COMBINED PROJECT INFORMATION DOCUMENTS / INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS DATA SHEET (PID/ISDS)
APPRAISAL STAGE

Report No.: PIDISDSA20101

Date Prepared/Updated: 28-Sep-2016

I.   BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country:	Gabon	Project ID:	P157473
		Parent Project ID (if any):	
Project Name:	Gabon Statistical Development Project (P157473)		
Region:	AFRICA		
Estimated Appraisal Date:	03-Oct-2016	Estimated Board Date:	15-Dec-2016
Practice Area (Lead):	Poverty and Equity	Lending Instrument:	Investment Project Financing
Borrower(s):	Gabonese Republic		
Implementing Agency:	CN-TIPPEE		
Financing (in USD Million)			
Financing Source			Amount
Borrower			0.00
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development			50.00
Total Project Cost			50.00
Environmental Category:	C - Not Required		
Appraisal Review Decision (from Decision Note):			
Other Decision:			
Is this a Repeater project?	No		

B. Introduction and Context

Country Context

Gabon is a country located in central Africa with a surface area of 267,667 km2. It is one of Sub-

Saharan Africa's few upper-middle-income countries that has benefited from a decade of steady economic growth, but is now facing head winds from low oil prices. The population is estimated at about 1.8 million and over 85 percent live in urban areas, with Libreville, the capital, accounting for 45 percent. Half of the Gabonese population is below nineteen years of age. Gabon is a well-endowed country with arable land, forests, and mineral and oil resources. For instance, 85 percent of the country is covered by equatorial rainforests and it is the fifth largest oil producer in Sub-Saharan Africa. In addition, Gabon is the second largest exporter of manganese. From 2008 to 2013, real economic growth averaged an impressive 5-6 percent per annum, but the recent decline in oil prices and subsequent loss of revenue has led to a slowdown, with gross domestic product (GDP) growth falling from 5.6 percent to 4.3 percent between 2013 and 2014. Moreover, in 2014, the total revenue declined to 26.3 percent of GDP, down from 30.8 percent in 2013. As a result, public expenditures, particularly public investment, were cut sharply in 2014 from 10.9 percent of GDP in 2013 to 6.7 percent.

However, high per capita income levels and economic growth did not result in rapid poverty reduction, shared prosperity, and improved human development outcomes. Poverty and inequality levels in Gabon remain high, but data are outdated-the most recent baselines are over a decade old-and precise levels are unknown. The population living on less than US$3.10 per day (in 2011 purchasing power parity terms) was last measured as 24 percent in 2005. Gabon is ranked a dismal 110th (out of 187 countries) in the 2015 Human Development Index report, which is far below countries with similar GDP per capita. In the absence of an integrated program of economic and household surveys to produce relevant and timely data, there has been a lost opportunity to inform economic policy, understand and maximize the development impact of economic growth, and mitigate the adverse effects of shocks-including the recent decline in oil prices.

In 2010, the Government commenced implementation of the Gabon Emergent Strategic Plan (Plan Strategique Gabon Emergent, PSGE) which articulates the need to strengthen the National Statistical System (NSS). The PSGE aims to reduce the country's dependence on natural resource extraction and position the country as a top emerging market globally by 2025. The PSGE recognizes that infrequently collected data and untimely disseminated statistics are not conducive to design and implement an evidence-based economic policy agenda. Accordingly, among the objectives of the PSGE are to (a) consolidate the legal and institutional framework of the NSS and (b) strengthen its capacity to generate and disseminate good quality-timely, frequent, and policy relevant-data and statistics.

Sectoral and institutional Context

The Gabonese statistical system is far from meeting the needs of users and its overall capacity is very weak. A National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) to improve statistical capacity was prepared, but only partially implemented due to a 70 percent financing gap. For 2011-2015, the Government endorsed the NSDS that was prepared with support from Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21). Achievements include successfully implementing the 2012 Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) and undertaking of the 2013 Population Census. However, most of the statistical activities in the NSDS-including conducting a household expenditure and poverty survey, an agricultural census, an enterprise census, and an informal sector survey-were not implemented due to lack of financial resources. During this period, only 30 percent (US$11.6 million) of the US$38.2 million total cost required to fully implement the NSDS was made available. Other areas identified in the NSDS that lacked financing include addressing staffing and skills gaps, infrastructural shortages, and the inadequate

working environment.

Statistical capacity in Gabon is aberrantly weak for an upper-middle-income country and has deteriorated over the past decade. In 2015, Gabon's overall Statistical Capacity Index (SCI) score was 40, declining from a 47.8 points in 2005, which now is the 12th lowest among 147 developing countries, well below the global, Sub-Saharan African, and IBRD countries' average scores of 59.9, and 74.8, respectively. The declining trend in Gabon's overall SCI score over the past decade is in sharp contrast to statistical developments in some Sub-Saharan African countries, including both low- and middle-income and both fast and slow growing economies.

