Training programme

Module 1:

Introduction to National Wetland Inventories

Insights from Gabon

DR. Jean Hervé MVE BEH

POINT FOCAL RAMSAR

...:: MINISTERE DES EAUX ET FORETS :::...



Central Africa CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC CAMEROON EQUATORIAL GUINEA **GABON** ZAIRE

Gabon in summary

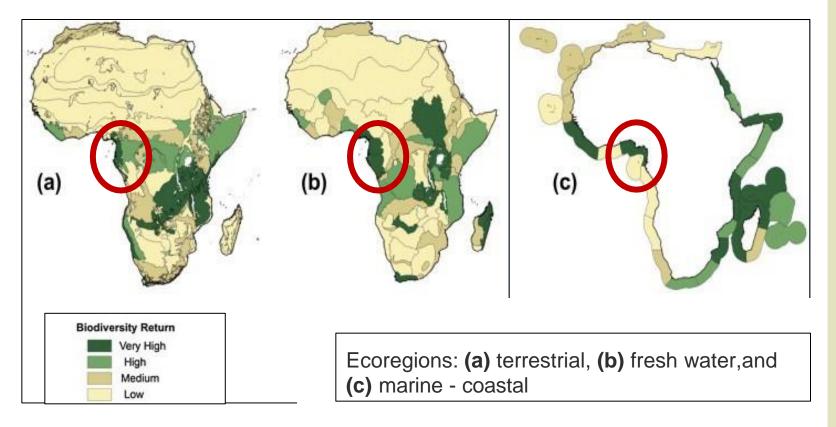
Gabon is located in the centre of the west coast of Africa, straddling the equator and bordered by Equatorial Guinea and Cameroon to the north, and the Republic of Congo to the east and south:

Gabon is a forested country. 80% of its territory is forested, representing 15% of the forests in the Congo Basin region.

- •268 670 km²
- •2 3 M population (50% in Libreville)
- •10 000 km² inland water
- •4575 \$ GDP per capita

- •950 km of coastline
- •Humid tropical climate (+ 2m rainfall/year and 80-90% humidity)

Gabon, a biodiversity hotspot |



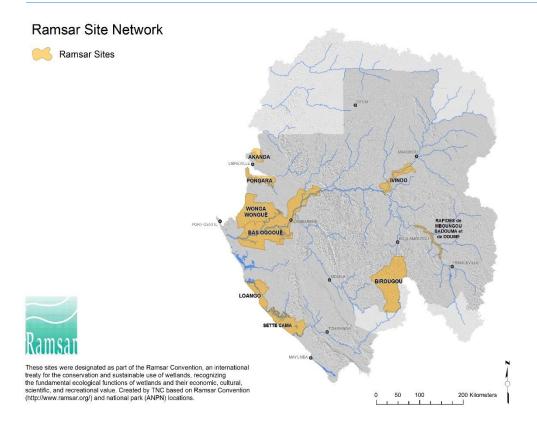
Tear, Timothy et al, (2014). A return-on-investment framework to identify conservation priorities in Africa. Biological Conservation. 173. 42–52. 10.1016/j.biocon.2014.01.028.

Gabon is an important country when it comes to protecting biodiversity.

A continental analysis carried out in 2010 showed that Gabon is the only country where Africa's richest terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecoregions overlap.

This gives Gabon its unique biodiversity and justifies the need for conservation of these different habitat types.

