

EITI Candidature application form

EITI – GABON

Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative

Candidature application form

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Introduction

A country intending to implement the EITI is required to undertake a number of steps before applying to become an EITI country. These steps relate to government commitment (1.1), company engagement (1.2), civil society engagement (1.3), the establishment of a multi-stakeholder group (1.4) and agreement on an EITI work plan (1.5).

When the country has completed the sign-up steps and wishes to be recognised as an EITI implementing country, the government should submit an EITI Application, endorsed by the multi-stakeholder group. The application should describe the activities undertaken to date and provide evidence demonstrating that each of the sign-up steps have been completed. The application should include contact details for government, civil society and private sector stakeholders involved in the EITI.

Once submitted, the application will be made publicly available on the EITI website. The EITI Board will review the application and assess whether the sign-up steps have been completed. The International Secretariat will work closely with the senior individual appointed by the government to lead on EITI implementation in order to clarify any outstanding issues. Based on this and any other available information, the EITI Board's Outreach and Candidature Committee will make a recommendation, within a reasonable time period, to the EITI Board on whether a country's application should be accepted. The EITI Board will make the final decision.

The EITI Board aims to process applications within eight weeks of receiving the application. The EITI Board prefers to make decisions on admitting an EITI country during EITI Board meetings, although may consider taking a decision via Board circular between meetings where appropriate.

When the EITI Board admits an EITI implementing country, it will also establish deadlines for publishing the first EITI Report and undertaking Validation. An implementing country's first EITI disclosures must be made available within 18 months from the date that the country was admitted. Validation will commence within two and a half years of becoming an EITI implementing country. Further information on reporting and Validation deadlines – and the scope for extensions of these deadlines – is outlined in section 4 on EITI Board oversight of EITI implementation.

Countries preparing to join the EITI are encouraged to identify potential barriers to systematic disclosures from the outset, for instance by conducting a systematic disclosure feasibility study or addressing opportunities for systematic disclosures as part of the preparations for becoming an EITI implementing country

Information about the candidate country

Candidate	Gabonese Republic
Government point of contact	Mrs Léontine-Tania OYOUOMI-LOUMBOU, nee BIBEY President, EITI Gabon, Economic and Financial Adviser of the Ministry of Oil, Gas and Mines Address: Quartier Batterie IV, Bel Espace Building, Rear, Embassy of Togo Telephone: +241 77 79 70 62 Email: eitipermanencempgm@gmail.com
Date of application	11/08/2021

Box 1. Principal stages of the membership application process

- 1. The country submits an application to join the EITI.** The government should formally submit, with the support of the multi-stakeholder group, a written application for membership to the President of the EITI through the EITI International Secretariat.
- 2. The EITI Board, through its Candidature and Outreach Committee, reviews the application and determines whether the membership criteria are fully met.** The International Secretariat ensures that the membership application package is complete and liaises with stakeholders at national and international level in order to find out their points of view and seek their opinion. The International Secretariat posts the membership application on the EITI website.
- 3. The Candidature and Outreach Committee submits its recommendation to the EITI Board of Directors.** The recommendation states whether a country's request should be accepted or not.
- 4. The EITI Board then decides whether or not to accept the country as an EITI implementing country** in accordance with the EITI Standard.

Criteria for joining the EITI

EITI Requirement 1.1

Government engagement

- a) The government is required to issue an unequivocal public statement of its intention to implement the EITI. The statement must be made by the head of state or government, or an appropriately delegated government representative.
- b) The government is required to appoint a senior individual to lead the implementation of the EITI. The appointee should have the confidence of all stakeholders, the authority and freedom to coordinate action on the EITI across relevant ministries and agencies and be able to mobilise resources for EITI implementation.
- c) The government must be fully, actively and effectively engaged in the EITI process.
- d) The government must ensure that senior government officials are represented on the multi-stakeholder group.

Please describe activities undertaken to date and offer evidence demonstrating that the requirement and its sub-requirements have been met.

1.1(a): Public statement by the Government

At the session of the Council of Ministers of 12 June 2020, the President of the Republic, Head of State, instructed the Government to take all necessary steps to renew Gabon's commitments under the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative. The following, highlighted in yellow, is an extract from page 3 of the communiqué of the Council of Ministers. The final communiqué is available on the website of the General Secretary of the Government at: <http://sgg.gouv.ga/du-vendredi-12-juin-2020>

In the same vein, the Head of State also instructed the Government to renew Gabon's commitments under the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative.

In addition, on the day after the working session which he granted, by videoconference, to the special envoys appointed by the President of the African Union, the President of the Republic, Head of State, His Excellency Ali BONGO ONDIMBA to,

President of the Republic
SCM

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The expression of Gabon's intent to resume its membership of the EITI took the form of a letter of public statement dated 25 January 2021 serving as the public statement, addressed by the President of the Republic to the President of the EITI Board (cf. Annex 1: letter of public statement of the President of the Republic). This statement is online on the EITI website at the address www.itie.demo2.nic.ga. However, the dynamic created by the government announcements on the subject of Gabon's adhesion to the EITI has allowed a very broad take-up and broadcasting by the media. Some of these broadcasts can be access through the following links:

LE NOUVEAU GABON: <https://www.lenouveaugabon.com/fr/gestion-publique/1412-16252-transparence-des-industries-extractives-le-gabon-travaille-a-reintegrer-litie-apres-sept-ans-de-suspension>

GABON REVIEW: [https://www.gabonreview.com/industries-extractives-le-gabon-a-pied-doeuvre-pour-reintegrer-litie/#:~:text=Engag%C3%A9%20depuis%202015%20dans%20sa,la%20soci%C3%A9t%C3%A9%20civile%20\(OSC\).](https://www.gabonreview.com/industries-extractives-le-gabon-a-pied-doeuvre-pour-reintegrer-litie/#:~:text=Engag%C3%A9%20depuis%202015%20dans%20sa,la%20soci%C3%A9t%C3%A9%20civile%20(OSC).)

JEUNE AFRIQUE: <https://www.jeunefrique.com/1172050/economie/petrole-mine-bois-comment-le-gabon-prepare-son-retour-a-litie/>

RFI: <https://www.rfi.fr/fr/afrique/20210505-le-gabon-veut-r%C3%A9int%C3%A9grer-l-initiative-pour-la-transparence-des-industries-extractives-itie>

1.1(b): Appointment of a senior individual to lead the implementation of the EITI

The reorganisation of the EITI Gabon Group of Interest led to the adoption of Decree No. 0077/PR/MER of 22 March 2021. Article 9 states that *“the EITI Gabon is placed under the leadership of a President, appointed by decree, adopted by the Council of Ministers among civil servants in category one or private sector managers of equivalent level for a term of four years, renewable once”*

Thus, Mrs Léontine-Tania OYOUOMI-LOUMBOU, nee BIBEY was appointed President of the EITI Gabon at the session of the Council of Ministers of 20 November 2020, as shown in the attestation of appointment in the Council of Ministers signed by the General Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic (cf. Annex 2a; extract from communiqué of the Council of Ministers appointing the President and 2b, attestation of appointment in the Council of Ministers). Mrs Oyouomi-Loumbou is an economist and senior civil servant in the Ministry of Oil, Gas and Mines where she currently holds the post of Economic and Financial Adviser to the Minister.

Well known in the Gabonese oil industry, this young official has a wealth of experience in the extractive industries in which she has been active for over fifteen years. It is thanks to all these qualities that the appointment of President of EITI Gabon was confirmed by the country’s highest authorities and was welcomed by stakeholders in the extractive sector on her official installation in November 2020.

The principal missions of the President are to coordinate the activities of the various stakeholders within EITI Gabon, strengthen respect for the commitments assumed by the country in terms of good governance in the extractive industries sector, and lastly work for Gabon’s return to the fold in the EITI.

