



**The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)**  
**Readiness Plan Idea Note (R-PIN)**

Country submitting the R-PIN: **Gabon**

Date submitted: **May 15, 2008**

**1. General description:****a) Name of Institution:**

*Ministère de l'Environnement, du Développement Durable et de la Protection de la Nature, Prévention et Gestion des Calamités Naturelles* (Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development and Nature Protection, Prevention and Management of Natural Disasters)

*Direction générale de l'Environnement et de la Protection de la Nature* (General Direction of Environment and Nature Protection)

**b) Affiliation and Information of Government Focal Point for the FCPF:**

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**2. Which institutions in Gabon are responsible for:****a) Forest Monitoring and Forest Inventories, and b) Forest Law Enforcement**

*Ministère de l'Economie Forestière, des Eaux, de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture* - MEFEP (Ministry of Forestry Economy, Waters, Fisheries and Aquaculture)

**c) Forestry and Forest Protection and Conservation:**

*Ministère de l'Economie Forestière, des Eaux, de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture*

*Agence Nationale des Parcs Nationaux* or ANPN (National Agency for National Parks) under the *Ministère du Tourisme et des Parcs Nationaux* (Ministry of Tourism and National Parks)

d) Coordination across forest and agricultural sectors, and rural development:

Depending on ongoing projects :

- *Ministère de l'Environnement, du Développement Durable, de la Protection de la Nature, de la Prévention et Gestion des Calamités Naturelles*
- *Ministère de l'Agriculture* (Ministry of Agriculture)
- *Ministère de l'Economie Forestière, des Eaux, de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture*
- *Ministère du Tourisme et des Parcs Nationaux*, or
- NGOs.

### 3. Current situation in Gabon:

a) Where do forest deforestation and forest degradation occur in Gabon and how extensive are they?

Deforestation<sup>1</sup> and degradation<sup>2</sup> are relatively limited in Gabon<sup>3</sup>. Based on the most recent estimates from the Observatory for the Forests of Central Africa (OFAC), the net level of deforestation amounts to 0.12%<sup>4</sup> for the period 1990-2000. Measured net degradation would be about 0.09% for the same period. These low levels result from the voluntary policy applied by the government in the early 1990s in favor of forest protection and conservation. These levels are also a result of the implementation of sustainable forest management in the country.

Analysis of satellite data from 1990 to 2000 shows that the main areas affected by deforestation and forest degradation are around Libreville and Lambaréné. However, the significant amount of clouds over Gabon is a limiting factor in localizing forest cover changes and therefore reduces the accuracy of estimations of deforestation and degradation.

Forest areas cover 85% of the Gabonese territory, representing a little more than 22 million hectares of dense evergreen forests. Forests are found all over the country, except for savannah areas in the south and south-eastern part. The forest domain includes about 13<sup>5</sup> million hectares which are considered production forests (including forest concessions under sustainable management (FCSM) and small-scale logging permits). Protected areas (national parks) represent about 3 million hectares and the remaining 5 to 6 million hectares include the Rural Forestry Domain (DFR).

With a biodiversity of more than 7,260 species, Gabon is one of the richest and most diversified heritages in the region. The creation in 2002 of 13 national parks representing 2,778,000 hectares of forests, as well as the development of strong governance on forest policy since the 1990s, show Gabon's clear commitment towards conservation of tropical forests (Annexes 2, 3, and 4).

Historically, Gabon has been barely affected by deforestation and degradation thanks to the country's limited population, its richness in oil and gas, and its strong governance relative to sustainable management of forest resources. Current economic and social challenges facing Gabon will undoubtedly reverse the trend and threaten some forest resources in the medium and long term. Even if the sectoral policy framework documents (Forest and Environment Sector Program or FESP; Poverty Reduction and Growth Strategy Paper or PRGSP), developed with the support of various partners including the World Bank, take into account the need for sustainable development, loss of forest areas cannot be avoided. The objective of this R-PIN is to present the situation in Gabon in order to develop a strategy to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD), that will be implemented along with national economic development, by maintaining carbon stocks and managing forest degradation through economic incentives

<sup>1</sup> **Deforestation**, in this document, means the transition from a forest area to a deforested one

<sup>2</sup> **Degradation** of forests, in this document, is, as defined by IPCC, a long-term reduction of carbon stocks due to anthropogenic pressures without any change in land uses (within standing forest areas).

<sup>3</sup> The difference between "deforestation" and "degradation" depends on the **definition of forest** at the national level. Gabon has not yet formally defined « forest » under the Climate Convention.

<sup>4</sup> "Net deforestation" under the FORAF project refers to deforested areas less naturally regenerated areas. In case of natural regeneration, areas are considered as forested areas and contribute to the definition of « degradation ».

<sup>5</sup> The Forests of the Congo Basin, State of the Forests 2006.

from REDD mechanisms.

b) Are there any estimates of greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in the country?

Estimations were tentatively made during the first national communication in 2004<sup>5</sup>, based on forest data collected in 1994 with additional default factors from the IPCC Good Practice Guidance. These estimations were, however, limited by the absence of reliable data; frequent problems related to cloud cover over the country; the lack of national capacity to apply the IPCC Good Practice Guidance, in mapping and geographic information systems management; and the lack of forest surveys and national data for carbon assessments.

During the REDD COMIFAC<sup>6</sup> workshop in Paris in March 2008, Gabon and other member countries of the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC) identified several priority areas to improve measurement and monitoring of GHG emissions:

- Strengthening national technical capacities to implement and monitor evaluations of GHG emissions (the first training sessions could occur before September),
- Strengthening national technical capacities to implement and monitor evaluations of GHG emissions from the forest sector (first training sessions will take place in September),
- Launching a feasibility study to establish a satellite reception station in Central Africa,
- Implementing research programs to improve national carbon assessments by developing equations and data specific to Gabon and to provide more detailed inventory data (Tier 2 or Tier 3).

c) Describe what data are available for estimating deforestation and forest degradation

No updated data on forest cover is available to monitor land use changes at the national level. The geomatics unit of the *Direction Générale des Eaux et Forêts* (DGEF), created in 1995, is not currently able to provide updated monitoring data. This unit needs capacity-building and reinforcement of technical tools to be able to develop this type of activity as early as 2008-2009.

The Observatory for the Forests of Central Africa (OFAC) is a collective platform gathering forest data for all countries in the region. This regional organization, based in Kinshasa and placed under the authority of the COMIFAC, aims at initiating a continuous observation of the Congo Basin forests. Supported by the European Union, the OFAC (the FORAF project) performed a first feasibility study of an evaluation system of deforestation and degradation from Landsat TM et ETM+ satellite images. This system is based on systematic sampling representing about 4% of the total forest area and using six classes of soil cover. The OFAC proposes new estimations of deforestation and degradation for the seven countries of the Congo Basin, but the abundant cloud cover in Gabon is a challenge, raising the issue of the lack of a satellite reception station in the region. The CARPE program has also produced estimations of deforestation and degradation at the Congo Basin level, using a different methodology and with almost similar results.<sup>7</sup>

Discussions with various partners (France, ECCAS<sup>8</sup>) are underway to establish a direct reception station for satellite images in Libreville. The planned infrastructure will allow organization of a national workshop on image processing in Gabon, therefore creating concrete capacities to serve, and to be managed by, the States. This station will have a regional scope for image processing in support of the key regional themes (forests, fisheries, environment, climate change, and REDD). The technical document was discussed

<sup>5</sup> National Communication on Climate, Gabon, Direction Générale de l'Environnement 2005

<sup>6</sup> REDD Workshop for COMIFAC Countries : « *Atelier REDD COMIFAC sur le Suivi et Mesure des émissions de gaz à effet de serre résultant de la déforestation et de la dégradation des forêts* », Paris, March 10-11, 2008, [http://www.cbfp.nyanet.de/cms/index.php/docs\\_act.html](http://www.cbfp.nyanet.de/cms/index.php/docs_act.html)

<sup>7</sup> "CARPE Monitoring of the Congo Basin - results and ideas for REDD monitoring", Hansen 2008, SDSU, REDD Workshop for COMIFAC Countries, March 10-11 2008, Paris.

