**COUNTRY PROFILE: SENDONIA**

# Introduction

Sendonia is a small, tropical, conveniently rectangular country, which does not really exist - so don’t try to look it up. Sendonia borders Jestribute on the West, Disputistan on the North-East , Kalasha on the East and Gaia Ocean on the South

# Government

## Country Name

Formal name: The Republic of Sendonia

Short name: Sendonia

## Capital

Cowry

## Administrative Divisions

Sendonia has seven administrative units (6 Provinces and the Metropolitan Area). Each administrative unit is divided into Districts/Municipalities, and each district/municipalities has multiple wards. The ward is the smallest formal unit of administration in the country.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Administrative Unit** | | **District/Municipalities** | **No. of Wards** | **Population** | **% Urban** |
| **1** | Cowry Metropolitan Area Provincial Capital: Cowry | 6 | 44 | 2,467,928 | 100% |
| **2** | Western Plains Province Provincial Capital: Siglos | **5** | 35 | 1,469,265 | 3% |
| **3** | Upper West Province Provincial Capital: Siliqua | **5** | 31 | 823,320 | 3% |
| **4** | Southern Province Provincial Capital: Port Florin | **5** | 24 | 1,234,964 | 15% |
| **5** | Delta Province Provincial Capital: Shinplaster | **4** | 26 | 747,276 | 23% |
| **6** | Upper East Province Provincial Capital: Perper | **4** | 26 | 535,219 | 3% |
| **7** | Eastern Paddy Province  Provincial Capital: Mohar | **5** | 49 | 944,756 | 5% |
| **TOTAL SENDONIA POPULATION** | | **34** | **235** | **8,219,634** |  |

## Social and Political structures

Province Premier, the District/Municipality Magistrate, Ward Mayor; election cycle- October 2nd, every 5 years

Sendonia gained independence from the previous colonial power (the UK) on October 2nd, 1964. It recently celebrated 50 years of independence.

Sendonia has parliamentary democracy with a two tier system: a house of parliament and an upper house of senators, with five senators elected from each of the Provinces, plus seven from the capital.

There are five main political parties in Sendonia, three of which have followings which broadly follow ethnic lines, and two which draw multi-ethnic support but have fewer supporters overall. The current government is a coalition between two parties, with broad support from southerners and easterners.

The national symbol is a golden egg, and the National Anthem is called “A Basket of Eggs”

# Economy

Overview:

* Currency: Emma (€); 1CHF = 1€
* Sendonia’s economy has grown roughly 4% per year since 1996 despite political instability, poor infrastructure, corruption, insufficient power supplies, slow implementation of economic reforms, and the 2008-09 global financial crisis and recession. Inflation is currently running at 4.8%
* Remittances from overseas Sendonians form a major contribution to GDP, at around 8%, with bamboo providing much of the needed foreign exchange.
* The country is a net producer of food, although in bad years (2010, 2009) imports can exceed exports. bamboo and fruits from the highlands are the major export commodities, although there are concerns about the sustainability of forestry.

The poverty threshold is 150€ / month / household. Total Population below Poverty Line: 25%

**Labour Force**: 3,781,032 (*2015 Estimated*)

**Labour Force by Occupation**:

60% Agriculture

20% Industry

20% Services

There is a national minimum wage, set at €4.85/day, but it is only really respected by formal employers within the major cities. Typical work month includes 22 days. For example, daily labour rates vary between around €3.80 to €4.75, depending on location

**Household Size:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Cowry Metropolitan District | | Western Plains Province | Upper West Province | Southern Province | Delta Province | Upper East Province | Eastern Paddy Province | National Average |
| Avg HH size | Residents 3 | IDPS 8 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 5 |

## Environment – current issues

Concerns have been raised about chemical use in the Delta and the rice growing areas of the country. Rapid urbanisation has overwhelmed the capacity of municipal authorities to provide clean water and sanitation. Groundwater has become contaminated and the water table is dropping especially at higher altitude. Serious concerns have been raised about poor regulation and weak oversight in the forestry sector.

## Financial Services Sector

There are three major banks operating throughout the country:

NatBank (NRC’s bank)

AgriBank

ComBank (IFRC’s bank)

All the above banks carry private and commercial accounts and products. 62% of Sendonians have accounts (“banked”) of some type within the formal banking institutions. Banks have a reasonable coverage with branches found in the Provincial capitals and District towns. ATMs can be found in many Wards throughout the country.

The post office was the first bank in the country and still has savings accounts, and these are still used by some, but largely by poorer people and people in more rural communities. Post office branches are organized by districts. There are windows or small post kiosks in many wards which can provide basic deposit and withdrawal services.

