent protest and riots nearly turned into civil war in 2012. Under pressure from Dotan clan chiefs, President Malik agreed to hold elections.

The GPF threatened to change the political landscape of Garland in 2012, by placing the majority vote, enjoyed by GLM in jeopardy. Street violence broke out between the ethnic groups, but the leadership of both parties worked through a negotiated settlement and swung the election toward Abdul Momar of the GLM.

The general elections were conducted in two rounds, in October 2012 and January 2013 and Abdul Momar (Dotan) was elected. Following the elections, GLM and GPF formed a ruling coalition and won the majority of the 520 seats in the House of Peoples' Representatives. President Momar took office in March 2013 and selected Shleiman Bashir as his Prime Minister.

The results of the 2013 elections were not accepted by all parties, especially by the GDM. Disagreements led to a prolonged crisis and public unrest, which resulted in the death of 193, including civilians and police officers.

3.2. 2018/2019 General Elections

Garland is heading towards the next general elections with the incumbent President and current Prime Minister as front runner candidates of the two political parties under a power sharing agreement.

President Momar is up for re-election. The election period has been volatile, so far, and tensions are expected to rise closer to election-day. Elections were originally scheduled to be held in October 2018, but logistical issues and a lack of funding meant that they had to be postponed by six months to March 2019. It should be noted that the armed groups in North and South Eri Provinces took the delay as evidence that the government was stalling on what is being seen as a national referendum on President Momar's rule. Accordingly, inter-ethnic tensions have increased in the country.

It is unknown what promises or conditions were made to the AWF. However, if President Momar loses the election, there is a threat that the AWF agreement could be placed in jeopardy. The group is already threatening to renew violence on social media, in what is viewed as an attempt to manipulate the election results. Indeed, images of AWF members parading through towns and villages in North and North East Provinces, armed with light and medium machine guns, and Rocket-Propelled Grenades (RPG) are now common.

4. Economic

Economically, it is one of the least developed countries in the world, still recovering after a series of civil and interstate wars, hurt by the ongoing insurgency in two provinces with an influx of terrorist activities in the border areas. The Government relies on foreign donor resources for a large portion of its fiscal budget.

Garland's economy is fuelled through its mining industry in the North, North East, North Eri and South Eri Provinces. The most lucrative mines produce Gold, Bauxite, Cobalt and Zirconium. Much of the wealth produced by the mining is passed on to refineries outside Garland. The largest mining sites are explored by international mining companies. The Garpet Explore is based on 5th Continent and operates mining sites in underdeveloped countries with regular support from the host country. The profits from the mines are circulated through the national banks, run mostly by Dotan clans. The majority of foreign investment is centred in the mining industry within North and South Eri provinces. The fact that the money from this industry flows through the national banking system and does not go directly into the local economy is one of the issues with ethnic Eastarian armed opposition groups. New discovered mining sites are controlled by armed groups that collect taxes from miners. In some areas, as in North Eri and South Eri, armed groups are also imposing taxes to the foreign mining companies operating in the area.

Garland had been a leading producer of fine wood products through the lumber industry in the North, North East and North West Provinces. The lumber industry was internationally renowned and very lucrative. Guest workers from Westland and Northland were brought into the country to work the tree plantations in the early 1990s. In 2000, four species of metallic wood-boring beetles, the Gold-spotted Oak Borer, Two-lined Chestnut Borer, the Emerald Ash Borer and the dreaded Longhorn Borer suddenly appeared. Although their arrival was likely the result of contaminated lumber equipment shipped from overseas, conspiracy theories abound. Within five years, the infestation spread and ruined the lumber industry. The vast number of dead trees resulted in a series of devastating forest fires that displaced thousands and crippled the treasury.

The guest workers brought in as skilled and unskilled labour in the lumber industry were reduced to menial labour roles when the industry collapsed. They attempted to form their own political party, but the attempt failed, as their limited citizenship status does not include the right to vote up to two generations.

Economic growth has fallen over the last two years in a row, standing at 4.9% in 2017. The slowdown can be attributed to ongoing insecurity in the wider sub-region, and uncertainty about the upcoming presidential elections (postponed until March 19). On the demand side, public investment shrank by more than 2% of GDP, following a big drop in government revenue, whereas private domestic demand showed more resilience.

