



GABON

U.S. FOREST SERVICE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The U.S. Forest Service is providing targeted technical assistance to Gabon's national climate council to measure and monitor forest carbon and support the development of a national land use plan to support Gabon's Low Emissions Development Strategy.

With U.S. Forest Service assistance, Gabonese field teams established forest plots nationwide, and developed and implemented soil carbon data collection methodologies to quantify terrestrial carbon stocks. Robust forest carbon data help to clarify the impact of economic development activities on forest carbon and land use in Gabon and contribute to the development of a national land-use plan.

The U.S. Forest Service supports the Gabonese National Parks Agency (ANPN) as they develop and implement national park management plans in priority biodiversity areas.

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PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Gabon is home to an abundance of natural resources. Over the last several decades, exports of oil and non-forest mineral resources have allowed the country to preserve its vast tropical forests. Today, the country's high forest cover and low rate of deforestation offer tremendous opportunities for ecotourism development, biodiversity conservation, and climate change mitigation through reduced emissions and carbon absorption.

At the same time, Gabon is implementing an economic diversification strategy to develop competitive manufacturing and service sector industries that complement the dominant oil sector. Achieving these national development goals will require new transportation, water, energy, and communications infrastructure, increasing pressure on Gabon's natural resources. Gabon's top-level leadership has committed to sustainable economic development and minimizing the country's greenhouse gas emissions.

The U.S. Forest Service is a lead implementing agency in a partnership between the governments of Gabon and the United States. The U.S. Forest Service and Gabon are working together to further develop and implement the Low Emissions Development Strategy (LEDS) laid out in Gabon's national Climate Change Plan. U.S. Forest Service supports the Gabonese government's efforts to develop and implement Gabon's natural resource inventory, which includes creating sampling protocols, building capacity to collect and analyze *in situ* data, and designing a monitoring system. U.S. Forest Service is working with Gabon to develop a national land-use plan to integrate activities such as logging, mining, agriculture, communities, and infrastructure. Completion of such an integrated plan represents a critical first step toward sustainable land-use management.

As part of the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE), U.S. Forest Service also supports the Gabonese National Parks Agency (ANPN) as they work to develop and implement national park management plans in priority biodiversity areas. U.S. Forest Service provides technical expertise to collaborate and strengthen capacity of park managers, and policy makers.



Mangrove field research activity, Gabon-Moukalaba Doudou National Park. Photo by C. Winchester

