



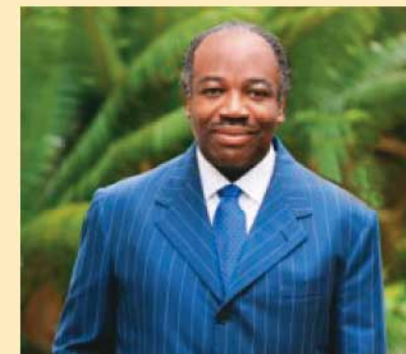
**SOMETIMES
THE BEST OF
OPPORTUNITIES
ARE HIDING
IN THE WOODS.**



**A Govt. of Gabon SEZ
MORE THAN WOOD, IT'S RED GOLD**

Gabon Special Economic Zone SA
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Welcome to Gabon, the Land of Red Gold

Gabon. It is just not a 1.5 million people nation, but the emerging face of Africa. In its 50 years of independence, Gabon has acquired a reputation of being the most prosperous nation with the highest Human Development Index (HDI) in Sub-Saharan Africa. Moving ahead, the country's economic prosperity, its privileged geographical location, the guaranteed political and social stability and the support infrastructures have encouraged a host of foreign investors from all industrial sectors to set up their operations in Gabon.

The forest offers enormous potential for the regional ecosystem and stands as a real economic asset for Gabon. Therefore, collaboration with Olam International to set up a Multi-Product SEZ at Nkok is crucial to Gabon's progress. The SEZ is aimed at putting a halt to rough timber exports and encourage complete timber processing at Gabon itself. This is why we have banned the export of logs from January 2010. This decision is part of the "Green Gabon" and "Industrial Gabon" movements. It would make it possible to create high value added on the products originating from this sector and large numbers of qualified jobs. This practice will also showcase the skills of Gabonese forestry operators and industrialists in the valorisation of raw materials by an innovative, leading edge industry.

From the outset, Gabon has set up a legal and tax framework offering ideal conditions for foreign investments in order to ensure the development of its natural resources. All these create a business-friendly environment in Gabon that is simply unmatched in Africa. So come to Gabon, grow your wealth.

Son Excellence Ali Bango Ondimba
President- Republic of Gabon



Gabon Welcomes You

When the Portuguese navigator Diego Cam set his foot on Gabon in the 15th century, perhaps he didn't know the value of his discovery. The Dutch came later and the French followed, but before they could explore much, Gabon became an independent republic in 1960. Since then, Gabon has been building up its economy around abundant natural resources and today, it stands as one of the most prosperous nations in Sub-Saharan Africa. Healthy Foreign Private Investment and stable Governance have catalyzed Gabon's progress and opened gates for multi-nationals to set up their businesses in the region. On the lighter side, unspoilt beaches, forest reserves and rainforest trails define nation's natural reserves. All together, there is plenty waiting to be explored, so let us advance.





Gabon on the Map

Gabon is located on the edge of the Congo Basin, the richest tropical forest complex in Africa. It borders the Republic of the Congo, Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea with South Atlantic Ocean at its beaches. The total population of 1.5 million people has a total land area of 26.8 million Ha at their disposal. That explains rainforests covering almost 77% of the country! The average literacy rate in Gabon is quite high as compared to the other African countries. Male literacy is 90% while female literacy is 82%.

Connected to the Rest of the World

Gabon has three major ports – Owendo Port, Port Gentil and Port Mayumba. Owendo Port at Libreville is the major port for logs and timber. The Port Gentil is connected with road, rail and water ways and majorly exports oil. There is one railway line that runs across central Gabon from Franceville to Libreville via Lastoursville, Booue and Ndjole. There is one International airport at Libreville and a number of small airstrips, which would be functional soon.



