



# Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Participants Committee (PC23) Meeting

Update on Gabon's Readiness progress

March 27-29, 2017, Washington DC



# Agenda

- I. Characteristics and challenge of Gabon**
- II. Our Approach**
- III. A forest carbon monitoring and evaluation system**
- IV. Means of satellite monitoring and evaluation**
- V. Support for the PNAT**
- VI. Safeguards and CSO involvement**
- VII. Conclusions**



# I. CHARACTERISTICS AND CHALLENGE OF GABON

## ***1. Some generalities about Gabon***

- ✓ Gabon has a population of about 1 800 000 inhabitants, 87% of whom live in urban areas
- ✓ Gabon has a forest cover of 88% and is among the most forested countries in the world
- ✓ Build Gabon's economy through industry, the service sector, and green development

**Our challenge is to build and diversify the economy while protecting our forests and our cultural heritage, while contributing to global efforts to slow climate change.**

# I. CHARACTERISTICS AND CHALLENGE OF GABON

## 2. *Gabon Emergent Strategic Plan (PSGE in french)*

The PSGE is the sustainable development plan of Gabon which objective is the emergence of the country by 2025 by diversifying its economy which is still dependent on oil.

It is based on 3 pillars:

- ✓ The Green Gabon Pillar, which includes several areas, which includes the preservation of the environment, the conservation of ecosystems, the promotion of sustainable agriculture, the local transformation of natural resources, the promotion of ecotourism, etc.
- ✓ The Gabon Pillar of Services, aims to equip Gabon with the best services and especially a high-value services economy in the NTC sector
- ✓ The Gabon Industrial Pillar, aims to equip Gabon with technical and technological capacities to ensure the local processing of its raw materials.

**This plan is also based on the development of appropriate infrastructures in the energy, transport and health sectors, but also on adapted vocational and higher education**

# I. CHARACTERISTICS AND CHALLENGE OF GABON

## 3. *Some generalities on the forest*

- ✓ Covers over 23.7 million hectares which represents 88% of the national territory
- ✓ Second largest forest area in the Congo Basin after the Democratic Republic of Congo
- ✓ Many ecosystems of which the most important is the wet dense forest;
- ✓ One of the most dense and one of the most preserved in the world.

**The annual rate of deforestation recorded between 2000 and 2010 was 0.009%, or slightly less than 10 000 hectares deforested per year. It is one of the lowest rates in the world's tropical forests.**

# I. CHARACTERISTICS AND CHALLENGE OF GABON

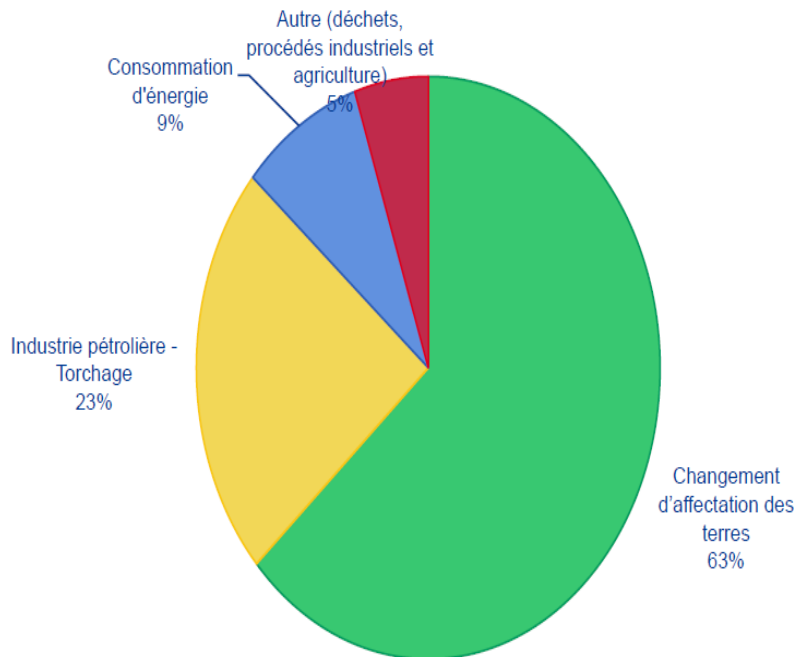
## 4. *Our ambition*

- ✓ Moving from a purely environmental approach to forestry to a real sustainable development strategy based on a strengthened national legal and institutional framework, international commitments tailored to the national context
- ✓ Ensure an inclusive sustainable development strategy based on a rational and responsible exploitation of natural resources based on inclusiveness and intergenerational equity
- ✓ Reduce at least 50% of its emissions compared to an uncontrolled development scenario by 2025
- ✓ Aligning our development strategy with our international commitments:
  - The Paris Agreement
  - The United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development
  - The Agenda of the African Union

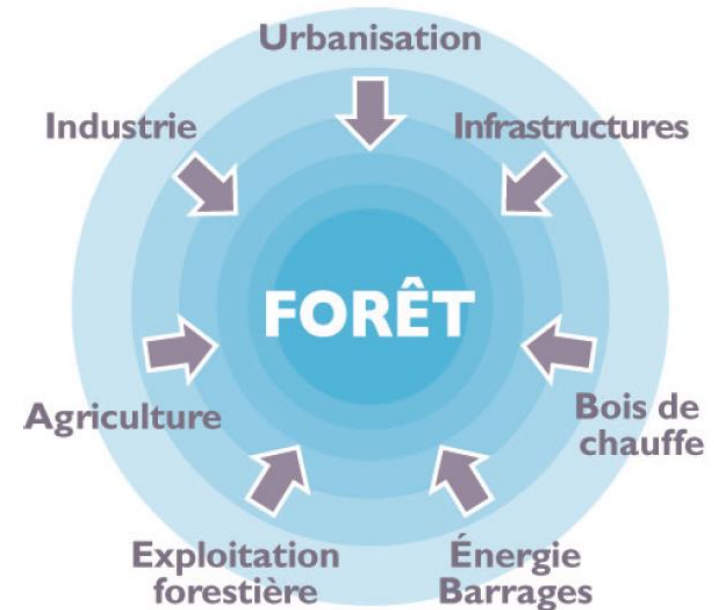
# I. CHARACTERISTICS AND CHALLENGE OF GABON

