



Joint Programme 2021 Annual Progress Report

SDG Financing Portfolio - Component 1

Cover page

UNCT/MCO: Gabon

Reporting Period: 1 January - 31 December 2021

JP title: Gabon and the SDGs “Beyond Oil”: Financing a Rapid and Sustainable Transition from a “Brown” to a “Green” Economy

PUNOs: UNDP, UNECA

Government partner: Ministry of Water, Forests, Sea and Environment

Target SDGs: SDGs 5, 12, 13, 15, 17

Gender Marker: 2

Approved budget: USD 1,000,000

Co-funding: USD 1,000,000

Total Disbursement by 2021: USD 1,000,000

Total estimated expenditures: USD NA (est. Delivery rate: NA%)

Total estimated commitments (including expenditures): USD 767,587.2 (est. Committed rate: 76.8%)

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Executive Summary

• The study on the mapping of financing flows has been finalized and shared with the various stakeholders identified in the framework of financing development for a green economy. Other studies are being finalized (Green Economy, Green Public Finance, Green Taxation, Gender Responsive Budgeting) and will complement the initial roadmap launched in the DFA to develop the financing strategy. • Training on natural capital accounting has been initiated for key actors, notably the General Directorate of Statistics, sectoral administrations such as agriculture and the environment. • A multi-stakeholder dialogue was held in the form of a consultation based on the Financing for Development evaluation report in order to support the Government and its partners in building a consensus around solutions adapted to meet the financing challenges. This will help set up the governance framework for the national integrated financing framework currently under discussion.

Annual Progress

Overall JP self-assessment of 2021 progress:

Satisfactory (majority of expected results achieved; 1 to 3 months delay in implementation)

Comments on self-assessment: In this difficult national context dominated by the Covid-19 pandemic, this year the joint project has reinvented itself organizationally to achieve satisfactory results. Governance and coordination have improved thanks to the establishment of technical and steering committees, the establishment of an inter-agency coordination group (UNECA, UNEP, RCO and UNDP).

The study on the mapping of financial flows was finalized and presented to the stakeholders of the Joint Project (output 1.1)

A stakeholder dialogue phase on development financing in Gabon has been completed and the process is being finalized. This will enable the establishment of the multi-stakeholder dialogue platform (output 1.2.2)

Stakeholders had the opportunity to benefit from two technical trainings, one on the measurement and valuation of natural capital and the other on the establishment of a national financing framework (output 2.4)

Studies on gender budgeting and the creation of an enabling environment for the green economy have been launched and are being finalized (output 1.3.1)

The study on green taxation has been launched and is being finalized. It will allow to revisit the Gabonese tax code in order to establish a sustainable tax system (output 1.4)

The study on natural capital accounting has been delayed due to the change in the Director General of the Directorate General of Statistics. The data collection phase by the working group, the questionnaires with employees of various line ministries and the General Directorate of Statistics are still being processed. Meetings have been initiated with key actors to remove bottlenecks. The establishment of the technical unit is under discussion (output 2.1) A communication plan has been developed and is being implemented (output 3.1).

Overall progress and key developments to date (3 key JP milestones)

- a) Governance and coordination: Governance and coordination have improved through the functioning of technical and steering committees and the establishment of an inter-agency coordination group to monitor the project. In addition, a framework for consultation and monitoring of the integrated financing framework is being discussed within the Prime Minister's Office and the National Council for Monitoring the Acceleration and Transformation Plan.
- b) Research, assessments and feasibility studies on financing the SDGs: The study on the mapping of financing flows has been finalized along with a roadmap for the National Integrated Financing Framework for deep green and blue in Gabon. This was adopted at the May 2021 steering committee meeting. A strategic communication plan has been developed. It will promote the green economy. Several other studies are being finalized. These include studies on (i) green public finance, (ii) green taxation, (iii) creating an enabling environment for the green economy, and (iv) gender-responsive budgeting. Although delayed, the study on the accounting of natural capital is in the data collection phase by the working group, the questionnaires from the various supervisory ministries and the General Directorate of Statistics. A complementary initiative has been initiated by the Office on the SDG's Investor Map process and SDG assessment and reporting.
- c) Monitoring and review of financial and other resources: As part of the results of the DFA, it is planned to densify the unit in charge of collecting funding from development partners into a body capable of monitoring all funding flows. This process is currently being discussed with the Ministry in charge of the economy. This will allow for more dialogue on financing issues.
- d) Capacity building of the main stakeholders in terms of financing the SDGs: In the framework of natural capital accounting, a training session on natural capital accounting was held on January 21 and 22, 2021 for

