

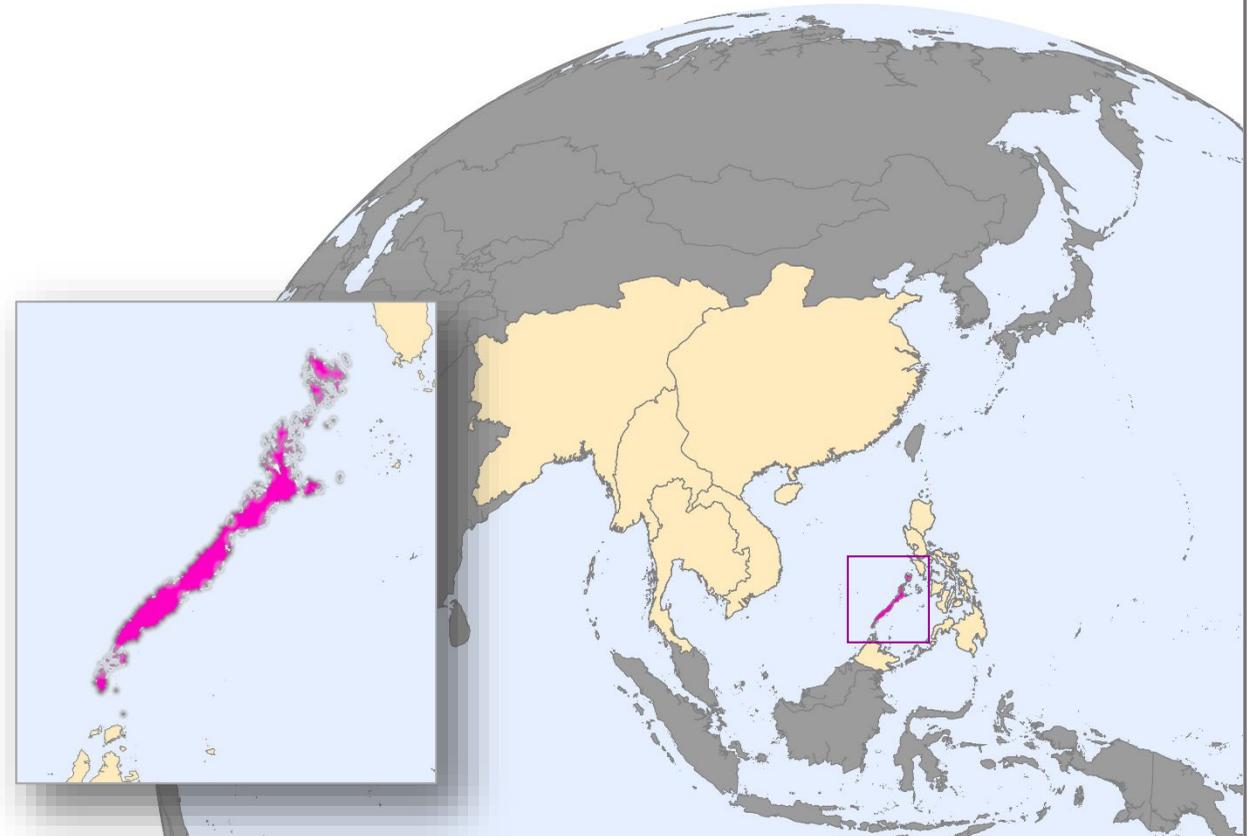
# DATE WORLD

## GABAL DATE INDO-PACIFIC



US ARMY TRAINING AND DOCTRINE COMMAND G2  
Operational Environment Integration Division

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Contents

INTRODUCTION ..... 2

POLITICAL..... 3

MILITARY ..... 17

ECONOMICS..... 32

SOCIAL..... 42

INFORMATION..... 51

INFRASTRUCTURE ..... 60

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT..... 67

TIME ..... 73

List of Tables, Figures, and Maps

Table 1. National Assembly ..... 5

Table 2. Prisoner populations ..... 8

Table 3. Table of Economic Activity ..... 41

Table 4. Demographic Statistics Chart ..... 50

Table 5. Infrastructure Sub-Variables ..... 60

Table 6. Gabal Airfields..... 63

Table 7. Major ports in Gabal..... 64

Table 8. Physical Environment Data ..... 66

Table 9. Köppen climate classification..... 68

Table 10. Seasons Charts ..... 69

Figure 1. Flag of Gabal ..... 2

Figure 2. Branches of Government..... 4

Figure 3. Gabal National Command Authority ..... 17

Figure 4. RoG Army Force Structure ..... 19

Figure 5. RoG Ground Forces Structure ..... 20

Figure 8. Gabal Maritime Command Force Structure..... 23

Figure 9. Aviation Force Structure ..... 25

Map 1. Gabal ..... 2

Map 2. BoG Force locations ..... 21

Map 3. RoGA Maritime Forces' Map..... 23

Map 4. Gabal Aviation Force Disposition..... 25

Map 5. Physical Map of Gabal ..... **Error! Bookmark not defined.**



## INTRODUCTION

The Republic of Gabal is a relatively new democracy, having emerged from the joint rule of two Western European countries in 1977. Gabal faces numerous political and economic challenges that have undercut the effectiveness and legitimacy of its government since it declared independence. Tribal politics run deep within the government and the country is deeply federalized along tribal lines. Issues associated with climate change, however, have largely united the country in recent years, as Gabal, along with many other small island nations seek to influence global climate change politics.



Figure 1. Flag of Gabal



Map 1. Gabal



## POLITICAL

### History

#### Early History

Gabal was populated by unaffiliated and indigenous tribes that were often hostile to outsiders, and whose presence on the island date from prehistory. Europeans first arrived in Gabal in 1750 during a South Seas expedition. This expedition established a trading post on the main island, which quickly grew into a permanent settlement. Soon after, traders from multiple European countries began making use of the settlement as a trading hub for their operations in the South Pacific, bringing a variety of different influences. This dynamic: an independent island populated by unaffiliated tribes, featuring a robust multinational European trading presence, existed peacefully for over a century.

In 1862, with the supply of cotton from the American South cut off by the embargoes and blockades of the American Civil War, Europe looked abroad for colonies that could support cotton plantations. Gabal, with its tropical climate and volcanic soil, appeared to be an ideal candidate. Two European colonial powers negotiated joint administration of the islands centered in the city of Puerto Princessa, establishing the two-culture government that would endure and influence Gabal through independence and beyond.

Cotton did not end up becoming a significant cash-crop for the new colony, however, coffee and fruit plantations found some success. Native islanders, whose legal and economic status rested somewhere between western chattel slaves and exploited factory laborers, provided most of the plantation labor. By the turn of the 20th century, coffee and fruit had been replaced almost entirely by native hardwood logging as the chief export of the island. Native Gabalians had few legal rights and no representation in the colonial government. A colonial split between the two colonial countries controlling Gabal led to tensions between both white and native residents. The outbreak of WW II arrested a building tension on the island.

#### Pre-Independence

The Gabal independence movement began in earnest during WWII. Gabal's strategic location positioned it to support Allied operations in the South Pacific. Soon after hostilities began, Allied soldiers arrived in large numbers to defend the island and build facilities to support air and naval operations. After American entry into the war, much of this responsibility passed to American servicemen, who likewise occupied the islands in large numbers. Interacting with Americans on such a large scale contributed to already emerging nationalist feelings; by the end of the war, native Gabalians had established a full scale independence movement. This coincided with the widespread dissolution of the European empires following the war. In 1956, Gabal began negotiations for self-rule.

#### Independence

Negotiations dragged on for many years, complicated by the discovery of large chromium deposits. European colonizers, enamored by thoughts of further financial gain, hesitated to leave the island prior to establishing mining operations to extract the chromium. As time passed, pressure increased as natives established local political parties and began to formally organize an anti-colonial movement centered on the Northern island of Coron. An incident in 1974 brought the tension to a head, when a small group of tribesmen conducted an armed takeover of the country's main airport—demanding immediate independence and self-rule. Refusing to send its own troops to the island to put down the insurrection, European colonial governments hired mercenary police forces from a nearby neighbor country. This incident caused local Gabalian political leaders to demand either proper support from the exiting colonial powers or self-rule. Both traditional colonial powers immediately rescinded colonial claims to the islands. Gabal gained its independence in 1977, with the first Gabalian elections held that same year.

#### Post-Independence

Friction among the tribes throughout the islands dominated early Gabalian politics. Tribes aligned largely with colonial business concerns, based primarily on tribal geography, with political parties developing around this mix of business loyalties and tribal affiliations. Early elections had less to do with larger national issues and more to do with local self-interest. The politics of geographic and tribal loyalties discouraged discussions of larger national interests and led to instability throughout the mid-1980s and 1990s. Many Gabalians blamed instability on the continued influence that colonialism had within the society, and in 1994 the government voted to move the capital from Puerto Princesa on Palawan Island to the city of Coron on the northern island of Coron.

### National Unity Around External Threats

Climate change was the first issue that created true national unity in Gabal. Starting in the late 1990s, a series of devastating storms coupled with rising sea levels and the effects of total deforestation of the nation's valuable tropical timber created a groundswell of ecology-focused political parties. Gabal joined the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) coalition and adopted their mantras of sustainability, renewable energy, and combating man-made climate change. Since that time, climate change has become the most significant threat and the dominant domestic political issue in Gabal.

### Government Overview

Gabal is a representative democracy, with the executive and legislature elected by popular vote. The national/federal government is far more powerful and influential than local governments. There is a system of checks and balances to ensure long-term stability.

The Gabal government is a parliamentary representative democracy that employs a traditional three-branch structure, with checks and balances established between each branch. Though the official government is wholly democratic, a traditional system of tribal politics provides significant informal influence at every level of government.

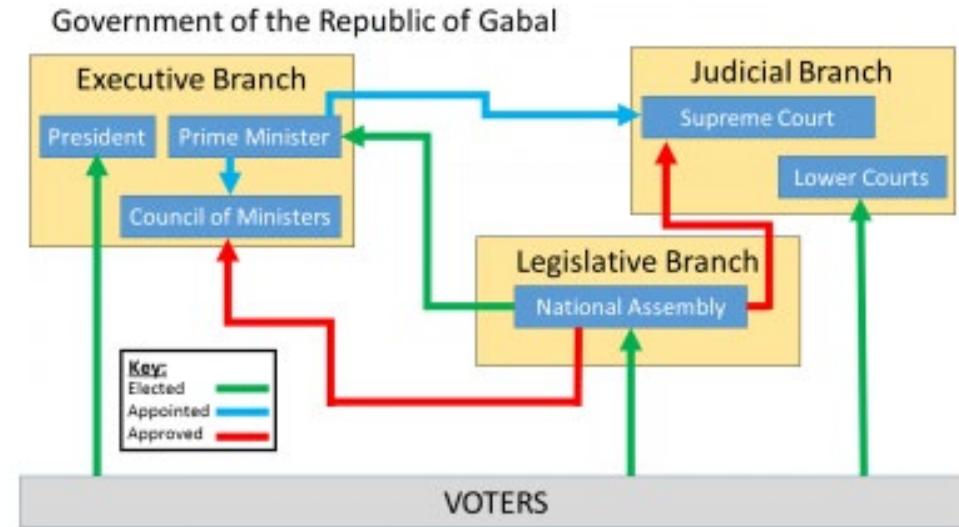


Figure 2. Branches of Government

### Legislative Authority

Gabal's national legislative body is called the National Assembly (NA). The NA is a unicameral, with two members elected from each of 13 electoral districts and an additional 12 members, chosen in proportion to the percentages of representation by the winning political parties. Elections occur every four years, or upon a dissolution of the government by the Prime Minister (PM). Gabal has numerous and rapidly changing political parties; forming coalition governments has been a consistent challenge and legislative gridlock is common as a result. Members of the legislature are often proxies for tribal leadership and tend to vote in accordance with the wishes of tribal leaders.

In addition to the formal legislature there is a Council of Chiefs, an informal gathering of tribal leaders. While this body has no official constitutional power, it advises every element of government and is highly influential. The population sees the Council of Chiefs as an adjunct legislative body, one charged with protecting Gabalian traditions and culture but having more far-reaching influence.



Gabal's political parties are in constant motion: parties and coalitions sometimes last only a single election cycle and rarely last more than a few years. Broadly speaking, urbanized and semi-urbanized areas tend to vote for parties favoring greater international involvement and development, while rural areas tend to vote for more culturally traditional platforms.

Gabal's political parties are largely temporary and ad-hoc—there have been well over 100 different registered political parties since Gabal gained independence. Parties constantly change names and alliances, both during and in between election cycles. Parties are aligned with tribes and generally vote in accordance with their affiliated tribal leadership.

For a party to appear on a ballot, it must register with the Council of Ministers. This registration includes identifying party leaders and a statement of its platform. Though the Constitution dictates that nearly all political parties must be approved by this body, Council members have resisted or refused to give legal standing to parties based on tribal rivalries or other political considerations. This has led to significant friction and calls to limit or remove the authority of the Council of Ministers in approving political parties.

Gabal also has several informal but influential non-party political organizations. The most prominent are conservation-related: Green Gabal and The Island. Both organizations lobby for greater ecological awareness in Gabal and for greater involvement in the international green movement. A pro-tourist organization, the Gabal Tourism Chamber, has also gained considerable influence over the last several years. Acting essentially as an advocate for Gabal's merchant class, the Tourism Chamber seeks to expand tourism to Gabal. This has occasionally put them into conflict with the ecological groups, as tourist businesses lobby for greater access to protected wildlife preservations and areas of the ocean.

Currently, a coalition of the Social Christian Party (SCP) and the Democratic-Republican Party (DRP) is ruling the country, but this is tenuous as they only possess a slim 20-18 margin in the National Assembly. If the SCP and DRP have a

falling out over a policy, then the government would fall calling for a new government composed of a different coalition or new elections.

Table 1. National Assembly

Political Party	Vote Percent	Seats
<i>Social Christian Party (SCP)</i>	16%	6
<i>Democratic-Republican Party (DRP)</i>	37%	14
<i>Tribal Caucus (TC)</i>	26%	10
<i>Green Party (GP)</i>	21%	8

### Executive Authority

The Prime Minister (PM) is elected by a majority vote of the people every four years and exercises the full authority of the executive branch of the government. There are no term limits for the PM. The PM appoints the seven members of the cabinet, called the Council of Ministers. This is the body that fills most of the executive functions. Tradition dictates that some members of the Council be from political parties different from the PM—often these members are taken from the Council of Chiefs. This power-sharing arrangement is used to preempt opposition to the sitting government by appointing political opponents to ministries where those ministers can access government patronage for their constituents. The PM appoints ministers, sets the legislative agenda, and is the face of the government to most of the populace.

The president handles the day-to-day affairs of the government. The president's constitutional powers are very limited, and the position's internal responsibilities are largely ceremonial. The president acts as the Chair of the Council of Ministers—leading and managing cabinet meetings and the implementation of the PM's agenda through the various ministries. The extended responsibilities of the president are assigned by the PM. In cases where the president has the full confidence of the PM, the president can give the president authority conduct foreign visits, negotiate treaties, and chair committees. The president has traditionally been the PM's representative to NA—handling the PM's legislative interests. The president runs for office with the PM and stands for election every four years with no term limits.



## Judicial Authority

The Gabalian judicial system has elements of colonial and tribal legal traditions but is primarily based on common law. A tiered system with limited and flawed appeals process and elected judges has often compromised the integrity of the system over the years. Historically, judges are chosen based on the perception of their favorable rulings toward certain tribes or people. This process has minimal federal oversight. Pressure from domestic civil society activists and international organizations is putting pressure on the Gabal government to reform some of the more egregious practices with limited success in improving justice in the country.

### *National Court System*

#### *Supreme Court*

The Supreme Court consists of three members, appointed by the PM, and approved by the NA. The judges hear only high-profile cases, such as those concerning the Gabalian Constitution. The Supreme Court chooses which cases to hear, but those choices are influenced by powerful politicians and tribal leaders. Charges of judges being too much influenced by external sources have fallen on deaf ears, as there is no real oversight authority for the Supreme Court judges. Judges serve at the pleasure of the NA, which has impeachment authority.

#### *Court of Appeals*

A president-appointed and NA-approved court of three judges is placed in each of the districts in Gabal to hear cases appealed from the lower courts. The judges are generally appointed from the districts in which they reside by the PM. There is no constitutional requirement for the judges to have any legal background or education, however, the judges are usually chosen from among the legal community. Because they are chosen from the districts in which they serve, they are also subject to bias and political and tribal influence. The judges choose which cases to hear, which may be arbitrarily chosen based on a range of motivations and intentions.

#### *Lower Courts*

The lower courts are the first line in the judicial system. Municipal and district court judges are elected by the people. All cases are heard at this level and subject to

appeal only if the Courts of Appeal accept the case. Elections are held in conjunction with national elections.

### *Constituent State Court System*

There are no constituent state courts.

### *Parallel Legal Systems*

#### *Religious Law*

Religion is not a factor in the Gabalian legal system. Disputes are generally handled through the court system, except for those deemed within the context of religious practices that may be handled by religious leaders.

#### *Customary Law*

Tribes have mostly accepted and support the judicial system—having either melded tribal traditions into the generally accepted legal system or having abandoned traditions that no longer apply. In some limited instances, traditions still guide punitive consequences to certain behaviors. In rural areas, tribal influence exceeds that in more urban areas. Tribal leaders still hold informal tribal courts that deal with low-level and petty crimes and disagreements.

#### *Common Law*

Gabal's legal system is based on common law—a body of unwritten laws based on legal precedents established by the courts. Common law influences the decision-making process in cases where the outcome cannot be determined based on existing statutes or written rules of law

## Governance Issues

### Legitimacy

In rural areas, there remains some tension between tribe and elected government. Overall, both are accepted and find ways to coexist.

### Government Legitimacy Claims



The Gabalian government struggled with stability from the very beginning. Balancing the system of a western-style democracy with the inertia of ancient tribal politics led to discord, gridlock, and near-constant infighting. The formal government also struggles with the perception of its legitimacy versus tribal institutions; for much of the population, especially those in more impoverished areas, tribal authority is still a factor in daily life. This tension rarely reaches the level of violence, rather, it manifests itself through political infighting, votes of no-confidence, and government/representative turnover. Gabal's government made a major step forward about separating from its colonial past when it moved its capital from Puerto Princesa to Coron.

In recent years, increased improved internet and television access and emergence of significant national issues such as climate change, foreign investment, and tourism management have increased the stability and influence of the national government. This trend projects to continue—traditional tribal power will likely diminish incrementally as national political authority increases.

### **Population's Recognition of Legitimacy**

The government's legitimacy among the population remains a contentious issue because of the nation's colonial past. The elected government closely resembles the tribal population and is primarily made up of leadership elements from the various tribes. While the population recognizes the tribal authority of the individuals in government, it is the actual government structure that leads to distrust. Critics of the government often say that the western style system of governance is a relic of colonialism and that the people of Gabal would be better to rule themselves based upon their traditions rather than colonial traditions.

#### *Participation*

Elections are a national holiday, filled with a tradition of celebratory events surrounding the day. The percentage of the population voting is consistently over 70%.

#### *Protests*

An inability for the Gabalian government to consistently provide needed services and a history of government instability provide fodder for periodic protests. Protests generally erupt on college campuses, among the poor, and with members of unions. The protests are generally peaceful, although during times of great political stress and dissatisfaction there have been incidents of violent clashes between security forces and protesters.

### **Measures Taken To Maintain Legitimacy**

The government is aware of its precarious position as a poor and small country, with few natural resources to offer to the world economy. The effects of climate change are an added pressure. Political leaders actively seek trade partnerships, development aid, and tourists through diplomatic means and marketing to ensure its capacity to deliver services to the people.

### **External View of the Government's Legitimacy**

Regionally and internationally, the Gabalian government is viewed as legitimate, but fragile and subject to the volatilities that create circumstances for political instability.

#### *Effectiveness*

#### **Elections**

Gabal holds general elections every 4 years, or upon the dissolution of the government by the PM (usually following a vote of no-confidence). Districts make their own rules for local elections, however, election cycles typically either mirror national elections or are in alternating two-year windows.

#### **Rule of Law**

Gabal's government and population take their Constitution seriously. Though the country often experiences political instability, the rule of law is viewed as critical by all elements of society. A small population and long-standing cultural norms add additional support to the legal rule of law traditions of the Gabalian people. Politicians and tribal leaders alike are expected to abide by and uphold the Constitution;



charges of high-level corruption or extra-legal activity are serious matters and are often career-ending.

*Domestic Security Forces*

Gabal has a unified national police force, the Gabal Police, whose motto is translated as "Service to the People." The Commissioner is appointed in accordance with the Constitution, which establishes the office of Commissioner of Police. This official is appointed by the president, following consultation with the appropriate cabinet minister and approval of the NA. The Commissioner of Police holds executive and administrative authority over the entire police force and is answerable directly to the Minister of Justice. Parliament may, however, make laws regulating the police force.

The Commissioner of Police maintains a national force under his direct control. This force has jurisdiction over national crimes that cross political boundaries and others the Commissioner deems significant enough to demand greater resources.

Responsibility for hiring and firing local police officers is given to each political body (city or regional governments), under the authority and within the policies and administrative and professional parameters defined by the Commissioner of Police. In the event a dispute arises over the local handling of any police matter, the issue can be appealed to the Office of the Commissioner of Police for final resolution.

*Prison System*

The Gabal prison system is headed by a Commissioner, who reports directly to the Ministry of Justice. The following is the current data for Gabal’s prisons:

*Table 2. Prisoner populations*

**GABAL PRISON POPULATION**

Prison population total (including pre-trial detainees / remand prisoners)	2,506
Prison population rate (per 100,000 of national population)	274
Pre-trial detainees / remand prisoners (percentage of prison population)	24%
Female prisoners (percentage of prison population)	2.5%

Juveniles / minors / young prisoners incl. definition (percentage of prison population)	0.7%
Foreign prisoners (percentage of prison population)	1.2%
Number of establishments/ institutions	15
Official capacity of prison system	1,916
Occupancy level (based on official capacity)	137.9%

**Corruption**

Low-level corruption, particularly among police forces and local officials, is extremely common in Gabal, so much so that they are viewed as practically quasi-legal. Public servants are often not paid living wages, and thus income from bribe and graft are considered integral to the function of government. This kind of corruption is not limited to the lowest political echelons, but also finds its way to the national government. Gabalians do not generally view foreign investment or aid controlled by politicians as corrupt in nature, though they tend to be skeptical of foreign investors due to the country's long history of exploitation by foreign powers.

**Human Rights and Freedoms**

As an independent republic, Gabal has an excellent human rights record despite political instability and limited resources. Racial, religious, and political persecution are virtually nonexistent. Police are generally well overseen by national authorities, even in remote and rural areas. Freedom of speech, religion, and assembly are guaranteed by the Constitution, and the government generally follows these precepts. Tribal dynamics are more obscure: freedoms within the tribal construct, especially for women, can be somewhat more restrictive. However, poor wages and exploitative business practices within private companies (specifically mining companies) have come under scrutiny in recent years, especially from international human rights organizations. Though technically legal, the poor treatment of workers is an emerging political issue in Gabal, one that may heavily influence future politics.

**Provision of Services**



Gabal is a small and poor country with few natural resources. It depends, in large measure, on the patronage of past colonial powers and tourism. Both main sources of revenue are subject to variables beyond the control of the Gabal government. As such, revenue may be inconsistent from year to year, causing disruptions in its capacity to provide a variety of services. The people of Gabal have lived with these circumstances for generations and are able to withstand the challenges with a certain degree of fatalism and resolve.

#### *Ministry of Education and Culture*

This ministry is responsible for oversight of the country's school system from pre-school through high school. Though unassuming, this Ministry has played a significant role in shaping Gabal and is often the focal point for two opposing viewpoints that compete for influence. Traditionalists view the role of the Ministry of Education and Culture as being one that preserves local traditions, and local control, ceding much of the responsibility for education to individual communities. Conversely, progressives believe that while the Ministry has a role in protecting Gabal's heritage, it also has a role in shaping Gabal's future.

#### *Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare*

This ministry is primarily responsible for overseeing public health, unemployment payments, and public assistance.

#### *Ministry of Environment*

The Ministry of Environment has grown in influence over the last several decades, and now, thanks in part to Gabal's emphasis on Climate Change, it has a significant influence over the rest of the government and economy.

#### *Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

All issues related to diplomacy and foreign relations is handled by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

#### *Ministry of Finance*

This ministry is tasked with managing tax collection, budgetary responsibilities, distribution of social support, and other accounting and financial management responsibilities.

### Centers of Political Power

The tribe remains the center of politics in Gabal. Political parties are formed around tribal lines, elected officials typically represent constituents from a tribal perspective. Tribal leaders are often, but not always, elected to leadership positions, but virtually all political dialogue centers around tribal politics.

The focus placed on tribal representation creates significant instability in political parties. Rather than establishing large, long-lived organizations, parties in Gabal tend to be almost ad-hoc, assembled for one electoral period to represent a particular tribal issue, and are then often dissolved or reorganized following the next election. This instability manifests itself in regular votes of no-confidence and dissolutions of parliament.

### State Institutional Authority

#### **Military**

Gabal's military is small and non-expeditionary. Its primary missions are patrolling Gabal's territorial waters, providing a persistent ground security presence, and building military partnerships with friendly and allied nations. Primary military authority is held by the PM, and exercised through the cabinet, specifically through the Minister of Defense and the general staff. The military budget is prepared by the general staff, then submitted by the Minister of Defense for approval by the National Assembly. The military has maintained the respect of the population and is seen as an honorable profession.

#### **Religious**

Despite being overwhelmingly Christian, Gabal recognizes freedom of religion and a general separation of church and state. There is little religious conflict or persecution



on Gabal, although elements of the government strongly resist the presence or visitation of modern foreign missionaries.

### Other

There are no other State Institutional Authorities.

### Non-State Institutional Authority

Gabal's tribal system is technically a parallel system to the government. While many of the actors are the same, it is common for disputes between individual tribal groups to be handled through non-government means, rather than turning the disputes into a matter of public discourse.

### Informal Authority (Social Groups)

Gabal society revolves around a hierarchy of relations that begins at the family level and builds upward through a network of tribal relationships. These provide the informal authority for all aspects of life in Gabal.

### Ethno-linguistic Groups

Diversity within Gabal is a matter of perspective. To outsiders, including the former colonial powers, the population of Gabal is perceived as being relatively ethnically homogenous despite the linguistic and tribal diversity. To the people of Gabal, however, the population is extremely diverse, with geographic, tribal, and linguistic differences creating distinctions among the population.

### Kinship Groups

Gabalian family life is very traditional and rooted in the tribal institution. Families tend to be large and patriarchal, with the father acting as the political head of the family unit. Gabal granted universal suffrage soon after the establishment of the new free government, but women, especially married women, seldom exercise their political freedom. Family law is likewise traditional and patriarchal, which further marginalizes the female population politically. This dynamic is changing somewhat in urban areas, with women having an increased political presence.