## 5. Our challenges facing the main drivers of deforestation and degradation

### GHG Profile in Gabon



### Activities of impact on deforestation and degradation



**The diagram on the right illustrates the fact that deforestation and forest degradation are consubstantial to development because they relate to the main economic and social activities of the country. Moreover, it should be noted that besides these direct causes, other circumstances may aggravate or mitigate deforestation.**



## II. OUR APPROACH

### 1. *A suitable institutional and legal framework*

Several laws have been passed by our parliament to modernize and adapt our legal framework both to integrate the issues related to our development but also to take into account societal and environmental issues.

- ✓ The Sustainable Development Guidance Act (*LODD in french*), which guides and orients the development of Gabon in accordance with the principles of sustainability;
- ✓ A Forestry code which takes into account the priorities of the local communities and plans to reduce the areas allocated to logging



## II. OUR APPROACH

### **1. *A suitable institutional and legal framework (cont')***

- ✓ The reform of the ANPN for more autonomy and more power, than that of its predecessor, in the implementation of the policy of the government in respect to the conservation and sustainable management of the ecosystems;
- ✓ An up-to-date Environmental code;
- ✓ Sectoral codes adapted to the context of climate change;
- ✓ A Timber Industry Execution Agency that accompanies the operators in the sector towards sustainable management.

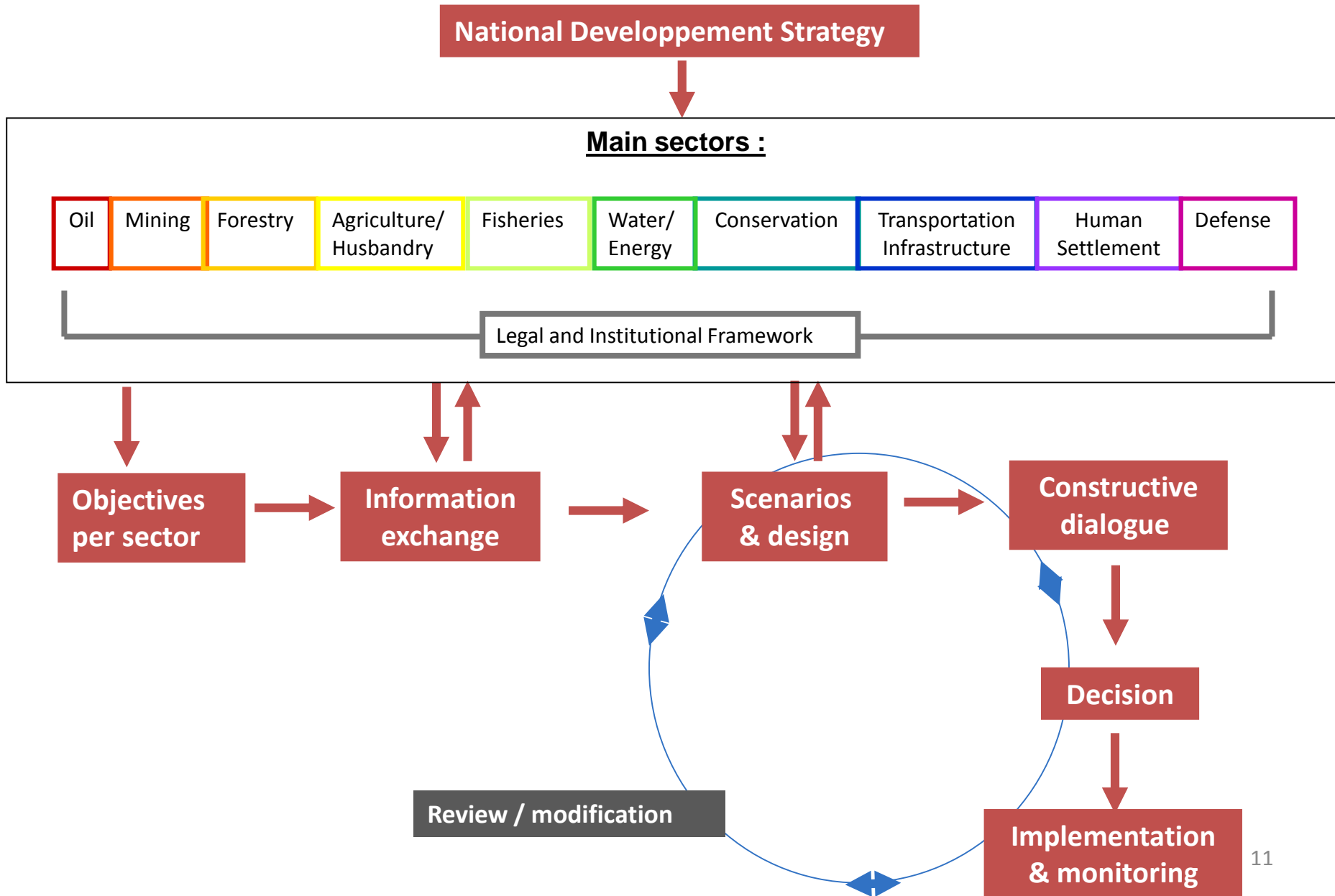


## II. OUR APPROACH

### ***2. A National Plan of Territory Allocation / Land Use Plan (PNAT)***

- ✓ This plan should make it possible to optimize and rationalize the exploitation of natural and territorial resources
- ✓ It is a sustainable response to the problems of deforestation and degradation.
- ✓ It must be able to meet several challenges and agendas 2030 and 2063:
  - Economic (optimized agriculture, logging under development, development of infrastructure)
  - Social (securing rural land, community forest)
  - Conservation and biodiversity (securing national parks and other protected areas)
  - Policy (decentralization and deconcentration of power)
  - Climate (control of deforestation and degradation and respect of Gabon's climate commitments).