Growing Economy, Stable Economy

One of West Central Africa's more stable countries, Gabon boasts the highest income per capita in the region, which accounts for 80% of exports. Since independence from France in 1960, Gabon has had just two presidents, with the incumbent, Omar Bongo, in power since 1967. Gabon is an indivisible, secular, democratic and social republic. Gabon enjoys a healthy GDP as compared to the other Sub-Saharan countries. It has a four times the average GDP of the other nations. Gabon has a huge reserve of quality timber woods and is rich in oil, manganese and iron ore where most of the investors are already engaged in.



Economic Statistics of Gabon

GDP: 14.7 Billion\$ (2009)

% of GDP growth: 3.3 % (Mission Economy* 2008)

Inflation rate: 5.4 % (ME 2008)

Trade Balance: + 3.97 Billion\$ (ME 2008)

Total Exports: 5.21 Billion\$ (ME 2008)

Total Imports: 1.24 Billion\$ (ME 2008)

Major Clients: USA (53%), China (7%), France (5%), zone CEMAC (0.71%) (ME 2008)

Major Providers: France (40.1 %), Belgium (12.9%), USA (5.9%), zone CEMAC (4.1 %)

China (3.9%) (ME 2008)

Petroleum Production: 221 621 barrels/day(2008)

Contributors to the GDP of Gabon: (BEAC, 2007)

Agriculture: 6 %

Industries: 58.9%

Services: 35.2%

Mission Economy* - ME



Fuelling Nation's Economy- Oil Resources

Currently, oil is Gabon's single most important natural resource and a key driving force behind the Gabonese economy. It accounts for 77% of exports and about 45% of the GDP of the country. There are about 40 companies which are currently active in Gabon's petroleum sector with the United States and France being the most important investors. A number of multi-national companies are operating in the region for years.

Mining

Gabon is the world's second largest producer of manganese. Annual output in Gabon's total manganese production was 3.25 million tonnes in 2008. Iron-ore mining also forms part of attempts to diversify the Gabonese economy.

Timber

Timber is the most significant sector from Gabon's economic point of view. It provides employment for as much as 28% of Gabon's population – that reflects the availability of ample manpower for the future projects.





Timber Processing Industry in Gabon- The Story so Far

The country has over 22 million hectares of forest, of which 12.5 million has logging potential. The most important species, representing more than 25 percent of the resources, is Okoumé- undoubtedly the best quality timber used to manufacture plywood and railway sleepers. Okoumé is used for production of Sawn Wood, Veneer Sheets, Mouldings, Plywood, and Furniture. Sawn Wood and Veneer sheets are the main products that are currently exported. Gabon exports about 60% of its timber logs while 40% is consumed in the domestic market. The level of processing is limited to Primary Processing which includes Sawn Wood and Veneers. Such a situation presents a great opportunity of exporting finished and processed wood and invite international investors. Now this is where the Gabon-Olam Multi-Product SEZ comes into picture.





NOTE:
THIS IS A CONCEPTUAL MAP AND NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION AT SITE
IMAGES SHOWN ARE THEMATIC REPRESENTATION
MASTERPLAN IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED ON SITE CONDITIONS
SITE VISIT IS ESSENTIAL FOR ANY INTERPRETATION OF THIS MAP



legend	
	residential
	logistics
	green
	common facilities
	utility
	existing creek
	railway track
	railway corridor
	commercial

Here Comes the Multi-Product Special Economic Zone

The Gabonese Government is making a spirited effort towards the development of Timber processing industries in Gabon. One of the crucial steps in this context is the signing of an MoU between the Gabonese Government and Olam International Ltd., Singapore to develop a Multi-Product Special Economic Zone.



Olam International Limited

It is a Singapore-based enterprise in the supply chain management of agricultural products and food ingredients, sourcing 20 products with a direct presence in over 60 countries. The company supplies those products to over 10,000 customers in more than 55 destination markets. Olam International ranks among the top 40 largest listed companies in Singapore in terms of market capitalization. It has grown by taking advantage of adjacent opportunities in the agricultural complex and has evolved from a single-product, single-country company in 1989, to a multi-product, multi-national, integrated supply chain manager today.

