

## TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Gabon is a unitary republic with two tiers of subnational government. The country is divided into 47 departments and 50 municipalities.<sup>1</sup>



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Review (VNR).<sup>2</sup>

## 1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

Gabon has contextualized the goals of the 2030 Agenda in its **Emerging Gabon Strategic Plan 2012-2025 (PSGE)**. Through this plan, Gabonese authorities seek to "establish a new development model that integrates human well-being, social equity, sustainable growth and environmental conservation". These are 109 SDG targets that have been aligned with the 159 actions implemented by the 21 PSGE programs. Around the PSGE gravitates a set of sectoral or cyclical plans. Some could take the SDGs into account more explicitly.

### 1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The national coordination for SDG implementation relies on a **Joint Steering Committee for the Sustainable Development Goals** and the United Nations Cooperation Framework for Sustainable Development. This committee integrates all the agencies of the United Nations System in Gabon and all the strategic ministries working in the implementation of the SDGs. Gabon must reactivate the **joint government-technical and financial partners Committee** set up for the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in order to better coordinate the initiatives of the diverse development actors.

### 1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **Ministry of Economy and Recovery** coordinated the VNR elaboration process. A **technical committee** was set up composed of representatives of the United Nations System and all the administrations concerned by the implementation of the SDGs, as well as two national consultants. A workshop was organized to validate the report, in which all development stakeholders (NGOs, other development partners, constitutional institutions) took part. The preparation of the VNR was directly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic which did not allow for a broader consultation phase at subnational level and with the private sector and civil society organizations.

### 1.3 MONITORING

The **General Directorate of Statistics** produces data allowing the SDG monitoring process. Recent operations such as the 2017 Gabonese Survey for Poverty Assessment and the 2019-2022 General Agricultural Census have helped feed the process of monitoring the SDGs. Data also comes from the agencies of the United Nations System.

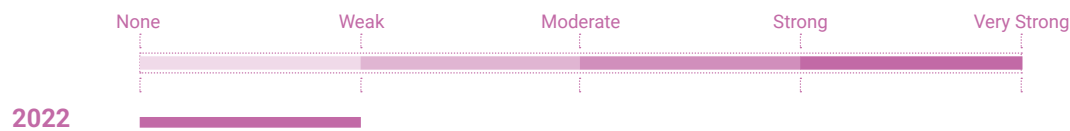
## 2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

There is no evidence of LRG participation in national coordination mechanisms. LRGs were not directly involved in the VNR elaboration process, however the VNR capitalized on previous exchanges held in 2017 and 2018 with LRGs during the drafting process of local development plans. According to the VNR, in order to disseminate the SDGs at local level, Gabon will update local plans to guide the allocation of Departmental Initiative Fund resources and integrate the prioritized SDG targets.

1. UCLG Africa, Cities Alliance, 2021, "Assessing the Institutional Environment of Cities and Subnational Governments in Africa", [https://www.citiesalliance.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/CitiesAlliance\\_Assessing%20Inst.%20Environment%20of%20Cities%20and%20Subnal.%20Govs%20in%20Africa\\_EN.pdf](https://www.citiesalliance.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/CitiesAlliance_Assessing%20Inst.%20Environment%20of%20Cities%20and%20Subnal.%20Govs%20in%20Africa_EN.pdf)  
2. See: <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Gabon%20Report.pdf> (2022)

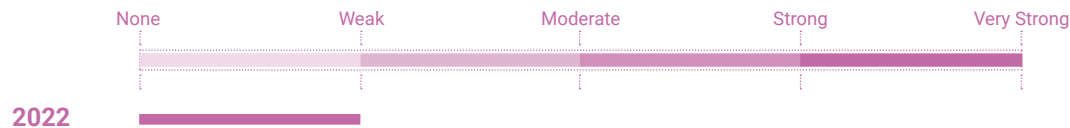
## 2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

### ► In the VNR process



Comments: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic context, the national government decided not to extend consultations to provinces and departments for the reporting process. The VNR, however, capitalized on previous exchanges held in 2017 and 2018 with LRGs during the drafting process of local development plans.

### ► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: There is no evidence of LRG participation in national coordination mechanisms.

This assessment is based on the information collected in the VNR and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

## 2.2 VNR REFERENCES

References to LRGs are very limited in the VNR. The VNR states that LRGs are key implementers of the SDGs through service delivery and producing disaggregated data. However, it considers local implementation to be a pending issue and local authorities are perceived as actors that need to be made aware of the steps to take to improve planning aligned to the SDGs.<sup>3</sup>

## 2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► A structure offering medical and psychosocial support to victims of violence has been set up in **Libreville**. This is an important step that the government aims to generalize at the local level.

## 2.4 VOLUNTARY SUBNATIONAL AND/OR LOCAL REVIEWS (VSRs / VLRs)

Not applicable.

## 2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The financing of the implementation of the SDGs in Gabon is essentially done with its own funds (oil revenues, tax and non-tax revenues, loans, ...). Gabon also benefits from Official Development Assistance (ODA). There is no information on means of implementation for the SDGs at the local level.

## 3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

**General comments:** The 1991 Constitution of Gabon specifies that local governments are freely self-governed by elected councils. However, the process of transferring responsibilities was not initiated until 2009, and, in practice, many responsibilities still remain centralized.<sup>4</sup> Highlighting the difficulties encountered (statistics, multi-stakeholder coordination, etc.), the 2022 VNR acknowledges the challenges and main points of vigilance for the country to implement the SDGs. The conclusion of the report gives several recommendations for the appropriation of the 2030 Agenda including the need for increased information at the local level.

### 3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Gabon has a law establishing quotas for the access of women and young people to political elections and for the access of women to senior positions in the government. Between 2017 and 2021, the proportion of seats held by women in city councils increased significantly (from 13% in 2017 to 22,35% in 2021), while it decreased for the presidents of departmental

3. UCLG, 2022, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, [https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/hlpf\\_2022.pdf](https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/hlpf_2022.pdf)

4. UCLG, 2022, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, [https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/hlpf\\_2022.pdf](https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/hlpf_2022.pdf)

councils (from 27% in 2017 to 12,5% in 2021). There is a noticeable presence of women at the level of deputy mayors and vice-presidents of the departmental councils in 2021. Although there has been an increase, there is still a low representation of women in political elections and in positions of responsibility.

### 3.2 COVID 19

No reference.

## 4. SDG INDICATORS<sup>5</sup>

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		-
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	-
	Rural	-
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	-
	Rural	-
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		36.6 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		-
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		40.8 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

5. The data used for this table come from the UN SDG Indicators Database. See: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/database>