Tribal affiliation and the influence of tribal leaders play a leading role in Gabalian politics. Tribal leaders are often elected to office and exercise significant influence in political party decisions that determine who is elected to office at every level of government.

### Non-state Sponsored Religious Groups

Religious groups play only a minor role in Gabalian politics.

### Politics and Political Parties

#### Domestic Political Issues

Gabal's three primary domestic political objectives are 1) build a sustainable economy based around tourism and limited exports, 2) develop and integrate all parts of the island chain, and 3) prepare the population and infrastructure for the anticipated effects of climate change. All major political parties formulate their positions along these lines; the primary differences between parties lie in the rank order of the three objectives.

#### Sustainable Economy

Gabal's economy is fragile, at best—dependent on good weather, the disposable income of foreigners, its limited exports, and support from former colonial allies. Gabal's capacity to provide services to its citizens and develop for the future requires the best of circumstances. Unfortunately, there are few years where all the variables are working in Gabal's favor.

#### Development

Gabal is developing the island chain as resources allow, dependent on economic conditions. Politicians use this issue to successfully challenge incumbent politicians. There is general dissatisfaction and acceptance of a fragile existence fraught with externally imposed crises.

#### Climate Change



The ever-present threats of rising ocean levels and other crises of climate change are particularly felt by the citizens of Gabal. Gabal is a member of numerous climate-change organizations which are working to support threat mitigation in Gabal. Due to its imminent threat, this is the one issue that unifies Gabalians.

### Official Political Parties

#### **Democratic-Republican Party (DRP)**

A centrist party whose main platform is development of Gabal's infrastructure and education systems.

#### **Social Christian Party (SCP)**

A center-right party whose main platform is job creation and economic expansion through tourism and foreign investment.

#### **Tribal Caucus (TC)**

A Gabal nationalist party whose platform is the preservation of the traditional Gabal tribal structure.

#### **Green Party (GP)**

A center-left party whose main platform is preservation of Gabal's ecology and participation in the global ecology movement.

### Political Coalitions

Political coalitions are inconsistent and dissolve quickly.

### Other Domestic Influential Groups

#### **Green Gabal**

The leading environmental activist group in Gabal. It has ties to and receives financial support from several international organizations. It has a broad-based mission that includes such tactics as organized protests, lobbying political leaders, writing campaigns, and limited physical obstruction of activities it deems in the interest of the environment. There have been several instances of violence, but

these have been conducted mostly by fringe members of the organization. It is considered a radical organization by many of the businesses that deem Green Gabal a radical organization, unwilling to see its side of issues.

### The Island

The second leading environmental group in Gabal. It has focused on restoration of the forests, protection of ocean environments, and water safety. The Island's funding comes primarily from domestic sources. It has successful partnerships with local businesses, particularly those dependent on tourism.

### Gabal Chamber of Commerce

This organization is the leading advocacy group for Gabal's business interests. There is significant tension with Green Gabal, as it considers that organization a radical organization with little concern for the economic impact of its demands.

### Gabal Tourism Chamber

This group advocates almost exclusively for the tourism industry in Gabal. It has found success in partnering with moderate elements of the environmental groups on ways to effectively protect the environment and further its economic agenda. That partnership has included developing eco-tourism programs.

### International Relationships

#### Geopolitical/International Political Strategy

Due to its size and scant resources, Gabal will never be a major player internationally. Its imminent threat from climate-related crises, however, makes it a significant partner with international activists and countries concerned about the effects of changing climate conditions. These partnerships are getting Gabal into the room with the international and regional powers for discussions on other issues important to Gabal, such as trade and aid.



### Major Diaspora Population(s)

A small diaspora of those with ethnic ties to Gabala exists around the world. Remittances provide limited support to some of the poorest Gabalians. A network of semi-autonomous groups contributes to the Gabala Fund, a nonprofit in the US established for the support of poor Gabalians. Periodic social media-driven campaigns contribute to the support of citizens of Gabala, particularly in years where natural disasters hit the island hard.

### Relationship with Major World Powers

Gabal's three primary international political objectives are 1) ensure an open, available market for the tourism and export economy, 2) locate and develop opportunities for foreign investment foreign aid, and 3) participate fully in the global coalition to combat climate change. Gabal views climate change as the dominant global political issue. They participate actively in numerous climate change organizations, and much of their diplomatic capital is spent on climate change issues. As a matter of policy, Gabal seeks out partnerships with larger nations that they view as most aggressive on the climate change issue.

### United States

Gabal has a cordial but limited relationship with the United States. The US does not contribute significant foreign aid to Gabal, nor is it a major trading partner. However, Gabal recognizes the influence that the US has with numerous international financial aid organizations, and thus has sought a generally positive relationship. The US does not have an embassy in Gabal, but maintains diplomatic ties; likewise, Gabal does not have an embassy in the US.

In recent years, the Gabal military began an informal cooperative relationship with the United States military. This relationship began during cooperation efforts while on UN military missions; positive feedback led Gabali officers to recommend pursuing enhanced military relations with the US. At present this is limited to officer training visits to US military facilities and training courses but may be expanded to include

active unit-level participation and cooperation. Gabal's membership in the Non-Aligned Movement likely precludes any formal military alliance with the US.

### Donovia

Gabal maintains a warm relationship with Donovia. Each has diplomatic presence in the other's capital. Donovia provides limited aid, most pronounced when natural disasters hit Gabal. Donovian citizens find Gabal an inviting tourist destination. The country does not have a significant strategic importance to Donovia but is a place where a lack of US presence is filled by a limited investment by Donovia.

### Olvana

Olvana recognizes Gabal as a minor, but important trading partner. For this reason, Olvana has invested more heavily than other major countries in developing Gabal's infrastructure. It is a tourist destination for many Olvanan citizens. A small number of Olvanan merchants have satellite businesses that cater to the tourist industry.

### Australia

Gabal recently implemented a Defense Cooperation Program (DCP) with Australia, wherein the Australian military provides advisors and trainers to the Gabal armed forces. This is the first relationship of this type in Gabal's history.

### European Union

European development aid to Gabal is mainly funded through the European Fund for Development (EFD). The current national funding is directed toward programs focused on sustainable rural livelihoods, good governance, and access to justice. In addition, funding is provided through regional and thematic programs and other EU activities, especially for:

- Promoting gender equality and equity
- Combatting waste
- Strengthening public finance management
- Protecting biodiversity and enhancing resilience to climate change
- Improving marine governance



## Relationship to Other Countries in the Region

### South Torbia

Gabal has close relationships with South Torbia through several regional and international organizations, most pronounced in those focused on mitigation of climate threats. South Torbia also considers Gabal an important trading partner. Gabal is also a tourist destination for South Torbian citizens. South Torbia provides limited aid to Gabal, particularly in the aftermath of natural disasters. Both countries have diplomatic offices in the other's capital.

### North Torbia

Gabal has no significant relationship with North Torbia.

### Belesia

Gabal shares membership in several regional organizations, mostly related to climate threat mitigation. There is limited trade between the two countries. They share similar challenges in being small countries and resisting the encroachments of larger and more economically powerful countries. In this regard, there have been several diplomatic meetings to discuss how to better position themselves in a larger world. While separated by the Sulu Sea, Belesia's domestic security forces can often be found patrolling Gabal's territorial waters near the island of Palawan. Following initial protests, Gabal has begun to view the presence of Belesian patrols as promoting security, if they respect Gabal's security forces. Belesia, for its part, believes that securing the waterways around Palawan Island is critical to its own security. Their patrols are intended to target smugglers, who may be trying to cross the Sulu Sea and enter Belesia.

### Himaldesh

Good. Himaldesh and Gabal have pleasant relations. A significant portion of Himaldeshi ethnicities reside in Gabal as descendants from several centuries of exploration.

### Khorathidin

Good. Because of Gabal's size, Gabal benefits from having a large trading partner and defensive partner. Gabal provides occasional basing for Khorathidin Navy vessels and is a popular port. Khorathidin provides some protection to Gabal and can contribute to protecting ASEAN interests in the South China Sea from Gabal ports.

### Bagansait

None. Bagansait and Gabala have no significant relationship.

### Sungzon

Good. Gabal is openly working with Sungzon for naval military assistance. They are both concerned over Olvana's military overreach in the South China Sea. This has opened the door for trade

## Regional Issues

Gabal has two primary concerns within the region, the first issue is the promotion of progressive measures addressing climate change, and the second issue is maintaining its sovereignty.

### Sovereignty

Given its history with colonial rule and the challenges of post-colonial independence, Gabal prioritizes issues of sovereignty. It continues to push against what it views as foreign encroachment, even as it invites foreign aid and support to ensure continued survival.

#### *Domestic Sovereignty*

While there is seems to be some friction between how the government should be run, there is little issue concerning who should be running the government, therefore there are no real challenges to Gabal's domestic sovereignty.

#### *Territorial/Interdependence Sovereignty*

There are no significant border or territorial threats to Gabal's sovereignty. That said, some factions within Gabal have issue with the continued presence of Belesian



patrols in Gabal's territorial waters near the island of Palawan. Gabal's continued tacit approval of Belesia's actions is dependent upon the continued mutual benefit they both receive.

#### *International Sovereignty*

Except for the occasional fishing rights disputes, Gabal is recognized as a sovereign nation with no break away regions receiving international support.

#### **Issues of *de jure* and *de facto* Sovereignty**

Gabal is not facing any serious issues regarding its ability to exercise control over its territory. That said, on some of the more isolated inhabited islands, the government does not have a presence, and the population may in fact have *de facto* sovereignty from the Gabalian government.

#### *Conflict and/or Disputes*

##### Water Rights

Gabal is not facing any water rights challenges.

##### Environmental Issues

Climate change issues are an ever-present and unrelenting concern for citizens of Gabal. For this reason, Gabal is on the front line of environmental advocacy. It is already seeing the effects of rising sea levels.

#### Political Relationships

##### **Global Participation**

Gabal's most important international political organization memberships are the Non-Aligned Movement, the Coalition of Low-Lying Atoll Nations on Climate Change (CANCC), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). These are all coalitions of small island nations focused on the specific issues facing these types of countries. Gabal is noted as a leader in the CANCC. Gabal is a member of the United Nations and participates regularly in UN activities, to include military. Gabal is also a member of several other major international

organizations, including the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Trade Organization (WTO), and the Pacific Islands Forum.

##### **Regional participation**

In addition to international organizations, Gabal is a member of several organizations focusing on regional issues. These include Conservation Alliance (CA), Regional Fishing Pact (RFP), and Climate Threat Mitigation Initiative (CTMI). In addition, Gabal is involved in several ongoing diplomatic discussions, both formal and informal, focused on climate, trade, and military cooperation.

##### **Military Relationships**

Gabal, as the smallest country in terms of both size and population, has an equally small defensive military that is focused on the prevention of illegal fishing in its waters.

##### **Alliances**

Gabal recently implemented a Defense Cooperation Program (DCP) with Australia, wherein the Australian military provides advisors and trainers to the Gabal armed forces. This is the first relationship of this type in Gabal's history. It also has a long-standing bilateral security agreement with South Torbia.

##### **Treaties**

Gabal's treaties focus, primarily, on regional fishing rights and trading agreements.

##### **Military Aid**

Gabal does not have a significantly sized military nor any military hardware production capacity. As Gabal has not tailored its military towards conducting offensive or defensive operations of any scale, importation of weapons is extremely limited to periodic replacement of small arms.

##### **Economic Relationships**

Gabal is highly dependent on foreign aid. Western nations provided budgetary support in decreasing amounts since independence, phasing it out completely some



15 years ago in favor of project development investment. Gabal's economic growth heavily relies on commodity exports.

### Trade Agreements

A sampling of Gabala trade agreements include:

- Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations ('PACER')
- Pacific Islands Air Services Agreement ('PIASA')
- Pacific Islands Countries Trade Agreement ('PICTA')
- South Pacific Regional Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement (SPARTECA)
- Conservation Alliance (CA)
- Regional Fishing Pact (RFP)
- U.S.-Pacific Islands Multilateral Tuna Fisheries Treaty
- EU-Pacific Islands Trade Agreement

### Tariffs, Sanctions, and Embargos

While there are currently no major economic sanctions against Gabal, during the country's efforts to become an offshore banking center, a group of major US banks instituted a ban on dollar transactions with Gabal until they received the necessary reassurances about banking procedures. This resulted in the closure of the entire Gabal banking structure.

### Economic Aid

Gabal is a participant in the International Monetary Fund (IMF), primarily as a receiver of aid from the IMF. This aid is not substantial or reoccurring but happens during economic downturns in Gabal.

### Other International Organizations

As the country relies heavily on international aid and development, the beneficiaries of these resources tend to hold a greater level of economic sway. This means that the two areas of greatest potential economic growth—tourism and fishing—are continually battling for investment dollars. Linkages with private investors, such as

Williams Finance Group in the US, Donovia's Auzan Venture Company, and Asker International from Central Asia, often have the greatest return, completely bypassing official channels. Concerning charity, the Gabal Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (GANGO) acts as a quasi-umbrella organization covering all NGOs in the country. GANGO focuses its efforts into three areas of income growth and employment: aquaculture (grouper farming), youth development (skills training programs for young adults), and women in development (agricultural projects focused on female employment).

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### National Arctic Strategy

Gabal has no formal Arctic Strategy. Unlike most other Arctic Council Observers, The Gabal government does not have any icebreakers, and have not conducted Arctic expeditions. Gabal's national interests in the Arctic are centered around four interwoven areas. Gabal desires to increase the role of its shipping ports, increase tourism, and attract ships headed to and from the Straits of Malacca. The Gabal government wants to benefit from Arctic energy resources both directly and indirectly through the increased shipping traffic. Gabal imports 100% of its energy needs. It has no exploitable oil, natural gas, or coal reserves. The Gabal government wants to increase its involvement in maritime governance organizations to ensure it understands the developing ports and sea routes. Gabal strives to stay informed, engaged, and forward thinking regarding how climate change in the Arctic will threaten its shores and impact global shipping routes. These four interlaced tenets are the closest thing Gabal has to a National Arctic Strategy:



1. Port Development. Gabal wishes to capitalize on the increased maritime traffic through South Asia and to attract more shipping and tourism through port development. The development of these ports will mean job growth and the expansion of tourism across the island state.
2. Arctic Energy Resources. The Gabal government is 100% reliant on fossil fuel imports. Gabal desires to capitalize on the increased fossil fuel maritime traffic to indirectly gain access to the Arctic energy resources.
3. Involvement in Governance Organizations. Gabal wishes to increase its international involvement in the development of the Arctic to ensure it can gain and maintain an understanding of the impacts to developing ports and northern routes.
4. Climate Change. Gabal is an island state, and its shores are directly affected by rising sea levels associated with climate change. The ports that it wishes to develop and the maritime traffic it desires to attract will also be impacted by climate change. The Gabal government wishes to benefit from the scientific discoveries involved with Arctic development. This includes clean energy as well as closely tracking climate change.

### Arctic Council

In 2013, Gabal gained observer status in the Arctic Council alongside Olvana, Japan, South Korea, and India. Despite being one of the smallest nations, Gabal has made the most of its new status. Gabal has established committees, roundtables, and been actively involved with the Arctic Indigenous groups. Gabal has offered Arctic Indigenous students' scholarships at its schools and programs to encourage cultural exchange. This has gained it recognition as a capacity-building observer / member of the Arctic Council.

## MILITARY

### Military Overview

The Republic of Gabal's Army (RoGA) serves mainly as a military force for the MoI to protect and preserve the natural and mineral wealth of the Republic of Gabal. Although charge with the defense of Gabal under the MoD, it is mainly used to protect Gabal's coastline and prevent illegal fishing activities in the country's territorial waters. Its public presence is more symbolic than functional. It projects the attitude of Gabal's independence from its neighbors more than it serves as any true fighting force. Its small size limits its offensive capabilities and is not seen by its neighboring countries as a threat. The Gabal military also lacks the ability to defend itself against any major external threat.

### Military Forces

The Gabal military (RoGA) is organized under the Gabal Supreme High Command (SHC), made up of members of the Ministry of Defense (MoD) and the General Staff. RoGA (subordinate to the SHC), consists of predominately ground forces under the Land Command, an Aviation Command, and a Maritime Command. If required, the National Police can be federalized and fall under the control of SHC. Habitually, the Aviation and Maritime Commands are subordinate to Land Command due to their small size, and their inability to command and control large military operations. Many of the army infantry battalions are cadre units and would only be filled from the reserves in times of a national emergency. The aviation elements consist primarily of transportation helicopters for the military and political VIPs. The navy is only a coast guard tasked with the mission to stop illegal fishing within Gabal's territorial waters.

### National Command Authority

#### NCA Structure

While Gabal's elected president occupies the country's executive position, most of the government's power resides in the Office of the Prime Minister (PM) and his cabinet. In the diagram above, certain cabinet ministers are part of the National Command

Authority (NCA). The Gabal NCA exercises overall control of the application of all instruments of national power to plan and carry out the country's national security strategy. The Gabal NCA is made up of the Ministers of: Foreign Affairs,

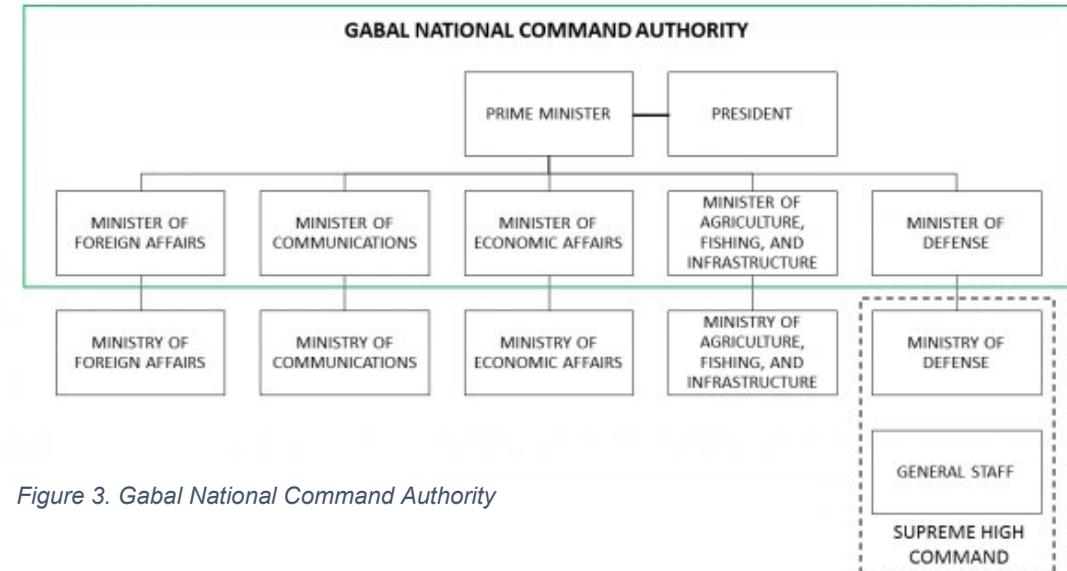


Figure 3. Gabal National Command Authority

Communications, Economic Affairs, Agriculture, Fishing, and Infrastructure, and Defense, along with the Prime Minister, who chairs the NCA.

The PM oversees the NCA's planning efforts. With the president, the PM serves as the director responsible to integrate all the instruments of national power under one cohesive national security strategy. The NCA coordinates the plans and actions of all Gabal's ministries, but particularly those associated with the instruments of national power. (See TC 7-100.2: Opposing Force Tactics, Chapter 1, Strategic and Operational Framework.)

### Strategic Operational Framework

The NCA exercises command and control (C2) of their Army via the Ministry of Defense (MoD) and a General Staff drawn from all the service components. In



peacetime, the MoD and General Staff operate closely but separately. The MoD assumes the responsibility for policy, acquisitions, and financing the Armed Forces. The General Staff promulgates policy and supervises the service components, while its functional directorates assume responsibility for key aspects of defense planning. In wartime, the MoD and General Staff merge to function as a unified headquarters.

The Gabal General Staff operates an administrative force structure (AFS) that manages its military forces in peacetime. This AFS contains the aggregate of various military headquarters, facilities, and installations designed to man, train, and equip the forces. In peacetime, the various components group their forces as separate units for administrative purposes. The Gabal military arranges their forces administratively under geographical commands. Typically, these administrative groupings differ from the country's go-to-war (fighting) force structure. Other parts of the AFS consist of assets centrally controlled at the national level. (See FM 7-100.4 Opposing Force Organization Guide: Chapter 3, Task Organizing.)

### Supreme High Command (SHC) Structure

Due to the small size of the RoG military, all forces served under the RoG Army (RoGA). The chain of command runs from the head of the government through the SHC composed of the MoD and the General Staff. The SHC controls the RoGA through a single command channel.

### National Strategic Goals

Gabal derives its strategic goals from its long and fierce history of independence from neighboring countries dating back to before contact with Western civilization. While Gabal became reluctantly involved in World War II due to its strategic position and mineral wealth, it reasserted its independence after the ouster of its occupiers. The maintenance of Gabal's sovereignty and the suppression of any small insurgent groups that may pop up forms their strategic vision.

- Project a convincing defense to discourage attacks against Gabal's sovereignty.
- Work with friendly countries to protect Gabal from external threats.

- Prevent illegal fishing and protect coastal resources within the country's territorial waters.
- Control economic expansion, primarily through the tourist trade, to improve the people's lives.
- Produce or procure sufficient food to feed the population of Gabal.

### Implementing National Security Goals

Most countries in the region adapted similar strategies to achieve their national goals except for Gabal. Its small size and limited capabilities severely restrict its ability to establish a conventional security strategy. For most countries, strategic operations remain a continuous process not limited to wartime or preparation for war. Once war begins, strategic operations continue during regional, transition, and adaptive operations and complement those operations. Each of the latter three types of operations occurs only during war and only under certain conditions. Transition operations can overlap regional and adaptive operations.

The four types of operations that other countries can conduct include:

**Strategic operations** use all instruments of power in peace and war to achieve a country's national security strategy goals through attacks against the enemy's strategic centers of gravity.

**Regional operations** include conventional, force-on-force military operations against overmatched opponents, such as regional adversaries and internal threats.

**Transition operations** bridge the gap between regional and adaptive operations and contain some elements of both. The country continues to pursue its regional goals while dealing with developing outside intervention that has the potential to overmatch its military.

**Adaptive operations** preserve the country's power and apply it in adaptive ways against opponents that overmatch the country's military.



In pursuit of its national security strategy, Gabal must modify the operations that larger and more prosperous countries can conduct. Gabal must work with other countries that will assist them to obtain their national goals. Gabal does not have the capacity to conduct strategic or regional operations on its own. If necessary, Gabal will conduct transition operations as other countries would in pursuing its goals. If invaded, Gabal's terrain would likely make it possible for its military and people to pursue adaptive operations to harass the invaders.

### National Security Strategy

It is highly unlikely that Gabal will resort to armed conflict to achieve its desired end state as its military possesses an extremely limited offensive capability. Strategic operations, however, continue even if a particular regional threat or opportunity causes Gabal to undertake "regional operations". Gabal could only respond to such a threat with the assistance of outside military aid.

Although commonly referred to as "operations," each of these is a course of action is a subcategory of strategy. Each course of action aggregates the effects of the tactical, operational, and strategic actions in coordination with the application of instruments of national power to achieve a country's strategic goals. The types of operations employed at a given time will depend on the types of threats, opportunities, and other conditions present.

A typically national strategy starts with actions directed towards a regional opponent that a government has overmatch in the instruments of national power including military capability. As the smallest country in the region with minimal offensive capability, Gabal could never achieve military superiority against any opponent. Preferably, Gabal will attempt to achieve its ends without armed conflict by working with other countries that would help them obtain their strategic goals. Gabal will attempt to achieve their desired goal through pressure applied by nonmilitary instruments of power through economic and defense treaties with other countries. These actions fall under the general framework of "strategic operations."

### Military Forces Overview

Gabalian military strategy revolves around the prevention of illegal fishing in their territorial waters and the positive economic relationship the country has with many nations including the US, Olvana, and Donovia. Based on the country's history with the Western powers and their status of a member of the United Nations (UN), Gabal expects that other countries will come to their defense if invaded. Due to the country's small size and an active military of 5,600 personnel, all Gabal's military plans are defensive in nature. Military expenditures account for 7.81% of overall GDP, mostly for military wages.

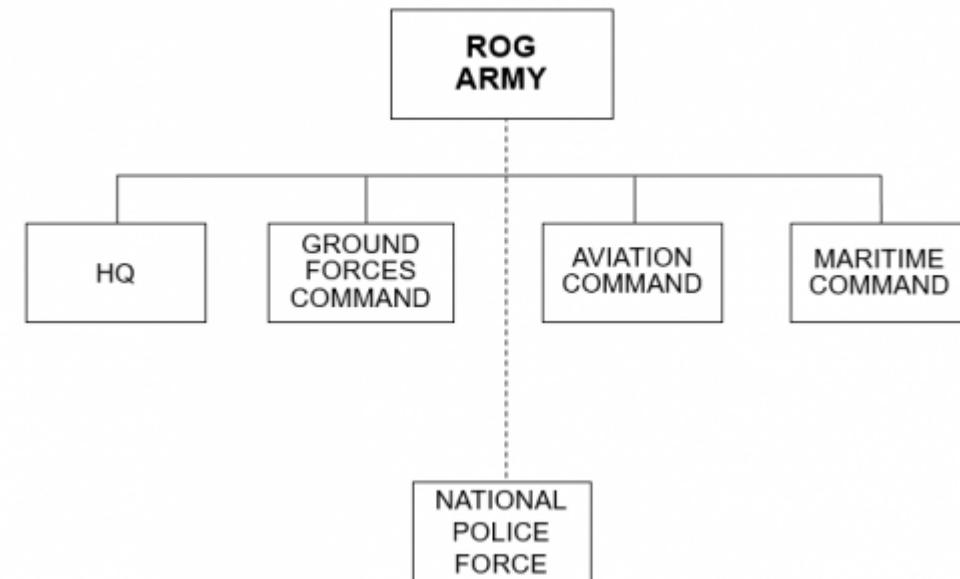


Figure 4. RoG Army Force Structure

### Land Forces/Army Overview

The primary mission of the RoGA-GFC, commonly referred to as Ground Forces Command or GFC, is to defend the sovereignty of Gabal. With approximately 4,400



volunteer soldiers, the GFC is the largest command in the RoGA. The GFC primarily is an independent brigade with two active motorized infantry battalions, two reserve motorized infantry battalions, an engineer battalion, signals battalion artillery platoon, medical company, and a special purpose forces (SPF) company. Of its 4,400 soldiers approximately 2,500 are reservists. The GFC cannot form brigade tactical groups (BTG) or division tactical groups (DTG) like other armies. However, if the political and military environment allow, it could become part of a BTG or DTG of some other country. (See TC 7-100.2: Opposing Force Tactics, Chapter 2, Command and Control.)

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Most of the army is located on bases in the vicinity of the capital, Coron. The exceptions are one active duty infantry battalion that is stationed at Busuanga and a reserve infantry battalion at Culion.