## 2.1 A methodology that ensures to the PNAT a mesh of the territory

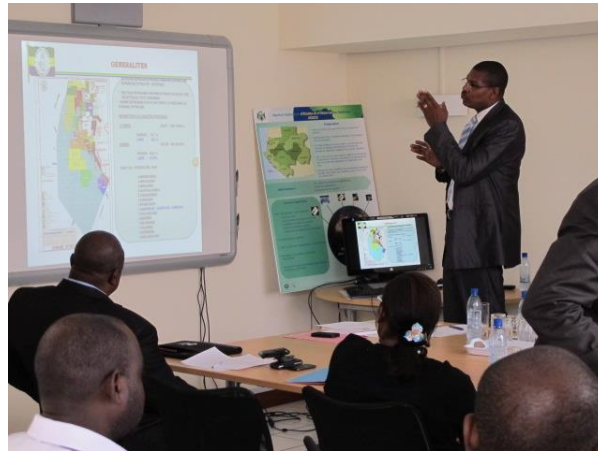


## 2.2 An inclusive approach with all the stakeholders

Ministry of Mines



Ministry of Oil



National Transportation Agency



National Parks Agency



Ministry of Waters and Forestry



Ministry of Agriculture



## 2.3 The involvement of the civil society

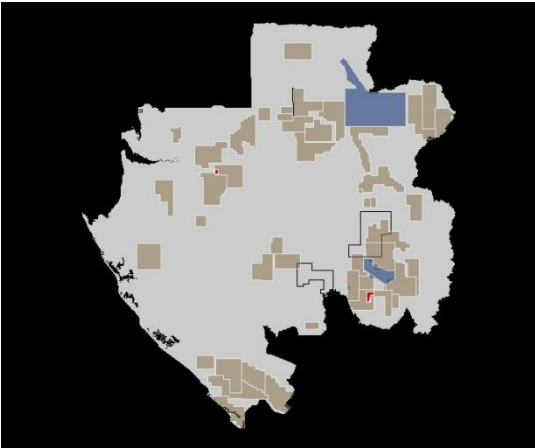
The participatory mapping that will be addressed will make it possible to:

- ✓ Involve local communities in the delimitation of their terroir
- ✓ Securing rural land
- ✓ To participate in the land-use process through local committees
- ✓ Also to communicate on the law on decentralization.



