

# REDD+ STORY

## Gabon

08.02.2024

### Introduction

Gabon submitted its 1st forest reference level in 2021. Since then, Gabon demonstrated the active implementation of REDD+, including the 1st submission of the REDD+ results and a Safeguard Information Summary in 2021, as well as the National Strategy in 2022. As a result, Gabon has successfully entered Info Hub as the 13th country that is eligible to seek results-based payments. A results-based payment equivalent to the reduction of approximately 3.4 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> has already been made to Gabon. To commemorate Gabon's completion of the technical analysis process for its REDD+ results in 2022, this article describes Gabon's REDD+ success story to date.

Gabon provided the information in this article to the secretariat, as a snapshot of REDD+ implementation in the country for the celebration of the 10-years anniversary of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+.

### REDD+ history in Gabon

#### In 1990s

REDD+ in Gabon started with the country's 1st Environmental Law (*la loi sur l'environnement du Gabon*) in 1993, which was followed by the country's 1st forest policy (*la politique forestière*) in 1996 and the National Environmental Action Plan (*le plan national d'action environnementale*) in 2000. Since the 1990s, Gabon has been pursuing sustainable development and sustainable forest management.

#### Le Gabon émergent

A key REDD+ strategy in Gabon was "*Plan stratégique Gabon émergent (PSGE)*".<sup>1</sup> One of the pillars of the strategy was "Green Gabon (*Gabon Vert*)" indicating sustainable forest management, certified wood production,



Figure 1 Forests in Gabon (provided by Gabonese government)

agricultural development and sustainable fisheries. This pillar was also integrated into the climate plan (*le Plan Climat*), the national land use plan (*le Plan National d'Occupation des Sols*) and the Knowledge and Preservation of Natural Resources (*Connaissance et préservation des ressources naturelles*) programme. Gabon was able to actively

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.cafi.org/sites/default/files/2021-02/Gabon\\_2015\\_SM%20A\\_PlanStrategiqueGabonEmergent.pdf](https://www.cafi.org/sites/default/files/2021-02/Gabon_2015_SM%20A_PlanStrategiqueGabonEmergent.pdf).

participate in UNFCCC negotiations as a result of these strategies and plans.

### Other policies

Apart from PSGE, Gabon has enacted a number of laws and policies to improve forest management and reduce GHG emissions from the forestry sector. These included the forestry code (*le code forestier*) in 2001, the law on national park (*la loi sur les parcs nationaux*) in

2007, the law on sustainable development (*la loi sur le développement durable*) in 2014 and the law on climate change (*la loi sur le changement climatique*) in 2022. These policies accelerated REDD+ preparation and implementation in Gabon.

Consequently, Gabon implemented REDD+ activities successfully and achieved emission reductions of 187,104,289 tCO<sub>2</sub>eq (with adjustment) from 2010 to 2018.<sup>2</sup>