“Gabon wishes to rejoin the EITI as soon as possible. To that end, the role which has been entrusted to me by the highest authorities is to oversee the proper conduct of the process of an early return to this Institution. Indeed, as our subsoils are bursting with enormous potential, it is up to us from now on to utilise and apply the recent laws covering the sector to align ourselves ever more closely with the requirements and objectives of the EITI”, she said at the first ordinary session of the Multi-Stakeholder Group held in Libreville on 3 May 2021.

1.1(c): Fully, active and effective engagement in the EITI process

For a long time, the Government has been fully, actively and effectively engaged in creating the conditions for joining the the EITI in full confidence. It is on this basis that it set the national priorities for the extractive sector and contributed to the definition of the EITI objectives (cf. Annex 3: Strategic Guidelines (PSGE, PAT) of the Government on the Gabonese extractive sector and the aim of EITI Gabon of transparency in the extractive sector). It is represented by the public administration constituency which participates in meetings of the Multi-Stakeholder Group and other meetings related to adhesion, in the framework of the Revised Finance Act 2021, 250,000,000 FCFA (some USD 454,545) were allocated for the EITI Gabon budget.

The contribution of the members of the Administration has been considerable, and has allowed us to have rapid access to certain working documents, notably on legal and tax advantages which may be enjoyed by companies operating in the sphere of the extractive industries, knowledge of the different licences granted, the companies operating in this sector of activity. It also consisted of enlightening national and international opinion on Gabon’s desire to rejoin the EITI, explain the added value of the EITI in sectoral governance, its impact on acceleration of economic growth and improvement of the living conditions and wellbeing of populations. Through all these contributions, the representatives of

the public administration are contributing to the current process.

Concerning the work of EITI Gabon (ordinary sessions, extraordinary sessions, special activities), these began in December 2020 with a press conference in which three members of government took part, accompanied by senior managers from certain public and private administrations. Since then, this work has been progressing steadily (cf. Annex 4: extracts of photos of ordinary sessions, extraordinary sessions and special activities of EITI Gabon, and Annex 5: extracts of minutes of ordinary sessions, extraordinary sessions and special activities of EITI Gabon).

During the process of re-joining the EITI, the Government has not made any systematic disclosures let alone establish a list of possible disclosures in the framework of the EITI Standard. Resources were mobilised late, causing a delay in the implementation of the candidature application plan and advocacy. Nevertheless, the public administration constituency gave a specific commitment to develop a leadership to mobilise key stakeholders so as to have a multi-stakeholder workshop to discuss the problem of systematic disclosures (cf. Annex 6: Letter of engagement of the public administration constituency).

1.1 (d): Representation of senior government officials in the multi-stakeholder group.

Article 9 of Decree No. 0077/PR/MER of 22 March 2021 provides that *“Apart from the President, the Multi-Stakeholder Group is composed of the following members representing four constituencies including the constituency of members representing the Public Administration”*. The constituency of members representing the Public Administration comprises:

- *a representative of the Presidency of the Republic;*
- *a representative of the Prime Minister’s Office;*
- *a representative of the Ministry of Mines;*
- *a representative of the Ministry of Industries;*
- *a representative of the Ministry of Oil and Gas;*
- *a representative of the Ministry of the Economy;*
- *a representative of the Ministry of the Budget;*
- *a representative of the Ministry of Good Governance.*

This constituency comprises senior civil servants in the Gabonese public administration as shown by the complete list of members of the Multi-Stakeholder Group, their functions and level of position (cf. Annex 26: Members of the Multi-Stakeholder Group EITI Gabon). It should be explained, however, that following the reorganisation in the Ministry of Oil, Gas and Mines in June 2021, the letter of appointment of representatives of the ministerial department will be updated. The two recently promoted general directors participate effectively and actively in the work of EITI Gabon. The letters of appointment of the various representatives and the press cuttings showing the changes at the head of the General Directorates are shown in Annex 2(c): Appointments of members representing the public administration.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Letter of public statement of the President of the Republic

Annex 2a Extract from communiqué of the Council of Ministers appointing the President

Annex 2b: Attestation of appointment in the Council of Ministers

Annex 2c: Appointments of members representing the public administration

Annex 3: Strategic Guidelines (PSGE, PAT) of the Government on the Gabonese extractive sector and the aim of EITI Gabon of transparency in the extractive sector

Annex 4: Extracts of photos of ordinary sessions, extraordinary sessions and special activities of EITI

Gabon

Annex 5: Extracts of minutes of ordinary sessions, extraordinary sessions and special activities of EITI
Gabon

Annex 6: Letter of engagement of the public administration constituency

EITI Requirement 1.2

Company engagement

- a) Companies must be fully, actively and effectively engaged in the EITI process.
- b) The government must ensure that there is an enabling environment for company participation with regard to relevant laws, regulations, and administrative rules as well as actual practice in implementation of the EITI. The fundamental rights of company representatives substantively engaged in the EITI, including but not restricted to members of the multi-stakeholder group, must be respected.
- c) The government must ensure that there are no obstacles to company participation in the EITI process.

Please describe activities undertaken to date and offer evidence demonstrating that the requirement and its sub-requirements have been met.

1.2(a) Full, active and effective engagement in the EITI process.

Article 9 of Decree No. 0077/PR/MER of 22 March 2021 indicates the composition of constituencies of public and private sector operators. The complete list of members representing these two constituencies, their functions and level of position is shown in Annex 26: Members of the EITI Gabon Multi-Stakeholder Group. Their composition is as follows:

Constituency of members representing public operators

- one representative of the National Oil and Gas Society of Gabon ;
- one representative of the Equatorial Society of Mines ;

Constituency of members representing the private sector

- one representative of the mining companies ;
- one representative of the oil companies ;
- the President of the Chamber of Commerce or his representative.

Since the start of the work of the EITI Gabon Multi-Stakeholder Group in May 2021, the members of the two constituencies have been participating actively in the ordinary and extraordinary sessions and special activities (cf. Annex 7: extracts of attendance lists of companies at MSG meetings) and other meetings related to adhesion to the EITI Gabon on the one hand, and internal activities of the constituencies at the request of the President of the EITI Gabon through opinions, reflections and contributions addressed to them, on the other.

The contributions of the members of the constituency of companies to the various activities related to the various agendas of the meetings held. The questions discussed in these meetings concerned (i) definition of the EITI objectives for Gabon, (ii) elaboration of the internal governance tools of the Multi-Stakeholder Group, (iii) the triennial workplan, and (iv) the process of mobilisation and allocation of resources.

Given its importance in the process of re-joining the EITI, the private sector constituency has been participating fully in the various activities. The role of the Chamber of Commerce in the EITI process consists of representing all legally constituted enterprises and seeking their involvement and engagement. During the process of adhesion to the EITI, the companies have not made any disclosures in the framework of the EITI Standard, nor examined the possibilities of systematic disclosures. Specific commitments concerning disclosures were not made. However, having realised the importance of this question, the respective constituencies have given an undertaking to discuss the problem of systematic

disclosures with the companies (cf. Annex 8). Since 14 July 2021, the date of appointment of Mrs Danielle Cibelle BIWAOU, by letter reference no. 07/21/0099CCAIMAG/CAB PDT/D.G/eoen, the Chamber of Commerce has played a key role as a springboard between the mining and oil and gas sectors.

The full, effective and active participation of the companies in the process of adhesion to the EITI took the form of public declarations, letters of engagement and letters of expression of interest (cf. Annex 8: Letter of engagement of constituencies of public and private sector operators, and Annex 9: Public Statement of public and private sector operators.)