In addition, there are a number of money transfer operators(MTOs)/remittance agents who can transfer money nationally and internationally. Some of the larger remittance companies include: Sendonia Union, United Pawnshops of Sendonia, and Nu Quik Pay. MTOs/Remittance companies are prevalent in the provincial capitals, larger cities, and most district towns throughout Sendonia.

# Transportation and communication

**Transportation**

There is an international airport on the outskirts of the capital, and small airfields in the provinces. A single-track railway line runs from Cowry to Port Florin via Inti and continues to Siglos in Western Plains. A single-track narrow gauge railway line runs from Port Florin to Siliqua in the mountains via Follis. The main port is Port Florin, which is also the provincial capital of the wealthy Southern Province. It is the only port that can handle container ships, and only up to a capacity of around 2500 containers.

Sendonia has a system of well-maintained state managed highways connecting most major towns. They usually consist of a single lane in each direction with no central reservation. Smaller roads connect other towns and remote areas, and these are managed by the local authorities. Such roads are often less well maintained.

Typical travel times (for a normal car during the dry season) are given in the chart below, in hours.

## Communication

**Telephones** – main lines in use: 218,000 (2012)

**Telephone:** mobile cellular: 4.18 million (2011)

**Cellphone providers:**

NumiSmart – government network

Tiger Telecom – private, established 2002

BearMobile – private, established 2003

The Tiger Telecom phone network offers a mobile wallet product that is popular and has seen it gain significant market share in the last 2 years. BearMobile, Tiger Telecom’s competitor, launched more recently. It was initially less successful but is now seen to be catching up. NumiSmart covers approximately 90% of the country with basic mobile services. They don’t have a mobile money service active yet but it will be launched later this year. Tiger Telecom reaches approximately 75% of the country with its’ voice and data plans which include its’ mobile wallet feature. BearMobile reaches only 50% of the country with voice and data which includes its’ mobile wallet services. People purchase minutes, or receive cash from their mobile wallets at vendors and/or kiosks throughout the districts and wards. Mobile wallets are becoming more popular, especially in the 24-40 year old age range. Approximately 27% of the population use a mobile wallet to conduct their regular payments for utility bills and rent, and use it to purchase groceries, and household items at large chain stores. Mobile-cellular telephone subscribership is currently at 90% of the population having cell phones in areas covered by mobile services.

Overall, the infrastructure is inadequate for a modern country; introducing digital systems; trunk systems include VHF and UHF microwave radio relay links, and some fibre-optic cable in parts of Cowry and between Cowry and Port Florin.

## [Broadcast media:](https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/docs/notesanddefs.html?fieldkey=2213&alphaletter=B&term=Broadcast%20media)

State-owned Numismedia TV operates 1 terrestrial TV station, 3 radio networks, and about 10 local stations;

8 private satellite TV stations and 3 private radio stations also broadcasting;

Foreign satellite TV stations are gaining audience share in the large cities; several international radio broadcasters are available (2007)

# Geography

## Climate

The climate is tropical, becoming subtropical at higher altitudes. Mild winter (August to October); hot humid summer (November to January); humid warm rainy monsoon (February to May)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Cowry & Eastern Paddy Province** | **Jan** | **Feb** | **Mar** | **Apr** | **May** | **Jun** | **Jul** | **Aug** | **Sep** | **Oct** | **Nov** | **Dec** |
| Max. Temp (°C) | 31.7 | 31.1 | 31.3 | 31.6 | 31.0 | 26.9 | 25.1 | 24.4 | 26.1 | 27.3 | 35.2 | 34.4 |
| Min. Temp (°C) | 25.8 | 25.5 | 23.5 | 22.5 | 23.0 | 21.1 | 18.5 | 13.7 | 12.3 | 22.0 | 25.5 | 25.7 |
| Rainfall (mm) | 90 | 161 | 181 | 151 | 101 | 64 | 39 | 17 | 16 | 12 | 2 | 14 |

## Terrain

It has a coastline along its southern edge, and most of the developed areas are found here. The altitude gradually rises as you travel north. In the north-east of the country is dominated by a high ridge running east to west, and the northern side of this ridge is sparsely populated with few transport links.

To the west of the country the terrain flattens, and agriculture forms the backbone of the economy.

## Elevation extremes

The highest point in country is Greenback Mountain, at 1246 m.

## Natural resources

Arable land, fisheries, bamboo, minerals.

## Land use

Arable land : 42.3%

Permanent crops: 17.4%

Main products include: rice, bamboo, wheat, sugarcane, fish, tobacco, pulses, oilseeds, spices, fruit, beef, milk, poultry.

# People and Society

## Language

The official language of Country is English. A variety of tribal languages are spoken. In general the higher, interior, parts of the country use English less and local languages more.