# 2.4 A collection of spatial data

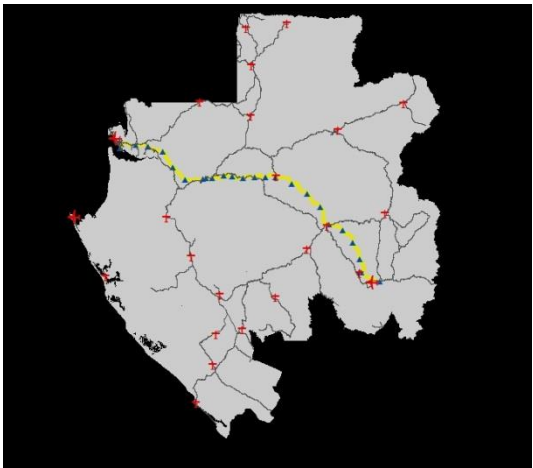
Ministry of Mines



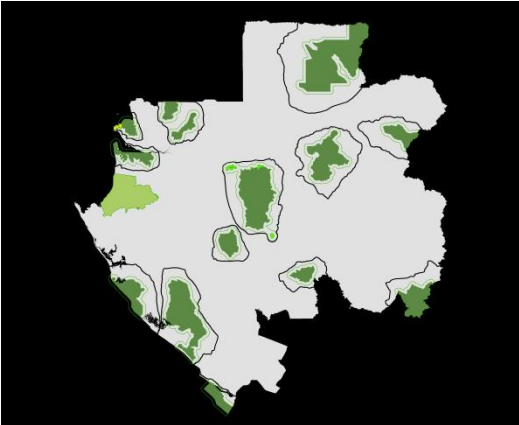
Ministry of Oil



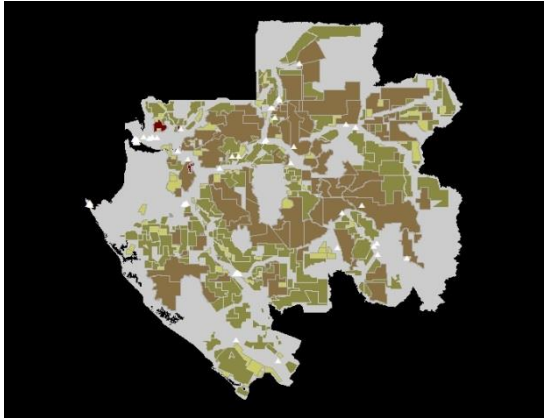
National Transportation Agency



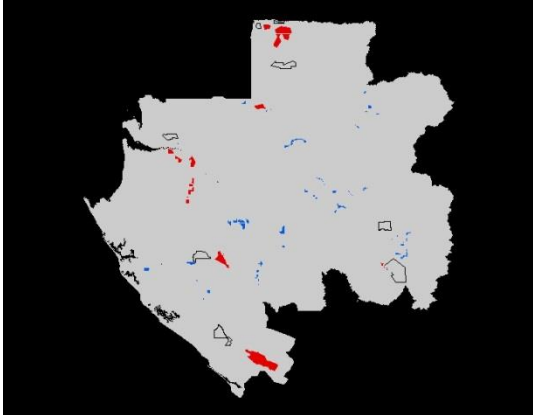
National Parks Agency



Ministry of Waters and Forestry



Ministry of Agriculture

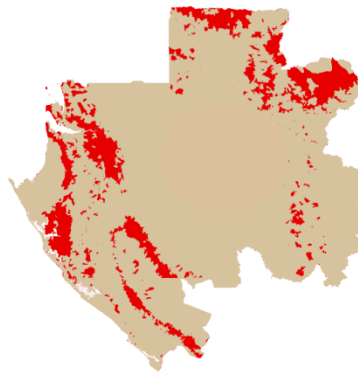


## 2.5 A better optimization of field activities

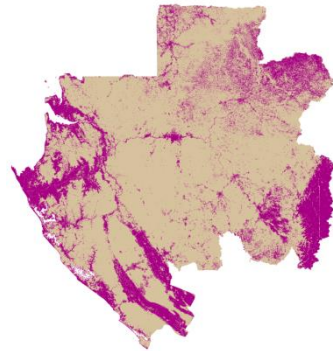
*The choice of agricultural land on the basis of several criteria*