Ramsar sites in Gabon

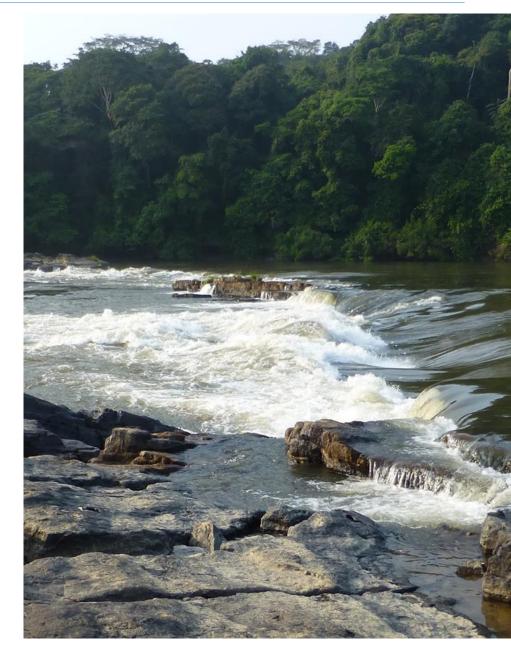


Site Name	No. Site	Designation Date	Area (ha)
Wonga-Wongué	351	1986-12-30	396581
Petit Loango	352	1986-12-30	150868
Setté Cama	353	1986-12-30	240000
Parc National Akanda	1652	2007-02-02	54000
Parc National Pongara	1653	2007-02-02	96302
Site Ramsar des Monts Birougou	1654	2007-02-02	536800
Bas Ogooué	1851	2009-02-02	1370000
Chutes et Rapides sur Ivindo	1852	2009-02-02	103333
Rapides de Mboungou-Badouma et de Doumé	1853	2009-02-02	53883

By joining the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in 1987, Gabon committed itself to implementing a policy of sustainable management of these critical ecosystems, which are of major ecological importance to the country. To date, Gabon has classified a total of nine (9) sites on the list of Ramsar sites of international importance, covering 2.8 million hectares and representing a wide variety of aquatic and wetland ecosystems.

Among the measures recommended to countries adhering to the Convention on Wetlands is the formulation of national policies promoting wetland conservation. Unfortunately, Gabon does not yet have a national wetlands strategy.

In the absence of an ambitious national wetlands' strategy, there is no national inventory program. As a result, the overall state of knowledge of wetlands in the national territory remains poor. The little data available has often focused on certain geographical areas or taxonomic groups. Information is not always available and is decentralized.

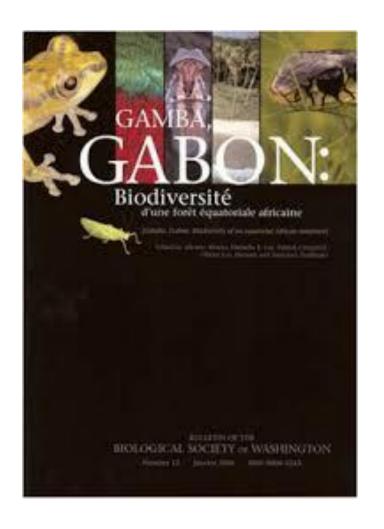


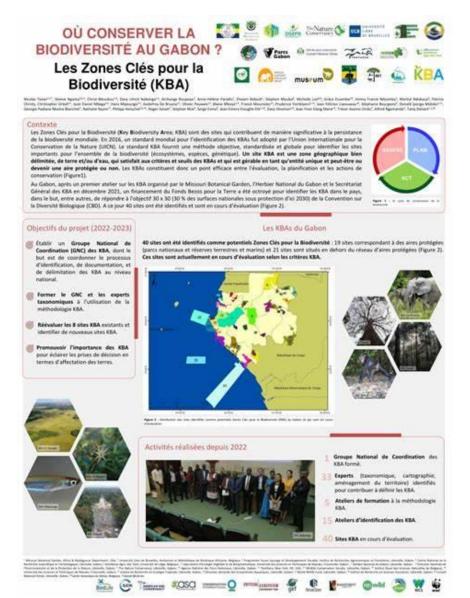
Example of *Gap analysis* of the state of biodiversity in the 3 Ramsar sites created by the PAZH project in 2016

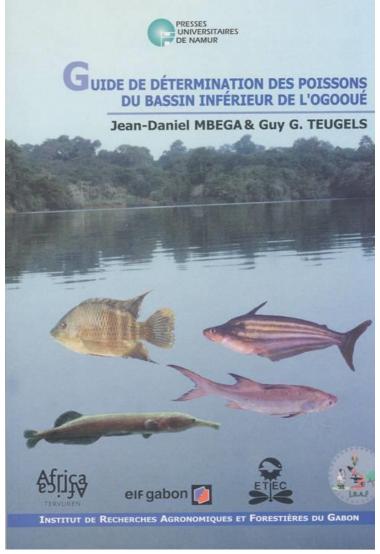
Tableau 3 : Etat des connaissances pour les sites Ramsar (* = faible, ** = normal, *** = excellent).