## Ethnic groups:

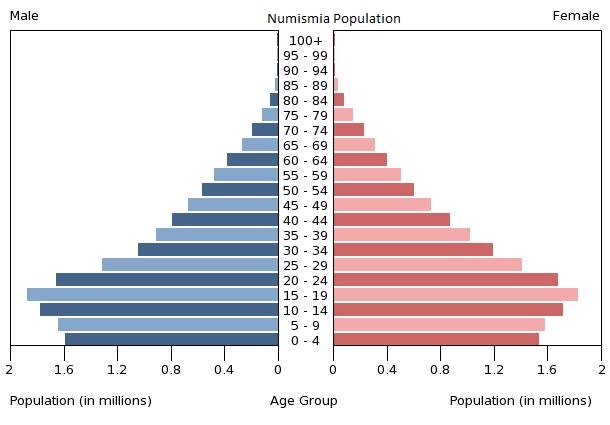
There are three main ethnic groups in the country: eastern, southern and western. According to the 2005 census the proportions were:

Eastern: 29%

Southern: 35%

Western: 26%

**Population**



## Age Demographics

0-4 Years : 15%

5-14 Years: 16.6%

15-24 Years: 22.6%

25-54 Years: 35.7%

55-64 Years: 5.6%

65 years and Over: 4.5%

## Urbanisation

Sendonia has seen a rapid urbanisation over the last 10 years. Much of this growth centres on the capital, although provincial towns have also grown substantially. Some sources suggest that the population of the capital will reach 4 million by 2016 - and that by this time, almost half the population will be living in urban areas. While Cowry is by far the largest urban centre, there are also significant urban populations in Port Florin, and also in Siglos, Siliqua, Mohar and Perper.

The lower altitudes are much more densely populated than the mountain areas. The table shows the population data from the last census:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Administration:** | **% urban** |
| Cowry Metropolitan | 100% |
| Delta | 23% |
| Southern | 15% |
| Eastern Paddy | 5% |
| Western Plains | 3% |
| Upper Eastern | 3% |
| Upper Western | 3% |
| **Totals** | **36%** |

The government estimates population growth at 1.6% annual. Other sources suggest rates between 1.5% and 1.8%. The ethnic mix varies strongly around the country.

# Hazard, risk and seasonality

## Seasonality

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Jan** | **Feb** | **Mar** | **Apr** | **May** | **Jun** | **Jul** | **Aug** | **Sep** | **Oct** | **Nov** | **Dec** |
| Rice |  |  | P | P |  |  |  |  |  |  | H | H |
| Wheat |  |  |  | P | P |  |  |  |  | H | H |  |
| Vegetables |  |  |  |  | P |  |  | H |  |  |  |  |
| Storm Risk | + | + |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Flood Risk |  |  | + | + | ++ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Temp |  |  |  |  |  | Cold | Cold | Cold |  |  | Hot | Hot |

H = Harvest season; P = Planting Season; + = likely to occur; ++ = Most likely to occur

## Natural hazards

Drought

Tropical storm

Flooding/inundation due to monsoon

Landslides associated with deforestation and heavy rainfall

Extreme heat in lowland areas; severe cold in mountains – seasonal.

## Disaster history\*:

2005 Floods and Landslides

2009 Food insecurity

2011 Floods

2012 Floods

2015 Civil unrest, cross-border problems with Kalasha

2015 Tropical storm Moneypenny

2017 Floods

\*More details on the Sendonia Red Cross response to these disasters is found in the NRC profile section of this document.

# Security

Security is generally considered to be good, and very good in the rural and mountainous parts of the country. However there are problems in poorer parts of all cities, and especially in parts of Cowry, Port Florin and Shinplaster. Problems include theft and housebreaking. Carjacking was reported to be a problem in Shinplaster in 2011, but has been controlled.

There are some security issues associated with political unrest, especially concerning relations with Kalasha and Eastie pressure groups. Some remote areas in the east of the country are insecure, and travel to these areas is not advised.

**Transnational**

Relations with neighbour to the East, Kalasha, are improved since the lows of the early 2000s, but still fairly tense. Sendonia believes that Kalasha provides tacit support to political parties from the two eastern provinces. However, the internal situation in Kalasha is also poor, and there are a number of refugees from the Kalasha in Sendonia. A slow trickle continues to come in prior to the flood. However, with the rising water, refuges from Kalasha crossed the border in large numbers, making their way to the refugee camp in Odol.

There are now a total of 37 000 Kalashian refugees in the Odol area. 5000 remain in the one older refugee camp (designed in 2002 for 3000 people), whilst the remainder live in private rental accommodation (usually without any legal papers), or in abandoned or unfinished industrial buildings.

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