Climate



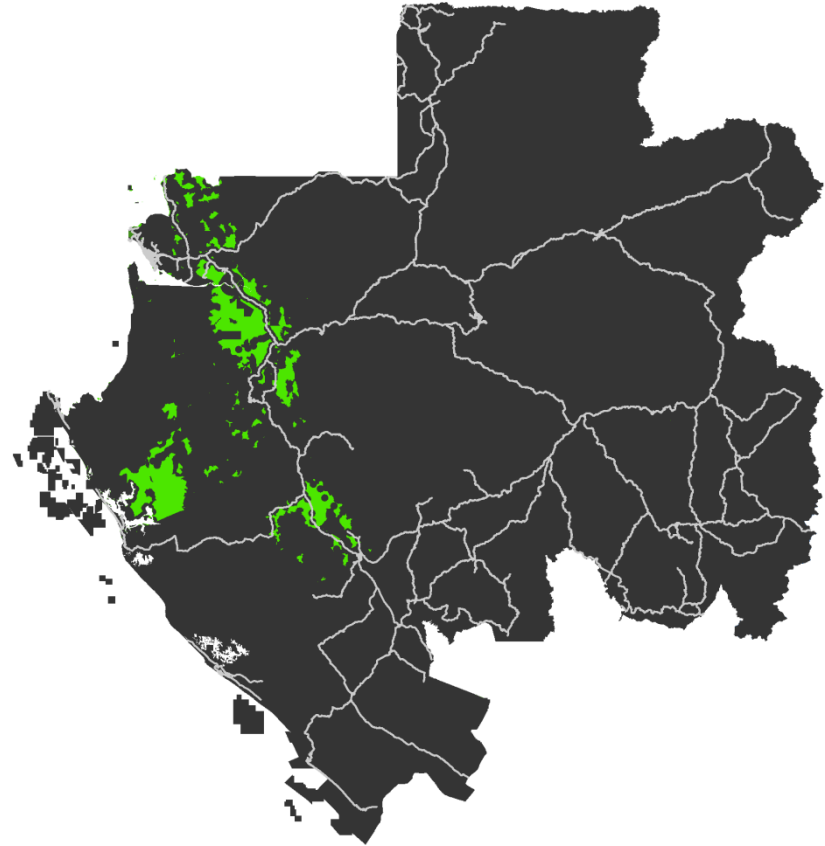
Topography



Lowest carbon value

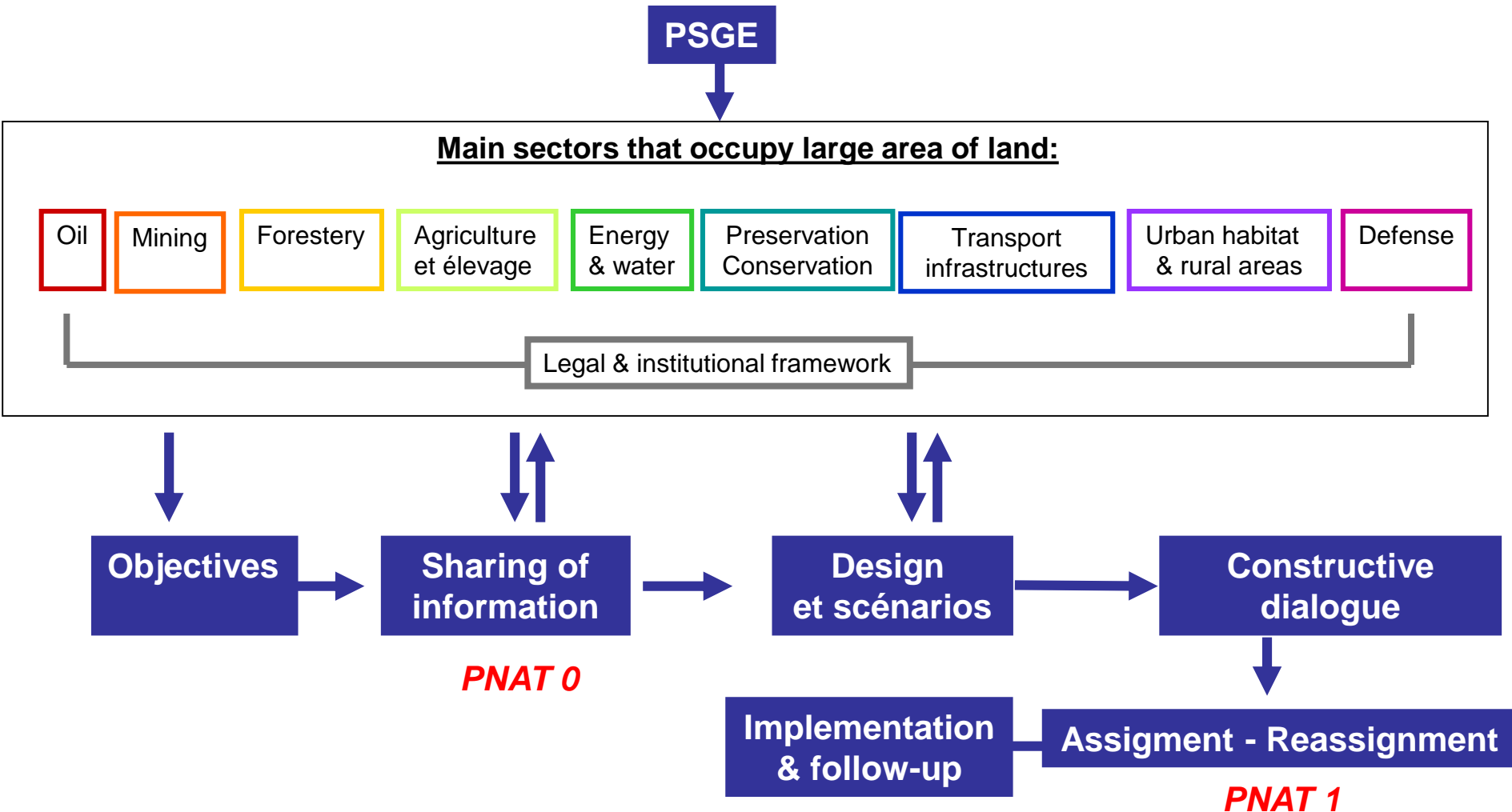


Proximity to infrastructure, workforce



## 2.6 Preliminary results of the PNATO

*The PNATO made it possible to make a diagnostic, to identify certain conflicts, overlaps between activities, incompatibilities as well as encroachments on village territories.*



## 2.7 How the Government intends to find solutions to the problems posed by the PNAT0

- ✓ Establishment of a National Inter-ministerial Committee - Commission for the Regulation of Natural Resources and Land Use (CRRNAT) - which will accompany and facilitate politically and strategically the process of developing the PNAT
- ✓ The creation of multi-stakeholder committees at the provincial level (CPRRNAT) which will contribute to the inclusive and multi-scale nature of the process. They will integrate provincial leaders, economic operators, decentralized sectoral agencies and civil society organizations (The members)
- ✓ A technical committee associated with these commissions will support the implementation of the work planned
- ✓ An inclusive participatory mapping process will make it possible to delineate the terroirs and possibly to highlight complaints
- ✓ A communication strategy on the assignment and reassignment process will be put in place.

# III. A forest carbon monitoring and evaluation system

## 1. *The objectives of the system:*

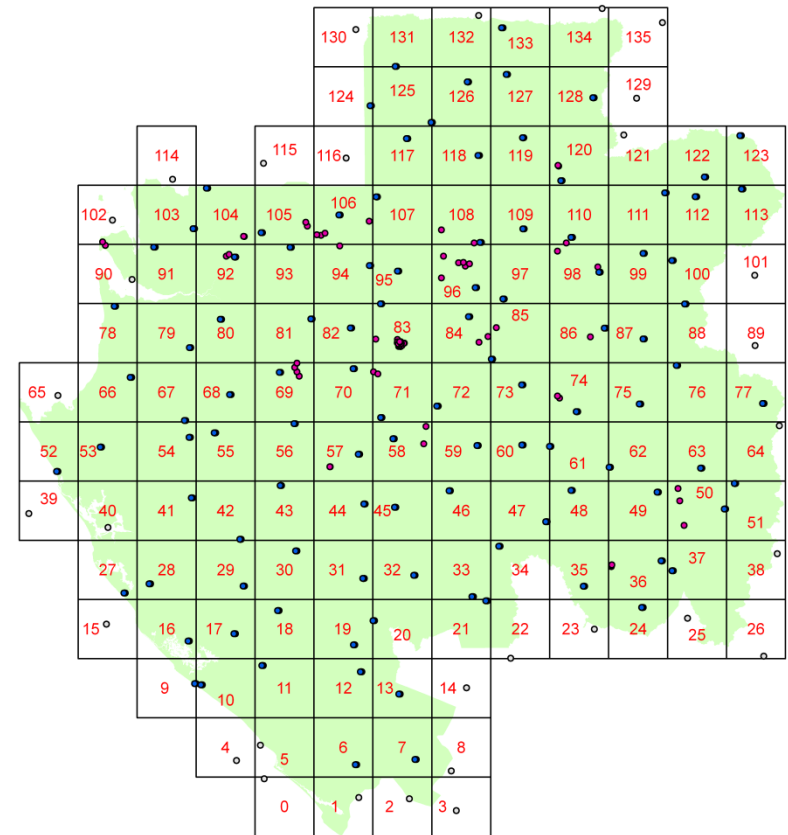
- ✓ Quantification of forest carbon stocks
- ✓ Improvement of the accuracy of carbon stock assessment through measurement of soil carbon
- ✓ Development of carbon calculator
- ✓ Contribution to the forest inventory and biodiversity

**With 88% forest cover, monitoring forest dynamics is an extremely important activity for Gabon, which must reconcile economic development and environmental protection.**

# III. A forest carbon monitoring and evaluation system

## 2. Installation of a system of permanent parcels

- ✓ Sampling plot throughout the territory
- ✓ Quantification Quantified national aboveground biomass & carbon stocks
- ✓ Trained >50 field technicians in inventory methods
- ✓ Biodiversity Inventory



