

TAP Review: Gabon

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GABON Country Context

- Population
 - – 1.7 m of which over 80% urban
 - – growth rate 1.7% (est.)
- Rural population – less than 20%
- Land area – 268,000 sq km
- Forest cover
 - 235.84 m ha. (88% of land area)
 - 150.88 m ha in logging concessions (57% of land area)
 - 45.56 m ha in National Parks (17% of land area)

Gabon: Strengths of the RPP

The National Investment Plan will contribute to the national objective of economic diversification while limiting GHG emissions from deforestation forest degradation and operation of forest industries and commercial agriculture:

- Completion and implementation of a National Land Use Plan and strengthening the Natural Resource and Forest Monitoring System;
- Engaging populations at national provincial and village level and the private sector in the national land use planning process;
- Implementing actions to improve forestry practices and reduce emissions on a national scale from forest degradation, exploring potential for local reforestation and restoration, reducing emissions from the commercial forestry sector, and providing incentives for adoption of practices to reduce emissions from forestry and agriculture.

Gabon: Standards Table

STANDARD	Evaluation by TAP (September 2017)
1a. National Readiness Mgmt. Arrangements	Met
1b. Information sharing, Stakeholder Dialogue	Largely Met
1c. Consultation and Participation Process	Largely Met
2a. Land Use, Forest Law, Policy and Governance	Met
2b. REDD+ Strategy Options	Met
2c. Implementation Framework	Met
2d. Social and Environmental Impacts	Met
3. National Forest Reference Level	Met
4a. Monitoring – Emissions and Removals	Met
4b. Other Multiple Benefits, Impacts and Governance	Met
5. Schedule and Budget	Largely Met
6. Monitoring and Evaluation Program	Largely Met

Gabon key issues and recommendations

The R-PP comes close to meeting the standards in all categories but could benefit from the following modifications:

- Communication and consultation with local and national stakeholders should begin earlier than Year 5 – during Year 2 at the latest and this should be ongoing during the duration of the program and the results documented and used to guide program design and implementation.
- Information on intended results, indicators, expected outputs and outcomes presented in various places in the document should be consolidated into a Monitoring and Evaluation Plan to ensure capture and availability of lessons learned from program implementation.

Gabon: concluding remarks

- The proposal has a detailed work plan and institutions already established to make best use of the capabilities described in Section 4a to extend monitoring and analytical work to a range of co-benefits such as biodiversity and soil conservation and contribute to monitoring and enforcement as well as to land use planning from village to province to national levels.
- The ability to monitor the forest situation in near-real-time from satellite imagery routinely gathered will aid in enforcement of laws and regulations related to (both legal and illegal) timber harvesting in addition to land use planning. Use of the (HCV) High Conservation Value) and (HCS) High Carbon Stock criteria for analysis and classification of land use potential is particularly innovative and relevant for identifying and monitoring environmental co-benefits.