The GFC is the land component of the RoG Army (RoGA). When task organized for combat operations the, the GFC will mission each of the four infantry brigades and assign supporting or command relationships to its engineer battalion, signal battalion, artillery platoon, special purpose forces company and its medical company. During times of national disasters such as earthquakes and typhoons the government often uses the engineer company for reconstruction. Although well trained by RoGA standards, the Special Operations Company also supports the Mol and MoJ effort in anti-terrorist operations. The GFC artillery platoon provides limited general support to maneuver battalions. Until it replaces its M101 howitzers with a more modern and lethal system, its main purpose is ceremonial at best.

**Land Forces/Army Size and Structure**

See diagram to the left for the RoG Army Ground Forces structure.

**Land Forces/Army Forces Distribution Map**

See the map to the left to see the locations of the units that compose the RoG Army Ground Forces. Many of the units are stationed near the capitol city.

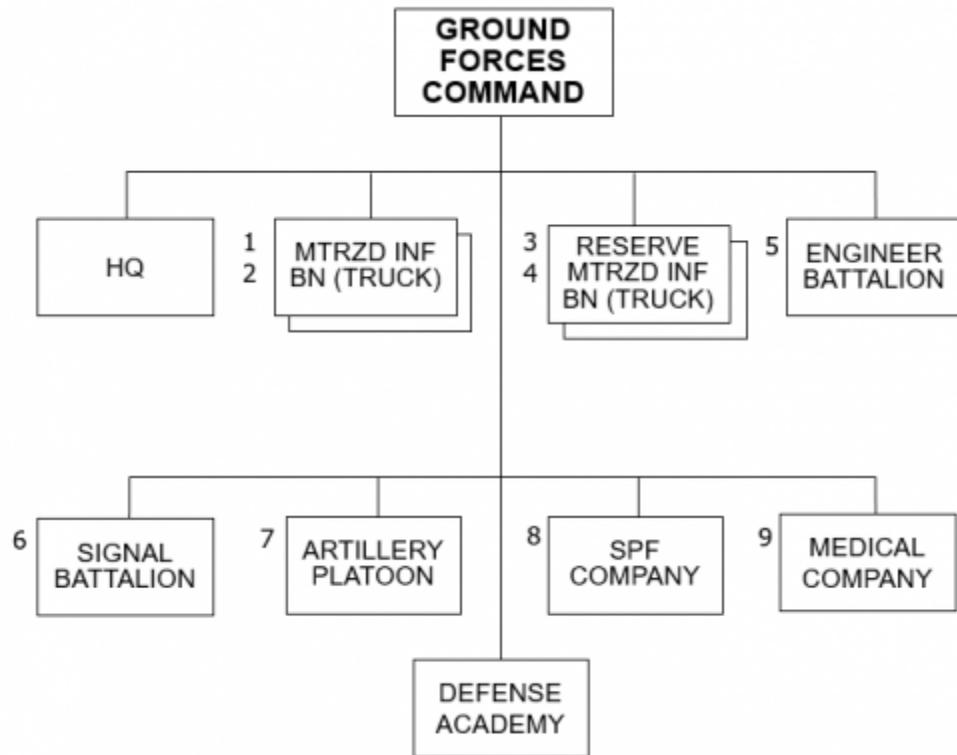
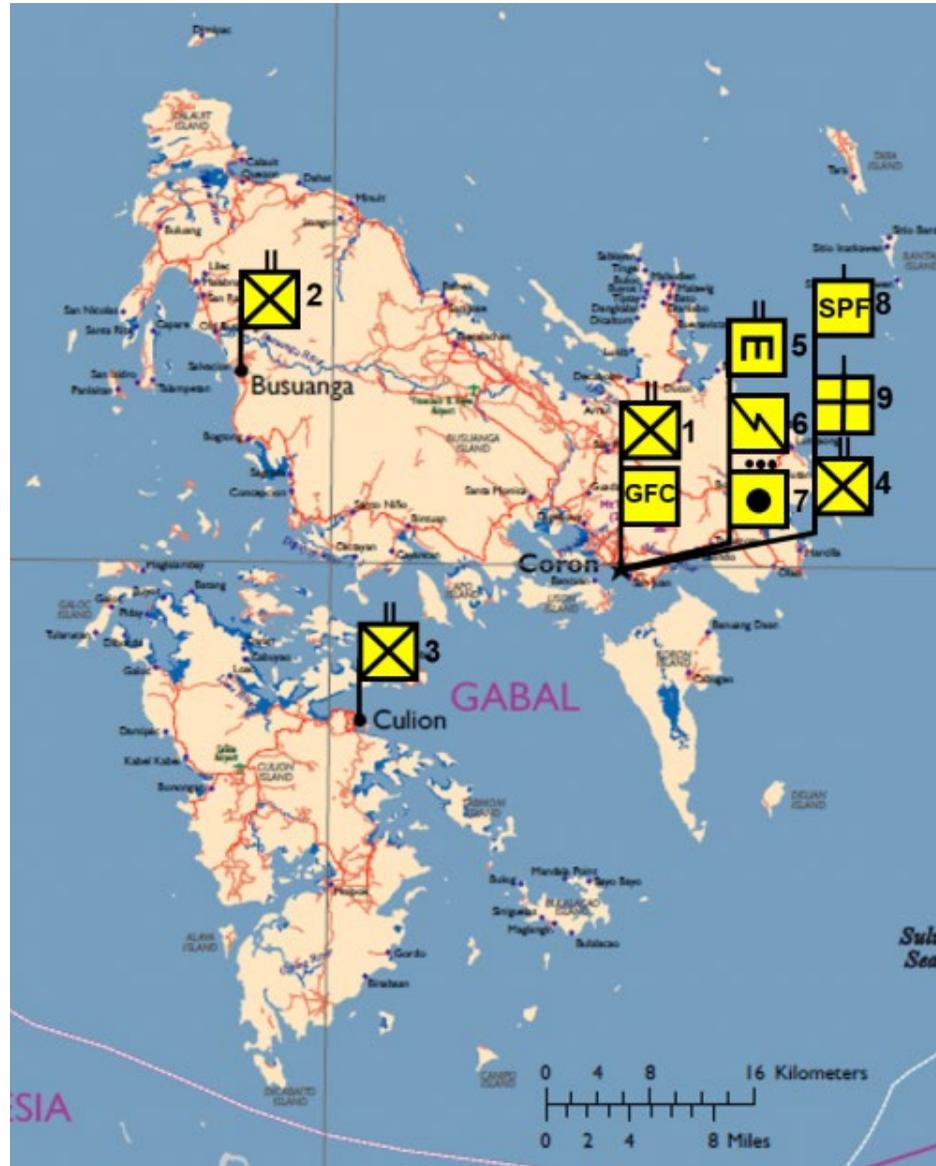


Figure 5. RoG Ground Forces Structure



Map 2. BoG Force Locations

### Ground Forces Command

Under the command of the brigade sized GFC, the infantry battalion is primary maneuver unit. Organic to the battalion is a: mortar platoon, reconnaissance platoon, anti-tank guided Missile (ATGM) platoon, automatic grenade launcher (AGL) platoon heavy, man portable air defense system (MANPADS), signal platoon, transport platoon, and a support platoon. Other capabilities within the GFC that is an engineer battalion, signal battalion. When employed, task organized in support of the battalions is an engineer company, an artillery platoon, which is composed primarily of a ceremonial gun platoon. There is an engineer company that the government often uses for reconstruction after natural disasters such as earthquakes and typhoons. The Special Operations Company focuses on anti-terrorist operations, but still needs significant training to meet international standards.

### GFC Reserve

There are about 1,765 reservists in the Gabal ground forces about 40% of total ground forces. After completing their required active duty, any soldier leaving active duty honorably must serve in the reserves until the age of 45. If desired, a reservist can continue to serve until the age of 55 if they meet the required medical standards. The reservists must serve three weeks of active duty training each year. For the soldiers, this takes place usually in one stretch of time augmenting the active duty personnel in their jobs

The Gabal reserve force is not organized into separate reserve units. Individuals are assigned to standing army units. Once assigned to one of the two reserve infantry battalions that operate under a cadre of active duty leaders, the soldier will normally remain in that battalion for continuity purposes. Each year, the reservists must serve for three weeks of duty in their assigned unit. Except for the infantry, this training is scattered throughout the year, so the other units (combat support and combat service support) always have additional personnel. Only two of the four infantry battalions in the infantry brigade are fully manned with the other two in cadre status. The active duty infantry battalions are only trained to a very high standard in individual and squad level jungle operations. Every six months, one of the cadre infantry battalions comes together for three weeks of intense training. Active duty



infantry officers and non-commissioned officers rotate on a regular basis between the single complete active duty battalion and the cadre reserve battalions

Every six months, one of the battalions meets for their three weeks of annual training and that unit becomes the “ready battalion” or the first infantry unit available after the two active duty battalions until the next battalion completes its annual training cycle. This “ready battalion” is sometimes activated for natural disasters to supplement the active duty engineer units. For those not in the infantry, the reservists normally return to their previous active duty unit to augment the active duty personnel. The training for the non-infantry personnel is staggered throughout the year so some of the reservists are often on duty at almost all times.

### Army National Guard

Gabal has no Army national guard units.

### Land Forces/Army Doctrine and Tactics

Due to the proximity to North and South Torbia and their historical relationship with Western powers, Gabal tactics are a mixture of what works best in their island jungles. For the most part, Gabal tactics are those found in TC 7-100.2. Gabal has sent small elements, company size or smaller, on UN missions to Africa and other places. In addition to the exposure to other professional armies that continue to increase the military’s proficiency, this provides a source of income for Gabal. The Gabalian government keeps the difference between what the UN pays for a soldier and what the military pays its soldiers.

### Land Forces/Army Training and Readiness

Gabal relies on a strictly volunteer military force. Citizens can join at age 18 but must retire from active duty by age 55. Senior officers may extend their duty with a waiver. Due to the limited opportunity for employment on the island, the army carries a high level of prestige. Once accepted into the Republic of Gabal Army, an islander can expect to make it his career if they do nothing wrong and desire to remain on active duty. Those that decide to honorably leave active duty service are still tied to the military as reservists until the age of 45.

As result of the limited combat power and tier 4 equipment of the GFC, many active soldiers do not take their training seriously and are not motivated because they don’t anticipate entering combat soon. Also, corruption in the government leading to disruption in soldiers’ pay has had a negative effect on readiness. Desertion and increased indiscipline problems become more common. Still, the military can find replacements for the deserters.

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The Gabal Special Operations Company is a small special purpose force (SPF) that attempts to specialize in anti-terrorism operations. They respond to any terrorist related situation, bomb threat, or potential threat against VIPs. The Gabal SPF can directly receive their missions from the MoD in peacetime emergencies. The Gabal military has sent its SPF personnel to observe US SOF training in the states and Western SOF advisors have visited the island to help with SPF training. All SPF teams are general purpose and do not specialize in one technique such as bomb disposal, hostage rescue, and anti-terrorist operations. While the Gabal SPF are the best soldiers in the country, their level of training does not meet the SPF found in the US, Olvana, or Donovia.

### Land Forces/Army Weapons and Equipment

The Gabal army operates primarily tier 4 equipment. Any equipment of a higher tier level has been donated by some other country. The equipment operational readiness

rate for the army is only 40-50% because of limited funds for spare parts, lack of trained personnel, and apathy of the soldiers.

There has been discussion between Gabal and other countries to obtain newer equipment, primarily to aid in halting illegal fishing. These include newer rotary-winged aircraft, unmanned aerial systems (UAS), faster patrol boats, man-portable air-defense systems (MANPADS); night vision equipment, and communication gear such as cellular phones, computers, and radios. The Gabal military force cannot operate at night or in periods of low visibility due to a lack of night vision equipment. (For further information see Worldwide Equipment Guide (WEG), Vol. 1, Chapter 1, OPFOR Tier Tables.)

Maritime Forces Overview

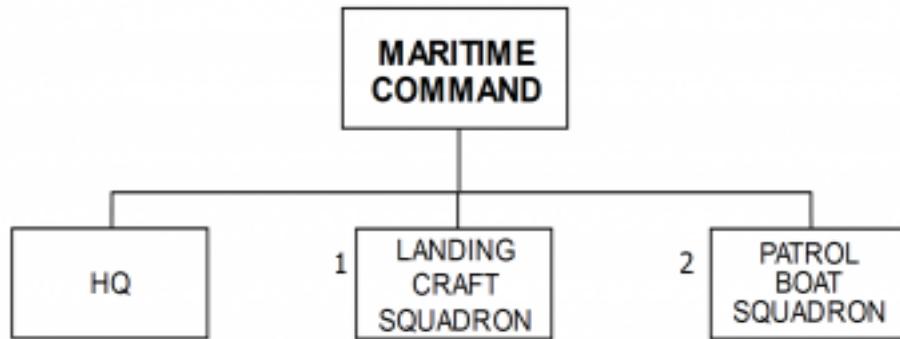


Figure 6. Gabal Maritime Command Force Structure. See the AFS for ships, personnel, and equipment assigned to each unit.

Republic of Gabal Army (RoGA) Maritime Command commonly known as Gabal Maritime Command (GMC) is composed of a headquarters company, a landing craft squadron, and a patrol squadron subordinate under the Republic of Gabal Army. The headquarters company has the operations cell, plans cell, air operations cell, operations and plans cell, Intelligence and IO cell. The mission of the Maritime Command is to defend the sovereign territorial waters of Gabal, provide general support to the RoGA, maintain civil order, and enforce the Rule of Law in the

sovereign territorial waters of Gabal. Its focus is to stop illegal fishing in Gabalian territorial maritime search and rescue operations. However, its size and poor operational readiness rate significantly impact its ability to defend Gabal’s Territorial waters.



Map 3. RoGA Maritime Forces' Map



### Maritime Forces Size and Structure

Naval forces will use smaller ports if needed for operations. See map for the major ports used by the ROGA maritime units.

### Gabal Maritime Command (GMC)

The Gabal Maritime Command (GMC) is based at the ports of Coron, Busuago, and Culion operates out of a few ports on the main islands. The navy operates out of two district commands with four patrol boat squadrons and two landing craft squadron operated by about 150 sailors. Only about half of these ships are operational at any time as the sailors sometimes cannibalize the other ships to keep a few of them running. The three primary naval bases in Gabal are in Coron, Busuanga, and Culion where the GMC can get logistical and administrative support. The GMC is not bound to the three primary ports, smaller boats can operate out of the many small ports around the islands.

### Marines

There is no separate marine/amphibious organization in the GMC. Amphibious operations are the responsibility of the RoGA. The GMC will provide troop transport, combat support, and logistical support in the littoral zone during amphibious operations. The GMC amphibious capabilities are limited by the size of the RoGA force and maritime equipment.

### Coast Guard

There is no separate coast guard organization in the GMC. The GMC is responsible for the security of its territorial waters. The GMC is defensive in nature and performs the mission of limited coastal defense due to its size and equipment.

### Maritime Force Reserves

The GMC does not see a need for a naval reserve. The functions of the defense of its territorial waters and preservation of the mineral and fishing industry are easily performed by the standing Navy. Like the GFC, reservists are replacements and maintain the personnel strength of the GMC.

### Maritime Forces Doctrine and Tactics

The Gabal Maritime Command is a brown water force whose primary mission is maritime search and rescue, but it devotes much of its resources to stop illegal fishing in Gabalian territorial waters. The main violators of Gabal's international water boundaries and competitors in the regional fishing industry are vessels from North Torbia, South Torbia, Belesia, and sometimes Olvana. With only a few operational patrol boats at a time, the fishing industries from other countries penetrate the lucrative fishing grounds within Gabal's territorial waters without fear.

### Maritime Forces Training and Readiness

After a short basic training, Gabalian sailors go straight to an operational boat for on-the-job training. As with the army, the naval units are seen in a positive manner for a steady lifetime job. The only drawback is when the sailors miss receiving their pay due to semi-frequent government shutdowns due to a lack of funds. Those sailors that decide to leave active duty, must remain in the reserves until the age of 45 spending three weeks each year training. The reserve naval personnel reserve as a militia force and sometimes even use their own boats for military operations. The 150 active duty sailors with their reserve brethren find it difficult to keep more than half of the boats operational at any one time. The most elite jobs for enlisted personnel in the navy forces is service on the prime minister's yacht. Once assigned to the yacht, the sailor usually serves on the yacht until retirement. The Prime Minister, the President, and other VIPs regularly use the yacht for business and leisure trips.

### Maritime Forces Equipment and Weapons

The Maritime Commands operates weapons and equipment with primarily tier 4 capabilities. Due to their age and lack of maintenance, naval equipment is only about 50% operational. There are discussions ongoing to obtain some newer and faster patrol boats from other countries to match the speed of the fishing boats. The Maritime Command operates six ships based in the two naval districts, but none have the capacity to go more than twenty miles from the shore.

### Gabal Naval Ship Inventory

- 4 Patrol Boats (4 PC Sinpo Class)
- 2 Amphibious Ships (2 LCU 1466 Class)

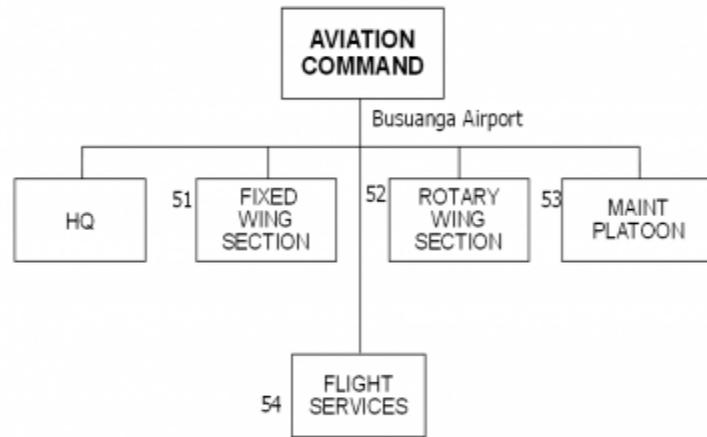


Figure 7. Aviation Force Structure

### Air Forces Overview

The Republic of Gabal Army (RoGA) Aviation Command or commonly known as Gabal Aviation Command (GAC) is not an air force, but an aviation detachment in support of the army and the government. Approximately 300 active duty personnel support the aviation units with the assistance of reservists rotating on and off duty. The Aviation Command flies four fixed-wing and four rotary aircraft. Even with the low density of airframes, it is rare that all the planes and helicopters are operational at the same time.

### Air Forces Size and Structure

The Aviation Command is purposely built, it consists of a fixed wing section, a rotary wing section, and support elements. Aircraft can conduct reconnaissance in search of illegal fishing activities within Gabal’s territorial waters, assist in maritime search



Map 4. Gabal Aviation Force Disposition. Helicopters can land in several locations.



and rescue operations, or ferry military and governmental VIPs around the country. The GAC has no fixed wing attack capabilities, it has four fixed wing transports and four helicopters. The GAC has no air-to-air or specialized air defense capabilities it depends on the medium to heavy crew serve weapons of the army or navy for rudimentary defense.

### **Gabal Aviation Command**

Due to the size of Gabal, the GAC operates out of one permanent air base only at the airport of Busuagna. Other operations and bases on Gabal are temporary or semi-permanent depending on the mission. Its rotary wing section primarily supports the MoI and MoD protect its sovereign land and sea territories and defend against illegal fishing.

### **Air Forces Reserve**

Gabal has no reserve units in its air force.

### **Air National Guard**

Gabal has no national guard units in its air force.

### **Air Forces Doctrine and Tactics**

Gabal's Aviation Command follows little aviation doctrine or tactics. It provides general support to the government in the way of VIP services and the ground and naval forces aerial surveillance capability. Generally, it is subordinate to GFC. When providing surveillance for MoI or MoD during counter drug or enforcement of illegal fishing, Pilots and flight crew will rarely engage violators. They will report location and activity to the supported unit and maintain observation until the criminals are interdicted.

### **Air Forces Training and Readiness**

The state of training and readiness of the GAC is satisfactory base on limited flight ours and lack of diverse missions. After a short basic training, those Gabal recruits with the highest aptitude for maintenance are sent to the aviation units for on-the-job training. Pilot selection is extremely competitive as those selected who graduate from

flight school can make the military a career or find lucrative employment in the tourist trade if they decide to leave active duty service. Aviation reservists perform three weeks of duty each year, but the training does need be continuous. Reservists, especially pilots, may perform their duties one or two days a month filling in for active duty members on leave or due to an increase in mission requirements. Due to the lack of repair parts, the aviation units operate at an approximately a 50% operational readiness rate.

### **Air Forces Equipment and Weapons**

Gabal's Aviation Command operates weapons and equipment with primarily tier 3 or 4 capabilities. There are discussions ongoing to obtain some newer aircraft to improve the capabilities of the force to stop illegal fishing vessels.

Gabal possesses no capability to produce their own aircraft. Most equipment has been donated to the country when it became excess to the donor nation. All aircraft are used primarily for transportation. Gabal aircraft include the following but check the AFS for most current information.

- 7 Transport (2 C-130H Hercules and 5 Cessna 310s)
- 6 Utility/Transport Helicopters (6 UH-1H)

### **Paramilitary Forces**

Paramilitary forces on Gabal fill the gaps where the government and the army fall short. To make up for shortfalls the government of Gabal leverages the capabilities and loyalty of the government aligned paramilitary forces to fill security and civil requirements.

### **Government Paramilitary Forces**

State controlled National Police Force is an integral part of the Republic of Gabal's defense and security strategy.

### **National Police Force**



The Gabal Ministry of Justice (MoJ) controls a national police force of about 1,000 officers. The National Police are often used in support of local police elements. The National Police Force is the only force within the MoJ that is trained to handle riot control during civil disturbances. In a national emergency, the MoD would take operational control of the national police force and likely use it for rear-area defense, riot control, and anti-looting missions. Many western countries' police forces often send their personnel to Gabal to assist in the training of the Gabal police officers and increasing their professionalism. The western police officers enjoy visiting Gabal due to its climate and the hospitable reception they receive. Due to the country's small physical size and population, there are few true local police forces outside of the cities and urban areas.

### Internal Security Force

Other than the National Police, there are no other internal security forces openly operating on Gabal. The National Police are the lead organization for Internal Security. If the National Police are unable to complete a mission alone, RoGA may be tasked to support the MoJ and National Police by aiding and capabilities.

### Militia

Due to the Republic of Gabal's military structure and capabilities: the Republic of Gabal Army and National Police, and its size, There are no is no requirement for a militia.

### Non-State Paramilitary Forces

There are various types of non-state paramilitary forces, such as insurgents, guerrillas, terrorist groups, and mercenaries operating in Gabal. Some are motivated by ideology and profit and others have geopolitical goals.

### Guerrilla Forces

Currently, there are no known guerrilla forces operating in Gabal. During armed conflict, hostile SPF, Commandos, or traditional military units conducting adaptive operations may conduct attacks against soft government targets using guerilla tactics.

### Insurgent Forces

There is at least one known insurgent force operating in Gabal, but there may be others.

#### *Gabal Forever*

Gabal Forever (Insurgent) is the most active insurgent organizations operating in Gabal. Gabal Forever is a very small insurgent organization (less than 100) of boisterous people who disagree with the way the government and business leaders are catering to foreigners in attempt to chase the tourist dollar. Many of these insurgents are native to the local islands and trace their ancestry back beyond written history through the oral history tradition of their ancestors. These member are upset about the change in their island's life and would like it to return to what it was 200 years ago before Westerners arrived. Gabal Forever would like to eliminate the tourist trade and have the country rediscover its roots by concentrating on fishing and subsistence farming while shunning trade isolating itself from the outside world. In the past, Gabal Forever members have conducted attacks using arson, random shootings, or homemade explosives such as pipe bombs against Gabal's prominent tourist destinations.

See the [Gabal Forever](#) page for additional information on this insurgent group.

### Criminal Organizations

There are several known criminal organization operating in Gabal, but there may be others. There are rumors that criminal organizations from Olvana may want to make inroads into Gabal. So far, there is no evidence that supports these claims.

### Kumpulan Crime Organization

Kumpulan is the largest criminal organization in Gabal, and they are always looking to stay one step ahead of the police.

Kumpulan is headed by Myint Khine who owns a local import/ export business. Khine is 45 years old and began working for Kumpulan when he was a teenager with few prospects in life. Over two decades ago, Kumpulan provided the funds for his



business, Kumpulan Import and Export that he uses as a cover for their illegal operations. With warehouses in several cities and towns in Gabal, Khine can hide illegal goods among his legitimate imports. The police are aware of Khine, but he always seems to be one step ahead of the authorities when they raid one of his warehouses. It is highly likely that he has agents scattered throughout the National Police as well as any local governmental officials. These agents let Khine know about the raids well enough in advance for the group to move out the illegal goods hidden among the legitimate imports. Weapons confiscated by the Gabal military or police sometimes make it into Kumpulan's hands instead of the weapons destruction facility— most likely due to corrupt military and/or police officers. Kumpulan is usually non-violent, but at times some independent black marketers have been found shot to death as a warning to others.

The desperate financial situation by many islanders forces the poor, however, into illegal activities to survive. This is especially true for the disenfranchised male youth from the ages of 15 to 25. Many of these struggling youth males turn to petty crime to survive such as purse snatching, pickpocketing, and simple robbery. The victims are often tourists, who often are the only ones with any money to steal. If a young male does not go out on their own, they often find work with the Kumpulan.

See the [Kumpulan](#) page for additional information on this criminal organization.

#### *Other Criminal Organizations*

There are other criminal groups, primarily family units, which conduct racketeering operations to provide a means of support to their large extended families. The families most involved in these local racketeering operations include Finau, Teaupa, Otolose, Malapo, Tei, Katalalaine, and Angina. The South Torbian-based Tantoco Cartel is now trying to expand into Gabal.

#### **Private Security Organizations**

There no large national private security organizations (PSO) on Gabal. National laws and ordinances restrict individual and commercial gun ownership except for some

wealthy influential businessmen and connected former and current politicians. Local PSOs tend to be small and provide a local protection services.

#### **Foreign Military Presence**

The Australian Defense Cooperation Program is the largest foreign military presence in Gabal. Other than foreign embassies and staff. , there are few permanently stationed foreign military personnel in Gabal. The one exception is the Defense Cooperation Program where Australia provides advisors to the Gabal military that operates out of their embassy. Western and Pacific countries have conducted small joint military training exercises within the country. The US has provided trainers to Gabal at times, often involving their SPF with anti-terrorism training in hopes of improving their competency to fight the Global War on Terrorism.

#### **Nonmilitary Armed Combatants**

Nonmilitary Armed Combatant (Gabal Forever armed sympathizers). Most Gabal people are supportive of foreigners as they provide the most money to the people through the tourist industry. The exception is Gabal Forever, an insurgent organization that desire all foreign presence to leave their islands. At times, some citizens have opposed Gabal Forever to defend their lively hood. If attacked by an outside force, the same citizens would organize and actively defend their country with whatever weapons they possess. They would welcome western military assistance to preserve their country's sovereignty. They would help by providing translators and intelligence, most likely in the form of Human Intelligence (HUMINT).