# III. A forest carbon monitoring and evaluation system

## *3. Development of a carbon calculator*

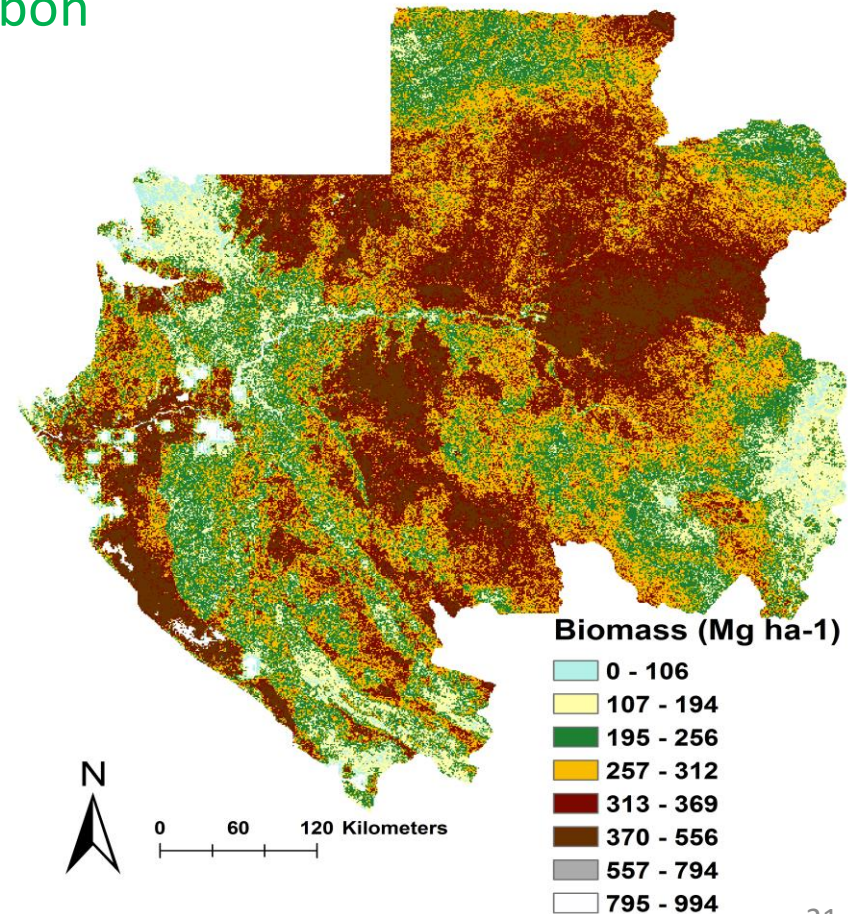
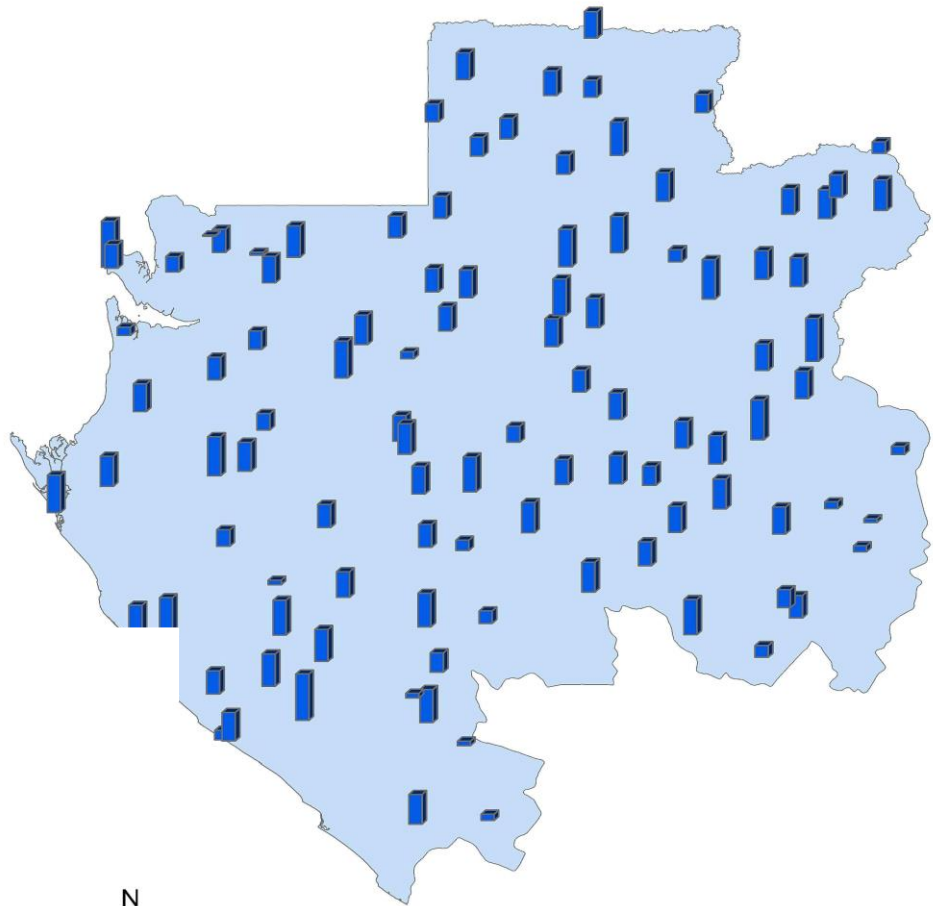
**The purpose of the carbon calculator is to estimate carbon content and emissions for development activities.**

- ✓ **Improve accuracy of carbon stock assessment through the quantification of soil carbon**
  - Designed soil sampling methods
  - Collected and analyzed soil carbon data for 65 sites in Gabon
- ✓ **Development of carbon calculator**
  - Software to estimate carbon content at local and project levels, allowing government and business to assess the potential emissions of development activities