Despite the rise in international oil prices, which were up by 23.2%, inflation showed little change, rising from 1.8% in 2016 to 2.0% in 2017. The external deficit deepened from 5.0% to 7.4% of GDP in 2017. Strong cotton and gold exports failed to offset the increase in oil imports. It is estimated that gold production

rose by 21% and that the country had a record-breaking cotton harvest of 705,000 metric tons, up by 25%. The current account deficit was financed through a combination of direct foreign investment (60%) and external borrowing (40%).

The budget deficit increased from 2.9% of GDP in 2016 to 4.8% in 2017 as a result of an unexpected shortfall in tax revenue, which shrank from 15.2% of GDP in 2016 to 11.9% in 2017 and an increase in budget subsidies to offset the rise in retail oil prices. In response, the Government moved to reduce expenditure by more than 2% of GDP. This mainly involved reductions in public investment in all sectors, including health and education.

4.1. Trade

The bulk of Garland's external trade is with countries outside the 8th Continent, but it relies on Eastland, Southland and Northland for trade involving use of seaports, with the most accessible routes to the coast being through Eastland, despite the current conflict there. It is thought that this may be due to informal local agreements and cooperation with lower-level warlords that control the transportation to the Port of Eastland. Accurate information on the volume and value of this trade is not available at the time of this report because there are significant volumes of informal, unrecorded trade.

Trade is also highly asymmetric; volumes and values of imports from these trading partners are substantially larger than Garland's exports to them. There are several reasons inhibiting smooth trade but one major concern of traders is the delays involved in getting clearance for goods coming into and out of the country. Presently, only 14 customs facilities are operational in Garland, including facilities at one airport and four border crossings, however two of them are located at Byra and Dafari, in South Eri and North Eri, respectively, and are affected by the armed groups operations.

4.2. Agriculture

Garland has a substantially larger arable land suited for permanent cropping than comparatively similar countries, and currently only a very small portion of this land is irrigated. There is substantial potential to expand irrigated agriculture to meet domestic and international demand for food crops and agricultural raw materials. However, there is little foreign direct investment in the country, thanks largely to the unstable security situation.

Overall, provinces close to the White Line River, and the flood basins around other larger rivers are most suitable for agricultural production, particularly during the wet season. The West and South Provinces are partly desert and unsuitable to agriculture. Significant areas of the country are also forested, with such vegetation most prevalent in areas of North and South Eri, North East, North and North West Provinces.

4.3. Transport Infrastructure

The majority of the existing road network in Garland's is paved, and most of local roads are impassable during the wet season making it difficult if not impossible especially for rural people to trade or move. This is why affected population groups tend to move from these areas at the end of the dry season. Moreover, this raises the transportation costs and also hinders the movement of goods from rural areas to urban centres and markets in the country.

Within Garland, there is poor connectivity among regions and between urban and rural areas. Furthermore, there are only limited connections with neighbouring countries. Connectivity with Northland in the north is primarily by air or river. On the road network, most traffic is between Westland, Eastland, and Southland.

There is only one national rail network in Garland. The King Marius Railroad was constructed late 1800s and connects Abusir, now Westland capital, to Port of Eastland, passing through Garville. This railroad was important to increase exports to Middleland during colonial times. Currently, the railroad operates with limitations and is outdated. A range of constraints limit the pace of recovery in the White Line River transport system, but this river system functions for trade year-round. There is also a general shortage of

equipment for operating river transport services, including a lack of handling equipment for containers, and vessels that are not in operating condition.

4.4. Services

Only 48% of the population has access to electricity. Inadequate electric power supply and its high cost is a major constraint on the economy. There is a limited national grid in Garland, however its series of isolated networks serve mainly the provincial capitals and most populated cities. More isolated areas are serviced by generators. The Garland Electricity Corporation (GEC) has only 68.8 MW of installed capacity that is operational, with which it supplies the provincial capitals and the supply is discontinuous in most part of the year. According to recent surveys, 70% of businesses in Garland have their own diesel generators for power supply. Electricity is widely regarded as one of the most serious constraints to doing business in Garland.