In addition, knowing that companies face major operational constraints, examination in more depth of questions related to the representativeness of the private sector, the method of appointment of its representatives and the inclusivity of the appointment process is taking place with both the representatives of the two constituencies and the operators. However, for the purpose of supporting the present candidature, the following documents are provided (Annex 10a: Letter of Appointment of the President of the UPEGA as representative to the EITI on behalf of the oil companies present in Gabon; Annex 10b: Letter of appointment of the President of the UMIGA as representative to the EITI on behalf of the mining companies present of the UMIGA; Annex 10c: Letter of Appointment of the representative of the Chamber of Commerce; and Annex 10d: Letters of appointment of the representative of the Gabon Oil Company (GOC) and the Société Equatoriale des Mines (SEM) on behalf of the public operators).

During the process of adhesion to the EITI, the companies have not made disclosures in the framework of the EITI Standard, let alone examined the possibilities of systematic disclosures and did not make any specific commitments concerning disclosures. However, having realised the importance of this question, the respective constituencies have given an undertaking to discuss the problem of systematic disclosures with the companies.

1.2(b) Legal environment favourable to the development of companies in the extractive sector and assurance of the fundamental rights of representatives of public and private sector operators as members of the multi-stakeholder group.

Acquired information from the reforms undertaken in the last twenty years exist in the areas of the public service, budget management, good governance, management control, prevention of corruption and evaluation of public policies. The extractive sector (oil, gas, mines) has seen a revision of its laws (petroleum code, mining codes) integrating administrative, technical, fiscal and economic provisions to create an environment conducive to the development of companies (Annex 11a: Technical list of legal and fiscal incentives of the oil and gas sector; and Annex 11b: Summary of the Mining Code).

As regards the environment conducive to the participation of companies in the EITI, as has been done in several countries implementing the EITI, discussions on the definition of a specific consensual framework between the Government, companies and civil society have been initiated and should continue through the establishment of an expanded multi-sectoral committee tasked with discussing administrative and legal constraints.

In addition, in terms of public investment and improvement of the business framework, Gabon has established a Chamber of Commerce, a National Investment Promotion Agency and a Ministry for Investment Promotion, public-private partnerships (PPP), responsible for improving the business environment. The sector also has a code for the promotion of investments and laws on public-private partnerships with the related implementing regulations.

Thus, in her general policy speech to the National Assembly, the Gabonese Prime Minister, Rose Christiane Ossouka Raponda announced her intention to stimulate public-private partnerships to relaunch the economy, mitigate the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, and improve the

business climate to attract investors to Gabon.

1.2(c) Government assurance of no obstacles to company participation in the EITI process.

There are no obstacles to the participation of representatives or public and private companies in the EITI process.

ANNEXES

Annex 7: Extracts of attendance lists of companies at MSG meetings

Annex 8: Letter of engagement of constituencies of public and private sector operators

Annex 9: Public Statement of public and private sector operators.

Annex 10a: Letter of Appointment of the President of the UPEGA as representative to the EITI on behalf of the oil companies present in Gabon

Annex 10b: Letter of appointment of the President of the UMIGA as representative to the EITI on behalf of the mining companies present of the UMIGA

Annex 10c: Letter of Appointment of the representative of the Chamber of Commerce

Annex 10d: Letters of appointment of the representative of the Gabon Oil Company (GOC) and the Société Equatoriale des Mines (SEM) on behalf of the public operators

Annex 11a: Technical list of legal and fiscal incentives of the oil and gas sector

Annex 11b: Summary of the Mining Code.

EITI Requirement 1.3

Civil society engagement

In accordance with the civil society protocol:

- a) Civil society must be fully, actively and effectively engaged in the EITI process.
- b) The government must ensure that there is an enabling environment for civil society participation with regard to relevant laws, regulations, and administrative rules as well as actual practice in implementation of the EITI. The fundamental rights of civil society substantively engaged in the EITI, including but not restricted to members of the multi-stakeholder group, must be respected.
- c) The government must ensure that there are no obstacles to civil society participation in the EITI process.
- d) The government must refrain from actions which result in narrowing or restricting public debate in relation to implementation of the EITI.
- e) Stakeholders, including but not limited to members of the multi-stakeholder group must:
 - i. Be able to speak freely on transparency and natural resource governance issues.
 - ii. Be substantially engaged in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the EITI process, and ensure that it contributes to public debate.
 - iii. Have the right to communicate and cooperate with each other.
 - iv. Be able to operate freely and express opinions about the EITI without restraint, coercion or reprisal.

Please describe activities undertaken to date and offer evidence demonstrating that the requirement and its sub-requirements have been met.

1.3(a) Full, active and effective engagement in the EITI process.

The complete list of members representing the civil society constituency, their functions and level of position are presented in Annex 15: Members of the EITI Gabon Multi-Stakeholder Group. Under article 9 of Decree No. 0077/PR/MER of 22 March 2021, the composition of the constituency of members representing civil society is as follows:

- one representative of non-governmental organisations in the mining sector;
- one representative of non-governmental organisations in the petroleum sector;
- one representative of non-governmental organisations in the environment sector;
- one representative of non-governmental organisations in the good governance sector
- two press representatives.

• Civil society organisations contribute to the EITI process

From 2017 to now, the contribution of civil society can be appreciated from the efforts and concrete results of the participation in regional capacity-building activities for civil society stakeholders carried out with financial support from GIZ and the World Bank. Civil society now has a core of experts specialising in the EITI field. This core has served as the basis for the constitution of the civil society constituency in the MSG.

In 2018, Gabon was officially reintegrated in the International Coalition “Publish What You Pay” (PWYP) with the election of a new Bureau Director and adoption of the Coalition Governance Charter.

With the election of the new bureau, PWYP produced a declaration of commitment of CSOs in favour of the EITI, thereby strengthening the capacities of a score of CSOs. The persons trained are part of the key stakeholders in the engagement of Civil Society in favour of Gabon's return to the EITI.

In 2019, consultation meetings were held with civil society on the EITI, which led to (a) harmonisation of different points of view on the involvement of CSOs in the EITI process, (b) the formulation of a joint declaration on the appointment of members of the MSG, and (c) the organisation of an electoral assembly to appoint the CSO representatives to the MSG (mining, petroleum and environment sectors).

Lastly, closer to us, the principal national civil society organisations supporting the EITI process in Gabon held a 3-day meeting (3 to 5 August 2021) on capacity-building for their members for the appropriation by the latter of the EITI Standard and principles. During these workshops, the code of participation of civil society in the MSG was adopted, as well as the joint CSO Declaration on the implementation of the EITI in Gabon.

Articles in the media about all these actions can be consulted at the following addresses:

<https://www.gabonreview.com/cemac-osc-gabon-de-guinee-equatoriale-a-lecole-management/>

<https://www.brainforest-gabon.org/actualites/?id=140>

<http://news.alibreville.com/h/73354.html>

<https://www.lenouveaugabon.com/fr/mining/1303-11573-la-societe-civile-de-la-cemac-a-l-ecole-de-l-initiative-pour-la-transparence-dans-les-industries-extractives>

<http://www.gabonactu.com/un-syndicaliste-du-secteur-petrolier-a-la-tete-de-publiez-ce-que-vous-payez/>

<http://www.brainforest-gabon.org/actualites/?id=223>

<https://medias241.com/societe/societe-les-acteurs-de-la-societe-civile-formes-sur-la-norme-itie-2019/>

<https://www.gabonnationalnews.com/transparence-dans-le-secteur-extractif-gabonais-les-acteurs-de-la-societe-civile-formes-sur-la-norme-itie-2019/>

<https://www.gabonreview.com/gabon-la-societe-civile-formee-sur-la-norme-itie-2019/>

<https://gabonactu.com/itie-gabon-renforcement-des-capacites-des-organisations-de-la-societe-civile/>

Since the start of the work of the EITI Gabon Multi-Stakeholder Group in May 2021, the members of the civil society constituency have been participating actively in the ordinary and extraordinary sessions and special activities of EITI Gabon, on the one hand, and internal activities of the constituency at the request of the President of the EITI Gabon through opinions, reflections and contributions addressed to them, on the other. As with the previous two constituencies, the contributions of civil society during the work of the Multi-Stakeholder Group relate to the various agendas of the meetings held. The questions discussed in these meetings concerned (i) definition of the EITI objectives for Gabon, (ii) elaboration of the internal governance tools of the Multi-Stakeholder Group, (iii) the triennial workplan, and (iv) the process of mobilisation and allocation of resources (cf. Annex 12: Extracts of attendance lists of civil society at meetings of the Multi-Stakeholder Group).

