

An ecosystem
serving Gabon's
industrialization.



ARISE INTEGRATED INDUSTRIAL PLATFORMS



*“GABON, at the heart of Africa’s
metamorphosis:
a strong democracy, a strong
economy, and a just society”*

Gabon is the emerging face of Africa. **Its successes are at the heart of the continent’s transformation.** Only 61 years since its independence, and with a population of 2.1 million, Gabon is building an increasingly solid reputation in international development and investment circles. The country has prospered economically, while prioritizing sustainability, good governance, foreign investment and human development. Indeed, Gabon is proud to declare that it has one of the highest Human Development Indexes (HDI) in Sub-Saharan Africa.

In the future, investments and diversification will be key elements of the Gabonese economy. With our political and social stability, combined with improved infrastructure, diverse natural resources and the country’s strategic geographic position, an even better future awaits us. Working hand in hand, they help us to create an attractive structure for foreign investment and domestic growth, of all industries and sectors.

In 2010, **the collaboration with Olam International Ltd, led to the creation of a multisectoral Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Nkok, 27 km from the capital, Libreville.** We have jointly built an incentive model that encourages the exploitation of natural resources while providing a support infrastructure allowing the establishment of basic auxiliary units within Gabon.

The decision to create a Special Economic Zone is the cornerstone of our Emerging Gabon strategy which aims, in simple terms, to protect our environment in a sustainable manner while fostering diversified industrial growth.

The SEZ is one of the many projects that have enabled international investors to bring the technologies and machines to produce value-added products in Gabon, rather than abroad. These projects also offer and promote enormous domestic investment opportunities, in addition to creating employment opportunities.

Our government reforms have also reassured international investors, and encouraged domestic growth. Stronger legal structures, coupled with simplified transparent tax reforms, have enabled Gabon to continue to attract foreign and local investors. **Gabon has created an enabling environment by fostering international and national investment, responsible industry growth and prosperity for all.** This environment is still an exception in Africa; Gabon is leading the continent towards a better tomorrow.

His Excellency Ali Bongo Ondimba
The President of the Republic of Gabon



GABON, LAND OF OPPORTUNITIES...



Gabon

Gabon is located in western Central Africa. It is bordered by Equatorial Guinea to the northwest, by Cameroon to the north, by the Republic of Congo to the east and south and by the Atlantic Ocean to the west. It covers nearly 270,000 km², 85% of which is covered by tropical forest and has a population of 2.3 million. The official language of Gabon is French, but English is increasingly used, especially in business.



Area
267,667 km²

Human development index
Ranked 9th in Africa in 2020

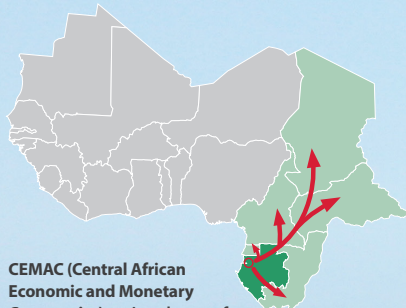
Population



GDP per capita in 2021
7006 USD
Ranked 1st in sub-Saharan Africa

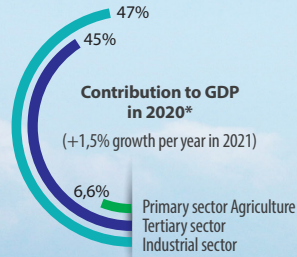


ECONOMIC INDICATORS



CEMAC (Central African Economic and Monetary Community) region shares a free border movement for goods.

It provides access to CEMAC, a market of **44 million consumers.**



*GDP value : USD 18.29 billion



4th largest oil producer in sub-Saharan Africa



1st African producer of wood and 2nd in the world of veneer



2nd African producer of manganese



Economic diversification effort undertaken as part of the Emerging Gabon Strategic Plan 2010-2025 (PSGE)



Member of CEMAC



Hydroelectric potential : 328MW of hydraulic origin out of a total capacity of 725MW with energy mix



2,621.9 billion CFA francs of exports in 2020



985.1 billion CFA francs of imports in 2020



INFORMATION SHEET



Arise Integrated Industrial Platforms (IIP) is developing industrial infrastructures and their dedicated ecosystems. It designs, finances, builds, and manages large projects throughout Africa.



61,5%

+



38,5%



Gabon Special Economic Zone

The Gabon Special Economic Zone (GSEZ) springs from a public-private partnership venture between Arise IIP and the Gabonese Republic (CDC) signed in March 2010. GSEZ was set up to foster local timber processing, industrial production, and the sustainable use of Gabon's natural resources, primarily timber, for local and export markets. It allows local and international investors to easily establish themselves and set up locally thanks to a unique administrative and fiscal status.

The industrial zone is divided into three sectors: industrial, commercial, and residential. Located in Nkok, a town 27 km from the capital, Libreville, GSEZ can be reached by road, rail, and riverboat traffic. It also has a loading platform for loading barges for direct connections with the port city of Owendo.