#### **Unarmed Combatants**

Unarmed Combatants (Gabal Forever unarmed supporters). Although not formally organized, some citizens of Gabal are sympathetic to the cause of the insurgent group Gabal Forever. Because their livelihoods depend on the tourist trade, they do not publicly support the insurgents but may provide non-violent support such as shelter, financial assistance, and diversionary activities. No single leader appears to be leading this citizen group as it is a grassroots movement based on what they see as the end of traditional island culture.



## Military Functions Overview

The military capabilities Gabal are low due to the size of its army and its primary focus, protect its offshore fishing resources and mineral wealth. As the Gabal military slowly modernizes through the purchasing of new or used military equipment, their ability to function as a modern military force changes. Their limited ability to adapt and integrate new capabilities is detrimental to readiness. Discussed below is an assessment of select military functions:

Each of the military functions listed above exist in varying degrees in the Republic of Gabal Army, as well as in some paramilitary organizations. Thus, military functions as sub-variables can have values on a scale of High, Medium, or Low, defined as follows (See TC 7-101, Exercise Design, Table 3-13. Military: military functions):

- High: Can conduct sustained, complex, synchronized tasks of the selected military function; ability to influence friendly forces is not limited to the theater of operations; and/or associated equipment is predominantly Tier 1, as specified in the Worldwide Equipment Guide (WEG).
- Medium: Can conduct limited, complex, synchronized tasks of the selected military function; ability to influence friendly forces is primarily limited to the theater of operations; and/or associated equipment is predominantly Tier 2, as specified in the WEG.
- Low: Cannot conduct complex, synchronized tasks of the selected military function; ability to influence friendly forces is limited to local, tactical impact; and/or associated equipment is predominantly Tier 3 and below, as specified in the WEG.

## Joint Capabilities (Low)

The Republic of Gabal's Army's ability to conduct joint operations is low. The Gabal military is near incapable of conducting joint operations. Even though all military resources fall under army control, the wide variety of equipment especially in the communication field makes it difficult for the army to communicate with the navy, the navy with the aviation units, and even the aviation units with the ground units.

## Command and Control (Low)

The Republic of Gabal's Army's ability to exercise command and control is low. The Gabal military uses the command control methodology found in TC 7-100.2 focusing on mission tactics and battle drills. The active duty infantry is well-trained in jungle warfare, but sometimes lacks motivation. The use of individual reservist and small units, usually in the unit they previous served in on active duty, allows some continuity of command and control to continue throughout the reservist's career. Despite the small size of the force, the chain of command is slow to react.

## Maneuver (Low)

The Republic of Gabal's Army's ability to conduct maneuver operations is low. The infantry (two active duty battalions and two reserve battalions) is the primary maneuver force for the Gabal army. These infantry units are trained to operate in the jungles found on the islands that compose the country. The infantry usually operates dismounted but could become motorized using trucks. While individual soldiers are proficient with basic skills in staying alive in the jungle, the larger the size unit the less it is trained to a high standard.

## Air Defense (Low)

The Republic of Gabal's Army's ability to conduct Air Defense operations is low. The Gabal military has no short-, medium-, or long-range air defense weapons, but are seeking them. Currently the emphasis is on short-range MANPADS such as older Stingers. However, the country has a lot of higher priority equipment on its list ahead of air defense assets. Without dedicated air defense units, the Gabal army considers every soldier with a machine gun as part of the all-arms air defense. Soldiers may employ their machine guns to set ambushes for enemy helicopters, especially those on routine logistics missions. (For more information, see TC 7-100.2: Opposing Force Tactics, Chapter 11, Air Defense.)

## INFOWAR (Medium)

The Republic of Gabal's Army's ability to conduct INFOWAR operations is medium. The Gabal military conducts little Information Warfare (INFOWAR) other than trying



to control the message from the local radio and television stations. Gabal Forever group members distribute leaflets railing against the tourism industry and sometimes the tourists receive rude treatment from some of the most extreme members of the group.

### RISTA (LOW)

The Republic of Gabal's Army's ability to perform RISTA operations is low. The Gabal military possesses very limited reconnaissance, intelligence, surveillance, and target acquisition (RISTA) capabilities, with equipment limited to the elements organic to its infantry brigade from equipment given to them by another country. This equipment is tier 4 or tier 3 at best and is another country's discards. The table above summarizes the effective ranges for reconnaissance assets that can support most tactical commanders of any country. Most intelligence conducted by the Gabal military is HUMINT. If foreign militaries deployed to any of the islands that compose Gabal, the locals would be the best source of intelligence during any operation.

### Intelligence

Gabal's government maintains a very small military for defensive and ceremonial purposes. Gabal relies on the national police force to handle domestic issues, internal security, and for reinforcement of the military in a national emergency. Intelligence of any value comes from a very small police intelligence unit; that information is relayed to the military through a liaison officer. Any other intelligence support must come from another country's military. There is discussion to stand up a military intelligence unit, but limited funds continue to delay the actual activation.

### Human Intelligence (Low)

Gabal's military has some human intelligence (HUMINT) capability. Most HUMINT is limited to informants that tell the police about possible future smuggling operations. Gabal's government offers a standing reward system for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those involved in smuggling or illegal fishing operations. Informants are often individuals involved on the periphery of such operations, turning in others for financial gain.

### Open Source Intelligence (Medium)

Gabal relies on open source intelligence (OSINT) as its primary means of strategic intelligence, but there are not enough intelligence personnel to make it successful. Gabal's OSINT focuses on the collection of information from their regional neighbors, especially as it pertains to their relationships with Gabal.

### Signals Intelligence (Low)

Gabal possesses little signals intelligence (SIGINT) capability; SIGINT operations consist of little more than attempts to monitor the transmissions of smugglers and illegal fishermen to intercept them amid their operations. Any more advanced signals intelligence capability will come from allied militaries.

### Imagery Intelligence (Low)

Gabal possesses little imagery intelligence (IMINT) capability, mainly consisting of aerial photography from helicopters involved in anti-smuggling and fishing operations. Gabal's government is in discussion with other countries about purchasing unmanned aerial systems (UAS) soon to support these operations. UAS could cover the large coastline of Gabal at a reduced cost, and when unusual naval activity along the coast is detected, helicopters or speedboats could be sent to intercept the possible smugglers or fishermen.

### Measurement and Signatures Intelligence (Low)

Gabal does not have a measurement and signatures intelligence (MASINT) capability and relies on military partners for any such information.

### Fire Support (Low)

The Republic of Gabal's Army's ability to conduct fire support operations is low. The Gabal military has limited indirect fire ability, battalion mortars and an artillery battery to provide general support to the brigade. The artillery battery is more for ceremonial occasions than for actual military activities. Only in extreme circumstances would the artillery battery be used in combat operations and there may not be enough ammunition to last more than a single day of combat. The soldiers spend most of



their time training for their next public performance rather than firing in support of soldiers.

### Protection (Low)

The Republic of Gabal's Army's ability to conduct protection operations on an individual and collective level is low. The Gabal army offers little in protection for its soldiers. The infantry usually fights dismounted so they are susceptible to any type of fire from small arms up. While there is an engineer company, its primary focus is on civilian support helping the country recover from natural disasters. The engineer company receives little training on missions to provide protection to the ground forces. Chemical defense is limited to individual protective masks that are never issued to the soldiers. The soldiers do not train with their protective masks, so the soldiers would not be very functional if they needed to don them. Other than the civilian radar station at the airport, there is no radar capability in Gabal for the military. (See TC 7-100.2: Opposing Force Tactics, Chapter 12, Engineer Support and Chapter 7, Information Warfare.)

### Logistics (Low)

The Republic of Gabal's Army's ability to conduct logistical operations is low. Like many non-Western armies, the Gabal military concentrates on its combat units and often neglects the logistics infrastructure necessary to support modern warfare. With two active duty infantry battalions, the army attempts to get by with limited combat service support units. Without the reservists coming in for their three week active duty periods, it would be difficult for these units to support the normal active duty force. If the entire reserve was mobilized, there would likely be some logistical shortages because of the need to support four not two infantry battalions.

### Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) (Low)

The Republic of Gabal's Army's ability to conduct CBRN operations is low. The Gabal military possesses no offensive chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) capabilities. Gabal has denounced all CBRN and proposes an elimination of CBRN from every other country's weapon arsenal. The Gabal army possesses

protective masks donated by other countries, but they are maintained in a warehouse. Military personnel do not train for operations in a chemical environment.

### Research and Development Goals

Due to limited industrial capacity, Gabal will likely continue to purchase its military equipment and arms from outsiders. The criminals on Gabal will obtain weapons wherever they can find— whether it is a foreign country, black marketers, or confiscated weapons stolen from the police/ military before they can be destroyed. The country has been known to purchase equipment or receive donated military equipment from the US or other western countries, Olvana, and Donovia.

### Special Considerations

If attacked by an external force, Gabal cannot effectively defend itself. Its purpose is to protect its offshore fishing resources and mineral wealth. The country is proud of its rich indigenous history and often finds itself torn between its historic past and the future. Gabal is slowly accepting modern military methods and bringing improved capabilities to its small military force.



## ECONOMICS

### Economic Overview

Throughout most of the 20th Century, the economy of Gabal predominantly focused first on timber logging and then chromite mining, with the export of Molave lumber and chromium providing the nation's only income, apart from overseas investment. Industrial focus gradually shifted towards chromite mining, as forests were clear-cut. Revenues obtained from the exportation of these products, combined with a relatively small population, made Gabal one of the wealthiest nations in the world in terms of gross domestic product per capita. In the latter part of the 20th century, mining produced about 2 million tons of high-grade chromite each year. Once these reserves were exhausted, however, the economy collapsed, and Gabal has since struggled to recover. The Gabal government first attempted to become an offshore banking center—essentially, the Pacific equivalent to Caribbean offshore banking. Allegations of money laundering and transnational criminal connections, however, resulted in the entire Gabal banking sector closing. This forced Gabal to seek alternate revenue streams. A twenty-year span of excessive spending and bad investments led to the economic classification of the nation as a fragile state. The Gabal government invested initial surpluses of \$1.05 billion from the timber and chromite industries to provide income when the resources ran out. By law, the government could not access these funds for 15 years, at which time the expected value would be over \$4 trillion. An audit of the Gabal Royalties Trust Fund recently revealed that 85% of that investment was lost through corruption and bad investments. Meanwhile, signs of past prosperity are all over the islands—unmaintained cars left to rust, restaurants in disrepair or closed. Gabalians who formerly had no worries about importing luxurious food or clothing now live on about \$80 a week.

Gabal has a mixed market economy. A predominantly free market economy exists at the local level, but the state centrally directs most of the national and international economic decisions. This is especially noticeable in the state-owned fishing and tourism enterprises that make up a significant portion of the economy. Combined,

these enterprises contribute half of the GDP and a third of employment. However, governance of these enterprises is inconsistent and rife with tribal cronyism.

The diversification of the Gabal's economy following the banking experiment debacle resulted in two surges to the Gabal economy. First, Gabal refocused on exploiting natural resources. This included surveying the islands for secondary deposits of chromite and issuing licenses to fish in its territorial waters to international conglomerates. With improved regional coordination and strong global market conditions, fisheries revenue has more than tripled in the last five years and now accounts for about 30% of domestic revenue. By contrast, chromite mining became an increasingly marginal source of income, primary deposits were depleted, and deep mining of secondary deposits has yet to begin, due to uncertainty regarding both quantity and location in tribally protected lands. Second, Gabal saw some success expanding its tourism sector, marketing itself as a premier dive destination, due to the number of WWII shipwrecks offshore. Combined with economic diversification and boosted by strong aid flows, these actions returned the Gabalian economy to growth, expanding by as much as 17.3% per year for the last five years. While there has been a significant improvement in the country's overall economy, economic growth remains erratic, and the issues of inequality and distribution of wealth remain an ongoing concern.

Efforts to switch to a more efficient economy, particularly one tied to tourism, have met with mixed results, in large part due to tradition and tribalism. Additionally, unemployment and poverty, along with a wide income equality gap create friction points among the populace. Although historically tied to and reliant on Western or Western-leaning nations, there is also animosity over past exploitation. The ability to expand on what resources it has available will steer future policy decisions. Gabal will continue to seek diversification of its economy in the long term, while relying on international aid, regardless of source, over the short term. South Torbia will seek to protect and expand its trade with Gabal by providing aid and other support. Despite the government being moved from Puerto Princesa on Palawan Island, to Coron, Puerto Princesa continues to be the nation's economic hub.



## Economic Activity

The microstate economic structure of Gabal and lack of diversified natural resources means that Gabal suffers from a very volatile growth rate. Even with efforts to expand revenue sources, growth over the last ten years ranged from an annual high of 36.5% to a low of -20.0%. Periods of recovery reflect progress in restoring chromite exports, expansion of fishing, and growth in services. A high decline in GDP, however, resulted from a 2013 suspension of mining and decline in tourism following storm damage to the nation's infrastructure from Super Typhoon Haiyan. Although mining depleted the primary reserves of chromite, ongoing efforts seek to extract a deeper layer. These secondary deposits may last another 30 years. Often, the amount of international aid Gabal receives directly affects economic growth. This aid, in turn, varies based on the political climate within either Gabal or the donating nations.

## Economic Actors

As the country relies heavily on international aid and development, the beneficiaries of these resources tend to hold a greater level of economic sway. This means that the two areas of greatest potential economic growth—tourism and fishing—are continually battling for investment dollars. Linkages with private investors, such as Williams Finance Group in the US, Donovia's Auzan Venture Company, and Asker International from Central Asia, often have the greatest return, completely bypassing official channels.

Concerning charity, the Gabal Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (GANGO) acts as a quasi-umbrella organization covering all NGOs in the country. GANGO focuses its efforts into three areas of income growth and employment: aquaculture (grouper farming), youth development (skills training programs for young adults), and women in development (agricultural projects focused on female employment).

Political parties have very little socioeconomic impact on the average Gabalian, as family, clan, and religion tend to have far more influence. From an economic standpoint, the average islander has little trust in the government, as political leaders

have continually focused on the resource sector than on development of human capital.

## International Trade

The Gabal Cooperative Society, a government agency, conducts most of the nation's retail trade. The country is almost completely dependent on imported goods. Gabal has few domestic resources and virtually all consumer products are imported.

## Commercial Trade

Primary imports include foodstuffs, refined petroleum (diesel), prefabricated buildings, large construction vehicles, cars, and poultry meat. Importation occurs from Australia (56%), Olvana (7%), US (2%), EU (1%), OPEC Nations (0.5%), South Torbia (0.3%), Belesia (0.2%), rest of the Pacific Region (21%), and the rest of the world (12%). Exports are primarily chromite, and to a much lesser extent, scrap metal and garments. Exportation occurs mostly to Australia (47%), the EU (10%), US (2%), OPEC Nations (0.5%), South Torbia (0.5%), Olvana (0.3%), Belesia (0.2%), rest of the Pacific Region (36%) and the rest of the world (3.5%). Total value of Gabalian trade is \$332.61 million in exports and \$871.45 million in imports.

## Military Exports/Imports

Gabal does not have a significantly sized military nor any military hardware production capacity. As Gabal has not tailored its military towards conducting offensive nor defensive operations of any scale, importation of weapons is extremely limited, mainly periodic replacement of small arms. Gabal has no corporate involvement in the defense industry.

## Manipulation/Weaponization of Economic Activity

Domestic dispersion of aid dollars is highly politicized and subject to tribal and other power player influence. Gabal is an accepting target of big power efforts to gain influence in the region—the West, Donovia, and Olvana face off on a small, but noticeable scale.

## Arctic Economic Strategy



The Government of Gabal does not have a direct economic strategy for the Arctic. Gabal desires to capitalize on the indirect economic benefits associated with the increased maritime traffic that is anticipated by having open Arctic shipping routes. Port development, increased access to energy imports, and improved Gabal tourism are the long term economic goals the Government of Gabal associates with the Arctic. In lieu of having a domestic market capable of supporting their economic goals, Gabal's economic policies attempt to make it an appealing option for foreign investment, often leading to lopsided agreements that provide favorable conditions to the foreign investor.

### Economic Sectors

The current business environment in Gabal is one of stability with little expected shift, either positive or negative, in practices or demographics. Like GDP, the labor force is predominantly in the services sector (78.7%), nearly equally split between the tourism industry and government work. The industrial sector employs 15.3% of the work force, almost exclusively in chromite mining, while 6.0% of the population works in agriculture. Gabal does not have a national stock exchange.

### Raw Materials Sector

#### Agriculture

The only commercially viable fertile areas on the islands are primarily in the lowlands of Culion Island, where rice, corn, and sugarcane are grown. Commercial and subsistence farming combined are insufficient to meet domestic demand, and the nation must import a significant quantity of foodstuffs. The combination of slash-and-burn agricultural processes and continuous mining of chromite left many portions of the islands unsuitable for farming. Mining contamination and nutrient depletion from destructive farming practices made large portions of available arable land sub-optimal for agricultural productivity at anything above the subsistence level. The government is attempting to address these issues. The Agriculture Development Fund of Gabal provides a mechanism for small grants and micro-credit for the development of commercial and agricultural activities in the country, intended to encourage alternate farming methods. For example, a poultry farm started operation

last year with a budget of \$18,200, produced total sales of \$127,750. These efforts pale in comparison to the needs of either the economy or the nation's populace, however.

#### Forestry

At one time, Busuanga held a significant number of Molave forests, but the government harvested the remaining stands for export immediately following World War II. While portions of the islands remain forested, none is suitable for commercial timber operations. The government is attempting to re-grow its rain forests for both commercial and ecological reasons. Rain Forests within Gabal are now protecting against logging activity.

#### Fishing

While the islands possess multiple bays, harbors, anchorages, and lagoons, none is large or deep enough for a port capable of deep-water operations. The government hoped to develop a local fishing industry and formed the Gabal Fishing Corporation forty years ago. The fishing industry, however, remains a relatively insignificant portion of GDP, with sales of fishing rights garnering more cash value than domestic fish produced. Since the nation does not have the resources to develop a viable fishing fleet, the government instead opted to sell its fishing rights to other nations. Revenue from fishing licenses presents some challenges, as revenues can be difficult to predict from year to year. The ability to sustain revenues at reasonable levels in the long run depends on factors such as global market conditions and the continued success of regional fishery cooperation. The domestic fishing industry consists mainly of trolling for tuna with small outboard-powered boats.

#### Oil and Natural Gas Extraction

Gabal has no proven reserves of oil, natural gas, or coal, nor does it possess any refining capacity.

#### Mining

Apart from Coron Island, industrial pollution contaminates much of the inland water. The only economically significant natural resources remaining are chromite and fish,



particularly tuna. Earnings from the export of chromium remain an important potential source of income as recently prospectors discovered deeper secondary chromite reserves. However, the extraction of these reserves requires considerable investment. The rehabilitation of mined land and the replacement of income from the chromite and timber industries are serious long-term problems. Combining uncertain fishing revenues with reliance on chromite market prices, the government of Gabal must carefully manage additional revenues given their finite and uncertain nature. All chromite mining is under the purview of the Gabal Chromium Corporation, a statutory corporation responsible to the Prime Minister in his capacity as minister for island development and industry.

### Manufacturing and Industry Sector

The only industries on Gabal are related to chromite mining and fishing. High-grade timber and chromite ore were the only notable natural resources of Gabal, its only export commodities, and the basis of the Gabal economy. The Gabal Chromium Corporation, who quickly bought out the logging industry once surveyors discovered the extent of chromite on the island, was the nation's primary producer, employer, and exporter. During the heyday of chromite mining, Gabal also had refining capability to produce high-carbon ferrochromium. However, with the reduction of raw ore mining and concerns over carbon monoxide production, the Gabal Chromium Corporation now ships all ore off island for processing. Beyond this, Gabal does not possess any indigenous manufacturing capability.

### Energy Industry

Gabal imports 100% of its energy needs. It has no exploitable oil, natural gas, or coal reserves. The government desires to transition to solar power to reduce the burden on the state budget as well as household finances.

### Chemical Industry

Gabal has placed severe limitations on any expansion by a potential domestic chemical sector. The ability to dispose properly of liquid, chemical and hazardous wastes is limited by the high costs of waste treatment for isolated populations. The government is extremely concerned by the high levels of pollutants already extant,

and has no desire to see an increase, even if it could potentially bring economic growth.

### Other Major Industry

There are currently no other major industries in Gabal.

### Services

Although services are the largest segment of the Gabal economy, in terms of both contribution to GDP and percentage of labor force, the sector remains vastly underdeveloped. Almost half of the service sector is comprised of government workers in what is mostly a bloated, unproductive bureaucracy. Approximately 45% belong to a growing tourism sector, which has the potential for growth, but suffers from marketing and investment challenges. The remainder of the service sector is a disparate mix of media, transportation, and health care.

### Banking/Finance

The banking and finance industry in Gabal is immature and unsophisticated. The informal savings and credit market in Gabal consists mainly of relatively localized credit and savings transactions of money, real goods, and labor services among members of extended families, clans and tribes, friends and relatives and trade store owners. In addition, informal savings and credit groups generally found among rural women extend credit. An emerging source of credit in Coron is the semi-professional moneylender. Although such moneylenders do not yet appear to be operating outside the Capital, there is evidence of a growing class of semi-professional moneylenders who combine moneylending with their usual occupational activities in the urban sector. These urban moneylenders provide very short-term loans, mainly for persons whom they know well. Often, this form of financial intermediation is the only financing available to the majority of Gabalians. Even in locations in which deposit and transaction services are available, many formal financial institutions do not provide credit services to lower income households, who must borrow from informal sources.

### Information Communications Technology (ICT)



The communications industry within Gabal is severely underdeveloped. Communications technology is imported primarily from South Torbia and Olvana. Businesses and government departments rely on contracted resources from these countries to set up and manage communication systems. Younger Gabalians, trained in South Torbia and Olvana, are beginning to provide some these services, but usually as part of international corporations.

### Professional Services

Professional services are usually contracted through international corporations. These companies are beginning to hire a larger number of internationally trained Gabalians, but Gabala does not currently have the capacity to support these services domestically.

### Tourism

Tourism holds the greatest promise for growth, but suffers from inconsistent government policies, growing environmental opposition to development, natural disasters, and overall poor management. Gabal has several informal but influential non-party political organizations impacting tourism. The most prominent are conservation-related: Green Gabal and The Island. Both organizations lobby for greater ecological awareness in Gabal and for greater involvement in the international green movement. A pro-tourist organization, the Gabal Tourism Chamber, has also gained considerable influence over the last several years. Acting essentially as an advocate for Gabal's merchant class, the Tourism Chamber seeks to expand tourism in Gabal. This has occasionally put them into conflict with the ecological groups, as tourist businesses lobby for greater access to protected wildlife preservations and areas of the ocean.

### Government Services

Government services are dependent on aid resources and domestic revenue. Gabal is a small and poor country with few natural resources. It depends, in large measure, on the patronage of past colonial power patronage and tourism. Both main sources of revenue are subject to variables beyond the control of the Gabal government. As such, revenue may be inconsistent from year to year, causing disruptions in its

capacity to employ and pay workers. A large and bloated bureaucracy creates inefficiencies, corruption, and poor service delivery.

## Participation in the Global Financial System

### World Economic Organizations

Gabal is highly dependent on foreign aid. Last year, Gabal received \$205 million in net total Official Developmental Aid. Western nations provided budgetary support in decreasing amounts since independence, phasing it out completely some 15 years ago in favor of project development investment. Gabal's economic growth heavily relies on commodity exports. Despite its enclave nature, the mining sector has a major impact on the Gabal economy, through its contribution to foreign exchange and government revenue. After four decades of independence, the future leaders of Gabal face both optimism and pessimism. A growing middle class produced several talented emerging leaders committed to changing the weak development trajectory of their country. They face a complex set of challenges: weak governance, a failing health system, a mediocre national education system, continuing reliance on the extractives industry, and the unrealized potential of subsistence agriculture.

### International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Under Article IV of the IMF's Articles of Agreement, the IMF holds bilateral discussions with members, usually every year. The past fiscal year's Article IV consultation with the government of Gabal included the following summary, "Economic activity slowed sharply due to lower government spending, tighter domestic financial conditions, weak sentiment, and the global deceleration. The slowdown followed several years of relatively strong growth, boosted by reconstruction spending after a major cyclone four years ago, which resulted in rising external and fiscal imbalances. Fiscal space is now at risk and external vulnerabilities remain significant. Gabal has large investment needs to strengthen resilience to natural disasters and climate change. Policies should aim to increase Gabal's resilience to shocks and strengthen growth performance. Faster fiscal consolidation is needed to rebuild fiscal space and support external stability.



Improving the business environment and governance will raise potential growth by mobilizing private investment, enhancing productivity, and diversifying the economy.”

### World Bank

Last year, Gabal became the 189th country to join the World Bank Group, making the nation eligible for financial support from World Bank-administered trust funds. The World Bank has thus far disbursed approximately \$10 million to Gabal for improvements to agriculture, fishing, and forestry.

### International Development Aid

The government of South Torbia gave \$140 million in international aid—equal to nearly 40% of the \$350 million GDP in Gabal. For the last two decades, Gabal borrowed money as part of its post-chromite diversification strategy. Gabal has been mostly a Western-leaning nation in terms of trade and support. Last year, the Government of South Torbia provided a \$17 million grant co-financing the Fiscal Sustainability Reform Program; South Torbia contributed nearly \$90 million over the last 10 years towards Gabal’s economic security. With its desperate economic situation, Gabal also reached out to Olvana, who provided a \$21 million interest-free loan to help support unspecified economic and technical projects between the two countries.

### Other major world or regional economic organizations

While Gabal itself has no indigenous charities, several global and regional charities based elsewhere operate in the country or on behalf of the nation’s inhabitants. Most of these are human rights and legal organizations from South Torbia, focused on nutrition and poverty.

### Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

The Gabal Agency Corporation is a state-owned enterprise that encourages foreign investment through international financial services. It also assists with the registration of holding and trading companies and in obtaining various governmental and insurance licenses. While the government does not impose any limitations that could

potentially limit FDI, neither does it have any draws. Last year the inflow of foreign direct investment surpassed just over \$293 million.

### Economic Sanctions

While there are currently no major economic sanctions against Gabal, during the country’s efforts to become an offshore banking center, a group of major US banks instituted a ban on dollar transactions with Gabal until they received the necessary reassurances about banking procedures. This resulted in the closure of the entire Gabal banking structure.

### Finance and Banking

#### Private Banking

Gabal has no central bank, nor any domestic commercial banks. The international banking community blacklisted the country almost twenty years ago because of concerns that it had become a base for money laundering. The government closed the Bank of Gabal ten years ago and revoked the licenses of hundreds of Gabal-registered banks. Since then, the country operated as a cash economy, using the South Torbian *yog* for currency. The South Torbian government regularly flies bags of currency from Manila to Gabal to bolster currency supplies and pay government workers and residents.