	Petit Loango/Setté Cama	Birougou	Bas-Ogooué
Flore	***/*	*	**
Végétation	**/*	*	**
Nombre d'herbiers	*/*	*	**
Carte de végétation	Préliminaire	Non	Oui
Mammifères	***/**	*	***
Oiseaux	***/**	*	
Reptiles et amphibiens	***/***	*	**
Poissons	**/**	*	**
Insectes	**/**	*	**
Total	19/14	8	17

Example of a project targeting geographical areas and species







Protected areas are Gabon's preferred response to the challenges of biodiversity erosion, pollution and the effects of climate change, with 22-26% of its land and sea area in conservation zones. Even though there is no national wetland inventory program, the dynamics around protected areas are helping to fill the information gap. Indeed, 7 of the 9 sites overlap with national parks.

Terrestrial

-11 % in National Parcs

-11 % in Ramsar sites and other designations

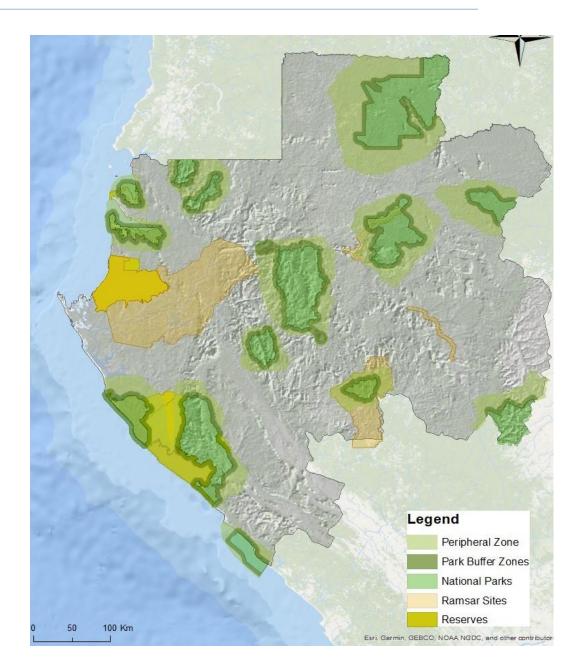
Freshwater

-15 % in National Parc

•8% in Ramsar sites

Marine

26 % Aquatic reserves

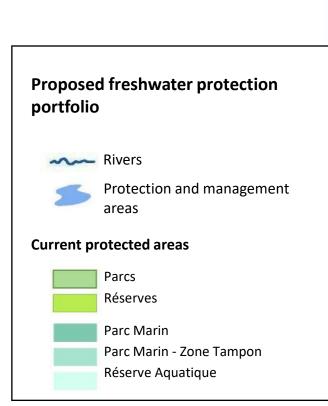


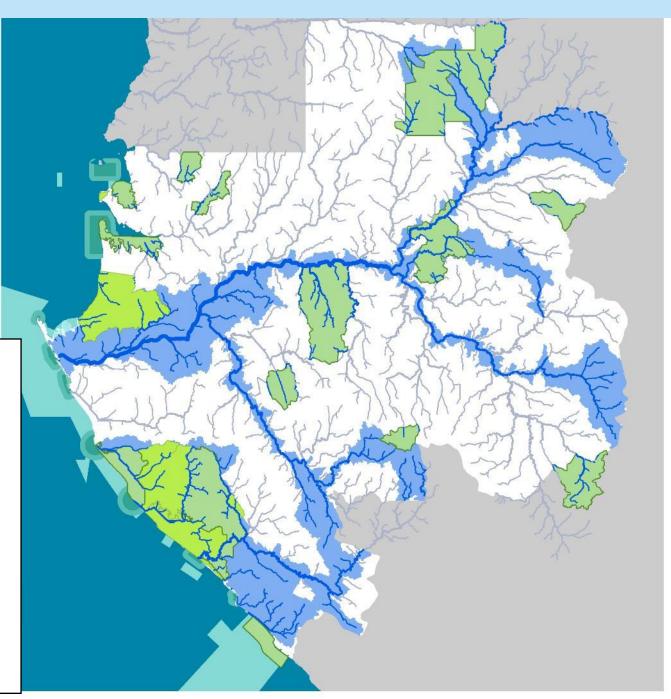
Insights 30 Gabon could be the first country to officially protect 30% in all types of ecosystems: marine, terrestrial and freshwater and deliver on integrated biodiversity, climate and livelihood objectives

Identifying priorities for protecting freshwater ecosystems

Resilience = representation and connectivity Protection portfolio design:

- **Representation of the river ecosystem**
- **Connected through the river network**
 - Large rivers
 - Great diversity
 - Network connections
 - ❖ Coastal rivers
 - Great diversity
 - Marine migrants
 - Estuarine connections





Thank you for your attention