- World's largest supplier of cashew, robusta coffee and sesame
- Amongst the top 3 suppliers in cocoa, rice and spices
- Amongst the top 5 suppliers in peanuts, cotton and tropical hardwoods
- Major business tie-ups in Africa

Olam is known to almost every nation in Africa because of its ongoing operations. Gabon is a recent addition to its portfolio. The Republic of Gabon has decided to collaborate with Olam International and set up a Multi-Product SEZ, Gabon Advance.

The Government of Gabon- Taking a Step Forward

The Government of Gabon, for economic development as well as sustainable resource utilization, has initiated phasing out of export of unprocessed logs. 2010 onwards, there is 100% ban on log exports and processing has become mandatory. This has encouraged the local transformation of wood, which has made it possible to create high value-added products originating from this sector. The development of a Multi-Product Special Economic Zone (SEZ) with focus on Timber and downstream timber products would facilitate the development of specialized infrastructure for the industry which would enhance development of timber processing in the country and create fresh job opportunities.

SEZ Policy for the Investors

To make business a profitable and hassle-free phenomenon in Gabon, the government has decided on few policy measures. These will not only create a framework for the businesses but will also define the right way forward.

Single Window Clearance (SWC)

Given common grievance of prospective manufacturing set-ups in terms of dealing and running around for statutory and regulatory approval processes across the multitude of agencies involved, Gabon Advance SEZ has SWC mechanisms to ease the procedure.

- Institutional mechanism at Govt. of Gabon level to designate a specific agency and person in-charge
- SWC on best effort basis expedite the disposal of proposals and applications involving inter-ministry/department policy issues, regulations and any special dispensation required on case to case basis
- SWC shall be providing all information & escort services to the prospective entrepreneurs, manufacturers & all service providers
- SWC shall endeavour to provide data bank and composite application & pertinent information
- SWC shall be the single point of interface, coordination, follow up and redressal of grievances for entrepreneurs
- SWC shall also be guided & assisted by key Govt. Departments, Industry Experts & Specialists
- The concept of time bound or deemed clearances shall be put up where ever possible and deemed fit



Lucrative and Beneficial Fiscal Incentives

The Government of Gabon has taken strategic steps to boost economic activities and foreign investments in the nation. The companies investing in this Multi-Product SEZ will enjoy a host of fiscal incentives that are rare to find in any other investment destination.

- SEZ Law enacted to protect investor benefit
- Zero Tax for 10 years and then concessional tax rate of 10% for next 5 years
- No custom duty on import of Plant & Machinery
- No custom duty on import of spares
- No TVA, withholding tax or presentation tax
- Sales made to other units within SEZ to be considered as export
- 50% discount on power against prevailing power costs
- 100% repatriation of funds
- Relaxation in terms of number of foreign labors allowed

Such sustained benefits give you a sense of security and enough space to expand your operations and look forward to long-term benefits in Gabon.

Social Benefits- Feel at Home

The Government has just not thought about economic proliferation but also a sustained business plan that includes social benefits for the people who would choose Gabon as their residing nation. Foreign laws are relaxed and there is an intentional attempt to make labors and businessmen feel at home.

- Relaxation in terms of number of Foreign Labors allowed
- Housing Facility for Employees
- Office Complex
- Shops for Spare Parts etc.
- Training Centre





Platform to a Ground-Breaking Project

The Nkok Site is best suited for the development of the proposed Timber-Processing SEZ because this is one region that can be developed in various stages, crucial for such a set up. The total area of the proposed SEZ is 1126 Ha. The site can accommodate mixed land uses efficiently, and it provides flexibility in design & engineering with changing market conditions. Thinking ahead, Nkok has a good scope for future expansion which is essential for the success of the projects and can be envisioned to be one of the largest industrial infrastructure developments in Africa.

Why Nkok?