Gabalians sometimes resort to tactics like burying their savings to protect them from thieves. Like many Pacific island nations, foreign-owned commercial banks dominate the banking system. Last year, the Gabal government scouted out a prospective commercial bank willing to come to Gabal. They chose a South Torbian bank that had a successful community bank model in South Torbia, where locally owned franchises operate in small towns with the bank’s support. Residents attempting to withdraw cash deposits held in bank accounts offshore frequently drain the nation’s only two cash machines.

#### Banking System



Over the last two decades, Gabal attempted to supplement its dwindling timber and chromite revenues by becoming an offshore banking tax haven, like certain Caribbean nations. At one point, there were over 400 registered offshore “banks.” Any individual could start a bank in Gabal with a one-time investment of \$25,000. These banks were not financial institutions in the traditional sense, but rather, were virtual locations where electronic funds could pass through or reside essentially tax-free, with a post office box for paperwork.

Although this initially brought modest economic success to the island, the country was eventually labeled by the G-7 as one of the world’s “uncooperative nations” in the fight against money laundering by narcotics traffickers and organized crime figures. The country was described as offering an open invitation to financial crime. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development alleged that transnational criminal organizations and drug cartels circulated billions of dollars through these banks, providing a cover for money laundering operations on a massive scale. The European Central Bank identified Gabal as the main center for the laundering of 70 to 80 billion US dollars originating from Eastern European, Latin American, and Asian crime syndicates. Under global pressure, Gabal closed these banks and brought its banking laws into line with international standards. However, in the face of an expected ban on internet gambling in some western nations, online gambling companies may look to relocate to various Asian nations, including Gabal.

### Stock/Capital

Gabal does not have a public stock exchange.

### Informal Finance

The informal savings and credit market in Gabal consists mainly of relatively localized credit and savings transactions of money, real goods, and labor services among members of extended families, clans and tribes, friends and relatives and trade store owners. In addition, informal savings and credit groups generally found among rural women extend credit. An emerging source of credit in Coron is the semi-professional moneylender. Although such moneylenders do not yet appear to be operating outside the Capital, there is evidence of a growing class of semi-

professional moneylenders who combine moneylending with their usual occupational activities in the urban sector. These urban moneylenders provide very short-term loans, mainly for persons whom they know well. Often, this form of financial intermediation is the only financing available to the majority of Gabalians. Even in locations in which deposit and transaction services are available, many formal financial institutions do not provide credit services to lower income households, who must borrow from informal sources.

### Public Finance

#### Public Policy

Gabal suffers from an extremely volatile inflation rate. Its reliance on imported food and exported minerals means that global market fluctuations greatly affect prices on the islands. In the last decade, inflation rates have been as high as 22%, while last year overall prices dropped nearly 1.5%, even as global food prices climbed. A lack of predictability further added to both the government’s inability to implement appropriate fiscal policy, as well as the overall dissatisfaction of the populace.

Poor managerial decisions resulted in a budget deficit of 13.41% of GDP, virtually bankrupting the country. Future efforts will likely focus on ensuring that the government delivers essential public services while continuing efforts to increase and diversify the revenue base. The primary source of public debt covering the budget deficit is loans from other Pacific nations.

The Gabal Utilities Corporation receives most of its revenue from the Government, which allows it to offer highly subsidized electricity and water rates. When it was still in business, Air Gabal received an unusual type of subsidy, in that the Government of Gabal purchased aircraft and supplied them to the airline effectively at no cost. The government also subsidizes many imports, so that food and other necessities are available at nominal cost.

#### Taxation

Two years ago, Gabal imposed an income tax for the first time, with high-income earners—those making more than \$8000 monthly—paying a flat rate of 10%.



Additionally, Business Tax Act Number 31 imposes a 10% withholding tax on all payments of insurance premiums, except for life insurance, made to a nonresident insurer that does not have a permanent establishment in Gabal.

The government also established the Gabal Revenue Office, headed by a new Deputy Secretary for Revenue under the Department of Finance. The Revenue Office will attempt to improve revenue collection from import duties, and license fees, as it will have an enhanced capacity to enforce existing fee collection mechanisms spread across several Departments. Gabal imposes major customs duties and levies on the small expatriate population. Corporate tax rates vary widely, with state-owned enterprises paying no corporate tax, private businesses owing 15% and foreign investments paying 44%. Gabal does not impose a VAT on food products but has recently increased rates up to 15% on luxury items.

### Currency Reserves

Although most Asian economies recovered from slumps following a major regional financial crisis twenty years ago, Gabal suffered from depressed global mineral prices devaluing its remaining chromium exports. Estimates of minerals in exploration expenditures dropped by one-third after only two years. The resulting lower foreign exchange earnings, capital flight, and general government mismanagement led to a dangerous decrease in foreign currency reserves.

### Employment Status

Underemployment remains a significant problem for Gabal. When chromite reserves exhausted, unemployment reached a high point of 90%, and the school system collapsed almost entirely. Currently, even though a high percentage (64%) of the Gabal population aged 15 and older are economically active in the labor force, only a relatively small proportion (47%) received a regular paid income, 58% of males and 35% of females. The Gabal government is the country's largest employer, with workers in public administration, education, and transportation. The largest private employer is the Gabal Chromium Corporation, which employs both Gabalians and about 3,000 overseas workers, primarily Olvanan and Belesians. Generally, the non-Gabalians employees tend to be those in higher-skill sets. Employment in the tourism

industry is growing due to a boom in construction activity, the presence of numerous foreign contractors and service providers, significant local employment at elevated wages, increased air passenger traffic, and higher demand for imported supplies. However, this industry is seasonal. Unemployment still hovers around 23%: 21% of males and 26% of females. The working-age population will increase substantially during the next years. Both the private and public sectors need to absorb an increasing number of job seekers in the future and are encouraged to collaborate in developing innovative strategies that will promote economic diversification and growth.

### Labor Market

The labor force in Gabal is predominantly male. Nearly all Gabalians in the non-agricultural labor force work in the more populated areas of the islands; 76.1% of those are male. This disproportion stems from cultural rather than systemic factors. The Gabal Constitution affords equal rights to women and men, and women fill half of the heads of department positions. There is no real disadvantage in promotion or opportunities, a fact associated with the education system wherein girls have received most of the merit based scholarships to study abroad. However, traditional social values still exist discouraging women from pursuing careers, and women face great social pressure to marry and raise families. The labor force composition is broken into 6.0% in agriculture, 15.3% in industry, and 78.7% in services. Job growth in the public and private sectors is about equal: both sectors have very small growth. The government is the largest employer in the country, accounting for 38% of the work force. Labor volatility is low, as workers tend to stay in the same industry. The working-age population is sufficient to replace vacancies caused by retirees.

Gabal will have a labor surplus situation for the indefinite future. The opportunity for new jobs is scarce, while the working age population (aged 15–59) will expand by 25% over the next 30 years. Recognizing the inherent problems with unemployed youth, the Gabal government started a program called the Clean and Green Plan. This initiative establishes a dedicated workforce split into small teams assigned designated areas of roadside and adjacent public lands/areas that they will keep clean and green, particularly through planting of new trees and shrubs. The labor



force consists of unemployed youth living in or near the area that they will maintain, to instill pride in their work and environment. This initiative will provide over 100 part time jobs for currently unemployed youth. However, even those with jobs face poverty conditions. There is no minimum wage for private sector workers, and while the government has a graduated salary system for public service officers and employees, at lower ranges these salaries do not provide a decent standard of living for a worker and family. The nation has income inequality that is very high by global standards for both developing and developed countries and is among the highest in the Pacific.

### Employment and Unemployment

Wages account for almost three-fourths of household income. The labor force participation rate has slowly grown, from 53% to 64% over the last 10 years. The law sets the minimum age for employment at 17 and the Department of Human Resources and Labor is responsible for enforcing the law. The two only significant employers in the country, the government, and the chromite industry, respect the law, while some children under 17 work in small, family-owned businesses.

Unemployment remains an issue across the islands. The current unemployment rate is 23.0%, the youth unemployment rate (ages 15-19) is 70%, and unemployment for those aged 20-24 years is 36%. During the off-season, the lack of tourism employment increases the overall unemployment rate to 43.4%, while unemployment rates for the 15-19 and 20-24 age groups jump to 85% and 47% respectively. All told, over 50% of the under 30 population are unemployed and live below the national poverty line.

Young people account for almost half the population of Gabal and comprise a large part of the urban poor. Many are uneducated due to their life circumstances and do not have the necessary skills for entry-level jobs. Long-term unemployed young people often find themselves involved in petty crime to support themselves. The World Bank Group's International Development Association contributes \$15 million annually to the Urban Youth Employment Project. This project provides training to improve young peoples' chances of obtaining jobs. The project is also helping

provide short-term jobs to help participants earn an income and gain much-needed employment experience.

### Illegal Economic Activity

#### Government Sponsored

Low-level corruption is widespread within the Gabal government. While chromite-mining levels are far less than past decades, some wildcat mining does still exist and competition for the mining rights is fierce. In an extreme case, an Asian chromium mining company made tens of thousands of dollars in payments of "consultancy fees" to the wife of the Gabal Minister of Justice, even though she was not involved in any consultancy work for the company. Some opposition figures have alleged that the Prime Minister has demonstrated undue influence on the judiciary. However, corruption rarely reaches the very top and the people frown on corruption in the highest levels of government. Despite this, there is very little political will to fight corruption as it not only permeates village politics and bureaucracy but is also seen as a necessary way to ensure business conduct. Huge sums of money have disappeared into the pockets of individual business owners and low-level politicians.

#### Non-Government Sponsored

Gabal is subject to a variety of criminal activity, some of which is on the rise. Petty theft and pickpocketing of tourists constitute most crimes in the nation. The ethnic Olvanan community, who comprise approximately 5 percent of the population, are commonly victims of a pattern of petty theft, property damage, and assault. Police attribute most attacks on ethnic Olvanan to economic, rather than racial motivations and note a general trend of theft-related attacks on a few private businesses. Offshore smuggling is less common in Gabal than in most Pacific Island nations, in part because neighboring nations have greater access to international transportation hubs and less enthusiastic anti-smuggling efforts. Smuggling still occurs in Gabal: the Kumpulan criminal organization conducts smuggling to avoid taxation and runs a significant black market. Many poor Gabalians turn either to Kumpulan or independent smuggling operations to provide basic subsistence.



Table 3. Table of Economic Activity

<i>Measure</i>	<i>Data</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
<i>GDP (Official Exchange Rate)</i>	5.234	Estimated
<i>GDP – Real Growth Rate</i>	3.4	Estimated
<i>GDP – Per Capita (PPP)</i>	10710.33	Estimated
<i>Gross National Saving</i>	12.7	% Of GDP (Estimated)
<i>GDP – Household Consumption</i>	81.3%	Estimated
<i>GDP – Government Consumption</i>	24.4%	Estimated
<i>GDP – Investment in Fixed Capital</i>	16.9%	Estimated
<i>GDP – Investment in Inventories</i>	0%	Estimated
<i>GDP – Exports of Goods &amp; Services</i>	29%	Estimated
<i>GDP – Imports of Goods &amp; Services</i>	-51.6%	Estimated
<i>GDP – Agriculture Sector</i>	13.5%	Estimated
<i>GDP – Industry Sector</i>	17.4%	Estimated
<i>GDP – Services Sector</i>	69.1%	Estimated
<i>Labor Force</i>	53.9	Per thousand (Estimated)
<i>Labor Force – Agriculture</i>	6.0%,	Estimated
<i>Labor Force – Industry</i>	15.3%,	Estimated
<i>Labor Force – Services</i>	78.7%	Estimated
<i>Unemployment Rate</i>	23.0%	Estimated
<i>Poverty Rate</i>	31%	Below Poverty Line (Estimated)
<i>Net Foreign Direct Investment</i>	\$293 million	% of GDP (Estimated)
<i>Budget – Revenues</i>	1.454 billion	Estimated
<i>Budget - Expenditures</i>	1.648 billion	Estimated
<i>Public Debt</i>	48.9	% of GDP (Estimated)
<i>Inflation Rate – Consumer Prices</i>	3.4%	Estimated
<i>Economic Equality/Inequality</i>	.36	Gini Coefficient (0 = Perfect with everyone in the country has the same amount of wealth; 1 = all income/wealth is in the possession of a single person)



## SOCIAL

### Social Overview

The Republic of Gabal has a strong, complex cultural identity that is consistent among the broader Pacific archipelago. The Gabalian indigenous population consists of numerous separate communities, most with only a few hundred people, divided by language, customs, and tradition. Very small minorities live on some of the outlying islands and atolls, and these people have political structures headed by chiefs. Some of these communities have engaged in low-scale tribal conflict with their neighbors for millennia. The advent of modern weapons and modern migrants into urban areas has magnified the impact of this lawlessness. The use of multiple dialects across Gabal compounds this dynamic environment, as well as compliance and adherence to a tribal-based society where everything revolves around the relative welfare of the tribe and clan members. The threat of climate change and its impact on island life, however, has been a unifying event for Gabalian tribes.

### Brief History

Gabal was populated by unaffiliated and often hostile indigenous tribes who date from prehistory. Gabal was first discovered by Europeans in 1750 by a South Seas expedition. After it was discovered in 1750 by a European expedition, a trading post was established on the main island. It was an independent island populated by unaffiliated tribes, featuring a robust multinational European trading presence, existed peacefully for over a century.

In 1862, with the supply of cotton from the American South cut off by the embargoes and blockades of the American Civil War, Europe looked abroad for colonies that could support cotton plantations. Cotton did not end up becoming a significant cash-crop for the new colony, however, coffee and fruit plantations were established with some success. By the turn of the 20th century, coffee and fruit had been replaced almost entirely by native hardwood logging as the chief export of the island. Native Gabalians had few legal rights and no representation in government.

The Gabal independence movement began in earnest during WWII. Gabal was strategically located to support Allied operations in the South Pacific, and soon after hostilities began, Allied soldiers arrived in large numbers to defend the island and build facilities to support air and naval operations. By the end of the war, native Gabalians had established a full scale independence movement and Gabal began negotiations for self-rule in 1956.

Negotiations dragged on for many years, complicated by the discovery of large chromium deposits. European colonizers were hesitant to leave the island prior to establishing mining operations to extract the chromium, but as time passed pressure increased as natives established local political parties and began to formally organize an anti-colonial movement. An incident in 1974 brought the tension to a head, when a small group of tribesmen conducted an armed takeover of the country's main airport, demanding immediate independence and self-rule. European governments both refused to send troops to the island to put down the insurrection, so borrowed police forces from a nearby neighbor were used. This incident caused local Gabalian political leaders to demand either proper support from the exiting colonial powers, or self-rule. Both traditional colonial powers immediately rescinded colonial claims to the islands. Gabal gained its independence in 1977; the first Gabalian elections were held that same year.

Early independent Gabalian politics were dominated by friction between factions descended from different European colonial occupiers. Climate change was the first issue that created true national unity in Gabal. Starting in the late 1990s, a series of devastating storms coupled with rising sea levels and the effects of total deforestation of the nation's valuable tropical timber created a groundswell of ecology-focused political parties.

### Demographics

#### Languages

While English is the official language of business and government, only an estimated 2% of the population uses it as their primary language. What is commonly referred to as "official" Gabalian is a trade language predominantly spoken around the capitol



that originated on the Gabalian east coast. Across the country, almost 90 local dialect variations are spoken. Many of these dialects in Gabal, however, have fewer than 100 speakers.

### Ethnicities

The Gabalians have more than 100 different ethnic groups, although some consider many of the groups to be the same ethnicity but different tribe. While some groups number in the thousands, many have less than a hundred members and depending on their location they may have limited interaction with other human population. For example, a relatively recently discovered tribe had no recorded contact between them and the western world up until the 1970s. Indigenous Gabalians, who make up most of the population, are of Melanesian descent and will vary considerably in ethnic origins, physical appearance, and spoken language. Gabalians of other ethnicities (Belesian, Olvanan, and European) are largely recent emigres.

### Religions

Christianity is the predominant religion comprising the following breakdown: Roman Catholic 24.1%, Protestant 68.0%, Buddhist 4.7%, indigenous beliefs and other 3.2%. Gabalians do not see a contradiction between their Christian beliefs (introduced by missionaries in the 19th and 20th centuries) and traditions based on older, indigenous belief systems; they practice both side by side.

Most Gabalians also practice some form of animism, believing that both animals and plants have spirits (like human souls) and that these need to be appeased or respected. Rituals are often required to communicate with the spirit or to dispel or pacify it. Animists may also attribute spirits to geographical features or manufactured objects. Belief in spirits tends to support respect for the natural environment, and therefore helps ensure sustainable communities.

Totemic practices are common in Gabalian culture. Totemic animals and plants are revered and given a special place within communities. This practice may stem from an early form of religion, typical of spiritual beliefs before the major world religions emerged. A clan's totem, however, is not worshiped like a god; rather, the spirit of

the totem is thought to bond all members of the clan into a kind of family. The original animal or plant spirit is usually thought of as an ancestor whose spirit is still protective and so often carved in wood or painted onto objects such as shields. Villagers often dress up as their totem in clan celebrations, imitating its behavior and appearance. There is usually a taboo against eating or harming the species associated with the totem.

### Education

The Gabalian education system has expanded rapidly over the past 10 years, with deliberate education reforms in efforts aligned to international development and modernization initiatives provided through neighboring countries. Education reform has also traditionally been a key part of the Gabalian culture, predominantly through the role of missionaries establishing the first school teaching scripture back in 1873.

### Literacy Rate

Literacy levels are relatively low in Gabal compared to the rest of the region. The overall literacy rate is only 64.2%. Males have a higher literacy rate at 65.3% compared to the female literacy rate of 59.4%. While those of a younger age are normally more literate than the older population, it still is not significantly different.

### Educational System

Education is provided as three levels—primary, secondary, and tertiary. Primary and secondary are conducted over 12 years, comprising six years of primary and six of secondary, with cycles of four (grades 7 – 10) and two years (grades 11 – 12). The school year runs between January and December. Most instruction is in English; however, two decades ago, the National Department of Education adopted a language and literacy program designed to encourage communities to start local language preschools and non-core subjects taught in local dialects.

### Educational Attainment

Of the 70% whom receive some formal education in the first grade, only two-thirds will complete to the sixth, with a further 35% of those students then transiting to secondary school at the end of the tenth grade. There is one public university: the



University of Gabal in Coron, which primarily trains teachers and agriculture and natural resource management. Males will likely receive more schooling than females, who tend to marry young and take care of the household along with their family.

### Population Density

An estimated 70 percent of the 1.1 Million people living in Gabal live in small villages and rural outposts, the other 22 percent is concentrated in three urban areas where most of the non-Gabalian population also resides.

### Urban Areas

The urban centers were largely established due to their access to a good harbor. Despite the greatly diminished importance of plantations and the relocation of mining, those origins helped determine the existing urban layout. Rural settlement patterns are varied; the highland valleys are densely settled through a combination of villages and scattered hamlets. The north and northeastern areas are generally well populated, although subject to frequent volcanic eruptions, earth tremors, and occasional tsunamis. The following locations are some of the more important urban areas located on the larger islands:

- Puerto Princesa: 255,116
- Coron: 51,803
- Busuanga: 22,046
- Culion: 20,139

### Rural Areas

Within Gabal, the village–town distinction affects many everyday experiences. Most of the population live in villages, deriving their livelihood from subsistence farming and localized economies. In these communities, division of labor is often determined based on gender and age. Meanwhile, labor in towns and cities is typically divided in accordance with education and specialization. The common perception associated with the village–town distinction is a division between the “elites” and the “grassroots.” The elites are those who are educated and higher-income earners. Conversely, the grassroots are thought to be villagers and the lower-income earners

in town. Social interaction between these two ‘groups’ can be tense. However, distinctions of wealth based on place are deceptive since those living in villages are not necessarily poor. This village-town division is becoming less prominent with the emergence of a middle class.

### Population Movement

The tribal social construct of Gabal has largely limited the amount of population movement common elsewhere in either the region or the world. Both immigration and emigration were extremely minimal and even moving from one tribal area to another was uncommon. The terrain of the islands also contributed a barrier to settlement and communication.

### Internal Migration

#### Urbanization

A lack of economic opportunities, in those communities most affected or impacted by shrinking mining operations, has led many of the younger generation out of the villages and into the towns seeking employment. The increase in internal migration of many rural migrants towards towns has overwhelmed the original infrastructure in many towns and has sparked the creation of unsanctioned shantytowns. While less than 20% of the population lives in urban environments, this number has been increasing at 2.8% per year. The urbanization process is adding social stress to Gabal as people are increasingly meeting a wider variety of social groups, making socioeconomic inequalities more readily apparent.

#### Displacement

##### *Internally Displaced Persons*

Gabalians typically try to reintegrate people into populations as quickly as possible. Given Gabal’s primarily rural population, reintegration of displaced persons in the past has occurred with relative ease, causing little to no economic or social stress within an area. With the rise of urbanization, however, Gabal’s ability to reintegrate displaced populations may become more difficult.



### *Evacuees*

There are evacuees when a typhoon or other major storm hits Gabal. Both rural and urban populations will typically attempt to seek shelter with a distant relative or someone they know outside the path of the storm. After the storm is over, the evacuated family returns to continue to live their life. This process typically occurs quickly and produces little economic or social strain within the communities that host evacuees.

### *Stateless Personnel*

There are no stateless personnel in Gabal. However, some of the more isolated indigenous populations may not recognize state authority, and in extreme cases may not understand the concept.

## **Migration Cycles and Transhumance**

There are no migration cycles within Gabal itself. The fishermen have traditional fishing grounds that they cast their nets in based on the time of the year and the type of fish that may pass through on a seasonal basis.

## **External Migration**

There is still very little immigration or emigration in Gabal. Very few Gabalians work or are permanently resident abroad, and the islands do not offer much of a draw to potential expats. In 1964, when heavy chromite mining began in earnest, Western governments offered a plan to resettle the entire Gabal nation to an uninhabited island elsewhere in the Pacific but abandoned the plan due to Gabalian resistance.

## **Inbound**

There is little inbound immigration to Gabal as the country has few economic resources to bring in people. Tourism may lead to some ex-patriots from western nations residing in Gabal, however this population is minimal.

### *Economic Migration*

Some eco-tourism is taking place, but this is still not a major factor in the economy. It is normally people who want to get back to nature and do not have many financial

means themselves. While some people from outside Gabal may come to conduct business, it is only temporary and very few want to stick around on a permanent basis. Gabal's government has recognized the potential of creating a tourism-based economy but have not yet been able to attract many investments.

### *Forced Migration (Refugees)*

There are few, if any, refugees from other countries that come to Gabal. The country just does not have the resources to support them, so the refugees end up in Belesia or South Torbia.

## **Outbound**

There is also little outbound immigration by Gabal natives as most would not do well in the competitive marketplace in other countries.

### *Economic Migration*

Most Gabalians enjoy the traditional, laid back, life associated with island living. While the living may be tough at times, the family traditions keep the people from seeking work elsewhere. The lack of education would make most of the Gabalians inadequate to work in the bustling economy of South Torbia or the increasing opportunities within Belesia.

### *Forced Migration*

There are no Gabalians that are being forced to leave the country due to war or political reasons.

## **Culture**

### **Dimensions of National Culture**

There are studies that show that there are six basic cultural traits, or dimensions, that can be used to better understand a national culture. While these studies are not encompassing, they can provide a foundational understanding of how populations may differ. Power distance is whether the society accepts unequal distribution of power, or they seek to distribute the power more evenly. Individualism is whether the society desires each person to be a separate entity or if the individual is just a cog in



the societal wheel. Uncertainty avoidance is whether the society tolerates ambiguity in life or wants life to be more certain. Some societies look long-term and save while others do not see the need because the future planned may never arrive. Restrained societies live to work while indulgent societies work to live. Some societies encourage individuals to be competitive and do their best while other societies value cooperation over individual success.

### **Power Distance**

Gabal has a high degree of power distance, creating a relatively strict hierarchical society. Gabalians typically accept the power structure as it exists without requiring explanation or justification. In Gabal, some inherent inequalities occur without complaint and power is traditionally centralized. In rural communities, social authority is primarily derived from one's tribal hierarchy. Tribal lineage is still a significant factor within urban environments, however socio-economic status has become increasingly important in determining power and influence. As exposure to the outside world increases with access to digital technology, there have been some rumblings among the younger generation for greater equality. The political and economic systems have not yet adapted to the information age.

### **Individualism vs. Collectivism**

Gabal is a highly collectivistic society placing group considerations above individual considerations. The Gabal people will place a higher priority on creating strong relationships and loyalty over individual success.

### **Uncertainty Avoidance (Tolerance for Ambiguity)**

With a mid-range score, Gabal does not take things to an extreme either way. While most Gabalians do make plans to avoid ambiguous situations, these plans can be altered quickly. For the most part, Gabalians are relaxed people and not averse to taking risks. Thus, there is an acceptance to trying something new, testing out new products, and not living in the past.

### **Long-Term Orientation vs. Short-Term Orientation**

The people want to enjoy life now, but they do so at their own slow pace making their time orientation more long term. The people believe there is always tomorrow so why rush things today. This orientation perhaps most apparent when observing how rural Gabalians decide to earn a living. Many view their role within their community as being an extension of the role that their families have held for generations. This often leads to rural Gabalians preferring career paths with lower-economic potential, an individual who comes from a family of fisherman may prioritize continuing that tradition over learning a new trade.

### **Indulgence vs. Restraint**

Gabal scores high on the indulgence side exhibiting a willingness to follow their impulses to enjoy life and live in the moment. The tendency of the average Gabalian to live in the moment often comes at the expense of investing in their future. This trait is perhaps most evident when looking at the population's approach toward higher education. Most Gabalian's prioritize immediate -- but lower-- compensation today over the potential of higher compensation that an investment in education might bring.

### **Competitiveness vs. Consensus**

Gabal falls in the mid-range in this dimension and can be described as taking a pragmatic approach. The tribal culture within Gabal lends itself to instilling a nurturing mentality among social groups. That said, it is not uncommon for individuals in urban communities to seek personal achievement at the expense of communal practices.

### **Cultural Norms and Values**

Typical customs and traditions are based on ancient principles that promote living an honorable and noble lifestyle. Embedded deeply into the culture are traditional music, dance, and food. Cultural storytelling, music, and dance are ancient ways of passing down history from one generation to another.

Relationships are paramount in the Gabalian culture. These relationships relate directly to virtually every part of life, including economics and religion. In the highlands, the main social unit is the clan. A clan is made up of people who perceive



themselves as descending from a common ancestor. The clan is divided into sub-clans made up of people who are descendants of a known ancestor. The sub-clan is then divided into sub-lineages or families.

The people of Gabal are traditionally very cognizant of the importance of social interaction. This affects their cultural constructs. Gabalians tend to be emotional and outspoken, Gabalians tend to work on multiple tasks, often transitioning from one task to another with relative ease.

### Centers of Social Power

Gabalians live a very social lifestyle, in which family members, both immediate and extended, work together in a solidified community. Family is the foundation of support with strong expectations of duty, respect, and reciprocity forming the interactions amongst family members. Extended kin commonly live in adjacent houses with an obligation to share income and possessions.