Access to water supply and sanitation services is severely constrained. Only 52% of the population has access to improved water supplies, whereas the average for similar countries is about 68%. Regarding sanitation services, only 58% of the population has access to improved sanitation. One-third of the population still relies on surface water as its main source. Access to piped water is practically non-existent in rural areas, and more than 40% of the population relies on wells and boreholes for access to water.

In the area of communications, tele-density is poor. Garland has not experienced the explosive development of mobile phone and internet use seen in many other countries on the 8th Continent, but this is improving slowly. Prices of information and communications technology (ICT) services remain quite high, with the market mainly focused on voice services, but recently there has been significant penetration of provincial towns, and some rural areas – particularly those with rich mineral deposits.

Print media remains a key source of information for the elite in Garland. There is one major broad-sheet newspaper, available primarily within major urban centres. The paper is largely viewed as pro-government, given the degree of influence and control the Government censors and Interior Ministry retain over its key personnel. Smaller, regional papers are produced within the various provinces, which predominately cover issues of local concern, and do not pay much, if any attention, to wider issues. Their views on local issues are largely influenced by their owners/editors ethnicity and political persuasions.

Mobile telecommunications masts are now located in all major urban areas but tend not to reach areas affected by violence and insecurity. Data services are very limited and expensive, and those with money to spend rely on expensive Wi-Fi or BGAN systems.

5. Social

5.1. Education

The adult literacy rates in Garland are low. In fact, with a national average of 28%, Garland currently has the lowest adult literacy rate on the 8th Continent. This is particularly the case in rural areas where the average literacy rate is only 24%. In urban areas, it is currently about 52%. With current low enrolment rates for children of school age, the problem of illiteracy will likely continue for an extended period.

At the present time, for example, the literacy rates for 15-24-year-old people are only 35% in rural areas and 65% in urban areas. However, these statistics belie a greater imbalance as the Dotan population has a literacy rate of more than 70% and has much greater access to the education system than other ethnic groups, particularly the Abu, the Sunka, and the Northarian. The Eastarian population fared somewhat better as a result of their leadership of greater Eastland until the war of secession in 1983.

5.2. Ethnic Groups

In the North, North West and Central provinces, the majority population is Dotan along major rivers, and on most agricultural land. The Dotan dominate the major urban areas in these provinces. These urban areas

also have a considerable ethnic Eastarian population. The Abu predominate in border areas, which are home to the main refugee camps, with the refugees originating from Westland.

The Northarian and Abu groups originally settled the North and North West land in order to earn money from the now largely defunct lumber industry.

West and South Provinces are very sparsely populated but have a relatively large Sunka population. West Province has minorities of Abus in the border areas and Dotans elsewhere.

Both the Sunka and the Abu are traditionally pastoralists.

North and South Eri Provinces have a majority Eastarian population, but Dotan population groups form a strong minority population.

North East Province is evenly divided between the longstanding Eastarian presence and the recently settled Dotan.

5.2.1. Dotan

- Majority ethnic group (46.9% of the population); population growth remains slow, if not static.
- Majority population in Central, North West and North.
- Minority in North Eri, South Eri and West Provinces.
- 80% of the officer corps in the GAF.
- Control the national banks, access to education, and to government posts.
- The Dotan maintain strong access to health, education and state employment. They occupy the most privileged position in Garland society with significant influence, power and prospects.
- Primarily located/settled in and around major urban areas, and within rural areas they maintain large estates and land.
- The majority Dotan enjoy a higher social status. After the civil war of Garland secession in 1983, the powerful Dotan clans worked diligently to overcome centuries of having to serve under Eastarian bureaucrats during the colonial period. The Dotan took steps to dominate the key bureaucratic posts, the national banking system and the armed forces. To keep the Dotan content, the government provides ethnic Dotan with priority service with respect to social welfare, government subsidies and public utilities.
- When public services fail to function, the Dotan have been known to take to the streets in violent protest, whilst clan leaders negotiate with political officials. The Dotan clans are considered relatively homogenous due to historical lineage. Power remains concentrated within a key number of families centred on the clans historical heartlands in the southern parts of the North and North West Province and in surroundings areas of Garville.

5.2.2. Eastarian

- 34.5 % of the population; population is growing.
- Majority population in North Eri and South Eri Provinces.
- Minority population in North, South and North West Provinces.
- Miners in precious metals in the mountains of North and South Eri Provinces.
- 40% of the Non-Commissioned Officer corps of the GAF.

