

An ecosystem
serving Gabon's
industrialization.





"Everything is in place **within the Nkok SIZ to foster high-quality projects and achievements.**
This Zone is a tool for **promoting Gabon's expertise.**"



His Excellency Mister
Joseph OWONDAULT BERRE
Vice-President of the Gabonese Transition

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, 88% 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

Population



2,313,283

UNDP human development index

Ranked 9th
in Africa in 2020

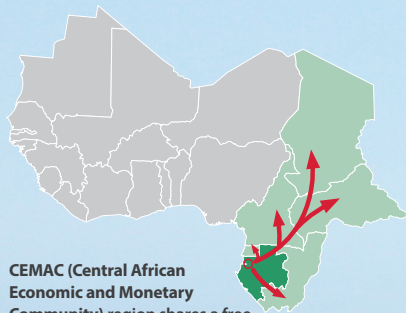
GDP per capita in 2021

EUR 6,529

Ranked 1st
in sub-Saharan Africa



ECONOMIC INDICATORS

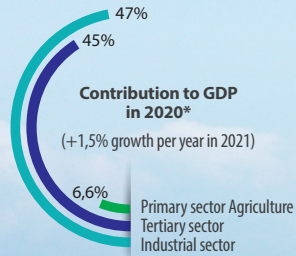


CEMAC (Central African Economic and Monetary Community) region shares a free border movement for goods.

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



Cameroon Central Africa Congo Gabon Equatorial Guinea Tchad



*GDP value : EUR 17.35 billion



4th largest oil producer in sub-Saharan Africa



2nd African producer of manganese



Member of CEMAC



2,621.9 billion CFA of exports in 2020



1st African producer and 6th in the world of veneer



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



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



985.1 billion CFA 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.



Gabon Special Economic Zone

Gabon Special Economic Zone (GSEZ) springs from a public-private partnership venture between Arise IIP and the Gabonese Republic (represented by the 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, the SIZ of Nkok can be reached by road, rail, and riverboat traffic. It also has a multimodal logistics area for barge handling, directly connected to the port of Owendo.



Today's GSEZ includes:

+130
investors from 17 different nations and
operating in 22 industrial sectors

>20,000 direct
and indirect jobs
created

1 million m³
of timber processed
in 2022

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

EUR 218 million
worth of products exported in 2023

28,072
containers TEUS exported in 2022

EUR 740 million
in investments with a total of EUR 1.6 billion
generated in direct foreign investments



The fDi Intelligence-Financial Times, ranked GSEZ Nkok as **best industrial zone of the world in the wood sector** in 2020 and **highly commended the zone with an honorable mention for environmental practices** in 2022. In 2023, the zone was **highly commended in Africa for its capacity to attract large tenants**.

First carbon-neutral certified industrial zone in Africa.



CARBON NEUTRALITY
www.sgs.com/climatechange

WOOD INDUSTRY

Wood at the heart of activities in Gabon's industrial zones

Covered at 88% by forest and with 12.5 million hectares of sustainable managed forests containing over 400 species of trees, including **the well-known Kevazingo** or **the popular Okoumé**, Gabon is the reference and flagship component of the timber industry.

A major player in this industry, GSEZ has its own log supply chain to supply the various wood processing operators. 25 logging companies supply around 40,000 m³ of logs per month, stored in a 40-hectare log park.

The three types of wood processing are carried out within Nkok SIZ, creating synergies between the 88 different companies present and their specialties (veneer, sawmill, plywood, cabinet-making, activated charcoal, etc.).

SAWING

Gabon Wood Industries, Wood Pro and **Compagnie Dan Gabon** specialise in cutting wood into different shapes. These companies meet the international "Chain of Custody Standard FSC-STD-40004".

VENEER SHEETS

Greenply and **Evergreen** are specialized in the production of veneer sheets, which are the result of the 2nd transformation of wood.

PLYWOOD

Star Ply was the 1st company to meet the international "Chain of Custody Standard FSC-STD-40004". It produces plywood by gluing veneer sheets. Gabon is renowned for the manufacture of luxury plywood, made entirely from Okoumé species.

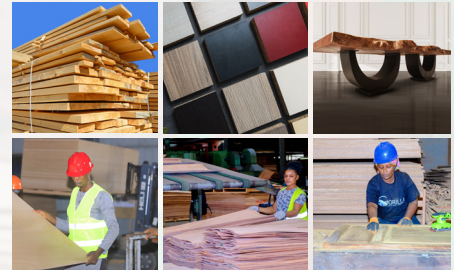
PARTICLE BOARD

The **particle board factory** creates sustainable and high-quality wood-based products by utilizing ecological resources to manufacture A-class particle boards that

have long-lasting impact on the community and the economy. On average, 30,000 tonnes of CO₂ per year are saved in the zone thanks to this initiative.

WOOD FURNITURE

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





Particle board factory

Wood transformation

Wood cluster

Developed in the SIZ of Nkok, the wood cluster has become central Africa's biggest hub of the wood industry. It includes 10 companies operating from the 1st to 3rd processing.