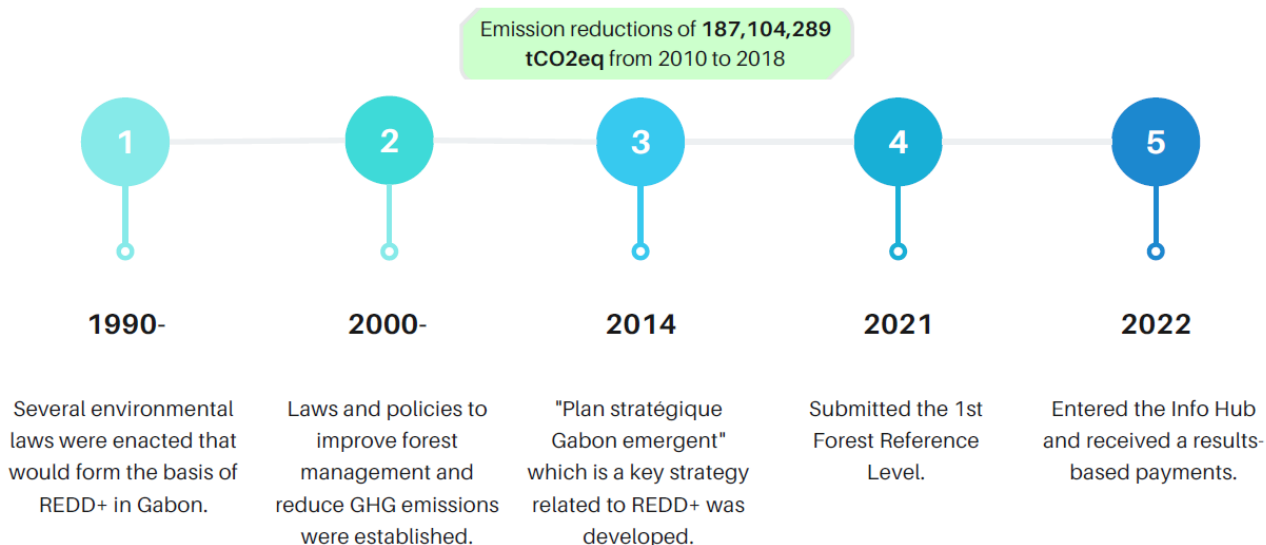


Figure 2 REDD+ history in Gabon

### Challenges

COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 had gave a significant impact to all REDD+ projects in Gabon, which resulted in the long delay in implementation, such as field trips with experts. Gabon adopted new working methods, including video conferences, to minimize the impact.

### Key stakeholders

Various stakeholders participated in implementing REDD+ (see Figure 4). In particular, the role of agencies responsible for monitoring and reporting information related to safeguards were highly valuable.

Gabon's National Climate Council (Le Conseil National du Climat) compiled and analyzed the information on safeguards obtained from agencies. Safeguards information summary<sup>3</sup> was also prepared by this council.



Figure 3 Photo with local community 1 (provided by Gabonese government)

<sup>2</sup> Available at [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/tatr1\\_2022\\_GAB.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/tatr1_2022_GAB.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> Available at [https://redd.unfccc.int/files/4888\\_1\\_resume\\_d\\_informations\\_-soi-gabon.pdf](https://redd.unfccc.int/files/4888_1_resume_d_informations_-soi-gabon.pdf).