<sup>8</sup> Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)

<sup>9</sup> Forest Concessions under Sustainable Management (FCSM)

<sup>10</sup> General census of population and habitat (RGPH. 2003)

among several partners and is awaiting the launch of the feasibility study within the following weeks. This feasibility study should determine potential synergies and complementarities with ongoing regional initiatives including the OFAC. Funding for the station is under negotiation. A portion of this funding could be committed from the debt conversion fund granted by France for forest ecosystems protection in Gabon. The British Cooperation has expressed an interest in contributing up to 1.5 million British Pounds to establish the station. However, implementation could take several years, a duration that is not very compatible with the length of negotiation on REDD. In the meantime, and in order to act promptly, the use of a mobile station is being considered.

The creation of permanent plots is another action rapidly needed in Gabon. This issue was discussed by participants in the REDD COMIFAC workshop and is included in the 2008-2009 Program of Actions. A network of permanent plots could be developed, capitalizing on ongoing projects such as the one developed by IRET (Research Institute on Tropical Ecology) and CENAREST (ACP-FORENET project) to assess forest dynamics at Ivindo National Park and in a forest concession. REDD was not taken into account in the project's protocols but they could be rapidly coordinated to be included in the Gabonese REDD strategy.

In the long run, Gabon plans to implement a national system to inventory and monitor the state of the forests that could be used by other tasks developed by the country (Biodiversity Convention, monitoring of management plans, control of illegal logging, etc.).

d) What are the main causes of deforestation and/or forest degradation?

As mentioned above, Gabon experiences relatively low rates of deforestation and forest degradation compared to other forest countries of the inter-tropical zone, due to strong forest governance (FCSM<sup>9</sup>, National Parks) implemented since the beginning of the 1990s and an underdeveloped agriculture and livestock breeding sector. Visible anthropogenic drivers of deforestation and degradation are not well-documented in Gabon. Therefore, it is difficult to determine the relative impact of each factor on the overall deforestation and degradation. Lack of accurate data for the entire region was mentioned at the REDD COMIFAC Paris workshop in March 2008. Thematic studies on this issue are included in the 2008/2009 action program proposed by the climate focal points of the region to the main donors.

Despite the difficulty to evaluate their significance, the main, direct causes of deforestation in Gabon include: **(a)** development of agricultural activities and settlement of populations near urban areas and **(b)** development of a blooming industrial mining activity and infrastructure. Illegal logging for timber and construction is the main cause of degradation. These pressures impact and will continue to impact mainly areas with a lower level of protection (rural forestry domain and small-scale permit concessions for which sustainability is not proven given their small size).

As an example, even if demographic pressure is not a decisive factor of deforestation and degradation given the low level of population in Gabon (1,5 million inhabitants)<sup>10</sup>, movement of rural populations towards urban centers clearly put pressure on forest areas located near cities and roads. This can be observed around Libreville, which is clearly identified as a deforestation area by the OFAC study mentioned in 3.c.

While Gabon has been able to maintain relatively low deforestation and forest degradation rates in the past, it is important to note that national development imperatives and opening up to exportation will lead to relatively high threats on Gabonese forests in the short and medium term. Reference scenarios and **short and medium-term perspectives should take into account these future pressures:**

In the Poverty Reduction and Growth Strategy Paper, Gabon plans to open up the country by developing roads, railways (transportation of ores...), and deep water ports (in Libreville and Mayumba). Improvement of communication networks is also linked to the development of new mining activities (gold, manganese, iron), notably in the Belinga region, and to the infrastructures, such as dams, needed for these activities. These steps in economic development and poverty reduction will undoubtedly lead to pressures on the forest environment.

Along the same line, and due to the price increase on agricultural markets and development of biofuels, projects are being proposed to implement large-scale agricultural projects addressing the ever-growing demand from countries in both the North and the South. These alternative land uses represent significant opportunities for a country like Gabon. A better valorization of forests (conservation and sustainable management) under a REDD strategy will likely reduce their impact.

Reduction of oil resources in Gabon was first noticed in 1998 (production declined from 17 million tons in 1998 to 13.5 million tons in 2004). In order to reduce the country's economic dependence on oil (*PRGSP, 2006*), measures have been taken to integrate the forest sector into the economic diversification process, including industrialization of the logging sector. Increasing forestry activities will be necessary but without any control, the resulting impacts (progressive fragmentation of forest areas) on forest degradation could be significant. Important efforts should be made to address unscrupulous logging operators who do not respect sustainable management plans, illegal logging at the boundaries of forest concessions, or logging operations that do not fall yet under the FCSM process. Currently, only the large forest concessions and the most visible ones on the international market (10 % of the total forest area) are managed under sustainable management plans ensuring resources durability and a lower level of degradation. Finally, sincere efforts must be undertaken in regards to sustainable forest management to tackle the increase of new logging companies from the Asian markets.

By rapidly integrating the REDD mechanism into the national development process, Gabon will further enhance the large carbon potential of its forests and will therefore address its poverty reduction objectives.

e) What are the key issues in the area of forest law enforcement and forest sector governance?

In May 2004, the *Conseil des Ministres* (Council of Ministers) adopted and published a Letter on Sectoral Policy for Forests, Fisheries, Aquaculture, Protected Areas, Environment, and Training. This Letter reviews the main strategic lines ranked by main priorities. It suggests occasional adjustments of the legal and regulatory framework in order to align management tools to defined objectives, including creation of a diversified wealth and poverty reduction, while ensuring sustainability of ecosystems and the associated environmental services.

Despite significant regulatory efforts on sustainable forest management since 2001, several components should be reinforced and developed in the coming years:

- (i) Ensure implementation of the sustainable management plans in small and large forest concessions, given that the Waters and Forests administration does not have all necessary capacities and financial means for full control at the national level (to create a national forest geographic information system, to collect and centralize forest data);
- (ii) Initiate a program to define a land tenure framework, ensuring that rural communities have access to sustainable forest management as well and clarifying benefits from REDD to these communities;
- (iii) Launch a national forest survey;
- (iv) Clarify carbon property rights (carbon legislation) ;
- (v) Promote and encourage certification of forests and forest products. Gabon has started negotiations with the European Union on a FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreement;
- (vi) Finalize the regulatory framework on forest management, including validation of the technical guidance on forest management;
- (vii) Reinforce wood transformation policies on the national territory. The objective for 2012 is to reach 75% in national transformation.

