Country Profile: Gabon

OVERVIEW

**Project Title:** Wildlife and Human-Elephant Conflicts Management in Gabon  
**Project Sites:** Moukalaba Doudou, Loango, Mayumba and Waka National Parks  
**Species Focus:** Elephants  
**Total Project Cost:** $9.05 million  
**Executing Partner:** Agence Nationale des Parcs Nationaux/DIRECTION GÉNÉRALE DE FAUNE ET DES AIRES PROTÉGÉES (DGFAP)  
**GEF Implementing Agency:** World Bank  
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CONTEXT

Gabon has incredible wealth in biodiversity, including forests that cover 88% of its territory which house 50% of all remaining forest elephants in Africa, along with other important wildlife populations. This biodiversity is afforded protection through a network of protected areas that includes 13 national parks. However, Gabon’s natural resource wealth is currently under threat, with forest elephants declining at a rate of about 9% per year. Elephant populations are being targeted for their ivory, whilst other species are targeted to supply the commercial bushmeat trade. The poaching and illegal wildlife trade, and the human-elephant conflict in rural communities in and around national parks, threaten Gabon’s potential for wildlife tourism, which is a strong national incentive for protecting its wealth of biodiversity.

Gabon has existing protection efforts centered on wildlife crime. Strategic Economic Plan “Emerging Gabon” is focused on sustainable forestry and fisheries, and Gabon developed a National Elephant Action Plan (NEAP) and a National Ivory Action Plan (NIAP). Gabon is the UN Group of Friends on Poaching and Illicit Wildlife Trafficking co-chair, and has been active in drafting a UN General Assembly Resolution on Wildlife Crime. Gabon is a signatory of the Elephant Protection Initiative (EPI). The ICCWC Toolkit assessment was completed and the report and work plan were presented to the government.

PROJECT COMPONENTS

The GWP Gabon project aims to reduce elephant poaching and the illicit ivory trade and improve community livelihoods.

The project components are:

1. Support to the NIAP implementation
2. Support for integrated landscape management and mitigation of human-elephant conflicts
3. Transboundary parks co-management (Gabon and Congo)

See the World Bank website for more information: Global Wildlife Program