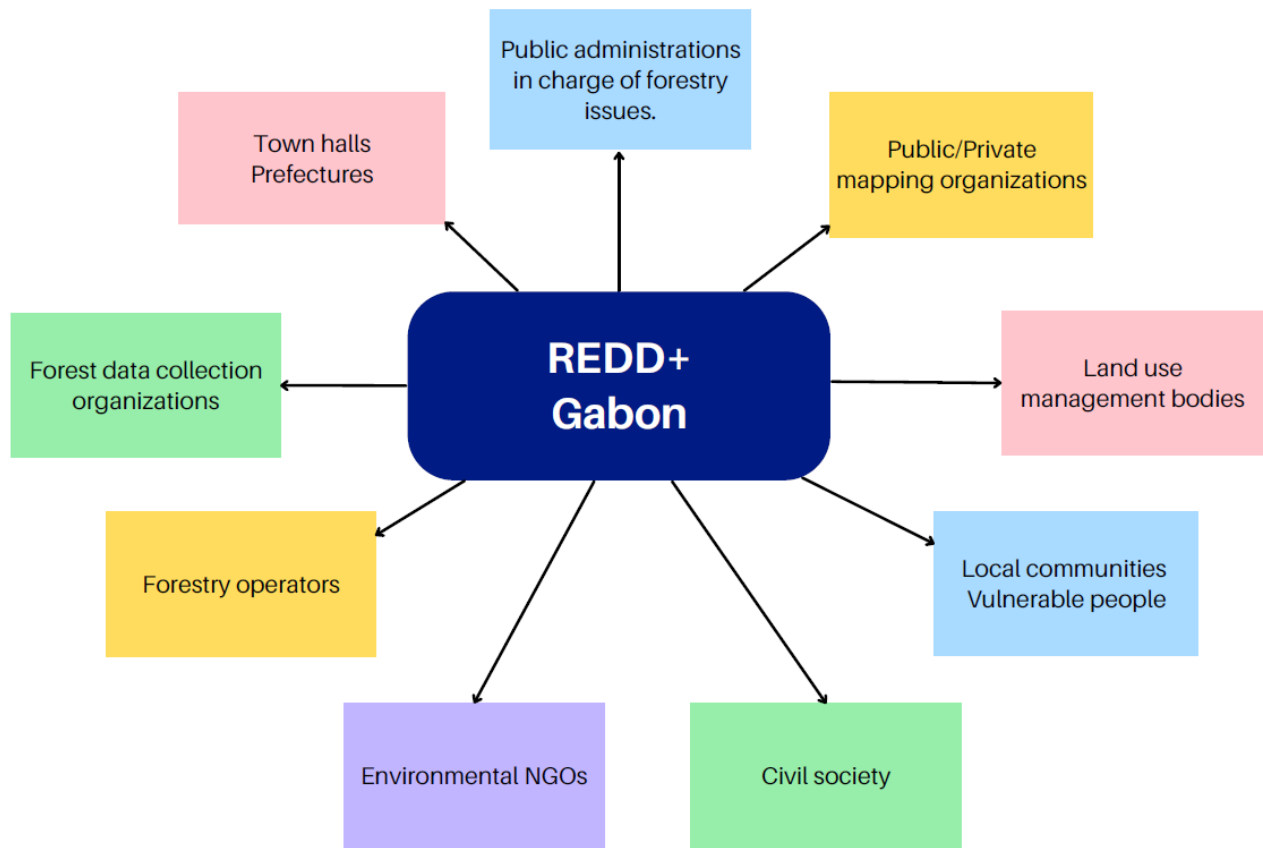


Figure 4 REDD+ stakeholders in Gabon



Figure 5 Photo with local community 2 (provided by Gabonese government)

## Support received

Gabon received financial support via the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI).<sup>4</sup> Gabon and CAFI signed a Letter of Intent, where Gabon committed to 50% emission reductions

by 2025 compared to 2005. CAFI support was divided into three phases.

- CAFI 1 (USD 6 million): Develop and implement the National Land Use Plan and Natural Resources and Forestry Observation System.
- CAFI 2 (USD 12 million): Paying for programmes for forest certification, protected area creation, land use optimization and technical assistance with carbon data management.
- CAFI 3 (up to USD 150 million): Norway has committed to paying up to USD 150 million for verified emission reductions and removals between 2016 and 2025.

In CAFI 3, Gabon and Norway agreed on USD 5/tCO<sub>2</sub>. Preconditions for the payments are submissions of an updated NDC, FRL/FREL and a Safeguard Information Summary. In

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.cafi.org/welcome>.

addition, if Gabon meets the ART TREES Standards, this price will rise to USD 10/tCO<sub>2</sub>. In June 2021, the first payment of USD 17 million was made for emission reductions in 2016 and 2017.

CAFI 1–3 contributed not only to finance, but also to REDD+ establishment and implementation.



Figure 6 Photo of field survey (provided by Gabonese government)

## Links to other reports

REDD+ efforts in Gabon greatly improved the quality of activity data, which contributed to the quality of Gabon's GHG inventory as well. To make consistency between the FRL and GHG inventory, Gabon applied the same methods to both calculations using the CfRN Foundational Platform calculation tool. This included applying the same land classes and Tier 3 approaches to estimate the emissions from forest degradation.



Figure 7 Photo of a workshop for REDD+ and Biennial Update Report (provided by Gabonese government)

Apart from the GHG inventory, REDD+ in Gabon has a strong connection with achieving the SDGs, in particular goal 1: No poverty, goal 3: good health and well-being, goal 13: climate action and goal 15: life on land. In the CAFI programme and Gabon's 2nd NDC<sup>5</sup>, Gabon is committing to protecting 30% of terrestrial ecosystems. REDD+ activities benefit biodiversity.

Gabon continues its efforts on REDD+ in order to achieve net carbon sequestration resulting from sound management of conservation practices in secondary and exploited forests.

For more information, see [Gabon's country page](#) on the REDD+ Web Platform.

<sup>5</sup> Available at [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/NDC/2022-07/20220706\\_Gabon\\_Updated%20NDC.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/NDC/2022-07/20220706_Gabon_Updated%20NDC.pdf).