technicians in charge of preparing natural capital accounts (General Directorate of Statistics and General Directorate of the Environment) and for the persons designated in the technical committee (Economy, Budget, Water and Forests, National Agency for National Parks and National Climate Council) Last August, a capacity building seminar was organized on the National Integrated Financing Framework with the participation of 30 people composed of state actors, civil society and the private sector. Initially planned for 2021, a training on the taxonomy of green public finance was given to the staff of the General Directorate of the Budget, the one in charge of the environment, and the civil society on January 25, 2022. Nearly 25 people participated in this training.

- e) Mobilization of new partnerships: Discussions have been initiated with stakeholders to further mobilize funding, particularly in the green economy.

Changes made to JP:

Main Challenges: The joint program did not have any major changes in the Theory of Change, the expected results. The Action Plan and Budget were revised due to the delay in starting the joint project.

Updates on SDG financing framework

Inception phase	Assessment Diagnostics	Financing Strategy	Monitoring Review	Governance Coordination
Previously Completed	Advancing (50-99%)	Emerging (1-49%)	Emerging (1-49%)	Emerging (1-49%)

Descriptions on progress by INFF building blocks

Inception Phase: After the approval of Gabon’s proposal and the receipt of the funding allocation in early July 2020, discussions were initiated between the 2 implementing agencies (3 technical meetings between UNDP and UNECA) to update the work plan for the period from July to December 2020 and to identify practical modalities of intervention by each of the stakeholders. These preliminary discussions were followed by a kick-off meeting chaired on July 15, 2020 by the Resident Coordinator with the participation of the implementing agencies (UNDP Resident Representative in Gabon, Director of the UNECA Office for Central Africa) and other stakeholders (UNEP Africa Director, IMF Resident Representative in Gabon) to discuss the Joint Work Plan for the July-December 2020 period prepared by UNDP and to agree on the roles and responsibilities of the main stakeholders, including the establishment of the governance mechanisms of the Joint Programme.

Assessment & Diagnostics: The financing flow mapping study was finalized using the DFA tool methodology. The main results highlighted a misalignment between the Government’s planning and financial policy functions, a narrow focus on public resources to finance the SDGs, and the participation of certain actors in financing as major challenges following the holding of a multi-stakeholder dialogue that saw the participation of civil society, the private sector, technical and financial partners, sectoral ministries, high administration (Presidency, Prime Minister’s Office.) and parliamentarians (National Assembly). A roadmap for INFF deeply green and blue in Gabon was adopted during the steering committee meeting in May 2021. One of the recommendations was to do the costing of the SDGs. This activity has been launched and is being finalized.

Financing Strategy: A roadmap for the establishment of a National Integrated Financing Framework was adopted at the end of the multi-stakeholder dialogue. The report on the assessment of development finance flows and the INFF roadmap are the first steps in a financial strategy that will be strengthened through ongoing studies, including studies on green taxation, the blossoming of the green economy, SDG’s Investor Map, and thematic bonds.

Monitoring & Review: The mechanism for monitoring and reviewing results has been strengthened through dialogue with the national council of the Acceleration and Transformation Plan. The SDGs are now integrated into

their framework for monitoring the results of public policies. In addition, a dialogue has been initiated by the UNS coordination office with the Prime Minister's Office to update statistics on the SDGs and to set up the coordination body. Once established, this framework will be used for the monitoring and evaluation of public policies.