- **Civil society organisations have the capacity to participate in the EITI**

The active and effective participation of this constituency is reflected in the inclusive approach adopted, seeking to raise awareness to secure the intentions of engagement, involvement and participation of the largest number of associations which are not members of the Multi-Stakeholder Group. For this purpose, public announcements were also used to support or attract the attention of government (cf. Annex 13: Extracts of minutes of meetings of general assemblies, Annex 14: Letter of engagement of member

associations of the RENAREX coalition, and Annex 15: Minutes of awareness-raising meetings of village communities impacted by oil exploration at the Omboué site).

Calls for expressions of interest and candidatures were published via various digital platforms created on WhatsApp, thus supporting the public, transparent and inclusive aspect. For support of the present candidature, the following documents are provided (cf. Annex 16a: Minutes of the appointment of EITI Gabon representatives by non-governmental organisations in the petroleum, mining and environment sectors; Annex 16b: Minutes of the appointment of EITI Gabon representative by non-governmental organisations in the good governance sector; Annex 16c: Minutes of the appointment of EITI Gabon representatives by non-governmental organisations in the press sector; and Annex 16d: Code of Participation of civil society in the implementation of the EITI in Gabon elaborated and validated under an inclusive and participative approach).

During the adhesion phase, the constituency of members representing civil society engaged in advocacy activities aimed at technical and financial partners in Libreville (World Bank, IMF, EU/Libreville Delegation) concerning the adhesion to the EITI. Cooperation involving local stakeholders and partners at subregional and international level was put in place on the subject of oil pollution of the environment at the OMBOUE site, thereby showing the capacity for mobilisation of civil society organisations and community organisations impacted by the activities of companies in the extractive sector in Gabon (cf. Annex 17: Summary of discussions between the constituency of members representing civil society and the World Bank, IMF and EU/Libreville Delegation; Annex 18: Public declaration of civil society on the adoption of the code of participation of civil society organisations involved in governance of the extractive sector in Gabon).

- **Civil society organisations have the capacity to participate in the EITI**

In the established coalitions, there are certain associations which serve as a driver and have the operational capacities and effective analyses as well as having certain specific financing mobilised from technical and financial partners to implement certain projects. Among these associations, the following may be mentioned: SOGEVAL, BRAINFOREST, ROSCEVAC, PWYP Gabon and ROLBG7. These civil society organisations work on EITI subjects but not exclusively. The capacity for analysis on EITI subjects are illustrated by SOGEVAL, which for nearly 12 years has published daily texts on distribution lists of digital platforms. These texts impact some 500,000 readers (cf. Annex 19: Extracts of SOGEVAL daily texts on EITI subjects).

- **Civil society organisations communicate and cooperate freely among themselves on EITI subjects**

The participation of civil society in Gabon's process of adhesion is inclusive and transparent. However, it has not allowed the communities affected by the activities of the extractive companies to participate actively in it due to lack of resource mobilisation. Several civil society meetings on EITI have been held, the latest took place from 3 to 5 August 2021. They consisted of two days of training for members of civil society on the EITI Standard 2019 and providing basic elements for the creation of an inclusive network of existing coalitions (cf. Annex 20: Joint declaration of support of civil society for the implementation of the EITI process during the meetings of 3 to 5 August 2021). Cooperation with international CSOs and civil society networks has also been active. Civil society has been very active through regular exchanges in meetings with PWYP International and the Focal Point in the International Secretariat of the EITI in Oslo.

1.3(b): Legal environment favourable to the participation of civil society and assurance of the fundamental rights of civil society representatives as members of the Multi-Stakeholder Group

The associative framework is regulated in the Gabonese Republic and fully recognised for all individuals, groups of persons wishing to form associations. The same applies to the fundamental rights of civil

society representatives participating as a member of the MSG and is not subject to any restrictions. This framework is complemented by other instruments referring to various agreements, conventions, charters to which Gabon has freely subscribed. This applies notably to the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen 1789; the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, enshrined in the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights 1981, the National Charter of Liberties 1990 (Law 1/97 of 22 April 1997), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance.

1.3(c) Government assurance of no obstacles to civil society participation in the EITI process

There are no obstacles to the participation of civil society representatives in the EITI process in Gabon. In the EITI process, civil society expresses its fundamental rights as described in the Preliminary Title of the Gabonese Constitution 1991: Principles of Fundamental Rights, Article 1.

1.3(d) Government assurance that there are no measures which result in restricting public debate in relation to implementation of the EITI

There are no formal undertakings by the Government mentioning that it will refrain from actions which result in narrowing or restricting public debate in relation to implementation of the EITI. However, it should be noted that on the question of EITI, Gabonese civil society is very active and the coalition of organisations involved in the EITI process even more so, thus contributing to public debate.

1.3.(e) Freedom of stakeholders, whether or not members of the Multi-Stakeholder Group

The stakeholders, members or otherwise of the Multi-Stakeholder Group, can speak freely about transparency and governance of natural resources. The members of the MSG are engaged and involved at this stage of the process and will be even more so with the other external stakeholders in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the EITI process.

As evidence of this, a few allegations of environmental crimes committed by industrialists in the extractive sector, and even bringing them to justice, are led by coalitions of civil society organisations. These organisations have full rights to communicate and collaborate with each other. They act freely and give their opinions on EITI, without restraint, coercion or reprisals. This is made possible by the body of law enshrined in the Gabonese Constitution which states in its preamble:

“The Gabonese people, conscious of its responsibility before God and history, animated by the desire to assure its independence and its national unity, to organise a communal life after the principles of national sovereignty, of pluralistic democracy, of social justice and republican legality” (Law 14/2000 of 11 October 2000);

“Affirm solemnly its attachment to human rights and to fundamental liberties

Proclaim solemnly its attachment to its profound and traditional social values, to its material and spiritual cultural patrimony, and to its respect of the liberties, rights and duties of the citizen. By virtue of these principles and of the sovereignty of the people, it adopts the present Constitution” (Law 47/2010 of 12 January 2011).

Article 1 The Gabonese Republic recognises and guarantees the inalienable and imprescriptible human rights, which are necessarily tied to the public powers:

1°. Each citizen has the right to the free development of his or her personality, while respecting the rights of others and the public order. No one may be humiliated, mistreated or tortured, even during moments of arrest or imprisonment;

2°. The freedom of conscience, thought, opinion, expression, communication, and the free practice of religion, are guaranteed to all Gabonese citizens, subject only to respect for public order;

3°. The freedom to come and go within the territory of the Gabonese Republic and to leave and return is

guaranteed to all Gabonese citizens, subject only to respect for public order

4°. The rights to defence, in the case of a trial, are guaranteed to all. Preventative detention must not exceed the time period provided by the law;

Article 83: (Law 47/2010 of 12 January 2011). The Constitutional Court is the High Authority of the State in constitutional matters. It is the judge of the constitutionality of laws and of the legality of elections. It guarantees the fundamental human rights and public liberties of the country. It is the regulatory organ of the operations of the country's institutions and of the activities of the public powers.