# III. A forest carbon monitoring and evaluation system

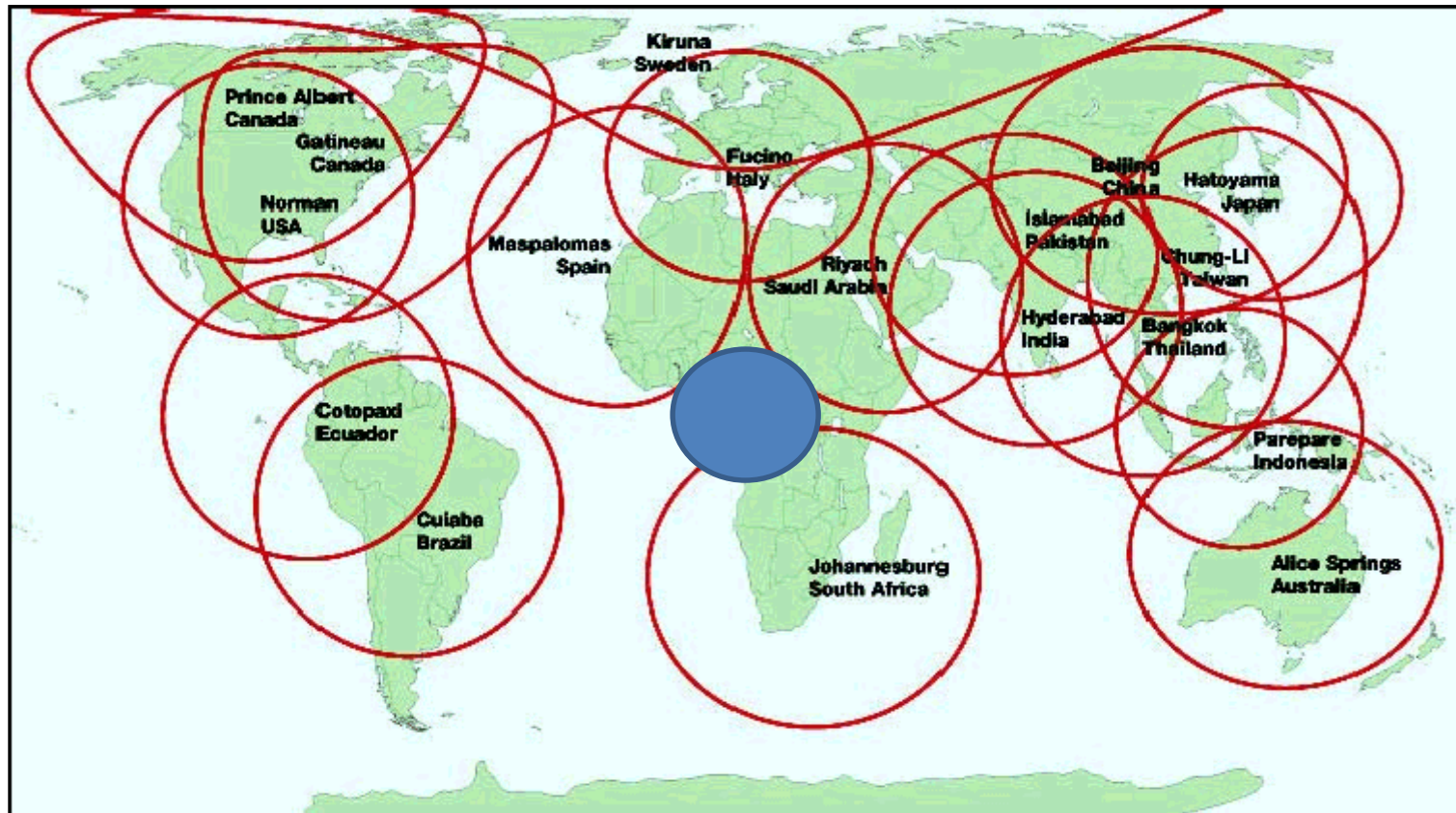
## 4. *Creating a robust decision support system*

The objective is to move from field measurements to more accurate estimates of forest carbon



# IV. Means of satellite monitoring and evaluation

## 1. *The Gabonese Agency for Spatial Studies and Observations*



# IV. Means of satellite monitoring and evaluation

## 2. Infrastructures have been developed

### ✓ 3 main components

#### Direct Receiving Antenna

- Multi-mission and multi-sensor: Optics & Radar;
- Diameter of 7.30 m;
- Circle of reception of 2800 km, which covers 23 African countries.

#### Competence center

- Administratifs services;
- Technical services (reception and processing);
- Research & Training.

#### Data Distribution Infrastructure

- GEOportail (Outil Catalogue);
- [www.ageos.ga](http://www.ageos.ga)