There are three types of challenges in regards to National Parks: **(a)** an ecological challenge related to conservation of tropical forests, national and world heritage; **(b)** an economic challenge related to development of responsible tourism that will improve livelihoods of local populations; and **(c)** a social challenge related to job creation, enhancement of local cultures, and opening up of relevant regions.

Under law n°16/2001, there is no more distinction between private and public domain. Article 13 notes that

«any forest falls under the national domain and constitutes the exclusive property of the State ». In order to provide a stable and secure legal framework to the various forest management stakeholders (concession holders, communities involved in community forestry, etc.), it is important that Gabon resumes large-scale efforts initiated for participative zoning and constitutes the permanent forest domain through legal procedures (classification and registration).

Clarification of land tenure is included in potential REDD actions with the lowest opportunity costs (along with control of bushfires and creation of protected areas) compared to much more profitable alternative land uses such as the development of export crops (see Bosquet, 2007). Therefore, it is important that Gabon clarifies the land tenure status of the forests and finalizes the zoning of the Rural Forestry Domain (DFR) for clear community involvement in managing forest resources. The development of the REDD mechanism in Gabon will provide the framework to act towards these objectives and will guarantee clear community access to funding from REDD thereby encouraging communities to sustainably manage forests.

#### **4. What data are available on forest dwellers in lands potentially targeted for REDD activities?**

Gabon has a population of 1.5 million inhabitants with a population density lower than 1 inhabitant/km<sup>2</sup>, which is unique in Central Africa. The population includes more than fifty ethnic groups, the most numerous being the Fangs (32%), the Mpongwés (13%), the Mbédés (14%), and the Punus (12%). Seventy five percent of the Gabonese population lives in large cities (65% in Libreville and Port Gentil) while a portion of the population is settled in smaller towns and villages over the country. These populations are not forest population *per se*, but there is no doubt that they directly or indirectly depend on forest resources (hunting, fishing, gathering, and non-timber forest products). REDD and sustainable forest management issues are therefore relevant to these populations. Consultation with these populations is necessary for the implementation of REDD policy (see Paragraph 7h).

The pygmies, the only true forest population, represent less than 1% of the overall population and are very poorly known in Gabon. Implementation of local development and self-promotion policies among these populations has produced very little results. Pygmies do not have any community structure allowing them to initiate activities for their development and their integration into Gabonese society. Currently, the most advanced initiatives stem from sustainable management plans led by logging companies through their social component. These logging companies have the most frequent contacts with pygmies – this could be a mean to transfer benefits from the REDD mechanism and to address concerns of pygmy communities. While we do not have enough information on these populations to present an overview of their needs, protecting forest resources from deforestation and degradation will clearly contribute to the protection of the living environment of these populations.

Information can be collected through (a) sustainable management plans and their social component, as presented by logging companies (the MEFEPa is preparing a technical guidance on this component; (b) environmental impact assessments (environmental code); (c) projects developed by NGOs or international projects (European Union, UNEP, AFD, WWF, WCS, World Bank, etc.).

#### **5. Summarize key elements of the current strategy or programs that your government or other groups have put in place to address deforestation and forest degradation:**

##### **a) What process was used to arrive at the current strategy or programs?**

Considering recommendations, engagements, and various declarations from treaties, conventions, and international declarations to which Gabon has subscribed since the Rio Summit in 1992, authorities have launched significant institutional and regulatory reforms in the forest sector and for nature protection. Between 1993 and 2001, major texts were voted by the National Assembly and promulgated by the government: (a) law 16/93 of August 26, 1993 relative to environmental protection and improvement; (b) law 016/01 of December 31, 2001 relative to forestry code and national parks law (2007); (c) ratification of

the COMIFAC treaty in 2007.

Governmental institutions and stakeholders from the pertinent sectors (NGOs, international organizations, private sector, etc.) are discussing institutional and regulatory reforms. The National Commission on Sustainable Development (CNDD) is also expected to be a discussion and dialogue platform among governmental institutions, representatives of NGOs, and the private sector. This entity, the only one of its kind in Central Africa, is not operational yet but could find its niche once the REDD program starts following FCPF support.

b) What major programs or policies are in place at the national or regional level?

Actions in place at the national level:

Forest Concessions under Sustainable Management (FCSM): Since 2005, about 44% of all forest concessions have a sustainable management plan. The effort initiated by the government of Gabon for sustainable management of the country's natural resources was backed up by the economic interest expressed by large logging companies to improve their image on the European markets. Implementation of sustainable management plans is viewed as a key element of the forestry policy in Gabon to address economic, social, and environmental needs. Far from leading to "degradation", logging under these conditions, like conservation actions, results in protection of forest areas. While a slight decrease of carbon stocks can be noticed during the first rotations, carbon content of standing trees remains sustainably high, as opposed to other types of logging less respectful of the forests that can lead to significant resources degradation. Significant work remains to be done to put all forest concessions under sustainable management. Additional points have to be considered: *(a)* some operational problems such as control and monitoring by loggers and by the DGEF of management plans<sup>11</sup>, and *(b)* involvement of rural communities in implementing, and ensuring conformity to, the sustainable management process. Production forests in Gabon cover about 13 million hectares (State of the Forests 2006). FCSM (about 7 million hectares) represent about 30% of the national forest area. The remaining 5 to 6 millions of hectares are granted small-scale permits. AFD supports the government in the integration process of these small-scale logging concessions into the forestry law by helping them implement a sustainable management plan. The underlying idea is to change these degradation-causing areas, where logging is not very profitable due to their small size, to a grouping of small concessions under sustainable management. Sustainable management in this case would ensure sustainable durability and protection of the forest. This project currently includes 71 registered permits covering a total area of 800,000 hectares. Among them, 5 viable groups were organized corresponding to an area of 440,000 ha; legal agreements are being drafted between the permit holders and the ministry to launch a pilot project on sustainable management of a grouping of small concessions in the near future.

Creation of 13 National Parks in 2002: an area of 2,707,821 hectares of tropical forests, 13.2% of the national territory, was declared as protected areas and put under the control of the National Agency in charge of National Parks (ANPN) under the authority of the Ministry of Tourism and National Parks. Designation of national parks is a key component of the Gabonese forest policy to preserve fauna and biodiversity and develop ecotourism. But the mere status as "National Park" is often insufficient to avoid deforestation and degradation of these protected forests. The ANPN faces serious challenges related to law enforcement on the ground: lack of coordination among the various ministries, insufficient control of illegal logging and poaching, lack of field technical capacities, and lack of funding. Viability of these protected areas closely depends on the national capacity to develop a sustainable funding strategy. Payment for environmental services (carbon, biodiversity) is probably the most viable option. Therefore, the World Bank must lead a discussion on potential financial tools including ways to integrate these protected areas into the Gabonese REDD strategy.