- Maintain more limited access to health, education and government services, largely occupying low-middle class positions/ranks within the civil and public services.
- Located/settled primarily within the suburbs of major urban areas (cities/towns), rural areas and isolated villages.
- The Eastarian population remains stigmatized by post-colonial discrimination and resentment. Having been favoured by Middleland and placed into administrative positions as local colonial officials, the Dotan are quick to blame the Eastarians for any social or economic problems. The ongoing struggle for independence by North and South Eri Provinces increases public tension, in spite of the fact that the groups instigating secession do not enjoy the full support of ethnic Eastarians. This is mainly due to the violent nature of the groups. Indeed, there is some speculation that the Eastarians in these areas would prefer peace and an accommodation with the government, rather than continued war. However, ethnic Eastarians are not willing to speak out against the armed opposition groups.
- Differences in political leanings separate the Eastarian population in North and South Eri Provinces from the rest of the country.

5.2.3. Sunka

- 10.2% of the population; population growing slowly.
- Majority in West and South Provinces.
- Unskilled Farm/Cattle Ranch workers.
- Nomadic Traders in the desert border region with Southland; when settled, normally located in rural areas, isolated farmsteads and shanty towns around urban areas (towns/villages).
- Maintain very limited (if any) access to health, education and government services. Very limited (if any) potential for social/economic advancement. Suffer a high rate of mortality. Highly vulnerable to (negative) economic and climatic changes. Rely largely on subsistence living.
- Linked to their economic and social vulnerability, they can be exploited by organized crime and terrorist/subversive groups.
- The Sunka tribes of the West and South Provinces live impoverished lives. However, they have proven resilient due to their relative self-sufficiency. They look down on the ethnic Eastarian people as chronic complainers and respect the imperial history of the Dotan.
- To solidify support from the Sunka tribes, President Abdul Momar selected Sunka chief Shleiman Bashir as his Prime Minister in 2013. This was not a popular move with the Dotan clans, although it did receive widespread international support. Southland became closer allies, as a result.
- In the wake of the appointment of a Sunka Prime Minister, provincial Sunka politicians have found themselves elevated to several ministerial positions of power. Some government revenues have also found their way to South and West Provinces, alleviating some of the pressures that the desert climate and terrain brings. The Sunka are generally considered loyal, if not of equal status, by the Dotan.

5.2.4. Abu

- 5% of the population.
- Non-indigenous, Abu workers were originally brought in to work the lumber industry, and so have a minority population in North, North West and North East provinces. In Central and West Provinces, Abus compete for access to water resources with the more settled Dotan. Indeed, some believe that it was this, not the perception of Abu support for the extremist Imuna Kakuatan (IK) that prompted

GAF intervention in the area. It is worth noting that the majority of the refugee population in West and Central Provinces are Abu, most of whom have only recently moved from Westland. These recent arrival augment the 5% of the population that the Abu are officially credited with.

- The Abu are also a nomadic, pastoralist people, but they generally feel no attachment to the Garland state. Located in isolated towns/villages and remote areas, they move with their cattle from Central Province towards river basins, and areas further South with the onset of the dry season. They consider themselves to be from the lands of Westland, but do not feel that their ancestral lands should be appropriated by any state structure.
- Maintain very limited (if any) access to health, education and government services. Little potential for social/economic advancement. Vulnerable to (negative) economic and climatic changes.
- Although IK is 'of' the Abu, the majority of the Abu are tolerant people, and do not support the groups. Loyalty in the Abu group runs as follows: Clan – tribe. The tribes that are considered to be most conservative are the Abu-ryna and the Abu-rela. It is considered that these tribes are those that offer most support to IK. The Abus are also an armed society, with no man considered a man unless he owns or can shoot an AK-47. Often the tribe or clan will also have access to a centralized pool of weapons.

5.2.5. Northarian

- 4% of the population.
- Northarians are indigenous rural people; a small section of the population in the North West area of Central province, in the woodlands of North and North West, and in border areas of North East province.
- Northarians retain limited access to health, education and government services.
- Inherent tensions with the Abu which have been exacerbated by the significant influx of refugees who are taking up land and resources.

5.3. Religion

The Eastarian and Dotan population are largely Christian, though there are some among those ethnic groups that continue to adhere to animist beliefs.