In the family environment, village divisions revolve around horticulture with men clearing forests and tending the crops while women typically tend to the gardens and cook. In towns, women complete domestic chores and care for children while men generate income. In both towns and villages, men who participate in what is generally referred to as ‘women’s work’ can be stigmatized as ‘rubbish men’. Historically this approach was supported through the segregation of men and women to assist in the transition of boys into manhood.

Extending the family dynamic is the tribal culture. In Gabal, the tribe is a binding social apparatus where people depend, care, and help each other in almost all the societal affairs of the society based off the language of the tribe or clan. Those with the same language, i.e., the same dialect, are of the same tribe. This system evolved around the traditional welfare system of that tribe. Therefore, face-to-face relationships, inter-marriage, kinship, and reciprocal exchange are paramount in creating strong ties to keep the tribe together. Within the microcosm of the clan, each member can expect basic provisions and sustenance such as housing, food, folk medicine, security, and a general sense of inclusion and belonging. The reward in

return is the same benefits that everyone enjoys, particularly the privilege of being part of the clan and the protection and security offered to all its members. Locals will view this as an egalitarian way for the community to share its resources.

The values of this system are protection and allegiance that outweighs all other social connections. Revenge is common and prevailing among the society, as retribution is sought against any misdeed undertaken against your own tribe. There is no imperative to working—if you are hungry, you will be provided food and later reciprocate that for your tribe. In business, the tribe is also prominent—a business owner will recruit a fellow tribesman rather than based on qualifications. In western societies, this method is nepotism; however, in Gabal, the underlying value, to protect and pledge allegiance to the tribe prevails higher than corporate ethics.

### Communication

#### Traditional Methods and Symbolism

Gabal’s tribal traditions have placed an emphasis on the role that relationships play in communication. Two-way verbal communication is often prioritized over one-way written forms of communication (e.g., word of mouth vs printed media).

#### Roles of Technology and Media

Most Gabalians have not entered digital age due to the lack of access. The cost of cellular telephone is too expensive for the average citizen. Less than 20% of the people own a cell phone, but that number continues to rise each year. The family group remains strong and since most people live near their relatives, there is a lesser need to communicate with the outside world.

While more people can access the Internet in Gabal each year, the television remains the primary means of mass communication and entertainment in the country. Most of the shows come from South Torbia and Belesia and are accessed via satellite dishes. The government owns the one local radio station and one of the two newspapers. As is seen in other nations, as exposure to information technology grows, the importance of traditional forms of communication is diminishing. Each year, fewer people are using these traditional sources for information and are instead



turning to alternative sources such as television, telephone, or the Internet. The more exposure Gabalians have to the outside world, the more likely that the family will become less important in each generation.

## Social Impact of OE Hazards

### Disease

There are six major diseases in Gabal: Bacterial diarrhea, hepatitis A, typhoid fever, dengue fever, malaria, and the Zika virus (see Physical Environment variable for more information on these diseases). These diseases are normally related to poor water purification methods and are found more in the rural communities than in the places with modern water facility. Since much of Gabal is rural, however, these diseases often occur. For many of these diseases there are no known vaccines or cures. And if there is modern medicine, the people often cannot afford the drugs, doctor, or hospital costs. Much of the rural community is treated for these diseases by experience older women using traditional treatment methods. Gabalians are typically wary of modern vaccines offered by foreigners.

### Bacterial Diarrhea

There are many different types of bacteria that can cause diarrhea and most enter the body through contaminated food or water. This disease is more prevalent in the rural areas of the country, but that is a vast majority of the Gabal population. While the Gabal government and various volunteers from outside the country try to teach the people to not drink untreated water, many Gabalians still will drink rainwater directly from the barrels that catch the rain outside their homes. Most Gabalians cannot afford all the foods required for the BRAT (bananas, rice, applesauce, and toast), most families treat the victim with traditional remedies. These are based around rice and for a time, the family will likely treat the water they drink and be more careful with the food they eat.

### Hepatitis A

Most Gabalians pick up hepatitis A from eating contaminated shellfish, a primary food for many of the country's poorest population. Those that have the virus do not

know it until two to seven weeks later, which gives them time to infect other people—usually family members. Once an adult shows the symptoms of hepatitis A, they are quarantined by their family for two weeks until they are no longer contagious. Children can be contagious up to six months, but many people cannot afford a doctor or any laboratory tests. Thus, usually an older woman serves as the arbiter of when the child is no longer contagious and is allowed to return to normal activities.

### Typhoid Fever

Poor water purification is the standard cause of typhoid fever as it normally enters the body from drinking water contaminated with the feces of an infected person. The death rate for typhoid fever without antibiotics is about 20% and many poor Gabalians cannot afford the cost of a doctor and the antibiotics. Luckily, the number of people afflicted with typhoid fever continues to drop each year as the government's clean drinking water drive in the rural communities has at least got the people drinking fresh rainwater instead of standing water or other sources of water that could be contaminated.

### Dengue Fever

This is one of the three mosquito borne diseases found in Gabal. People who have never been infected before and young children have milder cases than older children and adults who have been infected with dengue fever before. There is no treatment to cure dengue fever. Traditional practice to treat dengue fever includes rest and drinking plenty of fluids. If the family can afford it, fresh guava juice or the fruit itself may help.

### Malaria

This is another mosquito-borne infectious disease, but it is not caused by a virus or bacteria. While there are several treatments that can prevent, interrupt, or treat a malarial infection, many Gabalians cannot afford them. Malaria can go into remission on its own and an infected person can build up some temporary immunity. If bitten again by an infected mosquito, the victim may only suffer mild symptoms or maybe none.



### Zika virus

Like dengue fever, this is another mosquito borne disease that has no cure. Treatment is the same with letting the patient rest, drinking plenty of fluid, and taking over-the-counter pain medicines that do not contain aspirin. While the number of cases of Zika virus continues to drop from year to year due to the government's attempt to eliminate stagnant water sources that are breeding grounds for mosquitoes, it is still up to the people to do what they can around their own homes to also prevent environments that facilitate the growth of mosquitoes.

### Natural Disaster

As part of the "ring of fire," Gabal faces several types of potential disasters including typhoons, flooding, earthquakes, and tsunamis (see the Physical Environment variable for more information on these natural disasters). All are regular occur, but not all are annual events. The result is that people often lose most everything they own and then must rebuild. The Gabal government may provide immediate help to get the affected people to safety, but most of the aid needed for rebuilding comes from local communities and tribal networks.

### Social Volatility/Fragility

#### Social Fault Lines and Friction Points

Most social fault lines are based on the poor economic situation within Gabal.

### Urbanization

While urbanization is occurring at a relatively slow rate in Gabal, it is causing an increasingly problematic divide between urban and rural populations. When rural Gabalians move to urban towns in seek of economic opportunity, it often leads to not only geographic distancing, but also social distancing between their day to day lives and their tribal heritage. Urban Gabalians are more likely to view tribal practices as having less application in their day to day lives and are more willing to take a pragmatic approach to problems that may have been previously resolved through tribal means. This perceived abandonment of tradition has led to resentment among rural populations.

### Lack of Economic Opportunity

There are few jobs available outside the fishing industry or those related to the fishing industry. With jobs in the manganese industry no longer available, there are less opportunities for the males to find quality jobs that can help them support a family. There is high unemployment throughout the country. There may be a future in eco-tourism available as Gabal is a pristine country, but there is a need for major investors. While conflict between tribal communities is rare, when it occurs it is often the result of economic friction. Access to government positions is often viewed as being necessary for opening economic opportunities. If one tribe appears to be benefiting more than others, it can lead to increasing resentment and in extreme cases, violence.

### Criminal Activity

Major criminal activity is rare in Gabal. More crime occurs in the urban areas than the rural areas as those that live in rural villages are often related family members. In the larger villages, more theft occurs as the people are less connected to each other. The theft is normally a survival technique. Some thieves prey on the tourists that come to visit the country.

### Cultural Approach to Punishment

In rural areas, most crime is taken care of internally by the family with the village elders making decisions. Only in the most extreme cases such as murder will the federal police investigate. The police, for the most part, leave the rural villages alone to mete out their own justice and the rural villagers are happy with the arrangement.

In the larger villages, the police are more of a presence and will investigate major crimes. This is especially true in cases involving tourists. Corruption is an issue, however, as many police officers will look the other way for a bribe.

### Human Rights

With a score of 60 out of 100, Gabal is considered partly free based on the Freedom House Civil Liberty criteria. This breaks down to a score of 24/40 for political rights



and 36/60 for civil liberties. While Gabal is a nascent parliamentary democracy, the ruling party frequently interferes with opposition activities while trying to influence the judiciary branch. Sometimes, police brutality in the non-rural areas can be a problem. With Internet and cellular phone increasing every year that allow the Gabalians to see how the rest of the world lives, younger people increasingly want more human rights. So far, the ones wanting major reforms have not reached the tipping point where the people’s agenda overrides those in power within the government.

Table 4. Demographic Statistics Chart

Social Statistic	Gabal															
Primary Languages (%)	Official Gabalian: 33.7% Local Gabalian variants: 61.2% English: 2.0% Olvanan: 2.0% Torbian: 1.1%															
Ethnic Groups (%)	Indigenous Gabalian: 93.8% Belesian: 1.9% Olvanan: 1.5% European/Australian: 1.0% Other: 1.8%															
Major Religions (%)	Protestant: 68.0% Catholic: 24.1% Buddhist: 4.7% Indigenous faiths: 1.7% Other: 1.5%															
Literacy Rate (Older Than 15 in %)	Overall: 64.2% Males: 65.3% Females: 59.4%															
Age Distribution (%)	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Age</th> <th>Male</th> <th>Female</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>0-14</td> <td>27.2%</td> <td>26.7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15-54 (Military Age)</td> <td>57.1%</td> <td>56.0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>55-64</td> <td>9.2%</td> <td>9.3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>65+</td> <td>6.5%</td> <td>8.0%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Age	Male	Female	0-14	27.2%	26.7%	15-54 (Military Age)	57.1%	56.0%	55-64	9.2%	9.3%	65+	6.5%	8.0%
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65+	6.5%	8.0%														
Median Age	Overall: 23.8															

Social Statistic	Gabal
	Males: 23.9 Females: 23.7
Population	849,469
Annual Growth Rate	2.21%
Birth Rate Per 1,000 People	23.9%
Death Rate Per 1,000 People	19.8%
Urban Population (%)	21.9%
Annual Urbanization Rate	2.8%
Infant Mortality Rate Per 1000 Live Births	48.1
Life Expectancy At Birth (Years)	Overall: 67.5 Male: 65.4 Female: 69.7
Major Diseases In OE	Bacterial diarrhea Hepatitis A Typhoid fever Dengue fever Malaria Zika virus



## INFORMATION

### Information Overview

The Republic of Gabal is a small island in the South Pacific. It relatively recently emerged from years of colonial rule into an independent liberal democracy. Gabal understands the importance of security guarantees with larger allies—primarily the Republic of Torbia—but will readily accept assistance from other foreign countries. The government respects the freedom of speech in media and telecommunications.

### Onset of Information Age

Gabal burst into technology skipping the developmental phases found in the U.S. from landline telephones, to pagers, to car phones, and to cell phones. Instead, many people in Gabal went from no telephone at all to Smart Phones and access to the Internet.

### Contemporary Situation

Most of the people of Gabal in the towns have access to mobile phones, but this is less true in the rural areas. Still, cell phone access is available in many parts of the country. But instead of every child in the family having their own personal cell phone, there is one or two cell phones per rural family.

### Information Industries

#### Information Products (Content Industries)

##### News Media

Gabal has no television stations and only a single radio station, so news media is limited to newspapers. For the most part, the Republic of Gabal government leaves the news media alone to operate independently. Newspapers still sell in Gabal, but much of what news Gabalians receive is through television on their satellite dishes.

##### Entertainment Media

Since there are no television stations in Gabal, there is no entertainment media. Gabalians are aware of international celebrities and those of South Torbia and

Belesia based on television shows they receive over their satellite dishes. There is no paparazzi hanging out to get the scoop on any celebrities.

##### Social Media

While 50% of Gabalians have access to the Internet in some manner, this is not a major activity for the people. Due to the economic conditions of the country, most people are concerned about working to survive. This is especially true for those in the rural areas where one's work is never done. Currently, the Gabal government does not monitor social media, nor do they use it to communicate with their citizens. If the Gabal people want to get a message out to the people, they normally do it over the radio.

##### Information Services

##### Financial Institutions

###### *Description*

Banking, insurance, and other businesses are increasingly increasing its use of cyberspace to conduct business, but it remains a very difficult market to penetrate successfully. With many Gabalians still not connected with the latest electronic fads, or even early Smart Phones, trying to have them conduct business electronically is not even an option. Companies must continue to do things with paper while offering electronic means to those citizens that are embracing the electronic age.

###### *Control/Regulation*

The Gabal government provides little oversight on the control and regulation of the financial and other business institutions within the country. There is little commerce outside the tourist industry, so the country is receptive to almost anyone that wishes to create business revenue available to be taxed. This situation could set Gabal to become a haven for criminal organizations operating on a regional or even a trans-national basis.

##### Medical System



### *Description*

The Gabal government provides little oversight on the control and regulation of the financial and other business institutions within the country. There is little commerce outside the tourist industry, so the country is receptive to almost anyone that wishes to create business revenue available to be taxed. This situation could set Gabal to become a haven for criminal organizations operating on a regional or even a trans-national basis.

### *Control/Regulation*

There is no government control of the health system and very limited regulations. In the few hospitals that operate, they are self-regulated.

## **Legal/Criminal Records**

### *Description*

Legal and criminal records HAVE NOT been digitized and integrated into a country wide database. While the Gabal government would like to do this, the country just does not have the discretionary funds to do so. Fingerprint cards are maintained at the local level and must be compared by hand to determine matches. If criminals get caught in different jurisdictions, the culprit is unlikely to be discovered as having a prior conviction. Usually, the person arrested is given a light sentence or a small fine. The criminal usually accepts the verdict and moves on.

### *Control/Regulation*

Criminal records are maintained by the jurisdiction in which the criminal trial occurred. There is no central database of criminals so crossing provincial borders will likely allow a hardened criminal to start afresh without worry about the local police force. In rural areas, however, new people are looked upon with suspicion unless they are related to someone already living there. Thus, the criminals often move in between the five largest cities in the country.

## **Navigation**

### *Description*

Gabal may commercially purchase global positioning receivers that support commercial needs, or they receive these as gifts from other countries seeking to garner favors. These are primarily used legally by the local fishing vessels and illegally by the smugglers that bring in goods to the country for the black market. In the last five years, most of the GPS devices coming into Gabal are based on the now operational Olvanan satellite system.

### *Control/Regulation*

The ICT (Information and Communications Technology) Department of Gabal does not seek to control civilian GPS use or mandate what type of system, U.S. or Olvana.

## **Electromagnetic Spectrum Management (Radio Frequency)**

### *Description*

The only frequencies that the Gabal government has fenced are for its single radio station, cell telephone use, and for the military. Gabal's laws state that the other frequencies are off limits for civilian use, but most people pay no heed. Gabal citizens will operate commercially made walkie-talkies from Olvana, the U.S. or other places on whatever frequency the devices are already tuned. It is the Wild West regarding frequency use in Gabal.

### *Control/Regulation*

The ICT, a very small office within the Gabal government is responsible for maintaining control of the electromagnetic spectrum within the country. The office does not go after any violators if there is no interference with the radio, telephone, or military frequencies. The smugglers and other criminals have learned to stay away from these bands and usually operate in the clear on a non-reserved frequency.

## **Information Distribution**

### **Internet**

Gabal claims that over 50% of its population can access the internet. While the number is likely accurate, television remains the primary means of entertainment. The economic value of the internet to Gabal's population will increase as mobile



phone data usage increases and more internet companies start to emerge on the island.

#### *Infrastructure Support*

Gabal's internet operates on a satellite backbone provided by a single company, Cuuva.tv, which operates under the auspices of the ICT. Internet is available at no cost in the airport and other government facilities, such as the library and community center in populace centers.

#### *Control/Regulation*

Social media, generally free from government intrusion, is growing in popularity, especially in the cities. Social media has yet to catch on in the rural areas but will likely increase over the near future as more and more people own a cell phone and/or more people obtain access to the Internet. The number of users is still relatively small making it financially infeasible for the ICT to hire additional personnel to enforce the current regulations, yet alone additional regulations that may arise in the future.

### **Television**

Gabal does not have any local television broadcast capability. The population relies on satellite dishes to watch foreign television stations, primarily from South Torbia and Belesia. Television is the primary means of mass communication and entertainment in the country, even in the rural areas. As the tourism business increases and the popularity of certain shows with the younger generation increases, the demand for local television programming may lead to the development of a Gabalian television company.

#### *Infrastructure Support*

None

#### *Control/Regulation*

If a television station ever started operating in Gabal, the ICT would be responsible for regulating it. The anti-defamation laws that currently govern the press and radio would also cover television.

### **Radio**

Gabal has one radio station, run by the government, Radio Gabal. The station broadcasts local news programming twice a day, one hour in the morning and one hour in the evening. In between the Gabal broadcasts, BBC World Service is broadcast except for special events such as World Cup Soccer or the Olympics. Gabal residents can pick up radio broadcasts from other countries including South Torbia and Belesia. Though uncommon, it is not unheard of for local shortwave "pirate" radio stations to pop up among the population. These are often short lived and used for specific events. That said, the government typically shuts down these local transmissions if they in anyway challenge government authority or practices.

#### *Infrastructure Support*

There is only one radio tower in the country, but it reaches most Gabalians. Broadcast reception is limited in parts of the country due to topography. Gabal could see more radio stations emerge due to more foreigners moving to the island, increasing the capability to run and maintain them. Broadcast reception is limited in parts of the country due to topography.

#### *Control/Regulation*

The Media Department of the Ministry of Communications operates Radio Gabal, which includes relays of programming from international broadcasters. The Ministry of Communications has the final decision on news programming. Anti-defamation laws apply to radio broadcasts so if there was ever a commercial radio station, the GTI would be responsible for overseeing it.

### **Print**

Two newspapers operate in Gabal, one operated by the government and one privately owned. The newspapers represent a variety of political stances, international news, and regional events. In addition, international newspapers are available for tourists at various resorts.



#### *Infrastructure Support*

The government-operated newspaper is available only in print and is produced in the capital city. The private newspaper also operates out of the capital city but is available in print and electronic copies.

#### *Control/Regulation*

The Gabal government nominally supports the freedom of the press and does not attempt to control or regulate what the private newspaper writes or what political positions its editorial board takes. There are laws on the books for defamation so the newspaper self-censors itself.

### **Telephone/Telecommunications**

Gabal telephone service consists of a single state-owned company, the Republic of Gabal Telecommunications Corporation (GTC). The GTC provides fixed line telephone communications and mobile phone services. There are over 1000 main lines in use by tourist resorts and government agencies on Gabal. Mobile phone services are used by 19 percent of the local population, mainly for texting and emails.

#### *Infrastructure Support*

There are enough cellular towers to cover over 90% of the population even though only 19 percent currently own a cell phone. Radiotelephone communications between the islands and international services are provided via satellite.

#### *Control/Regulation*

The ITC oversees the GTC but leaves the telephone company alone most of the time.

### **Postal/Carrier**

Users find the Gabal postal network available, reasonably priced, and generally reliable and has been that way for over a half-century. The local population is slowly moving away from sending letters; younger residents rely on mobile and internet technology to maintain contact with friends and family. Gabal has a small UPS

branch office in Coron, enabling tourist and local businesses to mail packages throughout the world.

#### *Infrastructure Support*

Most towns over 3,000 people in Gabal have a post office. UPS coverage is limited and will only deliver to Coron. People can pick up UPS packages at the Coron UPS store.

#### *Control/Regulation*

The government operates and regulates the Gabal postal network.

### **Oral Communication**

Communication by word of mouth continues to be the primary means of passing information in rural areas of Gabal. Older generations largely prefer traditional face-to-face conversation. Word-of-mouth communication is also enabled by VHF and UHF radios as Gabal residents listen to foreign radio broadcasts. With only 19% of Gabalians having a cell phone, texting is still in its infancy. As the number of cell phones continues to grow and based on what has happened in other countries, it is reasonable to expect that teens will soon be texting as much in Gabal as they do in many other Western countries.

#### *Infrastructure Support*

Not applicable

#### *Control/Regulation*

Anti-defamation laws apply to oral communication just the same as digital media or print media. It is more difficult to enforce now, however, in the electronic age.

### **Satellite**

Gabal does not own any satellites, but leases satellites for communications and entertainment from South Torbia. The population relies heavily on satellite for telecommunication services, such as television and internet.



#### *Infrastructure Support*

It currently has a long-term lease on a Ka band High Throughput Satellite (HTS) through Pacific Broadband Satellites for internet services which will expire in ten years.

#### *Control/Regulation*

Since Gabal does not own any satellites, they do not need to regulate them. If Gabal ever launched or obtained their own satellite, it is likely the ICT would control and/or regulate it.

#### **Internet of Things**

Gabal is in the early stages of its information age as only 19% of the people use cell phones and only about half the people have access to the Internet. Within ten years, it is likely that Gabal will be saturated with cell phones and Internet access, or whatever is the newest electronic craze. That said, given that Gabal is in its infancy with IoT enabled technology and its population is typically poorer than other nations, the equipment that is available to Gabalians likely lacks up to date protections against cyber-attacks and intrusions.

#### *Infrastructure Support*

There is little infrastructure support now, but as more Gabalians embrace the information age, the infrastructure will be built to meet the demands.

#### *Control/Regulation*

The ITC will likely remain the main Gabal office responsible for the control and regulations regarding anything electronic in the country. This will likely result in a need for increased staffing including employees well versed in using electronic devices. To be competitive in the market for international tourism, Gabal's tourist places will need to make their home on the Internet work for them.

#### **Information Cohorts**

#### **Cohort - Baby Boomers and Generation X**

Baby-boomers consist of the generation of Gabalians born between 1946 and 1965 and Generation X are those born between 1965 and 1980. While not a monolithic group by any means, the shared experiences of their generation have shaped their perspectives. The baby boomers were the first generation to experience childhood and to come of age in a freed Gabal. Both the baby boomers and Gen Xers lived through the boom years of the chromium extraction, but also the recession that followed when the chromium industry folded. Even if times are good, both groups feel that something bad is just around the corner. While baby-boomers should be in their retirement years, the struggle to survive means that most continue to work until they can no longer do so.

#### **Biases (Positive, Neutral, and Negative)**

Since both these groups were working at some part during the boom times, they both believe they know what is best for Gabal and many of them believe that the following generations are lazy. They still believe they are the keepers of the centuries of Gabalian traditions, and that "young people" just do not understand their rich island heritage. Most baby-boomers and Gen Xers look towards the boom times of the past and hope that some new product will help create a similar boom in the future.

#### **Perceived Antagonist Cohorts**

Many baby-boomers have trouble dealing with the younger generations because most have never known anything different than what is currently going on in the country. As many older Gabalians are still part of the work force, they are finding themselves competing against younger Gabalians, who may be more familiar with newer technologies. As Gabal continues to modernize with these new technologies, and the younger work force needed to work them, members of the older generation may develop animosities toward the younger workers and the technologies that are forcing them out of work.

#### **Broadcast Media Engagement/Perception**



Many baby-boomers and Gen Xers, especially those in the larger cities, still get their information from the newspapers. They trust what they read, especially in the privately printed newspaper. While they will listen to the radio news, they know it is controlled by the government. The television provides them information from what is happening around the world. They are loathe to embrace the new technologies that are arriving with the information age.

### **Presence/Activity in Cyberspace**

Most baby-boomers do not participate in social meeting. They would rather meet their friends in person to play cards, dominoes, or other activities. A few baby-boomers, usually only the most affluent, will use social media. In the business world, if they are still working, they only use the technology given to them by their company that may consist of a computer and possibly Zoom for meetings. Gen Xers are slightly more comfortable with the information age, but access to cell phones and the Internet prevent any deep penetration into their group.

### **Cohort - Millennials and Zoomers (Generation Z)**

While millennials (born between 1981 and 1996) and Zoomers (born between 1997 and 2012) are technically two separate generations they are often lumped together. Both generations have come of age in a Gabal that was economically depressed. They are more likely than their parents and grandparents to embrace the information age, but lack of access to social media and cell phones are an issue. They watch more television than the previous generations and since the satellite picks up shows from other countries, they see how well many of their neighboring countries are doing.

### **Biases (Positive, Neutral, and Negative)**

Both millennials and zoomers are wary of the news media whether it is written in the newspaper, spoken on the radio, or aired on the television. Many think that the message is being controlled by the government. Some only trust news from other countries as they think their government is providing a biased account of the facts. There are no local pop-culture icons, but millennials and zoomers are aware of the pop-culture stars of other countries.

### **Perceived Antagonist Cohorts**

Most millennials and zoomers are antagonistic to their elder generations, thinking that they are living in the past. They are open to government assistance, but do not seem to understand that the government does not have the financial means to do more, and many blame this on mismanagement.

### **Broadcast Media Engagement/Perception**

While most of the millennials and zoomers were exposed to basic computers and possibly the Internet, the lack of financial means to purchase these still expensive items means that many do not have them even as adults. Some in the larger cities or due to their job may have access to a computer and the Internet during work hours, but not during their free time. Internet capable cell phones are becoming more popular, and more widely available due to price drops; however, they are still out of reach for younger Gabalians, who may still live in single phone families. Most millennials and zoomers get their news from television so it is from an outside perspective. They just do not read the newspaper or listen to the radio news because that is too old fashioned.

### **Presence/Activity in Cyberspace**

If a millennial or zoomer has access to the Internet, they will be active, ingesting information and participating in online forums with people from around the world. But most are not. The family cell phone is a communal device so these younger adults, teenagers, and pre-teens cannot normally have their own phone. A teenager with a computer with Internet capability or a cell phone usually becomes the center of attention for a group of people.

### **Cohort - Rural Gabalians**

Rural Gabalians are far and away the most impoverished segment of society. As such, they often lack the means to access the internet. Radios are often shared by small communities, with one radio possibly serving ten or more families. Televisions are rare, but when rural Gabalians have access to one, they typically use it as a community resource. This means that smaller communities are much more likely to



hear from the same information sources and hold the same opinions. Radios and televisions act as communal gathering points, with many relationships based upon the shared nature and pattern of use of the device. Many rural Gabalians believe that an injection of multiple information sources into their communities would damage the interconnected nature of their communities.

### **Biases (Positive, Neutral, and Negative)**

The rural Gabalians do not think the government and those in the larger cities understand their position. The rural Gabalians feel that the government spends resources to placate the city dwellers and give little to those in the rural areas. Rural Gabalians are also used to receiving information from only a few sources and are likely to prefer the sources they are familiar with over any new sources that they are exposed to.