Implementation of community forests (DFR): The forestry code (art. 156) provides for the creation of community forests for rural populations, representing about 6 million hectares for multiple uses: community protected areas, sacred forests, hunting, gathering, agriculture, livestock, mining activities etc. This governmental action aims at *(a)* involving rural communities in good management of natural resources; *(b)* optimizing exploitation of national forest resources; and *(c)* reducing poverty by ensuring

<sup>11</sup> Technical diagnostic mission on sustainable forest management to reach the 2000 objective of ITTO, 2005



that rural communities benefit from forest resources revenues. No significant operations currently exist on sustainable management of forest resources for rural areas. In this context, the DGEF would like to organize management of these resources by granting permits by mutual agreement (PGG) to replace family exploitation and by establishing community forests to benefit local populations. These forests are very sensitive to deforestation (absence of community property, lack of support for sustainable management etc.) and to illegal industrial logging. Empowerment of local communities will provide better security. However, this process will require significant efforts to define the DFR (technical support to the DGEF), to strengthen the organization of the civil society (community association etc.) as well as to reinforce land tenure regulations.

Environmental Code: The Environmental Code requires that an environmental impact assessment (Social and Environmental Management Plan) be carried out before launching any economic activity. This document must be submitted to the *Direction Générale de l'Environnement* (DGE) for approval. If the plan forecasts any potential damages, a restoration program must be included in the economic activity project.

The New Mining Code (art. 73) provides that the mining activity permit be granted by decree (for a renewable 10-year period) following a public inquiry and an assessment of the impacts of exploitation on the environment and local populations.

Wood certification/legality: Gabon has expressed an interest in negotiating a FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreement with the European Community. A local certification system (PAFC) is also under development. Promoting certification should result in a better control and traceability of wood in the coming years.

#### Actions in place at the regional level:

COMIFAC, with the support of several CBFP members, hosts the Observatory for the Forests of Central Africa (OFAC). The OFAC is in charge of cartographic monitoring of deforestation and degradation for the entire Congo Basin. The OFAC, under the authority of COMIFAC, has the objective to serve as an accessible platform to all countries and to collect data on Central African forests.

Global Forest Watch is a regional project responsible for monitoring illegal logging. This project is still under development in Gabon. To date, the MEFEPa has signed a collaboration agreement with Global Forest Watch.

## **6. What is the current thinking on what would be needed to reduce deforestation and forest degradation in Gabon?**

### a) How would those programs address the causes of deforestation?

Gabon is one of the rare Central African countries to experience a deforestation and degradation rate below 1%. This is due mainly to: (a) strong governance of the forest sector and (b) a relative national wealth in oil and gas (the oil and gas sector accounts for 29% of the GDP) resulting in a temporary reduction of economic pressures on the forest sector (the forest sector accounts for 6.4% of the GDP). Despite this situation, illegal logging, forest land conversion for agriculture, development of mining projects, opening up of the country (construction of roads, railways, and deepwater ports) will threaten the sustainability of forest resources in Gabon. Decrease in oil and gas resources, national development programs and the poverty reduction program (PRGSP) will simultaneously reinforce land conversion and intensification of forest degradation.

In this context, Gabon must adopt a global and cross-cutting strategy and work, on one hand, on reinforcing existing actions (strengthening protection of national parks, extending and enhancing sustainable management in FCSM areas), and, on the other hand, on preventing degradation and changes in land use processes in high-risk areas (areas where land-use is not clearly defined, Rural Forestry Domain and small-scale concessions). Increasing the value of forests will reduce these increasing pressures on forest areas in the coming years. In this context, the main lines of activities of a REDD strategy could include:

- (i) Reinforcing and extending protected areas: Viability of these protected areas closely relies on the national capacity to develop a strategy for sustainable funding. Payment of environmental services (carbon, biodiversity) is probably the most viable option. Therefore, a strategic thinking on potential

financial tools must take place including on how REDD strategy could include these protected areas.

- (ii) Reinforcing and extending sustainable management areas: suppressing bottlenecks and speeding up policies on sustainable management by strengthening policies mentioned above, and extending sustainable forest management practices to all logging concessions and promoting it for community forests. REDD funding could (i) promote sustainable management by encouraging good practices among loggers (e.g. bonus systems) and (ii) enhance the existing institutional framework: institutional capacity-building of the DGEF who should have the necessary tools to enforce the new forestry code and for a better deployment of its personnel; strengthen the regulatory framework; finalization of forestry code regulations for good enforcement resulting in fiscal incentives; finalization of the technical management guidance; and full enforcement of the forestry code for FCSP and PFA, a traceability system for forest products. Extending the sustainably-managed domain also depends on progressive integration of small-scale concessions grouped into larger ones for a cost-effective implementation of sustainable management (progressive integration of small-scale permits into FCSM).
- (iii) In regards to the Rural Forestry Domain, risks are higher and there is clear pressure on resources. This domain is expected to have multiple uses: community protected areas, sacred forests, hunting, gathering, livestock, small-scale mining, etc. Protection of these forest areas will certainly depend on more traditional methods to clarify land tenure and community rights, to pay for environmental services, and to ensure empowerment of local communities. However, implementing this process will require significant efforts to define the DRF (technical support to the DGEF), to strengthen civil society (community association...), and to reinforce land tenure regulations.
- (iv) In the case of hotspots (areas under significant pressure) experiencing deforestation (e.g. around large urban centers), specific REDD projects can be implemented including an analysis of the main drivers of deforestation and potential policies to practically reduce pressures on forest resources (plantation programs to provide populations with firewood or construction wood, installation of energy-efficient ovens, switch to more intensive and less space-consuming agricultural practices, management of bush fires, etc.).

With support from FCPF, Gabon will need to refine this strategy using detailed specific studies, to be carried out separately or globally, on the following themes :

- (i) Analysis of the medium to long term evolution of pressures on forest areas: this study will focus on possible trends on international markets for the forest, agriculture, and livestock sectors and their consequences for the country (risks and opportunities).
- (ii) Study on the political impacts of proposed mechanisms under REDD – what are the stakes and risks (economic and social) involved for Gabon in implementing such mechanisms, in terms of governance and development.
- (iii) Study of the causes of deforestation and forest degradation (this study was mentioned during the REDD COMIFAC workshop): these causes are not well-documented in Gabon.

Developing the above-mentioned tools to prevent deforestation and forest degradation and supporting FCPF-assisted REDD programs will result in an exchange across economic sectors and private operators and inclusion of the REDD mechanism into sectoral policy agendas.

#### b) Would any cross-sectoral programs or policies play a role in a REDD strategy?

Development of cross-sectoral programs is not very frequent in Gabon. There were several cases of bilateral cooperation, including for the preparation of framework documents such as the PRGSP or the FESP. The Ministry of Environment plans to rapidly set up an institutional framework that would enable implementation of a REDD strategy. This strategy will be discussed and managed under the National Commission on Sustainable Development (CNDD) including representatives from other ministries, the private sector, and the civil society

#### c) Have you considered the potential relationship between your REDD strategy and your development

agenda in the forest and other relevant sectors?

As mentioned in the previous paragraphs, the development agenda of the forest sector in Gabon was revised in May 2004 during the presentation of the Letter on the Forest Sectoral Policy. This Letter still sets the strategic lines and deadlines for Gabon and donors. During preparation of the Letter, which gathers all data from various sectoral policy documents (PFE, FESP, PRGSP), the REDD mechanism was not yet a key theme of negotiations under the Climate Change Convention. However, the clear direction taken by the Gabonese government in regards to sustainable forest resources management and conservation of tropical forests is consistent with REDD. Therefore, current regulations constitute a solid basis for REDD pilot activities.

d) Has any technical assistance already been received, or is planned on REDD?