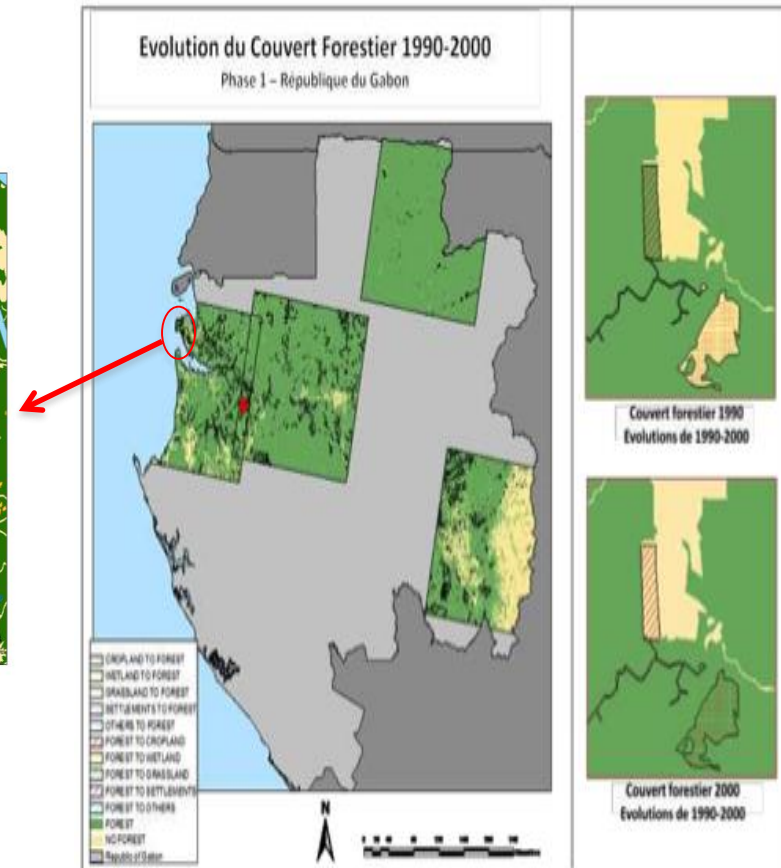
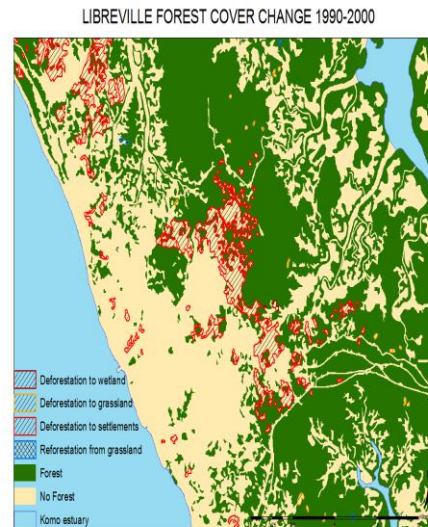
# IV. Des moyens de surveillance et d'évaluation

## 3. Direct mapping of the territory

A true decision-making tool for the government

Through the acquisition and analysis of satellite images, AGEOS will allow us to :

- Monitor deforestation and forest degradation ;
- Keep track of the changes in land use in Gabon;
- Stop and anticipate illegal activities.





## V. Support for the PNAT

The CAFI initiative:

- ✓ A National Investment Framework has been submitted to the Central African Forests Initiative to assist us in this process;
- ✓ This framework focuses on land use planning and forest monitoring, including a strategy for national ownership of the process;
- ✓ We worked constructively last week with a team of CAFI in Libreville.

The GCF:

Gabon is currently benefitting from a support readiness to strengthen the capacity of our Nationally Designated Authority.

The AFD

The Debt Conversion Fund to accompany the logging sector in development plans

**These financial mechanisms rely on the government's budget to make it possible to leverage the other financial mechanisms to accompany Gabon in its approach.**

## VI. Safeguards and CSO involvement

- ✓ Gabon since 2009 has initiated reforms to adapt its legal arsenal to preserve the environment and the rights of local communities
- ✓ All productive sectors (oil, mining, forestry, agriculture and fisheries) have updated their legal framework.
- ✓ The PNAT will lead to a decennial or five-year land use policy act.
- ✓ The implementation process of the decentralization law has been slowed down to allow for the allocation process to be taken into account.
- ✓ Current laws ensure the involvement of CSOs, which by law can block processes, provided their capabilities are significantly strengthened.
- ✓ Nevertheless, the government considers the CSOs as development partners and therefore at each level of the chain they are associated.

**We are ready to evaluate the gaps in a constructive approach that takes into account the progress made by Gabon**

## VII. Conclusion

- ✓ Gabon in its approach is part of an approach that could value the existing carbon stock rather than valuing emission reductions linked to deforestation which has a rate of practically zero.
- ✓ In a constructive approach with the FCPF, it seems possible to us to have a dialogue that takes into account the progress of Gabon whose policies and actions coupled with a weak demography have for several years, made it possible to maintain the Gabonese forest in its stability Structural.
- ✓ From the stated perspective, it would be possible to consider a conceptual evolution to enable a country like Gabon to capture the opportunities that it would be able to wait in a mechanism like the FCPF.
- ✓ In addition, Gabon, through its Sustainable Development Policy Act (LODD in french), is planning to establish a sustainable development credit market.
- ✓ In a constructive approach, Gabon would be ready to engage in meaningful discussions with the FCPF, particularly in the context of preparatory funds to accompany Gabon in making our forest monitoring system more robust.

# Considérations pour le dialogue avec le FCPF

- Readiness Process:
  - Gabon has independently made significant progress in many of the components defining the FCPF readiness process
  - Gabon sees great value to re-engage with the FCPF now that its land-use planning process is well advanced and there are clear priorities and a roadmap for future actions

# Context for dialogue with the FCPF:

- Purpose of R-PP:
- *Through its R-PP, the country lays out a roadmap of preparation activities needed to undertake the work in the core components listed above, indicating:*
  - *How REDD-plus preparation work will be organized and managed in the country, including procedures for information sharing, consultations with and participation by concerned stakeholder groups;*
  - *What capacity building and financial resources are needed and who would fund and undertake them (e.g., domestic agencies, NGOs, women's organizations, foundations, private sector, international donors, etc.);*
  - *How the country intends to allocate available funding, sets a plan and schedule the identified activities, including funding arrangement such as the support foreseen from the FCPF or UN-REDD.*
- Gabon has already made significant progress in many of the readiness components. While some work is still needed in all of them for full operationalization, we are already aware of these needs and have a plan for how to address them and the resource allocation required, with international support.

# Proposal for re-engagement with the FCPF

- Gabon's status when compared to the readiness components suggest that Gabon could efficiently build on its current readiness process by entering the FCPF process at the stage of an R-Package
- Gabon would commit to submitting an R-Package before the next Participants Committee Meeting







**MERCI**