Article 94: Audiovisual and written communication is free in the Gabonese Republic, subject only to respect for public order, liberty and the dignity of its citizens.

Article 95: (Law 47/2010 of 12 January 2011). To this effect, the National Council of Communication is instituted to watch over respect for the expression of democracy and the freedom of the press throughout the territory; citizens' access to free communication; equitable treatment of all political parties and associations;

The right to form associations, political parties or groups, trade unions, societies, social interest establishments and religious communities is guaranteed under all conditions fixed by the law;

Religious communities shall regulate and administer their affairs in an independent manner, such to respect for the principles of national sovereignty, public order and preserving the moral and mental integrity of the individual;

Associations, political parties or groups, trade unions, societies, social interest establishments and religious communities whose activities are contrary to the laws, morals or understanding between groups or ethnic communities may be prohibited under the law;

Any act of racial, ethnic or religious discrimination, or any regionalist propaganda which might undermine the internal or external security of the State shall be punished by law;

Article 21 of the Gabonese Constitution: Any person has the right to freedom of peaceful meeting and association and no one may be forced to join an association.

No one may be arrested or placed under detention if he presents sufficient guarantees of representation, subject to the needs of security and procedure. Any person charged is presumed innocent until his guilt is established following a regular trial offering essential guarantees of his defence. The judicial power, guardian of individual liberty, shall assure respect for these principles within the time limits fixed by the law.

Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen of 26 August 1789

Article 2. The end of all political associations, is the preservation of the natural and imprescriptible rights of man; and these rights are liberty, property, security, and resistance of oppression.

Article 4. Political liberty consists in the power of doing whatever does not injure another. The exercise of the natural rights of every man, has no other limits than those which are necessary to secure to every other man the free exercise of the same rights; and these limits are determinable only by the law.

Article 11. The unrestrained communication of thoughts and opinions being one of the most precious rights of man, every citizen may speak, write, and publish freely, provided he is responsible for the abuse of this liberty, in cases determined by law.

African Charter of Human and People's Rights of 26 June 1981, Chapter 1, Human and People's Rights

Article 1: The Member States of the Organisation of African Unity, parties to the present Charter shall recognise the rights, duties and freedoms enshrined in the Charter and shall undertake to adopt

legislative or other measures to give effect to them.

Article 2: Every individual shall be entitled to the enjoyment of the rights and freedoms recognised and guaranteed in the present Charter without distinction of any kind such as race, ethnic group, colour, sex, language, religion, political or any other opinion, national and social origin, fortune, birth or any status.

Article 6: Every individual shall have the right to liberty and to the security of his person. No one may be deprived of his freedom except for reasons and conditions previously laid down by law. In particular, no one may be arbitrarily arrested or detained.

Article 8: Freedom of conscience, the profession and free practice of religion shall be guaranteed. No one may, subject to law and order, be submitted to measures restricting the exercise of these freedoms.

Article 9: Every individual shall have the right to receive information and the right to express and disseminate his opinions within the law.

National Charter of Freedoms of 26 July 1990 A – Law No. 2/90 of 26 July 1990 ratifying the National Charter of Liberties

Article 1: Solemnly reaffirms that the Gabonese Republic must effectively assure the Rights and Freedoms of Man as defined in 1789 and confirmed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948 and by the African Charter of Human and Peoples' Rights 1981.

Article 5(b). Reaffirmation of the fundamental liberties: The freedom to come and go within the territory of the Gabonese Republic and to leave; freedom of thought, opinion and belief; freedom of association and meeting; freedom of the press.

ANNEXES

Annex 12: Extracts of attendance lists of civil society at meetings of the Multi-Stakeholder Group

Annex 13: Extracts of minutes of meetings of general assemblies

Annex 14: Letter of engagement of member associations of the RENAREX coalition

Annex 15: Minutes of awareness-raising meetings of village communities impacted by oil exploration at the Omboué site

Annex 16a: Minutes of the appointment of EITI Gabon representatives by non-governmental organisations in the petroleum, mining and environment sectors

Annex 16b: Minutes of the appointment of EITI Gabon representative by non-governmental organisations in the good governance sector

Annex 16c: Minutes of the appointment of EITI Gabon representatives by non-governmental organisations in the press sector

Annex 16d: Code of Participation of civil society in the implementation of the EITI in Gabon elaborated and validated under an inclusive and participative approach

Annex 17: Summary of discussions between the constituency of members representing civil society and the World Bank, IMF and EU/Libreville Delegation

Annex 18: Public declaration of civil society on the adoption of the code of participation of civil society organisations involved in governance of the extractive sector in Gabon

Annex 19: Extracts of SOGEVAL daily texts on EITI subjects

Annex 20: Joint declaration of support of civil society for the implementation of the EITI process during

the meetings of 3 to 5 August 2021.

EITI Requirement 1.4

Multi-stakeholder group

a) The government is required to commit to work with civil society and companies, and establish a multi-stakeholder group to oversee the implementation of the EITI. In establishing the multi-stakeholder group, the government must:

- i. Ensure that the invitation to participate in the group is open and transparent.
- ii. Ensure that stakeholders are adequately represented. This does not mean that they need to be equally represented numerically. The multi-stakeholder group must comprise appropriate stakeholders, including but not necessarily limited to: the private sector; civil society, including independent civil society groups and other civil society such as the media and unions; and relevant government entities which can also include parliamentarians. Each stakeholder group must have the right to appoint its own representatives, bearing in mind the desirability of pluralistic and diverse representation. The nomination process must be independent and free from any suggestion of coercion. The multi-stakeholder group and each constituency should consider gender balance in their representation to progress towards gender parity.
- iii. Consider establishing the legal basis of the group.

b) The multi-stakeholder group is required to agree clear public Terms of Reference (ToRs) for its work. The ToRs should, at a minimum, include provisions on:

The role, responsibilities and rights of the multi-stakeholder group:

- i. Members of the multi-stakeholder group should have the capacity to carry out their duties.
- ii. The multi-stakeholder group should undertake effective outreach activities with civil society groups and companies, including through communication such as media, website and letters, informing stakeholders of the government's commitment to implement the EITI, and the central role of companies and civil society. The multi-stakeholder group should also widely disseminate the public information that results from the EITI process.
- iii. Members of the multi-stakeholder group should liaise with their constituency groups.
- iv. Members of the multi-stakeholder group are expected to abide by the EITI Association code of conduct.

Approval of work plans and oversight of implementation:

- v. The multi-stakeholder group is required to approve annual work plans in accordance with Requirement 1.5.
- vi. The multi-stakeholder group should oversee the EITI reporting process and engage in Validation.

Internal governance rules and procedures:

- vii. The EITI requires an inclusive decision-making process throughout implementation, with each constituency being treated as a partner. Any member of the multi-stakeholder group has the right to table an issue for discussion. The multi-stakeholder group should agree and publish its procedures for nominating and changing multi-stakeholder group representatives, decision-making, the duration of the mandate and the frequency of meetings. This should include ensuring that there is a process for changing group members that respects the principles set out in Requirement 1.4(a). Where the multi-

stakeholder group has a practice of per diems for attending EITI meetings, or other payments its members, this practice should be transparent and should not create conflicts of interest.

viii. There should be sufficient advance notice of meetings and timely circulation of documents prior to their debate and proposed adoption.

viii. The multi-stakeholder group must keep written records of its discussions and decisions.

Please describe activities undertaken to date and offer evidence demonstrating that the requirement and its sub-requirements have been met.