The Abu population is largely Sunni Muslim, and are considered to be relatively conservative, but tolerant of those that do not share their religious beliefs.

The Sunkas are also largely Sunni Muslim but are considered to be less conservative than their co-religionists in Westland.

The Northarians, occupying the northern section of Central and Northeast Provinces are generally animist in their beliefs, and in recent years have become conscious of attempts to draw them – particularly their children – away from what they consider to be their traditional way of life.

There are a number of mosques in eastern areas of Central Province and throughout North East Province, and in urban areas of both provinces, where the Dotan and Eastarian predominate, there are smaller mosques, but no more than one in each major town or village. There is at least one Christian church in every small town and village in Christian areas, and several in major urban areas.

There is no history of religious warfare in Garland and, as such, tensions between Christian, animist, and Muslim have been traditionally low. However, this has changed somewhat in recent years with IK-related violence, and with the tensions against western forces (largely involving Northarian and Abu). Notwithstanding this, the secessionist tendencies of the Eastarians in North and South Eri are more

damaging to social cohesion, and in the past have led to civil unrest in areas where the Eastarian and Dotan live in close proximity.

5.4. Languages

The traditional language of Garland is Lingala and this is almost universally understood, even if it is not spoken by the Northarians, the Abus, or the Sunkas. The language of government, however, is English, reflecting colonial traditions, and this is widely spoken among the educated Dotan.

The Eastarian also speak English, though most of the Eastarian population grow up speaking Lingala. This is particularly common in North and South Eri Province.

The Abu and the Sunka speak Arabic, but unless Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) is spoken, the two groups would be unlikely to immediately understand each other. Traders and the intelligentsia of these groups tend to speak MSA.

The language of government in Northarian is Northanguese, but almost all Northarians speak Lingala, and understand English. Once again, this reflects the country's colonial heritage.

6. Security (for details see actor profiles)

The GAF are responsible for the defence of the country while the Garland Police Forces (GPF) are in charge of rule of law within the country. The GSF are not well represented outside the main cities and, as such, local systems of tribal justice are prevalent, and a culture of impunity exists.

6.1. Internal Security

The most significant internal security issues are: secessionist insurgency executed by two groups competing for local supremacy in the east; active terrorist groups operating in west and north border provinces; a large, international criminal organisation called Linohas operating in the North East borders; and a restive local population, all of whom expect the government to provide them with employment opportunities, regardless of the state of the economy.

The ongoing insurgency is driven by the Eastarians in (North and South Eri. The Eriyan National Liberation Front (ENLF) aims to secede from Garland and join with Eastland. The Eriyan Independent Movement Fighters (EIMF) separated from ENLF in 2012 and desires the creation of an autonomous state of Eri. After the split, both groups are competing for access to resources, both natural and man-made. The ENLF operates mainly in the North Eri Province while the EIMF controls the South Eri Province.

Ethnic groups exacerbate national instability and invariably define one's place in Garland society. If one is born a Dotan, one has greater access to economic resources, to government institutions, to education and employment. If one is born an Abu or a Northarian there is little chance of social mobility. Ethnic Eastarians have limited access to state resources, largely as a result of the size of their population group, but are viewed with suspicion by the Dotan, and the GAF, largely as a result of the ongoing separatist conflict in the south east. Essentially, the Dotan consider that the Eastarian in Central, West, and North East Provinces represent a fifth column for the Eriyan separatist groups.

Since 1991, an ongoing terrorism campaign has been waged along Garland's border with Westland, leading to the establishment of semi-permanent refugee camps on the Garland side of the international border. The group known as Imuna Kakuatan (IK) is indigenous to Westland with an objective of unseating the government. More recently, however, IK has been strengthened as a result of many hundreds of its members serving in the ranks of an extremist group in a civil war in the 6th Continent. Some of these personnel returned in early 2016, and quickly embarked on a campaign to improve access to consolidation areas in peripheral sections of Garland's border area. This campaign involved attacking isolated GAF military posts, and some convoys in an effort to ensure IK freedom of movement and action in western areas of Central and West Provinces. Reliable reporting also indicates that the group preys on refugee camps as a means of

gaining access to new recruits (young, male fighters), and supplies (particularly medical and food). After a GAF crackdown, IK began conducting acts of terror in Garland.