Nkok is situated at 12 Kms from the merging point of all routes from the forest areas at Oyem, Makokou, Koula Moutou and Njole. It is well-connected with the rest of the country through Railway and the National Highway.



Extensive Railway Network

The nearest railway station is at Ntoum, which is about 14 Kms from the proposed SEZ. The Owendo railway station is located at about 22 Kms from the SEZ Site.

Through the Waters

To the south of the site there are numerous water channels at a distance of 0.83 Kms that connect to the Ikoï Komo stream further connecting to the Gabon Estuary.



Take the Roads

The National Highway – RN1 runs to the north of the site at a distance of 1.75 Kms that connects the town of Nkok with Libreville.

By Air

The nearest international airport is the Libreville International Airport, less than 30 Kms away from the site.



Gabon Advance- One of the Biggest SEZs Ever

The proposed Multi-Product SEZ (with focus on timber processing) would cover an area of 1126 Ha in Nkok, at a distance of approx 30 Kms from the port of Libreville. The SEZ would have provisions of basic infrastructure like water supply, power and telecom facilities. The main specialized common facilities would include the following:

1. Common Log Park
2. Common Kiln Drying Facility
3. Bio waste Fired Co-generation Plant

The Selection of the Site Offers a Number of Advantages

- Demarcation of Industrial Zone and Non-Industrial Zones
- Industrial Zone shall have state-of-the-art common facilities- Training and Research Centre, Large Stuffing Terminals, Common Log Parks etc
- Access to allocated forest resources devoted to the SEZ
- Fiscal and Social benefits

Existing Infrastructure Supporting the SEZ

The land is a developed region with respect to internal infrastructure like Water Supply network, effluent collection and storm water drainage lines.

Ample Water Supply

The water demand of the SEZ works out to be about 25 MLD (million litres per day). At present a water supply network exists for the nearby village Nkok.

Round-the-Clock Power Supply

Power supply line exists at the nearby village at Nkok as well adjacent to Railway line; to meet the power demands of the SEZ. A Power plant of 64 MW is being set up at a distance of about 10 Kms from the site.

Proper Drainage System

The site naturally slopes from north to south towards the distributaries of the Ikoï Komo. The existing water channels within the site create a natural drainage network which will be integrated in the storm water network design for the site.

Common Facilities

The nearest medical and educational facilities are available at Ntoum and Libreville. Timber-based and wood product manufacturing training institutes would be set up with the development of the site.



Striking an Ecological Balance

In the process of setting up the SEZ, we are particularly concerned about maintaining the ecological balance in the region. A lot of research has been done and measures have been devised to ensure the same. The site, although located in the coastal area, does not include any ecologically sensitive mangrove or estuarine eco systems. Also, no major fauna species have been spotted in the area or recorded in recent past.



Design Measures in the Interest of the Environment

Each industry will follow the ambient air norms as per the country rules and development regulations for the SEZ. Effluent generated from the industries will be treated primarily and discharged into the common effluent treatment plant operated by the SEZ developer for secondary and tertiary treatment. Sewage generated from residential areas, commercial areas, institutional areas etc. will be treated by the SEZ Developer and/or Operator and will be recycled for horticultural, flushing and air-conditioning purposes. Solid waste will be segregated, either re-used or recycled for beneficial uses within the SEZ.

Making a Difference to the Nation

The proposed development of Multi-Product SEZ will bring a plethora of benefits to the socio-economic profile of the region and in developing skills of the local workforce with provision of training facilities.



Green Area Development

A good mix of greens has been envisaged for the entire project at the macro level. However at a micro level, we plan to create and integrate green spaces to act as buffer and lung spaces. Parks and gardens would be designed to provide a natural green and clean environment for the people in the region.



Social Infrastructure

Amenities that are essential for the smooth functioning of the proposed SEZ shall be provided in the Non-Processing Area. The amenities proposed are scalable to the development phases or stages of the project.



Healthcare Facility

A healthcare center and a medical clinic are proposed for development along with the development of the industrial component.