1.4(a) Establishment of the Multi-Stakeholder Group

The reorganisation of the EITI Gabon Group of Interest into EITI Gabon (Article 3) was effected via the signature of Decree No. 0077/PR/MER of 22 March 2021 (cf. Annex 21: Decree No. 077/PR/MER on reorganisation of the Group of Interest for Transparency in the Extractive Industries in Gabon). This reorganisation was not the subject of sufficient awareness raising among the stakeholders before the establishment of the Multi-Stakeholder Group. Civil society expressed its reservations on certain articles during a meeting involving EITI Gabon, the Focal Point of the EITI International Secretariat and the Focal Point of the IMF in Libreville. Concerning the appointment of members of the MSG, invitations to appoint representatives to participate in the MSG were addressed by the President of the EITI Gabon to the various stakeholders.

In this regard, the EITI Gabon comprises the MSG and the PTS (Article 7). The MSG comprises 20 members presented in the Annex (cf. Annex 22: List of members of the MSG). Each group of stakeholders nominated its representatives. Thus, the Government and companies simply replied to the letters of invitation addressed to them, by the Presidency of the EITI Gabon. Civil society appointed its representatives according to open and transparent processes of calling for candidates for election. Lastly, the members of civil society in the Multi-Stakeholder Group are independent of the Government and companies, both on the operational level and political level, as they all work for professional associations apart from the representative of the public press.

1.4(b) Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Multi-Stakeholder Group

The Multi-Stakeholder Group of the EITI (MSG) does not yet have public terms of reference, formalised according to the standard procedure for the establishment of the MSG. However, the information available in Decree 0077, and notably those related to missions (Article 6), organisation and functioning (Articles 7, 8, 16, 17) and the missions of the Permanent Technical Secretariat (Article 19) serve as the basis for guiding day-to-day actions. Certain aspects relating to decision-making, indemnities, roles, responsibilities and rights of the Multi-Stakeholder Group, approval of workplans and supervision of the implementation and rights of the Multi-Stakeholder Group and rules and procedures for internal governance are included in the statutes and rules of procedure of the EITI Gabon (cf. Annex 23: Statutes of the EITI Gabon and Annex 24: Rules of Procedure of the EITI Gabon).

With regard to the policy of daily indemnities for the participation of members of the MSG in meetings of the EITI, as of now, the draft scales have been approved by the MSG but they await the publication of the texts to make them public. On the other hand, Decree 0077 provides in Article 16 that “the functions of the members of the Multi-Stakeholder Group are free, but those who are interested may be allocated financial compensation as hardship allowances related to support of their missions, under the conditions and modalities fixed by the applicable texts”. To date, no obstacle or dispute has so far been recorded on this subject.

ANNEXES

Annex 21: Decree No. 077/PR/MER on reorganisation of the Interest Group for Transparency in the Extractive Industries in Gabon

Annex 22: List of members of the MSG

Annex 23: Statutes of the EITI Gabon

Annex 24: Rules of Procedure of the EITI Gabon

EITI Requirement 1.5

Work plan

The multi-stakeholder group is required to maintain a current work plan, fully costed and aligned with the reporting and Validation deadlines established by the EITI Board. The work plan must:

- a) Set EITI implementation objectives that are linked to the EITI Principles and reflect national priorities for the extractive industries. The multi-stakeholder group should address the steps needed to mainstream EITI implementation in company and government systems. Multi-stakeholder groups are encouraged to explore innovative approaches to extending EITI implementation to inform public debate about natural resource governance and encourage high standards of transparency and accountability in public life, government operations and in business.
- b) Reflect the results of consultations with key stakeholders, and be endorsed by the multi-stakeholder group.
- c) Include measurable and time bound activities to achieve the agreed objectives. The scope of EITI implementation should be tailored to contribute to the desired objectives that have been identified during the consultation process. The work plan must:
 - i. Assess and outline plans to address any potential capacity constraints in government agencies, companies and civil society that may be an obstacle to effective EITI implementation.
 - ii. Address the scope of EITI implementation, including plans for strengthening systematic disclosures and addressing technical aspects of reporting, such as comprehensiveness and data reliability (4.1 and 4.9).
 - iii. Identify and outline plans to address any potential legal or regulatory obstacles to EITI implementation, including, if applicable, any plans to incorporate the EITI Requirements within national legislation or regulation.
 - iv. Outline the multi-stakeholder group's plans for implementing the recommendations from EITI implementation and Validation.
 - v. Outline plans for disclosing contracts in accordance with Requirement 2.4(b) and beneficial ownership information in accordance with Requirement 2.5(c)-(f), including milestones and deadlines.
- d) Identify domestic and external sources of funding and technical assistance where appropriate in order to ensure timely implementation of the agreed work plan.
- e) Be made widely available to the public, for example published on the national EITI website and/or other relevant ministry and agency websites, in print media or in places that are easily accessible to the public.
- f) Be reviewed and updated annually. In reviewing the work plan, the multi-stakeholder group should consider extending the detail and scope of EITI implementation. In accordance with Requirement 1.4 (b), the multi-stakeholder group is required to document its discussions and decisions.
- g) Include a timetable for implementation that is aligned with the deadlines established by the EITI Board (section 4 - EITI Board oversight of EITI implementation) and that takes into account administrative requirements such as procurement processes and funding.

Please describe activities undertaken to date and offer evidence demonstrating that the requirement and its sub-requirements have been met.

An extraordinary session of the MSG was convened on Thursday 5 August 2021 at 11 a.m. with on the agenda the validation of the candidature documents of Gabon to the EITI (cf. Annex 25: Minutes of the meeting to approve the application for candidature of the MSG on 5 August 2021).

1.5(a) Implementation objectives of the EITI that are linked to the EITI Principles and reflect national priorities for the extractive industries.

- The national priorities are as follows:

The orientations of the strategic plan Emergent Gabon for the development of the extractive sector are articulated around strategic objective 13, “*relaunch oil production and optimise revenues in the oil and gas and related industries*” with a sectoral mines-metallurgy plan and lastly, strategic objective 15, “*developing an innovative and diversified industrial fabric (wood, fisheries, agro-industry...*”, with an industry sectoral plan. As regards the strategic orientations of the acceleration and transformation plan (PAT 2021-2023), these are organised around three major pillars to 2023 aligning a portfolio of 12 major projects. Among these projects, four are concerned with activities of implementation of the EITI.

These are the following projects:

- Project 1 : Slowing the fall in oil production and diversifying the sector ;
- Project 2 : Accelerating the development of manganese and laying the foundations for exploitation of iron and gold;
- Project 9: Improving the business climate to attract investors and guaranteeing conditions of growth in the non-productive sectors;
- Project 12: Reforming public finances to insure room for manoeuvre.

For Gabon, therefore, it is a matter of preparing now for the after-oil world by accelerating new engines of growth and rethinking the social model.

- The challenges of the EITI in Gabon are as follows :
 - Good governance and transparency in the extractive industries sector
 - Preserving the environment and sustainable development
 - Combatting climate change through reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and recourse to alternative means of geological storage of CO₂, geothermal and energy
 - Managing the growing strains on natural resources and their increasing scarcity due to population growth
 - Managing the production of useful information for sustainable management of extractive resources by networks of stakeholders
 - Developing a culture of control and civil debate
 - Participation in decision-making and evaluation processes
 - Operationalisation of the roles of the State in relation to decentralisation in a context of repositioning the State in its regulatory mission and transfer of responsibilities to the subnational level.

- The challenges of EITI Gabon

Challenge 1: Continuously improving the legislation and regulation, adaptation and contextualised operationalisation of EITI Standard 2019 through decision-making support mechanisms;

Challenge 2: Institutionalising the access to data and information through a policy of free access to data

and information of the extractive sector;

Challenge 3: Developing a national information system by integration of the EITI in the information systems of administration to ensure systematic disclosure of revenues and payments;

Challenge 4: Developing human capital, reinforcing means of action and capacities of stakeholders allowing understanding of the challenges of transparency, traceability and certification of operations in the extractive sector.

Challenge 5: Developing information, education, communication and networking of the stakeholders in favour of citizen control and frank public debate, without obstacles or restrictions.

