INTRODUCTION
Gabon became independent from France in 1960. Despite constrained political conditions, Gabon's small population, abundant natural resources, and considerable foreign support have helped make it one of the more stable African countries.

GOVERNMENT
Chief of State
President Ali BONGO Ondimba
Head of Government
Prime Minister Rose Christiane Ossouka RAPONDA
Government Type
presidential republic
Capital
Libreville
Legislature
bicameral Parliament consists of the Senate (102 seats) and the National Assembly (143 seats)

GEOGRAPHY
Area
Total: 267,667 sq km
Land: 257,667 sq km
Water: 10,000 sq km
Climate
tropical; always hot, humid
Natural Resources
petroleum, natural gas, diamond, niobium, manganese, uranium, gold, timber, iron ore, hydropower

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
natural resource-rich, upper-middle-income, Central African economy; sparsely populated but high urbanization; young labor force; oil, manganese, and rubber exporter; foreign investment dependent; data integrity issue on poverty and income
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) $32.05 billion (2020 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $14,400 (2020 est.)
Industries - petroleum extraction and refining, manganese, gold, chemicals, ship repair, food and beverages, textiles, lumbering and plywood, cement
Agricultural products - plantains, cassava, sugarcane, yams, taro, vegetables, maize, groundnuts, game meat, rubber
Exports $10.8 billion (2019 est.)
crude petroleum, manganese, lumber, veneer sheeting, refined petroleum (2019)
partners: China 63%, Singapore 5% (2019)
Imports $5.02 billion (2019 est.)
poultry meats, excavation machinery, packaged medicines, cars, rice (2019)
partners: France 22%, China 17%, Belgium 6%, US 6%, UAE 5% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
2.3 million (July 2021 est.)
Population Growth
2.41% (2021 est.)
Ethnicity
Gabonese-born 80.1%,
(includes Fang 23.2%, Shira-Punu/Vili 18.9%, Nzabi-Duma 11.3%, Mdede-Teke 6.9%, Myene 5%, Kota-Kele 4.9%, Okande-Tsogo 2.1%, other 7.8%),
foreign-born 18.3%, acquired Gabonese nationality 1.6% (2012)
Language
French (official), Fang, Myene, Nzebi, Bapounou/Eschira, Bandjabi
Religion
Roma Catholic 42.3%, Protestant 12.3%, other Christian 27.4%,
Muslim 9.8%, animist 0.6%, other 0.5%, none/no answer 7.1% (2012 est.)
as of October 2021