

# REPUBLIC OF GABON FACTSHEET



Delegation der Deutschen Wirtschaft  
in Ghana  
Delegation of German Industry and  
Commerce in Ghana



## INTRODUCTION

Gabon, a country on the west coast of Africa astride the Equator, has recently entered a new era following the establishment of its Fifth Republic. While it retains historical ties to France, the country has significantly diversified its international partnerships, strengthening relations with the Commonwealth (joined in 2022) and Asian economies. The capital is Libreville.

Bordered by Equatorial Guinea, Cameroon, and the Republic of the Congo, Gabon is defined by its pristine rainforests and rich biodiversity. The population, approximately 2.5 million, is largely Christian. Historically dependent on timber and manganese, and later oil, Gabon has successfully accelerated its economic diversification strategy. As of late 2025, the mining sector (specifically manganese and iron ore) and local timber processing have become central pillars of the economy, reducing the dominance of the oil sector which now accounts for a smaller share of GDP compared to previous decades.

## KEY STATISTICS

INDICATOR	CURRENT DATA (LATE 2025)
Key Statistics	2,538,952 (2024/25 Est.)
Land Area	267,667 km <sup>2</sup>
Official Language	French
Capital	Libreville
Head of State	H.E. Brice Clotaire Oligui Nguema (President)
Currency	Central African CFA franc (XAF)
Major Trade Partners	China, India, France, USA, South Korea

## POLITICAL CONTEXT

Following the profound political transformation initiated by the "Liberation Coup" on August 30, 2023, which ended the Bongo family's 56-year rule, Gabon has stabilized and successfully transitioned to its Fifth Republic. This return to constitutional order was anchored by the November 2024 referendum, which overwhelmingly approved a new constitution establishing a presidential system with renewable seven-year terms and replacing the Prime Minister with a Vice-President. The transition formally concluded in April 2025 with General Brice Clotaire Oligui Nguema's victory in the presidential elections, legitimizing his mandate as a civilian Head of State, while subsequent parliamentary and local elections in September and October 2025 finalized the restoration of the nation's democratic institutions.

## ECONOMIC CONTEXT

Gabon remains an upper-middle-income country with a robust economy currently pivoting from raw material exports to local processing under the Transformation Acceleration Plan (PAT). Real GDP growth is projected to stabilize around 3.0% in 2025, driven primarily by non-oil sectors such as manganese mining, timber, and construction, which serve to offset the natural decline in oil production. With inflation contained at approximately 2.5%, the government is aggressively pursuing economic diversification, highlighted by a record 2026 budget that includes a massive funding increase for mining exploration. Furthermore, the country continues to attract significant foreign direct investment, particularly in the mining sector, while simultaneously leveraging innovative financial tools like "debt-for-nature" swaps to support marine conservation.

## DATA ON MINING AND MINERAL RESOURCES

**Manganese:** Gabon continues to solidify its status as a global manganese titan, serving as the cornerstone of the country's mining economy. As the world's second-largest producer of high-grade manganese, output has surged to record levels, exceeding 10 million tons annually.

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**Iron Ore:** The iron ore sector represents the next frontier of Gabon's extractive growth, driven by two massive developments that are rapidly moving from exploration to commercialization. The Belinga Iron Ore Project, often described as the "iron ore giant," has officially awakened under Ivindo Iron (Fortescue); following the first ore shipment in December 2023, the project is currently in an active pilot production phase while essential heavy rail and port infrastructure studies are finalized to unlock its vast reserves. Simultaneously, the Baniaka Project is accelerating toward construction, marked by a pivotal development in December 2025 where Genmin signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) with Sino-Hunan International Engineering (SHICO). This agreement secures 60% of the project funding and establishes a co-development partnership, keeping Baniaka on track for targeted commercial production by late 2026.

**Gold:** Gabon has fundamentally shifted its strategy from raw extraction to domestic value addition and formalization. The centerpiece of this transformation is the Raffinerie Gabonaise de l'Or (RGO), which was inaugurated in mid-2023 and is now fully operational. This state-owned facility allows the country to refine gold locally rather than exporting raw bullion, ensuring the state captures a significantly higher margin of the mineral's economic value. The refinery also serves as a critical mechanism for regulating the artisanal mining sector, providing a formal channel for purchasing and processing gold, thereby improving traceability and integrating small-scale output into the formal national economy.

## ESTIMATED MINERAL RESERVES

MINERAL	UNIT	ESTIMATED RESERVES
Manganese	Million tons	250+ (High Grade)
Iron Ore	Billion tons	> 1.0 (Belinga & Baniaka)
Gold	Tons	40 (Proven Reserves)

## MINING BUSINESS CLIMATE

Gabon’s mining business climate, anchored by the 2019 Mining Code, is defined by a strategic framework that balances investor incentives with substantial national interests through specific mandates on equity, value addition, and logistics. The government ensures its financial foothold through a robust state capital structure, retaining a 10% free-carried interest in all projects with the option to purchase an additional 25% at market rates. This commitment to national benefit is further enforced by strict local content policies that require the "Gabonization" of the workforce and mandatory domestic processing of raw materials, such as gold refining and manganese alloy production. To sustain these operations, the sector relies on critical infrastructure developments, most notably the massive refurbishment of the Trans-Gabon Railway (Setrag) and new private partnerships designed to integrate renewable energy and transport solutions into the mining supply chain.

## MAJOR MINING COMPANIES

COMPANY NAME	MINERAL	MINE/PROJECT	STATUS
Comilog (Eramet)	Manganese	Moanda	Active Producer
Nouvelle Gabon Mining	Manganese	Franceville	Active Producer
Ivindo Iron (Fortescue)	Iron Ore	Belinga	Active / Pilot Phase
Genmin Ltd.	Iron Ore	Baniaka	Financing Secured
Alpha Centauri Mining	Gold	Various	Active / Refining Partner
Managem S.A.	Gold	Eteke	Exploration / Feasibility

## OUTLOOK

Gabon's mining sector presents a positive medium-term outlook, thanks to the successful conclusion of the 2023–2025 political transition, which has effectively restored investor predictability. This renewed stability supports an aggressive economic diversification strategy focused on iron ore specifically the Belinga and Baniaka projects, which is expected to significantly offset declining oil revenues by 2027. However, fully realizing this export potential hinges on the completion of critical infrastructure upgrades, particularly regarding the rail network and new port terminals at Owendo. Throughout this industrial expansion, the country continues to uphold its "Green Gabon" leadership, carefully balancing mining activities with strict conservation laws and leveraging carbon and biodiversity credits to ensure sustainable environmental stewardship.

BankTrack – Belinga iron ore project

Gabon – moving away from oil to a diversified mining sector - African Mining Online

Gabon Overview: Development news, research, data | World Bank

Gabon plans record CFA68bn budget to boost mining industry in 2026 - Ecofin Agency

Genmin Dec 2025 Update | African Mining Week 2025

State Department Investment Climate Statement 2025



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