Governance & Coordination: A stakeholder dialogue phase on financing for development helped build a roadmap for the national integrated financing framework while establishing a multi-stakeholder dialogue platform around this issue. In view of the multiple bodies on sustainable development and the redundancy of their fields of action, discussions have been initiated to streamline the said bodies and give a coordinating role to one of the key bodies under the leadership of the Prime Minister's Office

Priority Cross-cutting Issues

How did the JP adapt to the COVID-19 context

The project team uses accommodations to hold consultations and workshops via ICT (Telephone, Zoom What-sapp...). Similarly, some technical committee meetings are held remotely. Gabon has suffered the third wave of the spread of the pandemic COVID-19 which have led to a tightening of health measures. In this context, the international consultants who could not travel to Gabon were supported by local consultants who facilitated the conduct of the studies in terms of data collection and stakeholder consultations.

How did the JP apply the Gender Marker

The Gender Marker 2 is applied in the project through the realization of the study on Gender Responsive Budgeting in Development Financing Strategy. This study aims to (i) Analyze the current gender budgeting and financing policy framework and system; (ii) Identify key data/information gaps and (iii) propose actions to address them as part of the roadmap for the implementation of Gender Responsive Budgeting.

Estimated % of overall disbursed funds spend on gender: 5%

Alignment with cross-cutting UN issues (e.g. human rights, decent work, inclusion, LNOB)

The project plays an integrating role to consolidate and accelerate the SDGs. The multi-stakeholder dialogue initiated during the DFA has made it possible to raise awareness and gather the various opinions of stakeholders, particularly development partners, civil society, the private sector and the administration, including parliament. In the conduct of certain studies, notably gender-responsive budgeting and green public finance, certain cross-cutting issues are taken into account, in this case social inclusion issues, so as to leave no one behind while respecting human rights principles.

How did the JP work to build ownership and buy-in of key stakeholders

The project's steering and technical committees have been set up to promote ownership of the project's initiatives. These various committees are composed of senior government officials so that they can act as relays to the decision-makers. It is in this sense that the Prime Minister's Office and the National Council of the Acceleration and Transformation Plan at the Presidency of the Republic are now stakeholders in the project.

Annual Reporting on Results

Results achieved in promoting the priority thematic SDG agendas

The analysis on the mapping of financing flows revealed the absence of a costing of the needs of the SDGs. It is within this framework that the Country Office has launched this study in collaboration with the administration. It will make it possible to update the statistics on the SDGs and bring them more in line with the policies implemented.

JP contributions to the Joint SDG Fund's global results (especially around Outcome 2 & Output 4)

The project team participated in a conference in Brazzaville, organized by ECA to exchange experiences in accounting and valuation of ecosystem services. In the same sense, discussions were initiated with key stakeholders to raise awareness on innovative financing instruments. These discussions should lead to training workshops for different stakeholders on thematic obligations.

Progress against JP-specific outcomes

Dialogue with stakeholders and key studies have been launched to achieve the project outcomes. With regard to governance mechanisms (outcome 1), this dialogue process is continuing with the Prime Minister's Office. As a result of the studies currently underway, several new financing instruments will be designed to facilitate the transition to the green economy in 2022 (outcome 2), including issues related to taxation, innovative financing instruments, gender-responsive budgeting. A communication plan on the transition to the green economy is developed and implemented (outcome 3) to facilitate ownership through awareness raising and promotion of the green economy. One out of three outcomes has been achieved, with a completion rate of 20%. Out of the 10 outcome indicators, 2 indicators have been achieved.

Progress against JP-specific outputs

The project's results framework includes 21 output indicators, with 7 fully implemented this year, giving a 33% implementation rate. The delay in starting the project has caused a shift in the implementation schedule. The restrictive conditions imposed by the Government due to the Covid-19 pandemic allowed the project team to use innovative approaches to successfully continue the activities.