Since March 2006, Gabon and all Congo Basin countries receive the support of the French Cooperation through ONFI and of other partners such as the World Bank and WWF under the Climate negotiations. The Climate focal points met during several preparation and training meetings. Exchanges with other countries or group of countries (European Union, Latin American countries) were organized. These meetings and exchanges include:

- March 2006, preparation of REDD submission (Libreville) ;
- June 2006, preparation of Rome UNFCCC meeting,
- October 2006, preparation of COP12,
- February 2007, preparation of REDD submission (Costa Rica) ;
- July 2007, preparation of REDD submission (Douala) ;
- October 2007, preparation of COP13,
- March 2008, Scientific workshop on REDD mechanisms and preparation of REDD submission (Paris).

As for exchanges with other groups of countries, Gabon participated in meetings organized by the Coalition for Rainforest Nations (CfRN). Assistance for negotiations and active participation of each country, including Gabon, were important for the inclusion of degradation, along with deforestation, in the REDD process.

This support continued in March 2008 during a workshop in Paris gathering the Climate focal points and international experts (IPCC experts, GHG assessment specialists, forestry experts) for a common discussion on REDD. This workshop was organized by ONF International and jointly funded by France and Germany.

Under the Observatory of the Forests of Central Africa (OFAC), the European Union finances the FORAF project which resulted in the first homogenous mapping of deforestation and degradation in the Congo Basin countries. These data are available to Gabon to start working on REDD-eligible areas.

Other donors have expressed their interest in participating in the REDD process in the Congo Basin and in Gabon including the GEF, the French Cooperation, and NGOs (WWF, WCS).

## **7. What are your thoughts on the type of local stakeholder consultation process you would use?**

a) Create a dialogue with stakeholders about their viewpoints, and b) evaluate the role various stakeholders can play in developing and implementing strategies or programs under FCPF support.

The 2001 forestry law was developed through consultation sessions with private partners from the forest sectors. Through the implementation of their management plan, private operators have to initiate a dialogue with forest dwellers. This dialogue is initiated by either the company itself, with a special unit in charge of the social component, or by mandated non-governmental organizations. In addition, environmental impact assessments allow public consultations on projects, thereby providing access to information and the right to voice an opinion on the projects. This type of consultation is regularly used by the administration and can be implemented for discussions on the impacts of the REDD strategy in Gabon and on the implementation of REDD pilot projects financed by FCPF and other involved partners.

c) How are local stakeholders normally consulted and involved in the forest sector about new programs or policies?

Gabon created a National Commission on Sustainable Development (CNDD) including representatives of public and private institutions; two representatives of national and international non-governmental organizations recognized for their environmental experience. The CNDD can be mandated to implement the forest sectoral policy or to introduce the strategy to the main logging operators, local communities or stakeholders from the mining sector, etc.

d) Have any stakeholder consultations on REDD or reducing deforestation been held in the past several years?

The consultations did not focus on REDD *per se*, but on methods to reduce deforestation. The required sustainable management plans for forest concessions fit into policies to reduce deforestation in Gabon. This policy, introduced since 1994 by the *Projet Forêt Environnement* (PFE) in the forest sectoral policy, was the subject of a large awareness program within the country among private operators, local populations and NGOs. To disseminate the new regulation, the DGEF, with the support of international NGOs, developed awareness programs, workshops, and publications.

e) What stakeholder consultation and implementation role discussion process might be used for discussions across federal government agencies, institutes, etc.?

Similar to the answer to 7.c, but the *Vice-Primature* (Office of the Vice-Prime-Minister), in charge of environment and nature protection, plans to eventually establish a National Committee on REDD, specifically dedicated to implementing the REDD strategy in Gabon.

f) Across state or other regional governments or institutions?

Gabon is one of the 10 member countries of the Central African Forest Commission for which the treaty was ratified in 2007 by all States. COMIFAC was created for the objective of concerted management of the forests of the Congo Basin through a common platform named « Convergence Plan », which includes ten strategic areas. The first area specifically focuses on the 1992 Rio Conventions including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Reduction of deforestation and forest degradation is one of the concerns of the COMIFAC. Therefore, this regional structure will serve as a platform for discussion, exchange, and negotiation for the development of a regional REDD mechanism.

g) For other stakeholders on forest, agriculture, and other sectors, (NGOs, private sector, etc.)?

See Paragraph 7.e

h) For indigenous peoples and forest dwellers?

The weak organization of rural communities (few community associations, few local NGOs, etc.) limits the effectiveness of participatory processes to formulate sectoral policies in Gabon. It is clear that the involvement of civil society in a REDD process is crucial to ensure the transfer of carbon benefits to rural populations, to guarantee economic development of these populations, and to encourage communities to sustainably manage their forest resources. Development of the REDD strategy in Gabon should take example on the participative process used during preparation of the PRGSP. This process benefited from technical assistance of experts mandated by the UNDP and the World Bank for methodology development, training of local and national stakeholders selected to supervise the process and for content definition of future discussions.

**8. Implementing REDD strategies:**a) What are the challenges to introducing effective REDD strategies or programs, and how might they be overcome?

In the past, Gabon has proved its capacity to implement effective protection policies for its forest resources. Covering more than 85% of the country, the Gabonese forest is a strategic economic stake for the country.

The PRGSP includes implementation of an agriculture development strategy by 2015 as a driver for economic diversification, poverty reduction, and food security in Gabon. This strategy will certainly lead to land use changes and increase of GHG emissions from the forest sector. However, the PRGSP takes into account aspects that are consistent with a REDD strategy for the development of the agriculture and livestock sector by focusing on: *(a)* promoting family farming and *(b)* switching from extensive production systems to intensive, diversified, sustainable, and soil-friendly systems. Other aspects of agriculture development include the intensification of export crops as a response to the sharp increase of the prices of agricultural products and the development of biofuels. To address these new global economic trends, the main challenges are the following:

- How should national forest resources be enhanced in order to make conservation and forest sustainable management attractive in the long run?
- How should environmental services from tropical forests be enhanced to guarantee their durable protection?
- How could it be guaranteed that programs under a REDD strategy will be carried out in consultation with local stakeholders and really benefit populations?
- How would effective policies and programs be implemented over large areas while governmental means are often limited?

The main challenges in Gabon are similar to those facing the implementation of efficient policies and programs for the forest sector, which remain complex. Gabon has proved in the past that, with a strong political will, it can succeed in sustainable management of its forest ecosystems.

b) Would performance-based payments be an incentive for implementing a more coherent strategy to tackle deforestation?

Several options are under consideration without any current preference by the authorities. Transfer of associated REDD revenues from the State to local populations and stakeholders will be considered based on a case-by-case basis. For forest dwellers, systems of payment for environmental services (as implemented in Costa Rica for instance) will allow a transfer from the State to the local stakeholder – but these systems have not been extensively tested in Gabon. As for forest concessions, there are existing systems allowing the transfer of resources from the concession holder to local populations – these systems could be assessed and scaled-up.