### **Perceived Antagonist Cohorts**

Many rural Gabalians do not understand the infatuation with the information age and just stay away from it. Some rural families do not even have the electricity needed to charge a phone or computer so there is no need to purchase one. Rural children in schools are usually not exposed to the Internet if they even attend school.

### **Broadcast Media Engagement/Perception**

Most rural Gabalians receive their information via radio. For the most part, the news of the “outside world” has little concern to most of them as the politicians in the capital or what is happening on the other side of the world has little effect on their way of life.

### **Presence/Activity in Cyberspace**

Most rural Gabalians are not involved in cyberspace activities due to lack of access to the Internet or to a Cell phone. Many families will only have one cell phone per family and is more of an emergency device than anything else.

### **Cohort - Traditionalists**

These are Gabalians that have pride in the Pacific Island heritage of their country and desire a return to a traditional way of life. Most of them live in the rural areas and are like the previous cohort. Traditionalists in Gabal are rarely outspoken about their views unless it is on a specific topic (like eco-tourism). Often, it is the nonverbal actions of an ardent traditionalist that will help other traditionalists identify them.

### **Biases (Positive, Neutral, and Negative)**

Traditionalists are against any progressive ideas that they believe come from external places and want the country to return to what it was before the European colonists arrive—small villages of people living off fishing and what they could grow on their land. They are isolationists and would like all outsiders to stay away including the eco-tourists. When they meet a fellow traditionalist, there is an almost immediately bond between them due to their shared belief.

### **Perceived Antagonist Cohorts**

The Traditionalists are ideologically against any person or group that desires a way of life other than a pre-colonial Gabal. They would rather struggle to survive than turn their backs on tradition. They are also realists however and recognize that their primary antagonist needs to be those Gabalians who are aggressively seeking change. They understand that even though they ardently disagree with the lifestyle being led by the average Gabalian, the average person is exactly who they need to shift toward traditions and their point of view.

### **Broadcast Media Engagement/Perception**

Traditionalists are unlikely to participate in cyberspace and will likely shun any modern communication means—radio, television, Internet, or cell phone, unless it can be shown to be somehow benefiting tradition. Radio, as an example, could be something that brings a community together, leading to deep communal bonds and relationships. A traditionalist might avoid the radio on their own, and would never talk on the radio, but they may accept communal use of a radio if it enhances a sense of community. They normally communicate via word-of-mouth and other personal



communication means. A few Traditionalists may read a newspaper, but it is usually not a current issue as most will not pay hard-earned money for the pleasure of reading government directed propaganda.

### Presence/Activity in Cyberspace

None

### Information Suppression

Gabal's constitutional guarantees of freedom of speech precludes the ability of the government to directly control the information environment. As a result, the government finds itself in a steady state of competition for influence internally within the country. The government can limit competition in the information environment however, by limiting the number of information competitors that it must face. For example, Gabal has two newspapers: one government-run, and one private. While both newspapers can survive, Gabal's limited economy is unlikely to be able to support an additional newspaper. Therefore, by downplaying the economic opportunity available to newspapers, they are dissuading foreign newspapers from investing in Gabal. To be clear, it isn't that the government is limiting free press for media companies, but rather that they are controlling the narrative and promoting the idea that there is limited economic opportunity, and thereby reducing the number of challengers it might face in the information environment. The same is true for radio, and television. The government uses the newspaper it publishes, the official radio station, and the two daily television news show to shape opinion inside the country. The Ministry of Information has the final say on what comes from all three media sources. Due to the Gabal's small size, it has little influence outside its borders. With an anti-defamation law on the books, the government uses it to control the privately published newspaper. The Gabal government only inserts itself into issues involving private media in extreme cases and for the most part, the media outlets self-censor the most controversial stories.

### Government Censorship

With only one newspaper privately printed and no privately owned radio or television stations, there is little government censorship needed. The private newspaper usually self-censors itself. The radio station news hours are approved by the Ministry of Information. The Gabal government cannot stop the people from receiving foreign broadcasts on their satellite dishes. Due to the small number of users, the government usually does not get involved in censoring anything on the Internet.

### Public (Popular) Censorship

Because of the national anti-defamation law, the private newspaper self-censors itself to make sure they do not run afoul of the Ministry of Information. There is no attempt by the government to limit free speech between individuals so private conversations can occur with many diverse opinions without fear of reprisal by the government. For those that use the Internet, there is little fear of censorship.

### Non-Government Entity Censorship

NA

### Cyberspace

Only 19% of Gabalians use a cell phone and while the government claims 50% of the population can access the Internet, this is probably not a clear indication of the actual accessibility. This number is based on those that have the Internet at work or can access a public library. The true number of users is probably down in the 20-25% range.

### Strengths

The strength of the cyberspace in Gabal is that currently the government does not do much to restrain it because of so few actual users. As users increase, the government may feel a need to exercise more control over the content that its citizens put out over the Internet.



### Vulnerabilities

Due to the unsophistication of the single Gabalian Internet provider, Cuuva.tv, the company could be vulnerable to hackers from both inside and outside the country. The Gabal government uses the same server making their information vulnerable for illegal access or worse, being deleted. Gabal's Internet of Things is also in its infancy; therefore, it lacks the protections that you might find in other countries, and the technology is typically extremely outdated.

### OE Specific Challenges

Gabal computers use a keyboard with the Gabalian letters on them. This could create a challenge for U.S. forces trying to work with Gabalian government and military forces. Google translate does an adequate job in translating from Gabalian to English, but not so good when translating from English to Gabalian.



# INFRASTRUCTURE

## Infrastructure Overview

The country of Gabal contains a mixture of emerging urban areas and primitive rural villages. Modern utilities are found predominantly in the cities and towns and at reasonable levels throughout the rural countryside. Forty-five percent of the nation has access to electricity with 77.5% of urban areas and 36% of rural areas respectively. Over ninety percent of Gabal has access to potable water, while 100% of the nation has access to a sanitation system, with 60.2% having access to modern sewage systems.

The infrastructure of Gabal is stressed and outdated. Emphasis has been placed on the modernizing of the infrastructure in recent years, but it continues to be stressed due to lack of resources. Gabal has a dated mass transit system. Bus companies provide transportation in cities and to rural areas. The country still uses converted WWII vehicles as taxis and mopeds as a means for transportation that release significant pollutants into the environment. Two airports (one with a paved runway) can handle smaller commercial aircraft for the entire nation. The one major seaport is dated and can only handle shallow draft ships. The country suffers from high levels of pollution in the rural areas and the government has made policies to combat pollution in rural environments and water supplies.

Many of the urban areas contain single story to three story buildings. The cities tend to be extremely densely populated for an area of that size due to the mountainous regions found throughout the island nation. Typical rural construction is low quality wooden houses with corrugated roofs. The government has only recently (within the past 10 years) started using urban planning although there is still not a national standard required for layout of urban areas or minimum access to basic services. The city planners do have the knowledge for strategic and sustainable city planning. The materials consist of concrete, steel, and rebar construction methods. In rural areas prone to flooding, houses are built on pilings to prevent flooding. Military operations in urban areas will be strained due to limited number of roads and the antiquated infrastructure. Resources will be needed to augment the infrastructure in

the way of power, facilities, sewage, and rations. The military will find additional resources in the form of large unskilled labor pools.

## Major Cities and Urban Zones

Gabal has three cities that account for 22% of the population of the nation. The national average population density is 53.7 km<sup>2</sup>.

## Infrastructure Matrix

The following chart provides the basic information for the four largest cities in Gabal. Overall, most of these cities are modern in some areas but also contain areas that are not.

Table 5. Infrastructure Sub-Variables

City	Pop	Pop Dens/km <sup>2</sup>	UBD	Roads	Air	Rail	Sea	Power	Water	Sewage/ Sanitation
Puerto Princesa	255,116	110	M	M	M	NE	M	Dg	Dg	Dg
Coron	51,803	75	M	M	M	NE	M	Dg	Dg	Dg
Busuanga	22,046	56	L	P	M	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE
Culion	20,139	40	L	P	P	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE

**Legend:** Population (Pop); Density (Dens); kilometer (km)

Per TC-7-101: UBD = Urban Building Density; low (L); medium (M); high (H); primitive (P); moderate (M); complex (C); non-existent (NE); degraded (Dg); developed (Dv)

## Puerto Princesa

As the former capital of Gabal during the colonial era, Puerto Princesa was the economic hub for the country. Development within the city continued through the end of the colonial era, however with the transition of the government to Coron the city has entered a period of fluctuation and degradation. With the economic benefits related to colonialism gone, and now the influx of money related to governance gone, the city has lost much of its former importance. That said, it is still the largest city in the country, and continues to be the most important part of Gabal's struggling



economy thanks to its ability to attract tourism. The buildings in the main urban areas consist of multi-story buildings.

### Coron

As Gabal's capital city, Coron serves as the only significant port for the nation and sits on Coron Bay. The areas north of the Pasig River tend to be the centers of trade and commerce. The city center serves as the core for the government. The buildings in the main urban areas consist of multi-story buildings, single family and duplex dwellings, and resort type accommodations for tourists. The city is very condensed as the Bay of Coron is to the west and south and mountains surround the other sides.

### Busuanga

Located 45 km. northwest of Coron, Busuanga is the second largest city in Gabal. Tourism plays a significant role in the economy of the city. Construction in the city is mainly one-story resort hotels and single-family dwellings of concrete and rebar construction. As you move out of the center, it becomes more rural and again becomes more subsistence living and impoverished.

### Culion

Culion lies approximately 22 km. southwest of Coron and is the third largest city in Gabal. The basis for Culion's economy is mainly tourism and associated service industries. It also has several of the best tourist beaches, which bring revenue to the local area. The construction in the city center is mainly one or two story resort hotels, hostels, and single-family dwellings of concrete and rebar construction. As you move out of the center, it becomes more rural and again becomes more subsistence living and impoverished.

### Energy Sector

Forty-five percent of Gabal's population has access to public electricity, 77.5% in urban areas and 36.0% in rural areas. Gabal produces 100% of its electricity from fossil fuels from two plants operating on a "mini grid." Due to the poor economic conditions of the country, there are not many investors interested in increasing the

energy supply in the country. The current two plants are over 40 years old and repair parts are difficult to obtain.

### Nuclear Power

Gabal have no nuclear power plants.

### Renewable Power

Some families may possess solar panels they place on their roof, but these usually only provide minimal amounts of electricity. In recent years there have been significant pushes for the development of a renewable power grid, however the cost of such a grid means that it is unlikely to be developed without significant foreign support.

### Hydrocarbon Power

The Gabal government operates five diesel power plants that use outdated technology Scheduled daily blackouts are common, and most businesses use backup generators.

### Hydroelectric Power

There are no hydroelectric power plants in Gabal. Any plants built in the future would produce less than 100 kW of electricity daily making them micro hydro plants. Some of the rural communities could use a pico hydro system that would produce less than 5 kW per day, barely enough for a small community. The cost of the system would be cost prohibitive for most Gabalian families and would need financial assistance.

### Power Plant Data Matrix

<i>Name or Location</i>	<i>Fuel Type</i>	<i>Capacity (MW)</i>	<i>Latitude</i>	<i>Longitude</i>	<i>MGRS</i>
<i>Delta Princesa Power Plant</i>	Diesel	23	9.85054	118.73599	50PPR9037089381
<i>Roxas Power Plant</i>	Diesel	3.6	10.31854	119.32441	50PQS5455841557
<i>Busuanga Power Plant</i>	Diesel	8	12.0295	120.1609	51PSP9085531412
<i>Culion Power Plant</i>	Diesel	.75	11.8817	120.0149	51PSP7476815217

**Legend:** megawatt (MW) MGRS: Military Grid Reference System



## Home Heating

Houses in Gabal are often quite small, especially those in the rural communities. Due to the climate, heating is not needed for most months. In the cities, most houses use heat produced by electricity. In rural areas, houses are normally heated by burning wood.

## Water and Sanitation

### Water

Nearly all the residents of Gabal (93.3%) have access to potable water. Apart from the importation of bottled water, desalination and rainwater tanks are the two main water sources supplying households in Gabal. The main desalination plant, as well as the rain and water tanks, provide for 35% and 59% of households, respectively. A large proportion (64%) of those in the top 20% income bracket rely on rain and own water tanks, compared to other sources of water (only 24%). On the other hand, 83% of households in the bottom third for income rely on a 40-year old desalinization plant as their main water source supply. Lower income/expenditure households rarely use their own water tanks due to the high cost. However, the desalinization plant, constructed during the heyday of chromite mining, is now operating well under peak capacity (<70%) due to maintenance issues, an inability to secure repair parts, and increased contamination in the water supply that the plant has trouble filtering. Water from this source carries increasing levels of potentially toxic materials. As the landscape becomes more rural the methods for obtaining water move to unprotected wells and streams. The water distribution pipes are old and in some parts of the cities are starting to fail. The public works department is constantly repairing them, which also damages the roadways.

### Sanitation

All residents have access to some type of sanitation services. 60.2% of the population has access to modern plumbing (septic or sewer systems) while 39.8% have access to unimproved methods of sanitation. The main form is pit latrines. Less than 10% of the wastewater is treated which, combined with pollutants from mining and lumber operations, has led to contamination of almost all the groundwater. Due

to limited wastewater treatment facilities, most domestic wastewater is discharged without treatment.

While an outdated marginally capable sewage systems exist in urban areas, sewage systems in rural areas are further antiquated or non-existent. Only 49.1% of rural residents in Gabal have access to a modern sewage system, which are predominantly in the form of septic systems. The remaining 50.9% of the rural population use pit latrines.

## Transportation Architecture

Roads are the primary transportation method throughout Gabal. The roads, especially rural roads, are in poor condition at best, due to lack of maintenance. The mining companies and logging industry funded the development of the road networks over 40 years ago to move products to the ports. Since the decline of those industries, little has been done to maintain or improve them. Movement between islands often requires hiring a local with a boat to ferry passengers or goods.

### Road System

Overall, roads in Gabal fail to meet US or Western European standards. Driving is extremely hazardous and becomes even more hazardous at night due to lack of driver skills and poor roads. In general, drivers fail to obey traffic laws and drive erratically. The conditions of the roads range from maintained paved roads to dirt tracks that are used by pedestrians and livestock.

### Paved Roads

Gabal does not have a national road network. The nation has a total of 1500 km of roads and 650 km are paved. The paved roads are in various states of disrepair. The road network was originally developed and financed by the mining and logging companies to facilitate the movement of equipment and goods. Since the decline in logging and chromite mining, the nation has not done routine maintenance and upkeep on the roads.

### Unpaved Roads



Gabal has over 850 km of unpaved dirt roads. These roads can be especially dangerous due to not being maintained, a lack of streetlights, and pedestrian and livestock traffic. Military traffic / convoys on the road networks will be stressed due to lack of quality roads and the unmaintained dirt roads throughout the island nation. The amount of pedestrian traffic on the rural roads will also be an issue.

### Local Driving Habits

Due to the low number of motorized vehicles and the condition of the roads throughout Gabal, the problems found in many other countries are not found in Gabal. Those that can drive in Gabal pay little attention to road signs and standard driving courtesies, however, so there are large number of vehicle accidents. These accidents often involve non-motorized vehicles as the drivers usually travel faster than they should do for the road conditions and pay little attention to their surroundings. Motor vehicle drivers do not yield the right of way to pedestrians creating many confrontations between drivers and pedestrians. The pedestrians use the dirt roads like a walking path while the drivers attempt to get around them to continue their journey. Entrepreneurs on bicycles, motorcycles, or other conveyances zoom around people in urban areas.

### Public Transportation System

The primary public transportation method in Gabal are buses and hired automobiles. The larger the populated area, the more likely it is to have more frequent bus traffic. The bus companies are independently owned and operated. The buses run both in the major metropolitan areas and to the more rural areas. Travel by bus to the more remote areas of each island can take several hours despite the small size of the islands. The conditions of the roads degrade the further you move from the larger urban centers. There are limited bus services on Culion Island focusing mainly on the large tourist centers of Culion proper and Molpok. For those with automobiles, the owners will hire their vehicle out for cash money.

### Rail

Due to the small size of the islands, Gabal does not have any railway lines. The mining and timber companies did not feel it would be economically sound to install them and the government lacks the resources to install them now.

### Air Transportation Systems

Gabal contains six airstrips, three with paved runways. The chart below shows the details for each runway.

### Paved Runways

There are only three paved runways in Gabal, one in Puerto Princessa, one near San Vicente, and the other near Coron.

- Over 10,000 feet: 0
- 8,000 to 10,000 feet: 1
- 5,000 to 8,000 feet: 1
- 3,000 to 5,000 feet: 1
- Under 3,000 feet: 0

### Unpaved Runways

There are three dirt runways in Gabal, and all are under 2300 feet in length.

- Over 10,000 feet: 0
- 8,000 to 10,000 feet: 0
- 5,000 to 8,000 feet: 0
- 3,000 to 5,000 feet: 0
- Under 3,000 feet: 3

Table 6. Gabal Airfields

City	Length (feet)	Width (feet)	Elev (ft)	MGRS	Lat	Long	Surface Type	Lts
Balabac	6800	150	50	50PNQ3638909706	8.2297	117.3304	Dirt	No



City	Length (feet)	Width (feet)	Elev (ft)	MGRS	Lat	Long	Surface Type	Lts
Bataraza	5000	85	23	50PNQ4800245184	8.5505	117.4362	Asplt	Yes
Busuanga	2300	90	3	50PRU1647446160	12.1620	119.9078	Dirt	No
Coron	3300	98	148	51PSP8432641667	12.1215	120.1000	Con	Yes
Coron	1952	25	27	51PSP9515029398	12.0117	120.2005	Dirt	No
Culion	1400	25	154	50PRU2010512240	11.8553	119.9378	Dirt	No
El Nido	3280	75	1998	50PQT6392239385	11.2019	119.4169	Con	No
Puerto Princesa	8,530	148	71	50PPR5954444172	9.4431	118.4532	Con	Yes
San Vicente	5288	148	24	50PQS4886064361	10.525	119.274	Con	Yes
Taytay	3610	59	80	50PQS7417697048	10.8186	119.5075	Con	No

**Legend:** Elv = Elevation MGRS = Military Grid Location System Lat = Latitude Long = Longitude Con = Concrete Lts = Lights

### Maritime

#### Seaports

Gabal has two seaports, the Port of Coron and the Port of Puerto Princesa. The Port of Coron is located along the Coron Bay. There is no reported data for the annual cargo throughput and due to the depth of water and size of the port, the Port of Coron cannot accommodate Military Sea Lift (MSC) Commands Large, Medium-Speed Roll-on/Roll-off (LMSR).

The Port of Coron consists of one port facility and is a shallow water port. It is run by the government of Gabal and has a pier that extends 123m, is 12m wide, and with a depth of 10m alongside. The port is open year round and handles some ships. Larger vessels anchor in the bay of Coron, which has a depth of 18-22m, and use small crafts and barges to move goods and people to shore. The port was originally designed for use by the logging and mining companies but has since been

Table 7. Major ports in Gabal

GABAL																			
Sea Port of Debarkation (SPOD) Infrastructure																			
Name of Port	Chart	Sailing Directions	Military Grid Reference System (MGRS)	Harbor Size	Harbor Type	Maximum Vessel Size Length Overall (LOA)	Large, Medium-Speed Roll-on/Roll-off (LMSR)	Depth of Water				Metric Tons Per Year (MTPY) of Cargo	Load On/Load Off (LOLO) Capability						
								Channel Depth	Cargo Pier Depth	Oil Terminal Depth	Anchorage Depth		LO/LO	RO/RO	Fixed Crane	Mobile Crane	Floating Crane	Crane Capability	
CORON	# J11427	Pub. 162	51P SP 9508228103	Very Small	Coastal Breakwater	LOA less than 500 feet	No	25 - 30 feet	26 - 30 feet	NA	45 - 50 feet	No Data	Yes	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data
PUERTA PRINCESSA	# 92529	Pub. 162	50PPR 9166179793	Small	Coast Natural	LOA less than 500 feet	No	Over 76 feet	26 - 30 feet	NA	31-35 feet	No Data	No	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data

upgraded to support the tourist industry. There is a possibility of dredging the port and bay to make it capable to support ships with a larger draft if an entity would invest in it.

The Port at Puerto Princesa is located near Latitude 09° 44"N, Longitude 118° 43"E, near the Princesa Strait. Land access to the Port at Puerto Princesa is restricted by steep terrain, with only a pair of paved roads entering the port. Notably there is a coral reef roughly half a kilometer from the port. The seabed of the port is muddy and free of major rocks and obstructions. The pier is 480m long and the depth along the pier is 10m.

#### Navigable Rivers

There are no navigable rivers in Gabal for anything other than a canoe, kayak, or something of similar size.

#### Pipelines

Gabal does not possess any pipelines and does not plan to install any.

#### Pipelines

There are no major pipeline systems of any type in Gabal. There are no plans to install any soon.

#### Petroleum

There are no petroleum pipelines, raw petroleum, or refined products, in Gabal.

#### Natural Gas

There are no natural gas pipelines in Gabal.



## Water

Other than the water distribution systems in the larger villages, there are no major water pipelines in Gabal.

## Telecommunications Architecture

In Gabal, most citizens can access a telephone and listen to a radio or television, but only approximately 50% of the population has access to the internet. The tourism industry and government operate approximately one thousand landlines and only 19% of the residents have cell phones. In rural areas, a tribal leader may have the sole cell phone for the village, which is then used as a community phone. The country has one radio station that is government owned. There are no local television channels and residents are required to use satellite dishes to watch television.

## Industry

Gabal has limited capacity and has focused mainly on the mining of chromite reserves. The methods used were antiquated by modern standards and highly labor intensive. The government has tried to diversify by selling the rights to fish its territorial waters to other nations. This has yielded limited profitability and Gabal has not invested in any infrastructure to process and package the fish that would be required for any large scale commercial industry. Foreign investors are attempting to capitalize on the natural beauty of islands and have been focusing on tourism. The infrastructure will need continual modernization to meet the expectations and volume of tourists expected.

## Food and Agriculture

The nation of Gabal has limited agricultural capacity. Agriculture in Gabal typically uses terraced fields that are fed by rainwater for irrigation. The methods of farming used in the past have caused most of the land to be contaminated, either from run off from the chromite mines or improper application of chemicals. Sustainable farming and crop rotation has only been introduced in the past thirty years. The island nation is unable to have any large-scale commercial farms due to limited arable land. The

government has begun to replant the deforested areas, as they plan in upcoming years to begin using sustainable logging.

The farming methods in Gabal's past relied on the use of toxic pesticides that are outlawed in Western countries. Military units need to be cognizant of the runoff from the fields and contamination to the soil from these pesticides are often carcinogens.

## Oil/Gas

Gabal has no oil or natural gas reserves, nor any petrochemical infrastructure. The country must import all its oil and gas to meet the demand in the country from regional actors. There have been no plans for exploration of oil. Military operations in the area must ensure that oil is imported to support the economy and citizens of the country during and post hostilities.

## Defense Industries

Gabal does not have a defense industry and must import all items for military use.

## Nuclear Facilities

Gabal does not possess the infrastructure nor the resources to have nuclear capabilities.

## Space

Gabal does not have an active space program. They rely on leased satellites from South Torbia for communications and navigational needs.



Table 8. Physical Environment Data

<i>Measure</i>	<i>Data</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Land Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	14,649	Palawan, Busuanga, Culion, and Coron
Land Border (km)	0	Island group—does not border other countries
Coastline (km)	2,000	Approximately
Highest elevation (m)	2,086	Mount Mantalingajan
Lowest Elevation (m)	0	Sea Level (many places)
Arable (cultivated) Land (%)	10	Primarily southern Culion
Permanent Crops (%)	<1	
Permanent Pasture (%)	<1	36% grasslands that could be used for pastoral purposes
Irrigated Land (%)	<1	
Forested Land (%)	52	Rainforest (27); other wooded (22); scrub (2)
Urban Areas (%)	<1	

**Legend:** kilometer (km); meter (m)



## PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

### Physical Environment Overview

Gabal is a small country located in an archipelago in the western Pacific Ocean. It borders Belesia and South Torbia with whom it has friendly relations. The country's terrain consists primarily of forested mountains and low grassy valleys. Both vegetation and climate are tropical in nature. Multiple natural hazards exist, resulting from the country's geology, weather, native wildlife, and human activity.

### Terrain

Gabal occupies a group of more than 1700 islands and islets in the Southwest Pacific. It is part of a larger archipelago that is bounded by the Philippine Sea to the east, the South China Sea to the west, and the Celebes Sea to the south. The country shares only maritime borders with its neighbors, which include South Torbia to the northeast and Belesia to the southeast and southwest. The islands are mountainous in nature, with interspersed valleys on the larger islands.

Gabal can be broken into four primary island groups centered on the largest islands: Palawan, Busuanga, Culion, and Coron. Palawan is the largest island, with 12, 188.6 square kilometers (km), with a length of 425km and a width of 40km. The entire length of Palawan is formed by a mountain range, with a peak altitude of 6,844 ft. Busuanga is the northernmost island, and covers 956 square km. The island consists primarily of long, narrow mountain ranges separated by narrow valleys. Two larger valleys exist: one on the northeastern end of the island, and one along the northern shore of the island's southern half. Culion Island lies to the southwest of Busuanga and, at 399 square kilometers, is the country's second-largest island. Though also covered by mountains and valleys, the terrain does not form a distinctive pattern as it does on Busuanga. Coron island covers 72 sq. km and is considered sacred by Gabalian tribesmen. Roughly triangular, it consists of mountain plateaus on the north, west, and south, and a flat valley in the east; its most notable feature is Cabugao Lake, which lies in the center of the island.

### Bodies of Water

As an island nation, Gabal is surrounded by bodies of water on all sides. The South China Sea lies to its northwest, and the Sulu Sea to its southeast. The Mindoro Strait separates the country from South Torbia in the northeast, and the narrower Linapacan Strait separates it from Belesia in the southwest. The islands possess multiple bays, harbors, and lagoons. The largest of these, Coron Bay, is sheltered by the three northern island groups: Coron on the east, Busuanga on the north, and Culion on the west. The bay is famous for its shipwrecks from World War II and is a popular diving location for tourists. Inland waters include a few short rivers on Culion and Busuanga Islands, with some being navigable near their mouths by shallow-draft vessels. and a series of lakes on Coron Island. Cabugao Lake is the largest, covering a surface area of 4.04 square kilometers (405 hectares), while Kayangan Lake is believed to be the cleanest lake in the entire region. Surface and subsurface caves are common in the archipelago and are popular tourist attractions.

### Mobility Classification

Movement in Gabal is difficult due to the mountainous island nature of the country. Water transport is the only way to move between islands. Once on land, mountain ranges naturally canalize movement. Heavy rains, flooding, and mud/landslides can seriously hamper troop movement during the rainy season. Forests at higher elevations provide cover for enemy forces and smugglers, while multiple rivers and streams challenge mechanized and motorized movement. Air operation impediments include mountain ranges, forests, steep valleys and gorges, and cyclonic storms.