Wood processing companies

Within the zone 88 companies outside of the wood cluster operate from 1st to 3rd processing and recorded an annual volume of 3,500,000 m³ of process wood in 2023.

Showroom

The Showroom is a 3,000 m² exhibition centre dedicated to furniture 100% made in Gabon.

It also showcases our **Akiba** collection of top-of-the-range furniture, made from the world's finest woods and inspired by a combination of contemporary design and Gabonese tradition.



Akiba Collection

The Nkok SIZ has:



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

GSEZ, has made sustainability, traceability, and certification a central part of its priorities.

Sustainable sourcing

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ GSEZ gets its logs from **sustainably certified forests**.
- ✓ Since 2021 917,837 ha of forest have already been certified.
- ✓ **By 2026 1,500,566 ha of forest will be certified.**

End to end log traceability

Logs registration with QR code

- The trees are **identified and geolocated** with precise coordinates right from the inventory stage.
- **100%** traceability ensured.
- **Recorded digital audit** trial for each stage of the wood supply chain.



Digitalization of supply chain

- **Business enabling** with digital supply chain monitoring.
- **Real-time** stock status for location, quantity, etc.



E-Governance

- **Multi-Stakeholder system:** forestry administration, companies, civil society, etc.
- **Integration of geo data.**
- **e-Documentation** to assess legality of operators.



Arise IIP wins the 2023 "Sustainable Development Goals Pioneer" category at the "Responsible Business Awards".



Circular economy initiatives

In the Nkok Special Investment Zone, GSEZ has set up a number of **circular economy** initiatives for the sustainable and responsible management of our resources:

- scrap metal into concrete reinforcement;
- used plastics into straps packaging;
- wood waste into particle boards (average 30,000 tCO₂ saved per year) and activated charcoal.



Finalist in the "Circular Transition" category at the 2023 "Responsible Business Awards" for our circular economy innovations.



REUTERS

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Carbon neutrality initiatives

GSEZ has received **ISO 14064-1 certification** and has **been certified carbon neutral by SGS for the years 2019, 2020, and 2021**. This certification provides a transparent third-party assessment of GSEZ's carbon footprint and offsetting.



We aim to reduce our dependence on carbon-intensive energy sources, commit resources to decarbonization, and adapt climate-change mitigation strategies:

1

Greenhouse gas emissions **measured and managed**.



2

Decarbonization of transport with the opening of the multimodal logistics area in 2023, saving around 15 kg of CO₂ per container shipped.



3

An average of 30,000 tCO₂ saved per year by **converting wood waste** into particle board.



4

Blue carbon initiatives. In situ : 100 hectares of mangroves conserved (approx.10% of the industrial zone land area) + 30,000 tCO₂ sequestered per year. Ex situ: Mangroves restoration project with government and communities of Akanda covering approx. 1,000 hectares of endangered mangroves.



5

Approx. 50,000 tCO₂ diverted from being emitted in the atmosphere via our **biochar manufacturing facility**.



6

7,000 tonnes of **plastic collected** and **recycled** in Nkok SI2 since 2019, (~210 millions of plastic bottles removed).



Other sustainable development initiatives

GSEZ, in collaboration with **local communities**, implements a variety of projects to support community development in education, health, energy, water, and other areas.



250,000,000 XAF
invested between 2022 and 2023



60
beneficiary villages



ADVANTAGES OF THE SIZ

The Administrative Authority of the Special Investment 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 our economic zones.



Autorité Administrative
Zone d'Investissement Spéciale
de Nkok



ON-SITE FACILITIES

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



A SINGLE GOVERNMENT WINDOW

- A dedicated government window for the SIZ 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.

Jia Ming Plastics
Manufacturing



OUR OTHER INDUSTRIES: +130 COMPANIES

PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

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

METAL WASTE RECYCLING

② **La Chaudronnerie Du Gabon** is one of the first factories to be set up in Nkok SIZ. It is specialised in the recycling of metals to produce reinforcing steel for the local market.

③ **Les Acieries Du Gabon** contribute to the creation of jobs by buying waste metal parts from the city to produce reinforcing steel that meets international standards.

PLASTIC RECYCLING

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

CHARCOAL

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

CEMENT

⑥ **Africa Cement** 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** is the first formaldehyde and resin plant in the CEMAC region. This company specialises in formaldehyde and resin production, glue used to produce plywood.

GOLD

⑧ **ROG - Raffinerie gabonaise de l'or** 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 Studies and Observations** is a parastatal agency whose role is to monitor the national territory through satellite data, mainly monitoring the forest cover.

⑩ **CIMFEP**, 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.

⑪ The second **wood industry training centre** was built to meet the labour needs of companies in the wood industry.



Gabon Special Economic Zone

Galerie Tsika
BP 13559 - Libreville, Gabon
Tel : +241 66 00 60 78
Email: gsez@arisenet.com
www.gsez.com