Carbon law is not yet in place in Gabon, but a preliminary study was conducted in 2004 (EcoCarbone) to

specify the Gabonese options. Bilateral agreements were concluded with Annex I countries (such as France) to implement CDM-type projects (including afforestation, reforestation and cogeneration). Initial thoughts are therefore being discussed on legal and fiscal carbon issues. Development of a more detailed carbon legislation is included in the REDD strategy. Finally, Gabon is currently drafting the second national communication to the Climate Convention, which will mention inclusion of climate issues into the environmental legislation. These legal texts will be part of the new environmental code under preparation.

## **9. REDD strategy and implementation monitoring:**

### **a) How is forest cover and land use change monitored today, and by whom?**

The Direction for Forest Surveys, Management and Regeneration (*Direction des Inventaires, des Aménagements et de la Régénération des Forêts* or DIARF) is responsible for forest monitoring in Gabon. A GIS unit was created in 1995 to manage information from forest management plans. Gabon does not currently have a map of neither the forest cover nor land use changes.

The DGEF has indicated the crucial need for strengthening this GIS unit to support the FCSP process and zoning of forest domains (creation of the Rural Forestry Domain). GIS capacity-building at the DIARF requires strengthening competencies on processing GIS information and remote-sensing data, as well as financial support to develop the unit by getting updated equipment and software. This unit will also be in charge of forest monitoring for the REDD mechanism in Gabon. It is important to remember that capacity-building (through workshops, training, enhancement of local degrees in remote-sensing and geomatics) that is specific to REDD will be needed for this unit to be totally operational and durable under the national strategy.

Regarding threats on Gabonese forests, the REDD strategy in Gabon will be rather based on estimates of future emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and on modeling forest cover changes based on econometric and spatial models. It will be important to rely on the REDD program to create national capacity in forest cover monitoring and modeling. Modeling should absolutely capitalize on the extensive data collected by environmental NGOs (WCS, WWF), sustainable management plans developed for forest concessions, environmental impact assessments, and information within international projects (OFAC, CARPE, CARBOAFRICA).

### **b) What are the constraints of the current monitoring system?**

For an effective monitoring that include not only forest areas and land use changes between two periods, but also biomass and carbon quantities in ecosystems, the main constraints of the monitoring system are the following :

- (i) Gabon does not have the technical capacity and trained personnel to effectively monitor GHG emissions from the forest sector. This technical capacity is needed in remote-sensing, implementation of GIS, use of the IPCC Good Practice Guidance for GHG emissions assessments, etc.
- (ii) Gabon does not carry out an annual or regular national forest survey that will allow a comparison between satellite images and field data and estimation of changes in forest cover, and losses and increases of biomass.
- (iii) Satellite images are often difficult to use due to the abundant cloud cover, especially over the coastal strip.
- (iv) Gabon does not have a reception station at the local nor regional level to improve image quantity and quality.
- (v) Gabon does not have data on biomass specific to its own environment. Data provided by the IPCC are relatively conservative and often result from work on other continents.

### **c) How would REDD activities and program performance be monitored?**

The preliminary version of a forest cartography, land-use-changes monitoring, and biomass measurement system presented above could become a mechanism to control the performances of the REDD strategy in Gabon. Since this system is in a preliminary stage, it is important to note that Gabon will refine its national REDD strategy and verify its coherence with other regional countries based on technical and scientific workshops on REDD, organized under COMIFAC. More accurate systems could be rapidly developed in more localized hotspots.

Under a REDD program, Gabon could plan a national forest survey to be carried out at regular intervals (every five years for instance) to monitor evolution of GHG emissions from the forest sector. This inventory system, combined with a GIS, will be useful for the overall forest management policy in Gabon. For effective implementation of this monitoring system, several conditions must be fulfilled (cf. Paragraph 11d).

- (i) Implementation of remote-sensing monitoring of forest areas at the national level. It is important that the Gabonese authorities develop, through a national organism, a national database on forests. A sound national forest survey will also provide data for existing regional databases such as OFAC. The selected methodology, chosen by national authorities among various presented methods, could be a wall-to-wall (see CARPE program) or a sampling survey (see the FORAF program or the French example in French Guyana).
- (ii) Data will be completed by field data (determination of biomass equations) developed under national research programs and using the various available data, including those collected under sustainable management plans. Along those lines, WWF could mobilize resources to promote implementation of REDD pilot projects in the north-east of Gabon (deadline June 2009).
- (iii) Training in survey and remote-sensing techniques will be needed.

## **10. Additional benefits of a REDD strategy:**

### **a) Are there other non-carbon benefits through implementation of a REDD strategy?**

In general, implementation of a REDD strategy at the national level to improve preservation of tropical forest ecosystems will have significant environmental benefits. Gabonese tropical forests are extremely rich in animal and plant biodiversity and shelter several threatened species. Funding could improve: **(a)** knowledge of ecosystems through development and reinforcement of conservation and research programs and **(b)** livelihoods of local populations by making protection of these habitats economically viable and by involving populations in the management of protected areas and areas under sustainable management.

### **b) Is biodiversity conservation being monitored at present?**

Currently, Gabon does not have a national monitoring program on biodiversity. In the FCSM, sustainable management plans required by the forestry law of 2001 must include a biodiversity analysis in the relevant concession. These plans could be a source of significant information to determine the national state of biodiversity. Since the MEFEPa does not impose a specific methodology, it would be important to consider harmonizing and synthesizing all existing data. Consulting firms and NGOs have a role in improving data acquisition by monitoring biodiversity in concessions and raising awareness on sustainable management of natural resources.

At the local level, biodiversity is monitored in Gabonese national parks through studies and programs implemented by NGOs (WCS and WWF).

### **c) Under introduction of REDD programs, would biodiversity conservation also be monitored?**

A REDD program in Gabon will necessarily imply strengthening the National Observatory on Biodiversity. All finalized activities must be capitalized on and data directed to this Observatory. This will contribute to the dissemination of information and therefore to the development of sound conservation strategies.

**d) Are benefits for populations currently monitored?**

WCS set up a program called « People and Parks » with the objective of assessing the negative and positive impacts of the creation of national parks on forest populations (job opportunity, tourism development, opening up remote areas, restriction of access to resources etc.). Four teams of national scientists are in charge of monitoring and implementation of a baseline to be analyzed and updated after 12 months and 60 months. This initiative, stemming from the Durban Congress in 2002, is consistent with the REDD theme of systematic study of the impact of deforestation reduction on forest dwellers.

To this, we have to add the effort made by the MEFEPa related to sustainable management plans and the associated required social component in concessions under sustainable management. Guidance on these social studies is being developed at the MEFEPa and should soon become a reference in forest concessions.

**c) Under introduction of REDD programs, would benefits for populations also be monitored?**

The methodology implemented by WCS and the « People and Parks » Project could become a reference for monitoring local populations. This methodology could be adapted to REDD mechanisms.

## **11. What type of assistance would you like to benefit from the FCPF Readiness Mechanism?**

**a) Setting up a transparent stakeholder consultation on REDD:**

The planning process for the REDD strategy in Gabon will take place over about six months, if Gabon receives the needed funds to implement activities. The first Gabonese decisions regarding the REDD mechanism were made at the REDD COMIFAC workshop in Paris in March 2008.

