

Gabon

Map of African continent



Indicator	Data
Population, 2019 (no.)	2,172,579
Population density, 2018 (people per sq. km of land area)	8.22
Coastal population, 2014 (no.)	862,328
Share of people living in urban areas, 2019 (%)	89.7
Total MSW generated, 2014 (tons/year)	156,128

Socioeconomic Profile

Gabon is an upper-middle-income country in West Africa bordered by Equatorial Guinea, Cameroon, and the Republic of Congo. According to the United Nations Development Programme, Gabon is one of Sub-Saharan Africa's wealthiest nations, due to its petroleum reserves and foreign private investment.¹ The country comprises nine administrative provinces² and runs a unitary presidential republic system with a parliament.

Gabon's overall GDP (PPP) in 2019 was just below \$32 billion and reported a GDP (PPP) per capita of \$14,950.^{3,4} With an area of 267,667 km², it has a population of 2,172,579 (2019) and a population density of 8.22 people per km² (2018).⁵ Gabon has a highly urbanized population, with 89.7 percent of Gabonese living in urban areas in 2019.⁶ In 2014, over 862,000 of Gabon's residents, accounting for about 46 percent of the population, resided along the country's coastline,⁷ particularly in the capital city of Libreville.

Plastic Industry and Ecosystem

In 2018 and 2019, Gabon had no domestic resin production or conversion. Similar to its regional neighbors, Gabon is a net importer of plastics. In 2019, approximately 2.7 million kg of plastics were imported into the country, with PE, PP, and PVC making up about 96 percent of the imports.⁸ Only 462,190 kg of plastics were exported from Gabon that same year, 88 percent of which were classed as PVC and PE.⁹

¹ UNDP (United Nations Development Programme), *2018 Human Development Report* (New York: UNDP, 2018), <https://web.archive.org/web/20180914203906/http://hdr.undp.org/en/2018-update>.

² Statoids, "Provinces of Gabon," 2016, <http://www.statoids.com/uga.html>.

³ GDP, PPP (constant 2017 international \$) and GDP per capita, PPP (constant 2017 international \$).

⁴ World Bank Group, "World Development Indicators," 2020.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Jambeck et al., "Plastic Waste Inputs from Land into the Ocean."

⁸ UN Comtrade, "UN Comtrade Database," 2019.

⁹ Ibid.

Solid Waste Management

Gabon generates 0.45 kg of MSW per capita per day, amounting to an overall daily MSW generation of 388,000 kg.¹⁰ About 34 percent of MSW generated in Gabon is inadequately managed.¹¹

Plastic waste accounts for 12 percent of MSW arisings, with a daily generation rate of about 46,000 kg, of which 34 percent is inadequately managed¹²; 927 kg/day of plastic waste is noted to leak into the environment.¹³

Legislation, Policies, and Other Initiatives

The government ministry responsible for municipal waste management in Gabon is the Ministry of Waters, Forests, Sea, Environment, Climate Plan and Land Use Plan.¹⁴ Currently, waste management in Gabon is driven by the following law:

- Decree No. 000541/PR/MEFEPEPN: This decree stipulates the legal framework for the management of waste in Gabon and emphasizes waste prevention efforts.¹⁵

In 2010, the Gabonese government announced a decree—Order No. 1489 / MECIT—that banned the importation and marketing of nonrecyclable plastic bags.¹⁶ Furthermore, in 2015, the Gabon Green Operation Plan was also introduced. It is one of a few African government plans that specifically calls for application of CE principles in the promotion of waste recycling channels.¹⁷

¹⁰ Jambeck et al., “Plastic Waste Inputs from Land into the Ocean.”

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid.

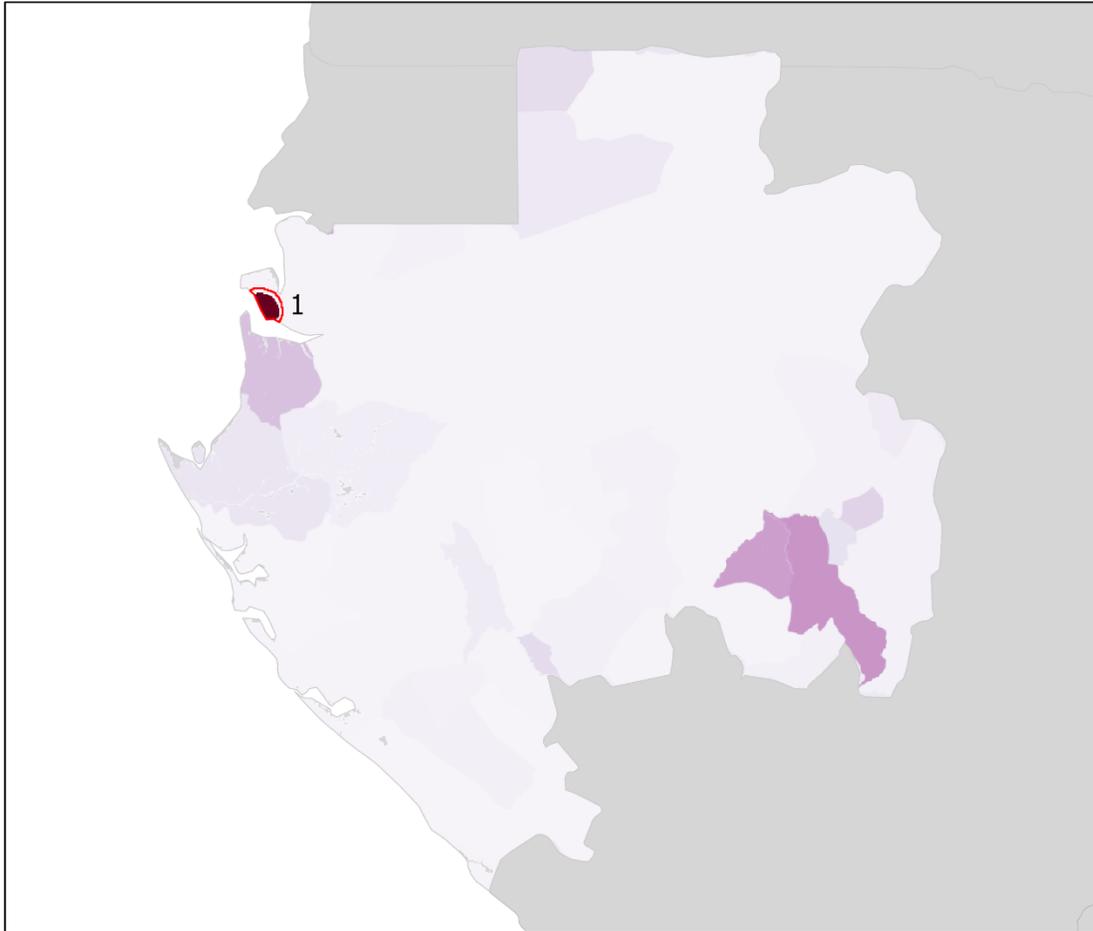
¹⁴ Extractive Hub, “Gabon,” 2020, <https://www.extractiveshub.org/servefile/getFile/id/7663>.

¹⁵ Chatham House, “Policies.”

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

Plastic Waste in Gabon



Plastic Generation Hotspots

ID	Locale	Rank	Plastic Waste (kt)	Population	Area (km ²)
1	Libreville	24	12.8415	561,452	441.77

Total Annual National Plastic Waste Generation: 43.04 kt



Hotspot
Extent



Location in Region

