Gabon is home to an abundance of natural resources. Over the last couple decades, exports of oil and 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 and GHG emissions. Gabon’s top-level leadership has committed to sustainable economic development and minimizing the country’s GHG emissions.

Through the EC-LEDS program, Gabon and the United States are working together to further develop and implement the LEDS laid out in Gabon’s Plan Climat. This includes improving coordination among the country’s partners and stakeholders and building capacity to assess and compare the climate impacts of proposed sector development scenarios.

Gabon’s national climate council, Le Conseil National Climat, as technical partner, collaborates with EC-LEDS to: prepare and review Gabon’s Third National Communication; evaluate and analyze the economics and emissions impacts of proposed development pathways; measure and monitor forest carbon; and support the development of a national land use plan to support Gabon’s LEDS.

**SUPPORTING GABON’S LEDS PRIORITIES**

EC-LEDS assistance is targeted to a country’s needs. Two examples of working areas within the EC-LEDS-Gabon partnership are identifying sustainable development pathways and strengthening forest management.
Joint activities include:

- Conducting energy analyses of the Gabonese public sector to estimate its energy efficiency potential and identify the best opportunities for energy efficiency demonstration projects
- Building Gabon’s expertise in conducting carbon footprint analyses of infrastructure and economic development projects
- Supporting development of a model and conducting an inter-sectorial analysis to identify the paths to economic growth through reduced emissions
- Quantifying and monetizing the public benefits of specific infrastructure

In terms of land use planning, activities include:

- Coordinating technical and legal working groups to compile and analyze geographic data and legal texts relating to land use across ten sectors, including oil, mining, logging, agriculture, fisheries, transportation infrastructure, and others
- Elaborating a document and database explaining the current state of land use across these sectors, and identifying issues to address in future phases of the project
- Mentoring and training Gabonese teams in land use assessment and planning techniques.


For more information: visit the EC-LEDS website: www.ec-leds.org

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