Today's GSEZ includes:



144
Investors from 16 different nations and
operating in 22 industrial sectors

**8,000 direct and
12,000 indirect
jobs created**

1,000,000 m³
of timber processed in 2021

1,126 ha
600 ha of land being harvested,
and 526 ha still available

USD 287 million
worth of products exported in 2021

25,200
containers TEUS exported in 2021

USD 780 million
in investments with a total of USD 1.8 billion
generated in direct foreign investments



Ranked Best industrial zone
of the world in wood sector by
FDI Intelligence-Financial Times
in 2020.

First carbon-neutral
certified industrial zone
in Africa.



CARBON NEUTRALITY
www.sgs.com/climatechange

WOOD INDUSTRY

GSEZ, Central Africa's biggest hub of the wood industry

Covered at 87% by forest and with 12.5 million hectares of sustainable managed forests containing over 400 species of trees, **including the well-known Kevazingo and the popular Okoumé**, Gabon is the reference and flagship component of the timber industry.

Developed in the GSEZ, the wood cluster includes 88 companies operating from 1st to 3rd processing and recorded an annual volume of 1,000,000m3 of processed wood in 2021.

SAWING

Processing stage where wood is cut into different shapes. Main companies are Gabon Wood Industries (2011), Wood Pro (2017) and Compagnie Dan Gabon (2016). These all meet the international chain of custody standard FSC- STD - 40 004

VENEER SHEETS

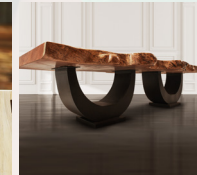
Greenply (2016) and Evergreen (2016) are specialized in the production of veneer sheets, which is the result of the 1st transformation of wood

PLYWOOD

Star Ply was the 1st company to meet the international chain of custody standard FSC- STD - 40 004. It produces plywood by gluing veneer sheets. Gabon is known for manufacturing luxury plywood 100% Okoumé.

WOOD FURNITURE

A conglomerate of small and medium-sized companies produces 100% made in Gabon furniture, produced from rare essences.





GSEZ has developed a real ecosystem for wood companies:

Log supply: GSEZ has its own supply chain of timber to keep various wood-processing businesses up and running: around 25 timber companies produce nearly 40,000 m³ of raw wood per month

Log park: Timbers are stored in a log park with an area of 40 hectares.

A Wood glue company is producing Formaldehyde and Resin which is a glue used in the production of plywood.

A Plastic company is recycling plastic bottles to produce plastic tabs used to package wood products.

A Charcoal company produces active and non-active coal from the sawing waste of other operators.

A Particle board company is under construction and must be operational in 2022.

A Showroom is an exhibition center with an area of 3000 m², opened to the public in 2018, and exhibiting furniture 100% made in Gabon.

6 000 m²
of space for machinery

4 000 m²
of wood drying installations

6 000 m²
of floor space for packing and logistics

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Faced with growing demands, GSEZ has made sustainability, traceability, and certification one of its priorities.

- ✓ All of Gabon's forest concessions are operated according to the sustainable forest management practices prescribed by the Gabonese Forest Code, which ensures the natural regeneration of forests in the long term and the sustainable supply of raw materials.
- ✓ **TRACER**
To ensure traceability, GSEZ has benefited from the services of the independent Tracer-Nkok agency since October 2018. This has resulted from a fruitful partnership venture between FRM (Forest Resources Management) and the NGO Brainforest, which filters the logs entering the economic zone in order to limit the risk of illegal timber as much as possible
- ✓ 11 companies in the SEZ meet the international standard: FSC™ Chain of Custody (COC)



OUR SHOWROOM AND FURNITURE BRAND



Discover **AKIBA**,
our premium furniture collection

To know more about Akiba:



ADVANTAGES OF THE SEZ

The Administrative Authority of the Economic Zone with Privileged Regime of Nkok (AAN) has the main mission of coordinating and ensuring the operational supervision of the functioning of all the administrations and services of the State installed within GSEZ.



Autorité Administrative
Zone Economique Spéciale
de Nkok



A SINGLE GOVERNMENT WINDOW

- A dedicated government window for the SEZ offering 23 government offices.
- Rapid authorizations for investors.
- Express-line processing for business formalities:
 - **24 hours** to register a new business.
 - **30 minutes** to register new employees.
 - **21 days** to process work visas.



A UNIQUE TAX SYSTEM

0% • on income (35% outside SEZ).
• on property (11.25% outside SEZ).
• on taxes on services for 10 years.

- VAT exemption (18% outside SEZ).
- Exemption from customs duties on imported equipment and raw materials.

100% capital repatriation and profits.