In North East Province there are significant tensions between the local Eastarian population, which also harbours secessionist tendencies, and the Dotan settlers. This occasionally erupts in violence, albeit at lower levels than is noted further south. This is largely because North East Province is easier for the GAF to penetrate, and the lack of armed representation that the Eastarian population has in these areas.

The North have a majority Dotan population, but there are sizeable Abu and Northarian population groups here, some of which are reported to have links with the AWF. It should also be noted that some commentators have suggested that the AWF leadership has links to the extremist IK.

There are reported violations of human rights in the areas affected by both the insurgency and terrorism. Indeed, a number of Protection of Civilian (POC) sites have been established in these areas, with the responsibility for their security having been with the GAF in the first instance. However, there are also consistent reports about exactions committed by GAF troops.

6.2. Organised Crime

There is a significant risk of crime throughout Garland but it peaks in urban areas, where crimes range from petty and opportunistic theft to physical violence. Petty theft risk is particularly high in the capital, Garville, due in part to price inflation resulting from the presence of NGO and government officials. The country's high level of gun ownership means the use of firearms is a common occurrence during robberies, home invasions (especially of compounds), and carjacking.

Organised criminal groups can be encountered in North East Province borders. According to the police force these can have some international links with Linohas criminals in Eastland and are primarily concerned with the smuggling trade. The risk of violent crime is highest in border areas. The risk of kidnapping for ransom is also prevalent in these areas, and in North and South Eri Provinces.

Illegal roadblocks can be a problem on several routes in Garland, whereby vehicle drivers and passengers are extorted for the right to pass. The Garland government has pledged to crack down on these activities as part of revenue harmonisation measures, but progress is likely to be slow.

6.3. Regional Security

Northland is in the midst of a civil war. There is considerable speculation that the opposition is being supported by the Government of Garland, or elements within the Dotan clans. Securing the border is stretching GAF capacity and security apparatus as they attempt to mitigate the flows of refugees, diffusion of weaponry, and growing ethnic and sectarian tension. Northland contains significant natural resources and maintains a strategic position within the sub-region given its substantial population and capable armed forces. As such, any significant undermining of Northland could have wider implications in terms of regional security and stability.

In addition, there are more than 200,000 refugees in Garland who left Northland, due to the ongoing hostilities. These Northland refugees are primarily located in the North West, North, and in some sections of North East Province.

Garland enjoys extensive security cooperation with the Government of Westland, which has been strengthened over recent times by significant inter-cooperation against the mutual threat posed by IK. Garland has also cultivated a mutually beneficial economic relationship with Southland, predominantly driven around oil exploration and export.

Relations with Northland are extremely fractious owing to recent and ongoing conflict linked to Northland's civil war, whilst relations with Eastland remain cool given historical and ongoing ethnic tensions.

Oil was discovered in the desert lands of Southland, approximately 70 km south of the Garland border. Plans for a pipeline to the Port of Eastland (the largest shipping hub in the region) became known in 2011. Construction of the first oil wells is estimated to be completed in the 1st quarter 2019. President Momar secured a deal to run the pipeline through South Eri Province and establish a refinery in province. The government of Garland has secured international investment for the project, as well as funding for oil exploration projects. There is hesitation on the part of Southland, given the internal conflict in South Eri Province.

7. UNSMS Programmes in Garland.

Due to increasing food insecurity, lack of investments in farming and herding, high population growth, low income, lack of industrial developments, weak public health and education sectors, and limited domestic markets, Garland relies on a wide range of programmes and activities of UNSMS organizations, including FAO, IOM, OCHA, OHCHR, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNHABITAT, UNHCR, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, UNWOMEN as well as the IMF and the WB providing extended credit facility agreements and loans.

UNDSS is represented by a CSA, DSA and two FSCOs.

IOM, OCHA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP and WHO conduct humanitarian operations all over the country, including in the areas affected by the insurgency. In the capital city, there are five premises of UNSMS organizations: UNCC housing OCHA, OHCHR, UNDP, UNFPA, UNEP, UNESCO, UNHABITAT, UNWOMEN and DSS; FAO/WFP office; UNICEF Office; IOM Office, UNHCR Office and IMF/WB Office.