- **The objectives of the triennial workplan of the EITI Gabon**

The triennial workplan 2022-2024 incorporates the principles of the EITI and national priorities. The set of activities proposed covers the seven requirements of EITI Standard 2019. This workplan seeks to promote transparency and accountability in the extractive sector through the implementation of the requirements of the EITI Standard 2019, establish public debate and a climate of trust between the various stakeholders identified. The structuring between strategic pillars, the specific objectives and the principles of the EITI formulated on the basis of the national priorities is illustrated below.

Overall objective:	Contribute to the promotion of good governance and transparency of operations in the extractive industries sector in Gabon for an inclusive economic growth contributing to sustainable development and reduction in the fragility of populations	
Expected result:	Sustainable and responsible management of the wealth deriving from the extractive resources benefits citizens, improves their wellbeing and lifestyles	
Strategic pillars	Specific objectives	EITI principles
Strategic pillar 1: Promoting an environment conducive to transparency in the extractive industries sector and to monitoring by the MSG of the EITI process in Gabon	Specific objective 1.1: Strengthening governance and embedding the credibility of the EITI Gabon MSG	Principle 2
	Specific objective 1.2: Making the MSG and PTS of EITI Gabon functional and viable	Principle 2
Strategic pillar 2: Creating an environment favourable to the implementation of the requirements of Standard 2019 in the extractive industries sector in Gabon	Specific objective 2.1: Carrying out detailed pre-feasibility studies to accelerate the reforms to be undertaken in the extractive industries sector in Gabon	Principle 4
	Specific objective 2.2: Operationalising the recommendations of the pre-feasibility studies and accelerating the implementation of reforms in the extractive industries in Gabon	Principle 7 Principle 8 Principle 9
Strategic pillar 3: Operationalising the three dimensions of transparency through extractive disclosure, extractive traceability and traceability of companies for the creation of value and improvement in management of payments and revenues	Specific objective 3.1: Improving financial reporting of payments, non-financial reporting on contracts and licences, due diligence and traceability of flows of resources	Principle 6
	Specific objective 3.2: Improving conditions of taxation to mobilise revenues effectively	Principle 11
	Specific objective 3.3: Improving extractive traceability for security and efficiency of multinational operations	Principle 7

	Specific objective 3.4: Improving the transparency and assuring fair accountability of stakeholders for income and expenditures from international transfers	Principle 9
	Specific objective 3.5: Elaborating and implementing surveillance plans against crime and trafficking, prevention of corruption, fraud, illicit financial flows and money laundering in the Gabonese extractive sector	Principle 8
	Specific objective 3.6: Measuring the progress achieved and evaluating the environmental and social impact of industrial sites in the framework of implementing the EITI process in Gabon	Principle 1
	Specific objective 3.7: Integrating the EITI in the national decision-making system of the State, public and private companies and organise the first Validation at the date fixed by the EITI International Board	Principle 10
	Specific objective 3.8: Improving the governance of public companies	Principle 11
	Specific objective 3.9: Improving budgetary transparency and sustainable management of revenues in the public finances, subnational revenues and investments of Gabonese funds in strategic investments	Principle 7
	Specific objective 3.10: Reinforcing citizen control and promoting public debate on governance and transparency in the extractive industries	Principle 4

1.5(b) Results of consultations with the main stakeholders

During Gabon's adhesion to the EITI, exchanges took place internally between the members of the constituencies of the MSG and others in person with the technical and financial partners (IMF, European Union/Libreville Delegation, World Bank, Embassy of the United States in Libreville). Brief exchanges took place with a few companies. It was a matter of mobilising and securing their engagement in favour of the EITI implementation. These consultations will continue as soon as the resources are made available for large-scale outreach campaigns throughout the country with the stakeholders indicated below.

Stakeholders identified at national and infra-national level:

Category	Stakeholders	Domain
<u>At national level</u>		
Public administrations	Presidency of the Republic, Prime Minister, Ministries: mines, industries, oil and gas, economy, budget, good governance, investments, defence, interior, foreign affairs, forestry/wood	Public policies and finances in the extractive sector Transparency and accountability under EITI Standard 2019
Constitutional institutions, controls, audits and certification of accounts	CND, ANAVEA, OEC, CNE, CC, CNC, CC, CESE,	Audit and verification Certification of accounts

Public and private extractive companies	GOC, SEM, Total Gabon, Perenco Oil & Gas Gabon, Addax Petroleum, Maurel & Prom Gabon, Assala Gabon, CNRI, Stream Oil, Vaalco Gabon, Sino-Gabon, BWE Energy, Eni Gabon, Petronas Gabon, Impact Oil & Gas Gabon, CNOOC, Oil India, SOGARA	Transparency and accountability under EITI Standard 2019
Civil society (national and international professional associations and trade unions)	UMIGA, UPEGA, AP/Trade unions in extractive companies, CSO Coalitions supporting the EITI in Gabon, constituencies EITI Gabon MSG, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Gabon, WWF, UICN, WCS, TNC, CJ	Awareness-raising of stakeholders Public citizen dialogue
National, international, regional and subregional development support institutions	IMF, WB, EU, ADB, IDB, BDEAC, AFD, FGIS, ECCAS, CEMAC	Mobilisation of resources, technical assistance and support for predictability of international indices
Diplomatic representations	Embassies: United States of America, Germany, France, Japan, China	Diplomacy of natural resources
Banks, insurance companies and anti-corruption, anti-fraud and anti-money laundering institutions	BGFIBank, UGB, UBA, BICIG, CNLCCEI, GABAC	Combating organised crime, trafficking and illicit financial flows
Education and research institutions	UOB, USTM, IEF, ENA	Development of skills of human capital
At subnational level		
Provincial governorates	Sectoral administration, local authorities, local representatives of extractive companies, representatives of communities, local NGOs	Relay of public policies and finances in the extractive sector Transparency and accountability under EITI Standard 2019

Stakeholders identified at international level:

During the preparation of Gabon's candidature for adhesion to the EITI, exchanges took place by email (CREFIAF/PASIE project, REMAC-CEMAC project) and others by videoconference (PWYP), IMF, World Bank, European Union). It was a matter of seeking opportunities for collaborations, support and technical assistance in mobilisation of external resources, carrying out the technical and financial feasibility studies considered in the triennial workplan.

Category	Stakeholders	Domain
<u>At international level</u>		
Institutes, technical centres and firms	Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI) CARN/BAD, Firme Cowater International/PASIE CEMAC project/ REMAP-CEMAC project	Index of governance of natural resources (governance, revenue management, creation of value policies)
Institutions and international associations	PWYP, OXFAM, Transparency international, GABAC, CEA, UNCTAD, OIF, American State Department, PFBC, EU/SYSMIN fund, CREFIAF/PASIE	Transparency in the extractive sector Index of fiscal transparency

1.5(c) Scope of the implementation of the EITI defined to meet the objectives resulting from the

consultations with the stakeholders

The triennial workplan is described through the following attributes, actions, activities, expected results, indicators, sources of verification, responsible persons, timetable, amount (USD) and sources of financing. It therefore includes measurable activities with time limits designed to achieve the objectives fixed. The workplan activities relating to resolution of capacity constraints identified are presented below linked to the objectives to which they relate.

Specific objective 3.1: Improving financial reporting of payments, non-financial reporting on contracts and licences, due diligence and traceability of flows of resources

- Strengthening the capacities of companies for disclosure and Validation under EITI Standard 2019 ;
- Defining an open data policy and promoting disclosures which respect its principles ;
- Strengthening the capacities of companies for the disclosure and validation under EITI Standard 2109.