To prepare the implementation of the REDD strategy, the Ministry of the Environment plans to create, by order of the *Vice-Primature*, a National Committee on REDD in charge of initiating the dialogue on REDD. This dialogue will inform national and international stakeholders and update information on the evolution of the mechanism, and then disseminate decisions on application of the REDD strategy.

During the consultation process, advice from FCPF might be requested.

**b) Developing reference scenarios/ deforestation and/or degradation trends:**

Support from FCPF will be requested to carry out a number of surveys (see Point 6a) including:

- (i) Prospective analysis of the medium to long term trends of deforestation and forest degradation: this study will focus on the potential evolution of international markets in the forest, agriculture, and livestock sectors and on its impacts on countries like Gabon (risks and opportunities). This study will be used by Gabonese decision-makers and negotiators during international negotiations. Results of this study will support future negotiation without becoming a compulsory framework (this study could be confidential);
- (ii) Study on the political impacts of proposed mechanisms under REDD – what are the stakes and risks for Gabon of such mechanisms in terms of governance and development? ;
- (iii) Study on the causes of deforestation and forest degradation (this study was mentioned during the REDD COMIFAC workshop): these causes are not well-documented in Gabon.

**c) Developing a national REDD Strategy: Identification of programs to reduce deforestation and design of a system for providing targeted financial incentives for REDD to land owners and organizations:**

The developed REDD strategy will be based on a set of flexible mechanisms which could be adapted to the characteristics of the country. Like Annex I countries who ratified the Kyoto Protocol, the State will be



responsible for implementing the REDD program and will be able to develop this program at the national policy level (strengthening actions for ecosystems preservation, reinforcing policies related to sustainable management of forest resources, building national capacities to control and monitor forest activities), as well as at the level of local projects benefiting local stakeholders (local populations, forest dwellers, communities, loggers).

The FCPF will certainly be asked to help Gabon on these issues and to support the REDD strategy at the national level. Besides ideas and actions mentioned above, the FCPF contribution could be especially relevant to determine which REDD mechanisms could benefit a country like Gabon, with a relatively low level of deforestation and degradation compared to other countries thanks to its past policies. The specific case of Gabon could serve as an example to the group of countries with a similar situation of low historical rates. In this context, opening the discussion will be necessary in order for these innovative mechanisms to benefit countries with low historical levels like Gabon, as well as to countries experiencing higher deforestation rates and to countries currently rebuilding their forest heritage (like India or Costa Rica).

**d) Create a system to monitor emissions and emission reductions from deforestation and/or forest degradation:**

Under a REDD program, Gabon could plan a national forest survey to be carried out at regular intervals (every five years for example) to monitor evolution of GHG emissions from the forest sector (for details see Paragraph 9.c). For an effective monitoring system, a number of preliminary conditions must be fulfilled :

- (i) Implementation of a remote-sensing monitoring system of forest areas at the national level ;
- (ii) Data will be completed by field data (determination of biomass equations);
- (iii) Training in survey and remote-sensing techniques.

With this monitoring system, GHG emissions and absorptions from the AFOLU sector can be assessed in order to accurately evaluate the contribution of the forest sector in national GHG emissions. Hotspots, where the major part of emissions occurs, will be identified. This assessment of emissions will follow the IPCC recommendations. This work will contribute to the national communication of Gabon to the Climate Convention.

The FCPF will be asked to support implementation of this monitoring system.

**e) Budget**

Budget components will be refined depending on co-financing from partners of Gabon. Figures included below are indicative and will be subject to discussion between the FCPF and Gabonese authorities.

<b>REDD Strategy Gabon</b>	<b>FCPF Participation</b>
<i>REDD activities</i>	<i>1,500,000 \$</i>
<i>Research and development</i>	<i>1,000,000 \$</i>
<i>REDD pilot actions</i>	<i>1,500,000 \$</i>
<i>Capacity-building</i>	<i>2,000,000 \$</i>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,000,000 \$</b>

## **12. Donor countries and other international partners already cooperating with Gabon on the preparation of analytical work on REDD?**

A number of donors have already expressed their wish to support Gabon in its current thinking on REDD (see Paragraph 6d for instance). Partners cooperating or wishing to cooperate with Gabon on this subject include:

- The **French Ministry of Foreign Affairs** (support under the COMIFAC CDM Project, by providing a technical assistant at the Gabonese Ministry of the Environment, and for drafting of the R-PIN), can contribute through a debt-conversion program between France and Gabon (estimated at 60 million Euros), a portion of which would be allocated to REDD;
- The **German Cooperation** (co-financing of the REDD COMIFAC workshop) and possible support in the future;
- **Environmental NGOs** (WWF and WCS) ;
- The **European Union** through the FORAF program implemented by the Joint Research Center (JRC) ;
- The United Nations Environment Program (**UNEP**) and the French Global Environment Facility (**FFEM**) through the CASCADE Program;
- The **Global Environment Facility** (GEF) could contribute to acquire scientific data needed to calculate carbon emissions as well as to developing a management and valuation strategy for forest carbon;
- The **French Development Agency** (AFD)

## **13. Next steps and schedule:**

The various tasks and studies mentioned in this form are summarized below and a potential schedule is presented in Annex II.

### Implementation of REDD activities:

- Policy analysis of REDD mechanisms;
- Perspectives and reference scenarios: discussion on a reference scenario related to forest trends based on national (demography, sectoral policies) and international factors (evolution of markets, demand for tropical wood, biofuels);
- Review of GHG emissions under the national communication;
- Creation of a National Committee on REDD.

### Research and development:

- Feasibility study for the creation of a satellite reception station;
- Implementation of mobile satellite reception station;
- Development of carbon data specific to the Congo Basin forests.

### REDD pilot actions:

- Definition of national program;
- Identification of intervention areas (hotspots) ;
- Definition of additional pilot actions.

### Capacity-building :

- GHG assessment for national communications to the Climate Convention (June 2008) ;
- GHG assessment for the AFOLU sector (September 2008).

### International negotiations :

- Negotiation meetings (COP, SBSTA, Submissions) ;
- REDD technical and scientific workshops;

- Side events during international meetings ;
- Exchanges of South-South negotiators.

Common platform for the countries of the Congo Basin forests:

- Creation of a scientific committee or a task force;
- Integration of a strategic area on forest carbon/technical strengthening within COMIFAC
- Regional training on GHG inventory techniques (Paris, September 2008).