### Subterranean Environment

The islands are full of caves, both above and below sea level. In addition to the multitude of naturally occurring caves and underground rivers, mining on the islands produced networks of artificial tunnels. Many of these were abandoned as chromite reserves were exhausted and are now used occasionally by smugglers for storing illegal contraband. Higher-level tunnels are used as emergency shelters by residents during and after larger cyclonic storms.

### Vegetation



Around 52% of Gabal is forested, primarily consisting of rain forest in the upper elevations of the mountains and on Coron Island. Most trees are broadleaf varieties such as balau, meranti, and narra; other plant species found in montane forests—such as bamboo, ferns, orchids, and climbing palms (rattan)—are also present. Due to the country’s climate, trees keep their leaves year round. Most trees are younger due to previous clear-cutting operations. A considerable number of Culion’s valleys—primarily in the island’s south—are devoted to agriculture. Those areas that are not forested or cultivated are covered by tropical savannahs, mixed grasslands, and scrub trees. Small mangrove swamps can be found on the coastline. The country has made a concerted effort to reverse a decades-long deforestation trend in recent years and is slowly seeing results in this area.

### Agriculture

Most agriculture on Gabal is subsistent in nature. Commercial agriculture takes place primarily in the lowland valleys of Culion Island, and is almost exclusively annual crops: cabbage, cassava, corn, eggplant, garlic, onion, peanut, sweet potato, rice, sugarcane, tobacco, and vegetables. The country’s main commercial crops are rice, corn, and sugarcane. Permanent crops are not a focus of the formal agricultural community and are basically limited to backyard fruit trees—coconut, lemon, mango, pineapple, and papaya—that are kept for personal consumption purposes. The country has no agricultural exports: all locally grown foodstuffs are either consumed by the general populace or by the country’s many tourists. Gabal imports flour, grains, and soybeans, in addition to products grown in neighboring countries.

Slash-and-burn agriculture has been used historically as a method of crop production but has fallen out of favor in the country’s push to regrow its forests. In the few cases where this method been replaced with using commercial seeds, improper application of chemical fertilizers and insecticides has contaminated both soil and water. The government is attempting to increase agricultural success by encouraging such methods as crop rotation and co-planting of complementary plants, but results have been inconsistent.

### Climate and Weather Overview

Gabal experiences a tropical wet and dry climate, also called a monsoonal climate. There are two distinct seasons: the dry season runs from November–April, and the rainy season is from May–October. Rainfall is the lowest in March and reaches its peak in August. The coolest part of the year occurs during the dry season, while the warmest temperatures occur during the transition period to the rainy season. Relative humidity is high year-round, though somewhat lower during the dry season. Winds follow a distinctive northeast, east, southwest cycle that corresponds to—and causes—the country’s seasons.

### Climate Map

Gabal is almost entirely composed of one climate. In very small parts of Gabal, the area may be considered “Af” as compared to “Am” (if several islands in OE, could have more than 1 map; each of the different climates on the map will be shown on the chart below)

Table 9. Köppen climate classification

Zone	Precipitation Type	Heat Type	Acronym: Description
Tropical Climate (Zone A)	Rainforest (f)		Af: In isolated parts of Gabal where there are rainforests, the weather can be slightly different than the prevailing monsoon weather in the rest of the country. This is the warmest climate in the classification system with no true dry season.
	Monsoon (m)		Am: This is the primary climate throughout almost all Gabal that features a year round warm climate with a short dry season.

### Seasons Overview

The chart below shows the standard low and high temperatures; precipitation including the average number of rainy days; and average wind speed for each month for the 4 largest cities in Gabal.



Table 10. Seasons Charts

**Seasons Chart-Puerto Princesa**

Month	Temperature Coldest (F)	Temperature Hottest (F)	Precipitation (inches)	Days of Rain	Wind (Avg mph)
January	73.6	88.2	1.5	5	15.0
February	73.6	88.2	1.0	3	13.2
March	75.4	89.4	1.5	4	11.1
April	24.5	90.5	1.8	7	9.0
May	76.5	90.5	4.5	12	7.9
June	75.6	31.9	7.1	17	8.8
July	75.4	89.4	6.3	18	9.2
August	75.4	88.2	7.5	18	10.5
September	75.4	88.9	7.1	17	9.0
October	75.4	88.9	8.7	19	8.9
November	75.4	88.3	8.5	15	10.9
December	75.2	88.0	5.9	12	13.1

**Seasons Chart-Coron**

Month	Temperature Coldest (F)	Temperature Hottest (F)	Precipitation (inches)	Days of Rain	Wind (Avg mph)
January	73	87	0.9	3	15.3
February	72	87	0.4	2	14.5
March	74	88	0.2	1	13.5
April	75	89	1.1	2	10.7
May	75	88	6.9	10	8.7
June	75	87	14.8	19	9.9
July	74	86	18.3	24	11.3
August	75	86	21.1	22	11.8
September	75	86	17.6	21	9.8
October	75	87	11.5	17	9.7
November	74	87	6.5	10	12.2
December	73	86	3.9	6	14.8

**Seasons Chart-Busuanga**

Month	Temperature Coldest (F)	Temperature Hottest (F)	Precipitation (inches)	Days of Rain	Wind (Avg mph)
January	70	88	1.0	3	5.4
February	70	90	0.4	2	5.4
March	72	90	0.4	1	5.4

April	73	91	1.0	2	5.4
May	73	91	6.7	10	5.4
June	72	88	15.7	19	5.4
July	72	86	15.9	24	5.4
August	72	86	21.9	22	5.4
September	72	86	16.5	21	3.6
October	72	88	12.2	18	5.4
November	72	88	5.1	10	5.4
December	72	88	3.0	7	5.4

**Seasons Chart-Culion**

Month	Temperature Coldest (F)	Temperature Hottest (F)	Precipitation (inches)	Days of Rain	Wind (Avg mph)
January	73	82	0.9	12	8
February	73	86	0.5	7	7
March	73	88	0.6	9	6
April	73	91	1.4	12	5
May	79	91	2.8	18	5
June	79	90	3.0	18	5
July	77	86	4.9	22	4
August	77	86	2.5	18	4
September	77	88	3.9	20	5
October	77	88	2.8	17	5
November	77	86	1.0	9	6
December	73	86	1.6	11	7

### Precipitation

Precipitation in Gabal comes in the form of rain, with an annual average of over 100 inches. February and March have the least amount of rainfall—less than an inch—with slightly greater amounts in April. The months of May–June experience increasing levels of precipitation that culminate in July and August, the country’s wettest months, with almost inches. Rainfall then drops from September–January, with before the cycle begins again.



### Temperature-Heat Index

Gabal lies in a tropical zone, and the country's temperatures reflect this. Average monthly highs range from the mid-80s to the lower 90s degrees Fahrenheit. Monthly lows are not much cooler, only dropping less than ten degrees. The average difference between night and day temperatures is usually greater than the seasonal variation of either one. Record highs usually fall in the 90s but have been known to reach 100 degrees. When combined with Gabal's high relative humidity, the heat index can easily reach levels that could affect military operations.

### Temperature-Wind Chill Index

Temperatures very rarely drop below 68°F at night, even during the coolest part of the year. The only exception is on the higher mountain peaks, where the elevation, humidity, and ocean breezes combine to produce temperatures cool enough to necessitate a light jacket at night.

### Relative Humidity

Relative humidity is high throughout the year in Gabal. Typically, above 85% in the mornings, it reaches the mid-90s during July–November. Evenings are more tolerable when the humidity drops around 13 percentage points from its morning level. When combined with the country's high temperatures, it produces the type of hot, humid conditions typically associated with tropical jungles.

### Wind

Gabal's annual wind cycle drives the country's seasons. Trade winds from the northeast begin blowing in November, ushering in the dry season. These winds, known as the amihan or the northeast monsoon, blow through February and bring cool, dry air to the country. They recede and are replaced with the silanganin, or "easterlies," from March–June, which bring clouds, heat, and increasing rainfall. The habagat, or southwest monsoon, begins in July and runs through October. This wind brings cooler temperatures and higher humidity. Precipitation in the country peaks and then recedes during this time. Tropical cyclones, which are rated from tropical depression (mildest; winds under 32 knots) to super typhoon (most severe;

winds over 118 knots), occur from June to December. Though the country's eastern and northern neighbors usually take the brunt of these storms, Gabal is not immune to them.

### Visibility

Gabal experiences almost the same visibility conditions as South Torbia as the two countries are not that far apart geographically. Gabal normally averages 5-9 hours of sun daily and the only reason it is that low is due to the rains during the monsoon season. During the dry season, the sky is less cloudy than the wet season. Cloud cover is lightest on the leeward coast. Sunshine is more common during the morning periods while clouds are more frequently associated with the afternoons.

### Hazards

Gabal is subject to several different hazards, either those that occur within the country or in nearby countries that can affect Gabal.

### Events

The major natural disasters that occur in Gabal are almost all related to the rainfall that comes with the monsoon season. These rains can cause flash floods and mudslides. While there is an extinct volcano on Coron Island showing past signs of volcanic activity, there has not been any in recent history. This does not mean that Gabal is immune from the effects of volcanic activity as eruptions in nearby countries could cause issues within Gabal. Gabal is also susceptible to tsunamis, mostly those that would originate to the west and north of the country. Since many of the Gabalians live on the coasts, tsunamis without a warning can cause a great deal of harm to the country's infrastructure as well as massive casualties. Tropical cyclones can also be an issue, but these usually do not occur on a regular basis.

### Disease

Major diseases in Gabal include bacterial diarrhea, hepatitis A, typhoid fever, dengue fever, malaria, and the zika virus (See the Social Variable for more details on these diseases).



Flora

<i>Flora</i>	<i>Description</i>
<b>Pong-Pong</b>	This is called the “suicide tree” by locals and has a beautiful flower on it. It contains a powerful poison that is so potent that natives have used it to commit suicide for many years.
<b>Trompeta</b>	This beautiful flower is called the “Angel’s Trumpet”, but it is a hallucinogen that needs to be avoided. Too much of the plant being ingested can cause death due to the dangerous alkaloids it contains— atropine, hyoscyamine, hyoscyne, and metoloidine.
<b>Belladonna</b>	Properly used, this plant has medicinal purposes. Improperly ingested, especially from a young plant, the victim will lose their voice; suffer from dry mouth, headaches, and convulsions; with a difficult time breathing. The berries are most dangerous and being naturally sweet attract children. Only ten to twenty berries can kill an adult.
<b>English Yew</b>	This plant is often used for landscaping, but it is deadly. The fruit is the only non-toxic part of the plant. 50 grams can kill a human. Symptoms include muscle tremors, breathing difficulties, convulsions, and then a final collapse.
<b>Wolfsbane</b>	Found only in the cool mountainous regions, the plant bellows to the buttercup family. People in South Torbia and other countries have been known to use the poison for their arrow times in the not too distant path. Once eaten, there is a burning sensation in the abdomen and the extremities. Death can occur in as little as two to three hours.
<b>Castor plant</b>	This plant is found in many parts of the world and can be used for healing as Castor Oil. The seeds are poisonous and only four or five of them can kill an adult if eaten. If eaten, there is a burning sensation in the mouth and throat. The victim also vomits and is affected by diarrhea. Death is due to dehydration.

*Flora* *Description*

<b>Rosary Pea</b>	This red pea is found in medium altitude areas in South Torbia. Three micrograms have been known to kill an adult. The poison is 75 times more deadly than the castor bean.
<b>Dieffenbachia</b>	Often used as a home decoration, this plan can cause severe problems if eaten. These symptoms include severe swelling of the moth, drooling, dysphagia, respiratory compromise, and dermatitis. Many years ago, locals would use it to make their arrows poisonous.
<b>Talumpunay Tree (Cachubong)</b>	This plant contains hallucinogenic properties. Locals may add it to their tea in very small doses, but it can cause the user to exhibit wild behavior.
<b>Buta-buta</b>	This is called the “blinding tree” by locals. Its wood is ideal for firewood and timber, but its sap is toxic. It was used once upon a time as a fish-poison preparation. The sap causes the skin to blister and if it gets in one’s eyes, the person can lose their sight.

Fauna

<i>Fauna</i>	<i>Description</i>
<b>Mosquitoes</b>	Mosquitoes cause several diseases including dengue. Dengue victims begin showing symptoms three to fourteen days after infection with a high fever, headache, vomiting, muscle pain, joint pains, and normally a skin rash. There is no cure for dengue fever and victims need to rest, drink fluids, and take a pain medicine that includes acetaminophen. Other diseases that mosquitoes can carry include the chikungunya virus, Japanese encephalitis, malaria, West Nile virus, yellow fever, or the Zika virus.
<b>Northern Spitting Cobra</b>	This brown hooded venomous snake is found throughout Gabal and is normally about one meter in length as an adult, but some may reach 1.6 meters in length. The Northern Spitting Cobra lives in low-lying plains and forested regions subsisting on frogs; small mammals such as mice, small rats, and birds; and other snakes. This snake is one of the most venomous



<b>Samar Cobra</b>	<p>in the region.</p> <p>This cobra, also called the Southeastern Spitting Cobra, is found throughout Gabal. It is dark gray in color, but with a yellow head and hooded area. This snake can grow up to 1.4 meters in length. The Samar Cobra can live in mountainous jungle to tropical plains and enjoys living near humans. This snake eats rodents, frogs, and reptiles so it is often found near rice patties. They are quick to strike if threatened and do so by spitting venom in its attackers’ eyes. An antivenin is available but is produced only in small numbers as this snake is limited to Gabal.</p>
<b>Equatorial Spitting Cobra</b>	<p>This black venomous snake (silver/grey possible on the underneath side near the head/hood) is found not only in Gabal, but many other countries in southeast Asia. The adult Equatorial Spitting Cobra averages around 1 meter long, but some have known to reach 1.5 meters in length. This snake likes lower elevations and tropical forests, but has been known to be found in gardens, parks, and even urban areas. It feeds on lizards, small mammals, and other snakes. Normally not aggressive, but the Equatorial Spitting Cobra will strike if cornered or threatened.</p>
<b>Pit Viper</b>	<p>There are many species of pit vipers in the world and one of them lives in Gabal. The <i>trimeresurus flavomaculatus</i> is normally green and adults are normally about a meter in length. This variety of a pit viper is arboreal feeding on birds, lizards, and other small mammals. It is a reclusive snake that attempts to avoid human contact. Most bites are by accident, but they can be fatal.</p>
<b>Leyte Cat Snake</b>	<p>The <i>boiga</i> angulate is a species of the snake family <i>Colubridae</i> found in Gabal. While poisonous, there have been no recent reported human deaths. They come in a variety of colors, but most are a brownish color with slightly darker spots. The snakes are thin and can grow up to two meters in length. Leyte Cat Snakes normally live in lower elevations and prey on rodents and other small mammals; small amphibians and reptiles; and smaller snakes.</p>

<b>Redback Spider</b>	<p>This spider is also known as the “Australian black widow.” The Redback Spider is not native to Gabal but arrived from its originating country by storing away on ships. The spider has flourished in Gabal. The adult female is about one centimeters in length with slender legs. It is black in color with a red or orange stripe on its upper torso and an hourglass-shaped red marking on its belly. The male Redback Spider is much smaller than the female at only 3–4 millimeters in length. Its color is light brown with white markings on top and a pale hourglass marking on its underneath side. After mating, the female kills the male and can store the sperm up to two years to fertilize several clutches of eggs. Each clutch will average 250 eggs. Once bitten, the skin around the bite will die. Without treatment, there is a chance that a human bitten by the Redback Spider could die.</p>
<b>Centipedes</b>	<p>Most are harmless, but there have been reports of people dying of centipede bites in Gabal.</p>
<b>Jellyfish</b>	<p>Many jellyfish are dangerous and even a small amount of its venom can lead to heart seizures or cause it to stop.</p>
<b>Blue-ringed Octopus</b>	<p>This beautiful creature has a bite that is not too painful, so the victim often does not know they are bitten until it is too late. One Blue-ringed Octopus can carry enough venom to kill ten human adults.</p>



# TIME

## Time Overview

Gabal's approach to time can best be described as polychronic: the tendency to perform several tasks concurrently, as opposed to monochronic like the US, where the preference is to perform tasks in sequence. On Gabal they have a word for their approach to time, it is *madalang*, roughly translated it means *leisurely* or *slowly*. Gabal sits within the South Torbian Time Zone (STTZ), which is eight hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT)/Coordinated Universal Time (UTC); the country does not observe Daylight Saving Time (DST).

## Weekly

It is difficult to determine the average workweek in Gabal. Those that have connections to business firms or connections to overseas business will likely work forty hours per week, Monday through Friday. The standard workday is 0900 to 1800 with one hour off for lunch. For those involved with overseas business, the people may work an odd schedule to conduct meetings with their home offices in Europe, the US, or in another part of Asia. These people normally have the weekend off with Sunday as the standard day for church for those of the Christian faith—either Catholic or Protestant.

For other workers, especially those in the service industry, they will often work seven days a week if the work is available. Many Gabalians must work every day to feed their families. Due to the scarcity of jobs, taking a day off is not an option for many people in the lower classes. Much of this work is cash business as both the worker and the person paying them want to avoid paying taxes.

## Monthly

There are no specific monthly holidays for the majority of South Torbians. For the small number that practice the Buddhist faith, however, they follow the lunar calendar and conduct religious holidays on the new moon, quarter moon, half-moon, three-quarters moon, and full moon. Gabal's small minority Muslim population uses

Saudi Arabia's *Umm al-Qura* calendar to determine the official beginning of each month and for religious holidays.

## Key Dates, Time Periods, or Events

Discovery of Gabal by Europeans: 1750

Cotton boom to Europe: 1862

1956: Obtained independence from colonial powers

## Routine, Cyclical Key Dates

### Holidays and Culturally Specific Observations

Gabal celebrates 8 official government holidays each year. Six have set dates and two have floating dates based on the lunar calendar. There are also several religious holidays celebrated by the Christians who composed the largest religion in the country. Holidays associated with the smaller religions that are celebrated by those of that specific faith. Normally, those that want these holidays off will often work the government holidays or Christian holidays through deals worked out with their employers.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Holiday</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Remark</i>
1 January	New Year's Day	Government	
8 March	International Women's Day	Government	
1 May	Labor Day	Government	
15 August	Independence Day	Government	
15 October	Military Appreciation Day	Government	
1 November	All Saints Day	Religious	
25 December	Christmas Day	Government	
April/May	Good Friday	Government/ Religious	Always occurs between 20 March and 23 April each year depending on Easter
April/May	Black Saturday	Religious	Always occurs between Good Friday and Easter
April May	Easter	Religious	Occurs the first Sunday after the first full moon after



<i>Date</i>	<i>Holiday</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Remark</i>
April/May	Buddha's Birthday	Religious	the spring equinox Occurs on the eighth day of the fourth month of the lunar calendar
May/June	Pentecost Monday	Government/ Religious	Occurs the Monday after Pentecost that occurs 7 weeks after Easter

### New Year's Day

Occurs on 1 January each year. All government workers and most business workers outside of the service industry do not work. If 1 January falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the closest day (Friday or Monday) is designated the federal holiday.

### International Women's Day

Occurs on 8 March each year. Government workers and business workers do not work, and it is a day to honor Gabal's women. In smaller communities, the males often host a picnic where they roast a goat or pig over an open-pit fire. In the capital city, there are often political speeches that gather few people.

### Labor Day

Occurs on 1 May each year. Begun in 1955, Labor Day pays tribute to the contributions and achievements of Gabalian workers in the development of the country economically and socially. If the holiday is on the weekend, the holiday is either the Friday before or the Monday after 1 May, whichever day is closer to the actual date. In the capital city and larger cities, there are political speeches. In the rural communities, there is not much difference than a normal workday.

### Independence Day

Occurs on 15 August each year. This day celebrates the beginning of the country after Gabal through off the yoke of its colonial rulers. This is one of the biggest celebrations of the year in all parts of the country no matter the size of the village. There are picnics and festivals attended by most everyone in the community.

### Military Appreciation Day

Occurs on 15 October each year. On this day that government and business employees are off. The holiday is either the day before or the day after 15 June if that date falls on the weekend. If the government can afford it, the small Gabalian Army may march as part of a parade in the capital city. For the rest of the country, government workers have the day off but for most it is just another day to try to eke out a living.

### All Saints Day

This is a religious holiday and not a government holiday. Many of the Christians celebrate it by attending church service.

### Christmas Day

Occurs on 25 December each year and is both a government and religious holiday. Most Christian families attend church, eat a nice meal, and exchange personal gifts with each other. Most of these gifts are either handmade or if purchased, not expensive. Non-Christians just usually celebrate having the day off. Government and most major businesses give their employees the Friday before or the Monday after if the holiday falls on the weekend.

### Good Friday

Always occurs the Friday before Easter each year and is always in March or April. Government and larger businesses give their employees the day off. The more devout Christians will attend church service. The non-devout, the non-believers, and those of other faiths just enjoy having a day off from work.

### Black Saturday

Always occurs the Saturday between Good Friday and Easter. This is just a religious holiday. The most devout Christians will attend church that day, but most do not.

### Easter

Always occurs the first Sunday after the spring equinox. Easter can land on any Sunday between 22 March and 25 April, depending on the full moon. Easter is one of the two most significant Christian holidays of the year with the other being Christmas



Day. Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus and Easter celebrates him rising from the grave. Christians attend church and the pews are normally filled on this day.

### Buddha's Birthday

This religious holiday occurs on the 8th day of the 4th month of the lunar calendar, so it always falls in late April or early May. This holiday is important for the Buddhist minority as temples will hold lantern festivals and give visitors free tea and a small, but special meal.

### Pentecost Monday

This began as a religious holiday, but it is now recognized by the government as its eighth holiday of the year as so many people missed work on the Monday after Pentecost. Pentecost occurs seven Sundays after Easter so can occur anywhere from May to June depending on the date of Easter. This day celebrates the day that the Holy Spirit descended upon the Jesus' disciples. Devout Christians attend church and then celebrate with a family meal.

### Wedding Season

While weddings can occur in any month of the year, the traditional month of preference is June. This dates to pre-colonial days when the wedding would last three days. The families had to ensure there was enough food for all the gifts. This is no longer a limitation, but June is still the month of many Gabalian brides prefer.

### Harvest Cycles

Agricultural cycles in Gabal are primarily determined by the seasons. Most crops—such as rice, corn, and sugarcane—follow distinct harvest/planting cycles. There are usually two crops per year for rice and corn: one in the wet season, and one in the dry season. Sugarcane is harvested once per year, during the cool part of the dry season. (For additional information on Gabal's agriculture and seasons, see the Physical Environment variable).

### Natural Disaster Cycles

Gabal does not receive the number of typhoons that other countries in the region receive but are still susceptible to them at the same time of the year. Typhoon season occurs from early summer to late fall and is often at its peak during August and September. Due to its somewhat protected location, less than five typhoons hit Gabal each year. Many of these cause only minor damage, but there are sometimes major typhoons that cause extensive problems. In addition to the storm itself, typhoons have the potential to cause extensive flooding. Gabal's government has yet to figure out how to handle natural disasters effectively.

### Election Cycles

Gabal holds general elections for the President and National Assembly members every four years; snap elections for the latter also occur in the event of dissolution of the government by the Prime Minister. Provinces make their own rules for local elections; election cycles typically either mirror national elections or are in alternating two-year windows. Judges at the local level are elected during district elections and hold eight-year terms.

### Cultural Perception of Time

Gabalians are very relationship-focused, and this is reflected in their approach to time. Instead of a day planner that is divided into discrete segments labeled "mealtime," "work," or "meeting," time is viewed as an unending line that is merely the context in which interactions with other people occur. Priorities determine the order in which events occur and meetings take place, and interruptions are not viewed as an annoyance, but rather as an opportunity to develop and strengthen other relationships. This view of time is known as polychronic—performing many tasks simultaneously—as opposed to monochronic (performing tasks in sequence).

This prioritization of relationships over the clock plays out in several ways. Tardiness is a foreign concept on Gabal, and meeting times are merely ideals. It is not unusual for a person to appear two or three hours after the agreed-upon time. Conversations—including meetings—continue until they come to a natural



conclusion. Topics will wander from one thing to another, and “rabbit holes” may be explored to great depth. In this way, a 30-minute meeting might easily stretch to two hours, and a “quick interruption” may last for a good half-hour or longer. People will wander in and out of meetings and start upside conversations based on their own set of priorities. Decisions will eventually be made, but not on an artificially imposed timetable.

This casual approach to time is known on Gabal as *madalang*, which could be translated as *leisurely* or *slowly*, and is reflected in the local expression, “the sea will still be there tomorrow.” Tasks are often interrupted, and the person interrupting is always given priority over the task at hand. A Gabalian would never say, “Let me finish this first”; instead, he will immediately stop what he is doing and focus entirely on the other person. When deciding what to do next, a Gabalian will order things by importance, with stronger relationships having priority. One way to know where you stand with a Gabalian is by how early in the day he agrees to see you: the earlier the meeting, the higher you are on his priority list. However, do not expect this to translate to a single-minded focus on you, as he will immediately divert his attention if someone else appears during your time together.

## Tactical Exploitation of Time

### Gabalian Perception of Time

The Gabalian perspective on time leads to slow but well-thought-out decisions. Each person’s input is considered, and the result is usually worth the wait. The implementation is also slow, but this will have already been accounted for in the decision-making process. Another result of *madalang* is that, though it may take a considerable amount of time, a Gabalian that has agreed to do something will eventually do it—for no other reason than that the relationship with the requester is too important to do otherwise. In this respect, Gabalians could be considered as “slow but reliable.”

For the Gabalian military, this mindset leads to a long view of conflict. Wars do not suddenly pop up; instead, they steep, much like a cup of tea, until a tipping point is reached, and action is taken. This concept is best reflected in the adage, “One must

crawl before he can run.” The country’s political and military leadership takes a two-pronged preventative approach as a result: First, work on relationships with potential enemies to prevent them from becoming actual enemies. Second, watch for actions that may indicate possible aggressive intent. For example, an enemy fleet must leave its own port before it can arrive in Gabalian waters; hence, the Gabalian military would key on the departure—or obvious signs of preparation for such—instead of being surprised that such a fleet would suddenly appear off its shores.

### U.S. Perception of Time

The time perception of Gabalians will make them appear slow, lazy, and unconcerned to US military members, and the continual interruptions and lack of respect of timelines will challenge even the most patient soldier. The key to best working with and understanding Gabalians is to focus on relationships and try to ignore the clock. US personnel should expect meetings to start late and run later; this should be accounted for in any planned interaction with residents—military or otherwise. Long lead times are essential, and having the same personnel at subsequent meetings will increase the strength of local relationships, thus increasing the importance of US military members—and their mission—in Gabalian eyes.

### Decision-making

The cyclic perception of time, long-term orientation, and a desire to have everything organized and coordinate may hinder the decision-making process of Gabalian political and military leaders. Their aversion to situational ambiguity can lead to them prioritizing gathering more information over the ability to act quickly and decisively. Adversaries could exploit the Gabalian preference for gathering information and considering alternatives by presenting challenges in rapid succession, accelerating their own decision making process, and enabling them to outpace any Gabalian response.