Safety and Security

To take care of safety and security concerns of the workers, a police and fire station will be housed within the NPA. Initiatives and security check posts at key locations within the SEZ with the co-operation of the developer and the units, so as to maintain a level of safety and security even at neighborhood levels.

Other Social Infrastructure Facilities

Other social infrastructure like communication, banking, commercial areas and other recreational facilities are proposed within the Non-Processing Area (NPA).



Come to Gabon, Make your Money Grow



Gabon is all set to become the new face of Africa. The country is just not about flora and fauna, culture and traditions but an ideal destination for businesses and investment. You can lead a well-maintained life in Gabon and follow a luxurious and outgoing lifestyle. A happening nightlife, international hotels and recreation options add flavor to the nation's character.





Come to Gabon, be at Ease

Useful Information About Gabon

When you plan to come to Gabon, just keep a note of some useful information in case of any need or emergency. Find here, brief information about how to reach Gabon and key contacts.

How to Get to Gabon?

By Air: The air route is the most convenient way to reach Gabon. Many airline agencies are established in Gabon and provide excellent services to their customers. The major international airport in Gabon is in Libreville, the capital city.

Some of the Airlines Flying to Gabon:

- Airfrance: www.airfrance.com
- Gabon Airline: www.gabonairlines.com
- Ethiopian: www.ethiopianairlines.com
- Lufthansa : www.lufthansa.com
- South African Airways: www.flysaa.com
- Royal Air Maroc: www.royalairmaroc.com and many others have Libreville, the capital of Gabon, as one of their destinations.

Major Hospitals

- FONDATION JEANNE EBORI, TEL: 73.27.71; HOPITAL DE MELEN, TEL: 75.00.08; HOPITAL DE NKEMBO, TEL: 76.21.30; HOPITAL PEDIATRIQUE D'OWENDO, TEL: 70.43.73-70.43.49; HOPITAL SINO-GABONAIS, TEL:72.01.28; CENTRE HOSPITALIER DE LIBREVILLE, TEL: 72.32.15-76.30.17; HOPITAL DES INSTRUCTIONS DES ARMEES OMAR BONGO ONDIMBA, TEL: 72.02.37-72.02.38; Polyclinic EL Rapha, TEL: 44 70 00/ FAX: 44 71 61
- Police Secours: 177
- Clinique Chambrier à Libreville: 72.93.02
- Cabinet de Groupe: 74.31.31/74.32.32
- Dr. Gérard Valeri: 76.66.58
- Dr Alain Guglielmi: 74.26.59

Ministries Contacts

Here are some useful information and contact numbers that will help you when you are in Gabon.
 Ministry of Economy, Trade Industry and Tourism, BP 747, Libreville/Gabon, Tel: + 241 79 59 42
 Ministry of Environment and sustained development, BP 3974, Libreville/Gabon, Tel: + 241 76 13 81
 Ministry of Transports, BP 2087, Libreville/Gabon, Tel: 77 21 96
 Ministry of Labour, BP 74 32 18, Libreville/Gabon, Tel: 74 32 18

Embassies

Many embassies and consulates are established in Gabon. So, once you are in Gabon, it is recommended that you contact the diplomatic representation to get first-hand information.

- Embassy of France, Tel: 79 70 00/ FAX: 79 70 09, Consulate of France, Tel: 79 70 00/ FAX: 79 70
- United State of America, BP: 4000/ Tel: 76 20 03/04/ FAX: 74 55 07
- Germany, BP: 76 01 88/74 27 90/ FAX: 72 40 12
- Saudi Arabia, BP 964/Tel: 73 17 18/73 17 19/73 84 44
- Italy, BP 2251/Tel: 73 02 35/73 22 97/ FAX: 73 60 60
- Suisse, BP 1680/Tel: 72 31 59/FAX: 74 75 93, Email: bcaillot@yahoo.fr
- Senegal, BP 3856/Tel: 77 42 67/ FAX: 72 66 63
- Russia, BP 3963/Tel: 72 48 48/ FAX: 72 48 70, Email: ambrusga@mail.ru, www.gabon.mid.ru
- Spain, BP 1157/Tel: 72 12 64/77 30 68/ FAX: 74 55 07
- India, Tel: 76 43 07
- China, BP 3914/Tel: 74 32 07/08/ FAX: 74 75 96
- Japan, BP 2259/Tel: 73 02 35/73 22 97/ FAX: 73 60 60