JP contributions to strengthening UN coherence, partnerships and reducing duplications of efforts

The establishment of the United Nations inter-agency working group (UNDP, UNECA, UNEP and RCO) has ensured the operational coordination of the joint project. Monthly meetings are held to update the work plan and to identify the practical modalities of intervention of each of the stakeholders. Collaboration between UNDP and ECA has made it possible to launch the study on the accounting of Gabon's natural capital and capacity building sessions for stakeholders on this topic. And the work between UNDP and UNEP allows for the coordination of studies on green public finance, green taxation and the development of the green economy. All these agencies are members of the project's technical and steering committees, as are all the other partners. In addition, in order to ensure coherence in terms of planning activities in the area of sustainable financing and gender financing policies, meetings have been organized under the leadership of the UN coordination with certain stakeholders, including the Prime Minister's Office

Strategic Partnerships, Documents and Communications

How did the JP facilitate collaboration with diverse stakeholders in the SDG financing space

The establishment of the technical committee ensured the operational coordination of the joint project. Co-chaired by the Ministry of Water, Forests, the Sea, and the Environment, in charge of the Climate Plan and the Land Use Plan, and the Ministry of the Economy and Recovery, this committee is composed of United Nations agencies (UNDP, UNEP, ECA) as well as the RCO and the IMF, the main technical departments of the ministries concerned (National Climate Council, Ecosystem Services and SDGs, General Inspectorate of Services, General Directorate of Environment and Nature Protection, General Directorate of Taxes, General Directorate of Foresight, General Directorate of Economy), General Directorate of Budget and Public Finance and representatives of civil society and the private sector. The multi-stakeholder dialogue registered more than 100 participants including civil society, the private financial sector, other private sector companies, technical and financial partners, Ministries with departments and the high administration (Presidency, Prime Minister’s Office) including the Parliament through the National Assembly.

Did the JP secured additional financing (co-funding/co-financing) from the following stakeholders:

Government	Donors & IFIs	Private Sector	PUNOs	Other Partners
No	No	No	No	No

Comments on additional financing secured: The establishment of the technical committee ensured the operational coordination of the joint project. Co-chaired by the Ministry of Water, Forests, the Sea, and the Environment, in charge of the Climate Plan and the Land Use Plan, and the Ministry of the Economy and Recovery, this committee is composed of United Nations agencies (UNDP, UNEP, ECA) as well as the RCO and the IMF, the main technical departments of the ministries concerned (National Climate Council, Ecosystem Services and SDGs, General Inspectorate of Services, General Directorate of Environment and Nature Protection, General Directorate of Taxes, General Directorate of Foresight, General Directorate of Economy), General Directorate of Budget and Public Finance and representatives of civil society and the private sector. The multi-stakeholder dialogue registered more than 100 participants including civil society, the private financial sector, other private sector companies, technical and financial partners, Ministries with departments and the high administration (Presidency, Prime Minister’s Office) including the Parliament through the National Assembly.

JP organized events in 2021

JP Launch Event	Annual Donor Event	Partners Event
No	No	No

Number of strategic documents produced by the JP: 6

Number of strategic documents contributed by the JP: 1

Number of communication materials produced: 7

2022 Plans & Way Forward

JP priority activities & expected results for 2022

• Establishment of governance mechanisms for the integrated national financing framework • Popularization of tools for analysing the financing of the green economy • Finalization of tables of resources and extended uses for the environment • Realization of the study on green taxation • Analysis of green public finance • Analysis of the environment of the green economy • Gender-sensitive budget analysis • Feasibility study of the green fund • Creation of strategic public and private partnerships to finance the green economy. • National capacity-building in the green economy • Sensitization of communities, especially those living in forested areas, of the opportunities of the green economy. • Advocacy for public-private partnerships based on green economy opportunities. • Mainstreaming ecosystem services in the structure of the revised GDP in Gabon. • The inter-ministerial team masters the tools and the methodology for the regular production of natura capital accounts and ecosystem services. • Firs estimates on ecosystems services in Gabon are available.

3 major transformative results that will be achieved by the end of the JP

• The financing framework for the SDGs, including its institutional components, is developed and aligned with the PSGE • New financing instruments will be designed to facilitate the transition to the green economy • A communication plan on the transition to the green economy is developed and implemented.

Estimated rate of completion for each result as of 31 Dec 2021

Result.1	Result.2	Result.3
Emerging (1-49%)	Emerging (1-49%)	Advancing (50-99%)