



BIODIVERSITY: AN OPPORTUNITY AND AN OPTION OF DEVELOPMENT FOR GABON

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06/24/2010

1. INTRODUCTION: Presentation of Gabon

Photo1: Administrative map of Gabon



Gabon is:

- Located on Congo Basin with rich biodiversity
- 267 667 km² of area: 85 % of the territory is covered with the big equatorial forest,
- 800 km of Coast on the Atlantic Ocean
- 1, 5 million of population
- Young population ; 52% are less than 25 years old

2. NATIONAL POLITICAL AXIS AND VISION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF GABON

- Until today, Gabonese economy depends on three products: petroleum, wood and manganese, but the Government is engaged on diversification of his national economy with a large part for the valorization of biodiversity and ecosystem services
- the vision for this diversification is:
 - local transformation of natural resources,
 - creation of new path for the commercialization goods and services from natural ecosystem, development of industrial technologies and services

2. National Political axis and vision for the development of Gabon

- A strong political engagement for a diversification based on conservation of biodiversity and environmental preservation
- Gabonese head of the state program of society with its three pillars: « Green Gabon », « Gabon industrial », « Gabon services »
- Reinforce the integration and taking account of biodiversity and ecosystem's services in strategies and intersectoral politics, and other appropriate sectors



Scientific and technical research as a principal way to have sustainable political decision

- In this program Scientific and technical research have a principal and important role: produce information on biological resources and ecosystem services:
 - Produce information to improve knowledge about resources
 - Propose new method of use of these resources
- It is a way to have sustainable political decision:
 - Speech of Gabonese Head of the State at Nagoya for the COP 10 on biodiversity
 - Calling of Gabon to have an Pan-African Committee for the establishment of an Intergovernmental Science-Policy platform on biodiversity (IPBES)
 - To confirm his own position, Gabonese Government has started informal contact and reflexion about the creation of a national center for biodiversity with regional focus.

Conclusion:

Thank you