Few Points to Consider Before You Come to Gabon

- The major language here is French but many other dialects are also spoken
- The local currency is Fcfa, but Euro and Dollar can be used as method of payment
- It is advised to get vaccinated against Yellow Fever and Malaria before coming to Gabon



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MORE THAN WOOD, IT'S RED GOLD**

A Government of Gabon & Olam International Partnership



Fiscal Incentives

Investors admitted for the scheme in effect in the special economic zone benefit:

- from a total exemption of the tax on industrial and commercial profits for the first ten (10) years beginning on the date of the enterprise's first sale, including the minimum tax. Beginning in the eleventh year, following the first sale, firms admitted for the scheme in the special economic zone will be subject to the tax on industrial and commercial profits at the rate of ten percent (10%) for the five (5) years following the initial ten (10) year exemption period
- from an exemption of value added tax (VAT), in respect of sales within the special economic zone and for exports. In the event of a VAT credit, it will be reimbursed within a period of thirty (30) days following the request to this effect, at the latest
- from an exemption of the tax on dividends
- from all withholding taxes
- from the exemption from land tax on built property and property on which there are no buildings

Any sale of assets, transfers or contributions between enterprises admitted for the scheme in effect in the special economic zone is exempt from all conveyance tax and registration tax as well as all capital gains tax.

Investors admitted for the scheme in effect in the special economic zone are exempt from all customs duties and taxes as well as all other contributions, duty and direct or indirect taxes

collected, including value added tax (VAT), by the customs services and in particular, in the domain of imports and exports of capital goods, office furniture, office equipment, construction materials, tools, spare parts, raw materials, intermediate goods, supplies and consumer goods.

The exemption is limited to the activities pursued in the special economic zone. However, vehicles other than those utilised for business use of enterprises admitted into the special economic zone do not benefit from this exemption.

Sales of products from the domestic customs territory to enterprises in the special economic zone are treated like exports from the standpoint of customs duty and taxation.

Investors admitted for the scheme in effect in the special economic zone are free to make all transfers of funds, through commercial banks or Gabonese financial institutions or their approved intermediaries, for the following purposes:

- distribution of profits, revenue or dividends
- payments of fees, management costs or costs of technical assistance
- reimbursement of bank interest
- payments owed pursuant to contracts for the transfer of technologies, for technical assistance or for the purchase of goods and services abroad

Exports of goods outside the special economic zone and outside the domestic customs territory are subject to sales tax

depending on the investments made and activities of the enterprise. This taxation is as follows:

Amount of the investment/ Nature of the activity	Sawing	Peeling	Manufacturing of plywood	Tertiary	Others
Under 2,000,000,000 CFAF	2%	1%	1%	0.50%	0.50%
Between 2,000,000,000 CFAF and 5,000,000,000 CFAF	1%	0.25%	0.10%	0.10%	0.10%
Between 5,000,000,000 CFAF and 10,000,000,000 CFAF	0.25%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Over 10,000,000,000 CFAF	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

In the case of an investor carrying on more than one activity:

- the investment will be considered globally (all activities globally in the same enterprise)
- each portion of sales (per type of activity) will be subject to a taxation rate which corresponds to the activity considered

For each year, the level of investments retained is the level appearing in the statistical and fiscal statement filed on 31 April of each year for the previous year. Reimbursement shall be made within thirty (30) days of receipt of notice requiring payment from the Administrative Authority.