Specific objective 3.2: Improving conditions of taxation to mobilise revenues effectively

- Strengthening capacities for analysis of various sources of data and fiscal modelling of revenues from extractive projects (EITI reports, disclosures by companies and government statistics);
- Improving the systematic and timely disclosure of payments through monthly online publication of statistics of revenues, production and exports ;
- Strengthening capacities for analysis of various sources of data (EITI reports, disclosures by companies and government statistics) and fiscal modelling of revenues from extractive projects.

Specific objective 3.4: Improving the transparency and assuring fair accountability of stakeholders for income and expenditures from international transfers

- Identifying legal and practical constraints related to the scope, definitions and collection of data;
- Ensuring the adoption of virtuous practices by public and private extractive companies in terms of production and systematic publication of annual reports

Specific objective 3.7: Integrating the EITI in the national decision-making system of the State, public and private companies and organise the first Validation at the date fixed by the EITI International Board

- Carrying out diagnostics of the constraints related to the integration of the EITI and disclosure of reports in the national system;
- Training stakeholders and supervising the installation of integration EITI measures in the national decision-making system of the State, public and private enterprises;
- Carrying out diagnostics of the constraints related to the integration of the EITI and disclosing reports in the national system

The activities related to systematic disclosure, mainly through regular statements by the Government and companies, are indicated in the workplan.

Specific objective 1.1: Strengthening governance and embedding the credibility of the EITI Gabon MSG

- Integrating the recommendations of the EITI Board concerning time limits for systematic disclosures and Validation.

Specific objective 2.1: Carrying out detailed pre-feasibility studies to accelerate the reforms to be undertaken in the extractive industries sector in Gabon

- Carrying out a diagnostic study of the administrative and technical constraints, information systems, monitoring/evaluation systems and systems or mechanisms for disclosure of data of public and

private administrations and companies ;

- Elaborating a framework for quality assurance, verification, production of data relating to collection and allocation of revenues, declaration by individual projects and disclosure of statistical analyses ;
- Defining the scope of EITI declarations to parent companies and their lenders, framework and materiality of the exhaustive declaration of infra-national taxes, revenues, transactions and payments.

Specific objective 2.2: Operationalising the recommendations of the pre-feasibility studies and accelerating the implementation of reforms in the extractive industries in Gabon

- Taking the texts relating to the EITI areas of intervention (governance, transparency, access to information, systematic declarations and disclosures, validation, dissemination of EITI reports, etc).

Specific objective 3.9: Improving budgetary transparency and sustainable management of revenues in the public finances, subnational revenues and investments of Gabonese funds in strategic investments

- Mobilising technologies for disclosure of information capitalising on the information developed by the SYSMIN fund put in place by the European Union;
- Promoting systematic disclosures to understand and assure effective monitoring of legal, contractual obligations and conformity of the Government and companies.

1.5(d) Identifying domestic or external sources of financing and, if applicable, technical assistance, to assure the implementation of the agreed workplan in the established time limits

The triennial workplan plans an activity for the elaboration of a strategy of mobilisation of domestic and external resources and a roadmap for the planning and deployment of the EITI in Gabon. The technical assistance is considered through various collaborations and partnerships at national and international level as described above. The total triennial cost is USD 7,221,000, i.e. USD 2,485,000 (year 2022), USD 2,292,000 (Year 2023) and USD 2,487,000 (year 2024). More than half will be financed by the State budget, the remainder being mobilised from technical and financial partners and existing domestic financing mechanisms in the petroleum and mining sector. A summary breakdown of the costs by objective is shown below;

Objectives	2022	2023	2024	Total (\$US)
Strategic pillar 1:	Promoting an environment conducive to transparency in the extractive industries sector and to monitoring by the MSG of the EITI process in Gabon			
Specific objective 1.1	Strengthening governance and embedding the credibility of the EITI Gabon MSG			
Specific objective 1.1 - cost	275 000	250 000	200 000	725 000
Specific objective 1.2	Making the MSG and PTS of EITI Gabon functional and viable			
Specific objective 1.2 - cost	326 000	388 000	618 000	1 332 000
Strategic pillar 2:	Creating an environment favourable to the implementation of the requirements of EITI Standard 2019 in the extractive industries sector in Gabon			
Specific objective 2.1	Carrying out detailed pre-feasibility studies to accelerate the reforms to be undertaken in the extractive industries sector in Gabon			
Specific objective 2.1 - cost	201 000	16 000	1 000	218 000

Specific objective 2.2	Operationalising the recommendations of the pre-feasibility studies and accelerating the implementation of reforms in the extractive industries in Gabon			
Specific objective 2.2 - cost	111 000	46 000	41 000	198 000
Strategic pillar 3:	Operationalising the three dimensions of transparency through extractive disclosure, extractive traceability and traceability of companies to create value and improvement in management of payments and revenues			
Specific objective 3.1	Improving financial reporting of payments, non-financial reporting on contracts and licences, due diligence and traceability of flows of resources			
Specific objective 3.1 - cost	86 000	76 000	136 000	285 000
Specific objective 3.2	Improving conditions of taxation to mobilise revenues effectively			
Specific objective 3.2 - cost	29 000	49 000	49 000	127 000
Specific objective 3.3	Improving extractive traceability for security and efficiency of multinational operations			
Specific objective 3.3 - cost	16 000	16 000	36 000	68 000
Specific objective 3.4	Improving transparency and assuring fair accountability of stakeholders for income and expenditures from international transfers			
Specific objective 3.4 - cost	68 000	78 000	68 000	214 000
Specific objective 3.5	Elaborating and implementing surveillance plans against crime and trafficking, prevention of corruption, fraud, illicit financial flows and money laundering in the Gabonese extractive sector			
Specific objective 3.5 - cost	105 000	105 000	105 000	315 000
Specific objective 3.6	Measuring the progress achieved and evaluating the environmental and social impact of industrial sites in the framework of implementing the EITI process in Gabon			
Specific objective 3.6 - cost	950 000	965 000	965 000	2 880 000
Specific objective 3.7	Integrating the EITI in the national decision-making system of the State, public and private companies and organising the first Validation at the date fixed by the EITI International Board			
Specific objective 3.7 - cost	50 000	75 000	80 000	175 000
Specific objective 3.8	Improving the governance of public companies			
Specific objective 3.8 - cost	31 000	31 000	31 000	93 000
Specific objective 3.9	Improving budgetary transparency and sustainable management of revenues in the public finances, infra-national revenues and investments of Gabonese funds in strategic investments			
Specific objective	92 000	72 000	57 000	221 000

3.9 - cost				
Specific objective 3.10	Reinforcing citizen control and promoting public debate on governance and transparency in the extractive industries			
Specific objective 3.10 - cost	145 000	125 000	100 000	370 000
Grand total:	2 485 000	2 292 000	2 487 000	7 221 000

1.5(e) Publication of the triennial workplan on the national website of the EITI Gabon and/or on the websites of the State entity and supervising ministry

The triennial workplan can be consulted on the website of the Ministry of the Economy and Relaunch

1.5(f) Review and update the workplan annually

The proposed triennial plan covers the period 2022-2024. It will be updated annually to take account of changes resulting from recommendations of prior studies and those of the EITI Administrative Council.

1.6(g) Implementation timetable compatible with the time limits fixed by the EITI Board

The intervention strategy of the EITI Gabon in the implementation of the EITI includes two stages. The first stage, in **2021**, consists of planning the institutional and organisational governance, consulting the national and international stakeholders, building the capacities of the stakeholders, identifying and establishing collaborations and partnerships, and solving problems of domestic management. The second stage, **2022-2024**, corresponds to the implementation compatible with the time limits fixed by the EITI International Board concerning publication and validation.

ANNEXES

Annex 25: Minutes of the meeting to validate the application for candidature of the MSG on 5 August 2021

Annex 26: Members of the Multi-Stakeholder Group EITI Gabon