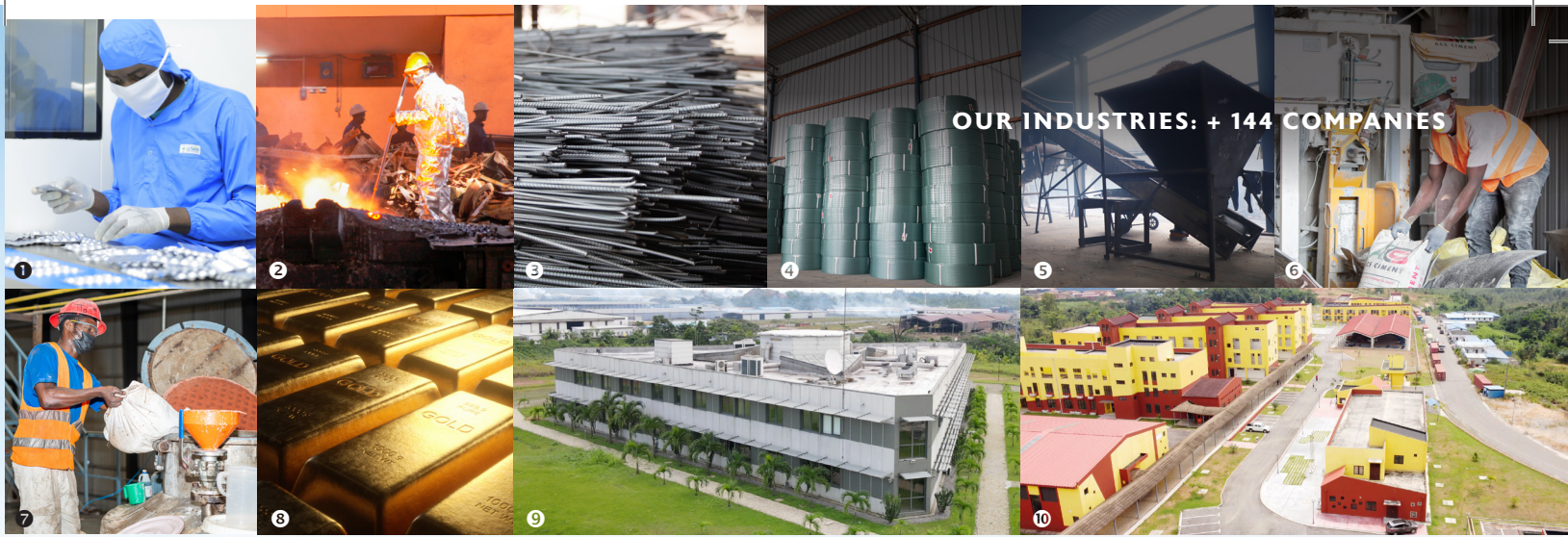
PUBLIC UTILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- Telecommunications
- Water lines
- Electrical supply
- Sewage treatment plant
- Logyard
- Container terminal
- Railway siding
- Petrol station
- Fire station
- Banks
- Health clinic



Jia Ming Plastics
Manufacturing





OUR INDUSTRIES: + 144 COMPANIES

PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

① **La Santé Pharmaceutique** (2017) is the first pharmaceutical factory in the CEMAC zone, specializing in the production of generic drugs: tablets, capsules, ointments, and syrups.

METAL WASTE RECYCLING

② **Chaudronnerie Du Gabon** (2012) is one of the first factories to be set up in the area, specializing in the recycling of metals to produce reinforcing steel for the local market.

③ **Acieries Du Gabon** (2013) contributes to the creation of indirect jobs by buying waste metal parts from the city to produce reinforcing steel that meets international standards.

PLASTIC

④ **Jia Ming Plastics Manufacturing** (2018) recycles plastic bottles to produce plastic tabs used to package wood products.

CHARCOAL

⑤ **Huaxing Environnement** (2019) produces active and non-active coal from the sawing waste of other operators. This coal will then be sold to heavy industries, cosmetics and pharmaceutical companies.

CEMENT

⑥ **Africa Cement** (2013) is currently the only operator to produce clinker-based cement in the area for national and international use.

WOOD GLUE

⑦ **Windson resins and chemical** (2021) is the first formaldehyde and resin plant in the CEMAC region. This company will produce formaldehyde and resin which is a glue used in the production of plywood.

GOLD

⑧ **ACM - Alpha Centauri Mining** (2022) is the first gold refinery in Gabon and Central Africa, specializing in the marketing, purchase, sale, export and processing of gold (1st, 2nd and 3rd phases).

OTHER COMPANIES

⑨ **The Gabonese Agency for Spatial Study and Observation (AGEOS)**: A parastatal agency whose role is to monitor the national territory through satellite data. This mainly includes the monitoring of forest cover.

⑩ **CIMFEP** (2021): the International Multisectoral Center for Training and Vocational Education of Nkok, with a capacity of 1,000 students, was built to compensate the need for manpower in the following sector areas: wood, boiler making, welding, mechanics, scrap metal, electromechanical etc.

Under construction : Another training center specializing in wood trades to meet the labour needs of companies in the wood cluster.



Gabon Special Economic Zone

Galerie Tsika
BP 13559 - Libreville, Gabon
Tel: +241 (0) 66006078 / 66002257
Email: gsez@arisenet.com
www.gsez.com

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