

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.) ⁹⁸	862,328
Share of people living in urban areas, 2019 (%)	89.7
Total MSW generated, 2016 (tons/year) ⁹⁹	238,102

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.¹⁰⁰ The country comprises nine administrative provinces¹⁰¹ and runs a unitary presidential republic system with a parliament.

Gabon's overall GDP (purchasing power parity) in 2019 was just below \$32 billion and reported a GDP (purchasing power parity) per capita of \$14,950.^{102, 103} 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).¹⁰⁴ Gabon has a highly urbanized population, with 89.7 percent of Gabonese living in urban areas in 2019.¹⁰⁵ In 2014, over 862,000 of Gabon's residents, accounting for about 46 percent of the population, resided along the country's coastline,¹⁰⁶ 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.¹⁰⁷ Only

⁹⁸ Jambeck et al., "Plastic Waste Inputs from Land into the Ocean."

⁹⁹ Kaza, Silpa, Lisa Yao, Perinaz Bhada-Tata, and Frank Van Woerden. 2018. What a Waste 2.0: A Global Snapshot of Solid Waste Management to 2050. Urban Development Series. Washington, DC: World Bank

¹⁰⁰ 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>.

¹⁰¹ Statoids, "Provinces of Gabon," 2016, <http://www.statoids.com/uga.html>.

¹⁰² GDP, PPP (constant 2017 international \$) and GDP per capita, PPP (constant 2017 international \$).

¹⁰³ World Bank Group, "World Development Indicators," 2020.

¹⁰⁴ Ibid.

¹⁰⁵ Ibid.

¹⁰⁶ Jambeck et al., "Plastic Waste Inputs from Land into the Ocean."

¹⁰⁷ UN Comtrade, "UN Comtrade Database," 2019.

462,190 kg of plastics were exported from Gabon that same year, 88 percent of which were classed as PVC and PE.¹⁰⁸

Solid Waste Management

Gabon generates 0.56 kg of MSW per capita per day, amounting to an overall daily MSW generation of 652,000 kg.¹⁰⁹ About 34 percent of MSW generated in Gabon is inadequately managed.¹¹⁰ Plastic waste accounts for 12 percent of MSW arisings¹¹¹ with a daily generation rate of about 118,000 kg.

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.¹¹² 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.¹¹³

In 2010, the Gabonese government announced a decree—Order No. 1489 / MECIT—that banned the importation and marketing of nonrecyclable plastic bags.¹¹⁴ 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.¹¹⁵

¹⁰⁸ Ibid.

¹⁰⁹ Kaza, Silpa, Lisa Yao, Perinaz Bhada-Tata, and Frank Van Woerden. 2018. What a Waste 2.0: A Global Snapshot of Solid Waste Management to 2050. Urban Development Series. Washington, DC: World Bank

¹¹⁰ Jambeck et al., “Plastic Waste Inputs from Land into the Ocean.”

¹¹¹ Ibid.

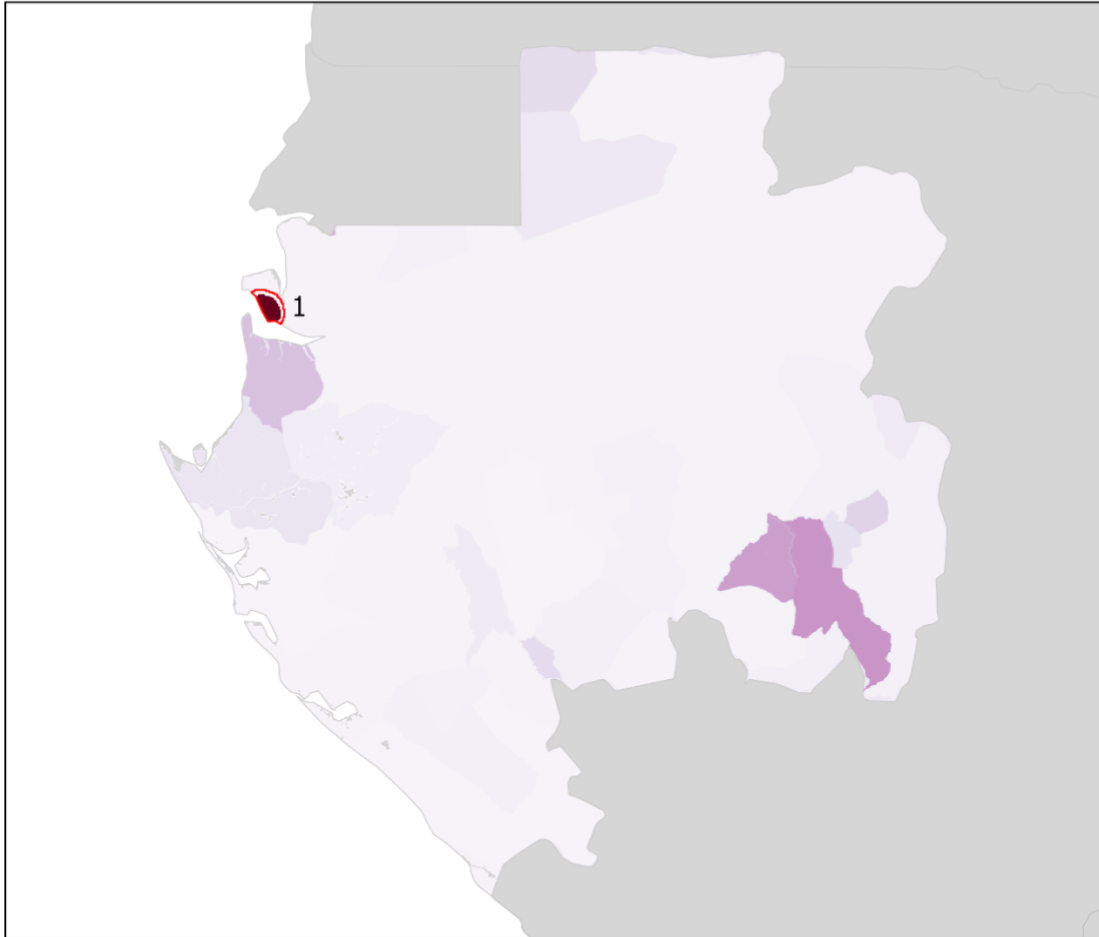
¹¹² Extractive Hub, “Gabon,” 2020, <https://www.extractiveshub.org/servefile/getFile/id/7663>.

¹¹³ Chatham House, “Policies.”

¹¹⁴ Ibid.

¹¹⁵ 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