**14. List of attachments included**

- 1) Abbreviations
- 2) Forest Data
- 3) Protected Areas
- 4) Maps of Protected Areas and Forest Concessions
- 5) Schedule of REDD Activities

**ANNEX 1. Abbreviations**

AFD: French Development Agency  
 AFOLU: Agriculture, Forest and other Land Uses  
 ANPN: National Agency in charge of National Parks  
 CARPE: Central African Regional Program for the Environment  
 CASCADE: Carbon finance for Agriculture, Sylviculture, Conservation and Actions against Deforestation  
 CBFP: Congo Basin Forest Partnership  
 CNDD: National Commission on Sustainable Development  
 COMIFAC: Central African Forest Commission  
 DFR: Rural Forestry Domain  
 DIARF: Direction for Forest surveys, Management and Regeneration  
 ECCAS: Economic Community of Central African States  
 ESMP: Environmental and Social Environmental Plan  
 FCSM: Forest Concessions under Sustainable Management  
 FESP: Forest and Environment Sectoral Project  
 FFEM: French Global Environment Facility  
 FORAF: African Forest Observatory Project  
 GHG: Greenhouse Gases  
 IRET: Research Institute on Tropical Ecology  
 MAE: Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
 MEFEPA: Ministry of Forest Economy, Waters, Fisheries, and Aquaculture  
 OFAC: Observatory for the Forests of Central Africa  
 ONF: National Office on Forests  
 PAFC: Pan African Forest Certification  
 PFA: Associated Forest Permits  
 PFE: Project on Forest and Environment  
 PRGSP: Poverty Reduction and Growth Strategy Paper

**ANNEX 2. Forest Data of Gabon<sup>12</sup>**

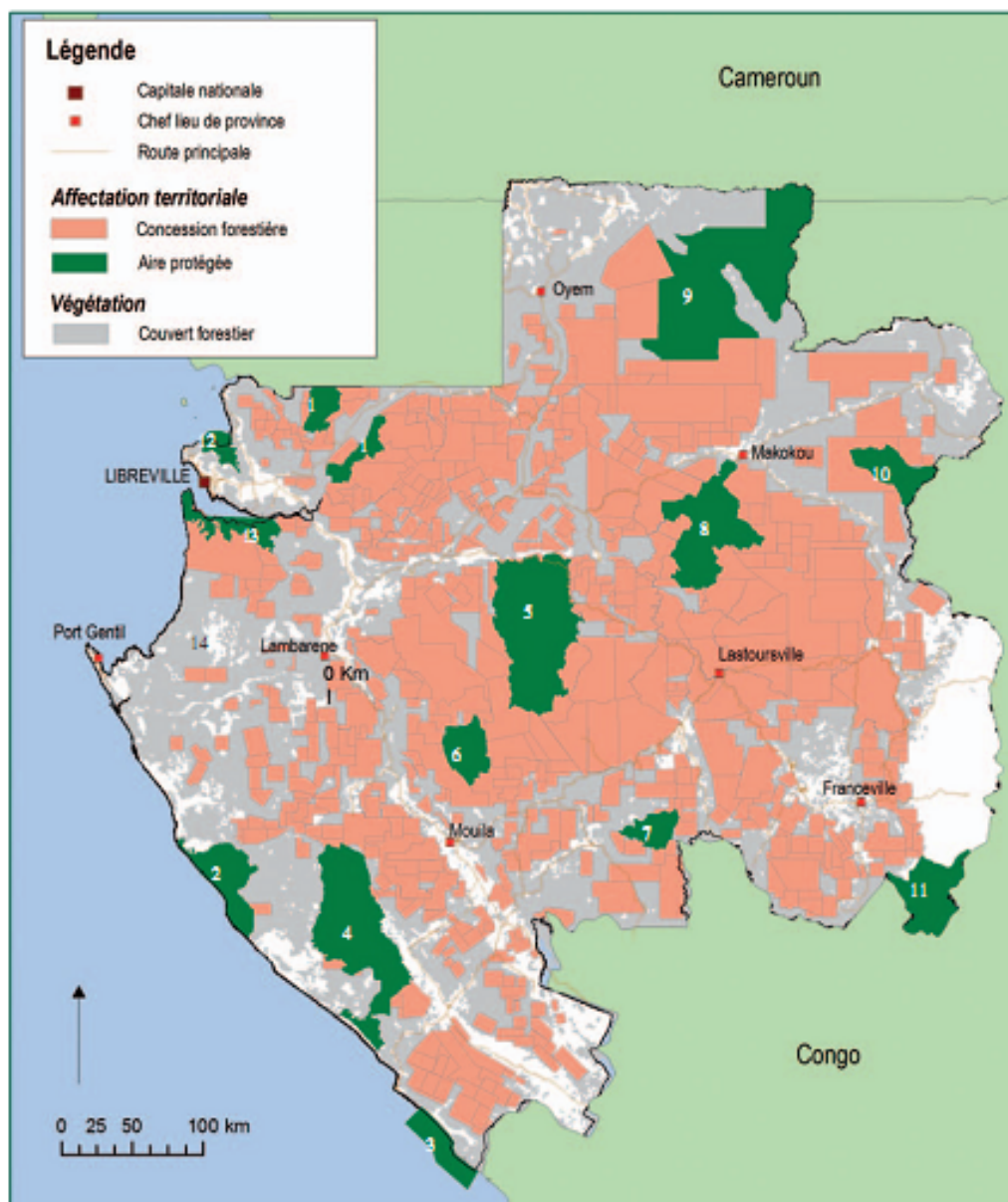
<b>Forests</b>	<b>National Data</b>	<b>State of the Forests 2006</b>
Total area (ha)		22,069,999
Swamp and seasonally flooded forests (ha)		154,483
Terra firma forests 0-300 m (ha)		7,194,495
Terra firma forests 300-1000 m (ha)		14,720,023
Forests allocated to conservation (ha)	3,000,748	
Production forests (ha)	13,000,000	
<b>Industrial logging</b>		
Sustainably managed forests (km <sup>2</sup> )	2,195,070	7 concessions
Certified forests (km <sup>2</sup> )	868,441	2 concessions
Total number of concessions (N)	630	
Conservation series in concessions (ha)	114,836	
<b>Biodiversity<sup>13</sup></b>		
<b>Plants</b>		
Known species 1992 - 2002 (N)	6,651	
Threatened species 2002	71	
<b>Mammals</b>		
Known species 1992 - 2002 (N)	190	
Threatened species 2002	15	
<b>Birds (resident)</b>		
Known species 1992 - 2002 (N)	156	
Threatened species 2002	5	
<b>Reptiles</b>		
Known species 1992 - 2002 (N)	130	
Threatened species 2002	1	
<b>Amphibians</b>		
Known species 1992 - 2002 (N)	35	
Threatened species 2002	-	
<b>Fish</b>		
Known species 1992 - 2002 (N)	104	
Threatened species 2002	1	

<sup>12</sup> Source: State of the Forest 2006<sup>13</sup> Source: Earthtrends 2003

**ANNEX 3. Protected Areas of Gabon**

	Surface (ha)	Creation	Management Plan
<b>National Parks of the Forest Domain</b>			
1. Monts de Cristal	120,000	2002	Under preparation
2. Loango	155,000	2002	Under prep.
3. Mayumba	8,000	2002	Under prep.
4. Moukalaba-Doudou	450,000	1962, 2002	Applied
5. Lopé	491,000	1947, 2002	Applied
6. Waka	107,000	2002	Under prep.
7. Birougou	69,000	2002	Under prep.
8. Ivindo	300,264	2002	Under prep.
9. Minkébé	756,700	1997, 2002	Under prep.
10. Mwagna	116,500	2002	Under prep.
11. Plateaux Batéké	205,000	2002	Applied
12. Akanda	54,000	2002	
13. Pongara	87,000	2002	
<b>Other protected areas of the forest domain</b>			
14. Wonga-Wongué (presidential reserve)	380,000		
<b>Total Surface</b>	2,919,474		

#### ANNEX 4. Map of Protected Areas and Forest Concessions



**ANNEX 5. Schedule of REDD activities**

REDD activities		2008						2009																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
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