



Gabon, one of the six CAFI partner countries, houses approximately 18% of the Congo- Ogooué Basin's forest – with forests covering 88% of the country territory. For decades, Gabon's economy has been driven by exports of oil resources. Though forestry exploitation has been an important component of the economy, deforestation rate is only 0.04%. However, as oil prices decline, economic diversification to other sectors is an important component of Gabon's development strategy. This is expected to result in increased resource exploitation by extractive industries and the rapid expansion of agricultural intensification. Indeed, one of the central objectives of the “Emerging Gabon” development plan is to make Gabon self-sufficient in terms of foodstuff production and an exporter of cash crops.

⊕ A National Investment Framework to promote Green Development

The Government of Gabon and CAFI share the vision that forests, their use, conservation and long-term functioning, have a true potential to achieve **holistic low emission development**. Gabon has embarked on a high-level political and strategic sustainable and green development process. Its multi-sectorial approach to sustainable development is well reflected within the CAFI theory of change.

Gabon's National Investment Framework presented it to the CAFI Executive Board and finalized in June 2017, seeks to facilitate sustainable development, conservation, and climate change mitigation goals through two main outcomes:

- **Optimizing and adopting a National Land use plan**, based on robust information coupled with an inclusive, multi-ministerial process is the first outcome. Particular emphasis will be put on participative mapping of resource use by rural communities and public consultation and communication in the land use planning process, as well as on optimizing land allocation for industrial and small holder agriculture, in line with Gabon's INDC.
- The second outcome is a **rigorous long-term Natural Resources Monitoring and Observation System**. It shall include observations from space and ground measurements to allow Gabon to identify and mitigate changes in forest cover, diversity and carbon sequestration capacity associated with various land use decisions. The system will simultaneously monitor i) forest ecosystem health, ii) floral and faunal diversity and iii) provision of ecosystems services (carbon sequestration, biodiversity, & food security), with a view to evaluating the impacts of climate change and land use planning decisions on these variables.



“ The commitment from CAFI to support our sustainable development policy is a sign of the recognition of the efforts our Government has made for years to optimize our development while preserving ecosystems and biodiversity.”

H.E.M. Régis IMMONGAULT, Gabonese Minister of Prospective Economy and Sustainable Development Programming

A letter of intent to honor commitments under the Paris Agreement

On 27 June 2017, the Government of Gabon, represented by its Minister of Prospective Economy and Sustainable Development Programming, and CAFI signed a Letter of Intent that demonstrates the country's determination to honour its commitments under the Paris Climate Agreement. With CAFI's support, Gabon gains the means to **reduce by 50% its greenhouse gases emissions by 2025**, compared to 2005 (as expected in its forthcoming Nationally Determined Contribution).

The Letter of Intent is articulated around three objectives:



The implementation of **a national land use plan**



A fully operational National Natural Resources and Forestry Observation System



Efforts to **maintain carbon sequestration by forests, reduce emissions related to forest degradation and improve inclusive forest governance.**

These objectives will be reached, among other, by preserving High Carbon Stock (HCS) and High Conservation Value (HCV) forests ; introducing a permanent cap on the area of convertible non HCS/ HCV forests; reducing areas under forest concessions ; and fighting illegal logging.

Funding at scale conditioned on results

CAFI pledged a financial commitment of 18 million US\$ in two equal tranches. The second tranche is conditioned to reaching intermediary milestones that will be independently evaluated. Reports on all milestones will be regularly updated on the website: www.pnatgabon.ga.

Gabon has selected the French Development Agency (AFD) to develop and implement programmes under its National Investment Framework.



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More info on the partnership between Gabon and CAFI
<http://bit.ly/CAFI-GABON-en>