The low and declining SCI for Gabon reflects deepening gaps in source data and the lagging, low volume, and poor quality of official statistical production. The source data-a household income and expenditure survey-for measuring poverty and inequality, weighting the Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket, and informing development policy is over a decade old. The National Accounts (NA) are outdated and quality is low: the base year is 2001; the last measures produced date back to 2009; and the most recent estimates produced were for 2012. Similarly deep gaps in source data, from both sample surveys and administrative sources, are pervasive in the key sectoral statistics, including agriculture and in the business register. For instance, the data on the informal sector in NA are based on a partial monographic study conducted in 2000. As a result, for each year, the informal sector is simply assumed to increase at the same pace as population growth. Agriculture statistics desperately needed are also missing. Since 1968, Gabon has not conducted agriculture census or annual agriculture surveys. Between 2003 and 2005, an attempt to fill the gap with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) support was not completed because of lack of funding. In addition, by 2018, a new Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) has to be conducted to keep the country on track on international good practices related to having such survey once every five.

Dissemination and coordination practices in the NSS require strengthening. Dissemination of statistical products lags substantially behind data collection. During the past five years only a handful of statistical products were disseminated and household survey microdata is generally not available. The annual statistical yearbook was last published in 2011. Until April 2015, the 2013 Population Census' provisional results were not released and it took almost 3 years before the final results are disseminated. Administrative health data for 2008 and 2011 were collected and compiled but never disseminated. The health statistical yearbook was last published in 2005. Only a handful of staff are able to use the statistical software tools used to compute and produce statistical outputs from raw household survey, census, and administrative data.

In addition to source data gaps, the statistical production process is constrained by the lack of analytically qualified staff, poor infrastructure, and an inadequate working environment. Only a handful of NSS staff are skilled in using the statistical software packages (such as SPSS and Stata) required to compute and generate statistics from sample survey data. In 2015, only 20 percent of the 250 staff of the General Directorate of Statistics (Direction Generale de la Statistique, DGS) had the right profile for a statistical service. For example, the 2012 DHS report, was produced largely by international experts. In addition to lacking expertise in software, operations are severely constrained by a shortage of information technology (IT) hardware and physical infrastructure. Internet access is unreliable. The ratio of computers to staff is 1:3 and half of the computers that are in use were acquired in 2007. There is an acute shortage of office furniture-including desks and chairs-and the vast majority of staff share (in groups of four to six)

cramped and dilapidated office spaces.

A new Statistics Act was adopted in 2015 and an institutional reform process is under way to establish an autonomous National Statistical Agency (NSA) at the apex of the NSS. The 2015 Statistics Act seeks to establish an institutional environment that will be more conducive toward efforts to strengthen the capacity of Gabon's NSS to generate better, timelier, and more accessible data and statistics to inform policy makers and monitor progress. This new law, consistent with the principles of the African Charter of Statistics and in line with the United Nations' Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, transforms the DGS (currently a ministerial department) into the NSA-an autonomous entity with the mandate to coordinate the NSS; conduct the decennial population census and the major nationally representative surveys; and produce, disseminate, and archive official economic, demographic, and social statistics.

In addition, the new law establishes a decentralized statistical system with the agency as the central organ of the system. The different ministries are given the responsibility for the compilation of statistics related to their sectors, mainly from administrative sources. The law also puts in place an independent body, the National Commission for Statistical Information, to regulate and orientate the statistical system. It also introduced several new features, including (a) fundamental principles of official statistics; (b) public access to anonymous microdata; and (c) the requirement to harmonize, within the national statistical producers, concepts, classification, and statistical methods in accordance with international standards.

Following the law, a first decree, which determines the juridical status of the agency, has been adopted in 2015 by the Government. However, the complete implementation of the law, so that the agency can be operational, needs that many complementary regulations and decrees be adopted. In this regard, through a statistical Reimbursable Advisory Services (RAS) agreement that Gabon has with the World Bank, technical assistance has been provided to draft all the needed regulations and decrees and submitted to the Government. They are expected to be adopted this year.

The proposed project is fully in line with the objectives of the NSDS and will support the ongoing institutional reform process. The proposed project aims to sustain the ongoing efforts to strengthen the capacity of the NSS and is structured into three components. They are (a) Improve Data Collection, Statistical Production, and Dissemination; (b) Build Technical Capacity and Modernize Infrastructure; and (c) NSS Institutional Reform, Project Management Capacity Building.

C. Proposed Development Objective(s)

Development Objective(s)

The development objective of this project is to strengthen the capacity of the DGS, fill key data gaps, improve statistical production, and enhance statistical dissemination practices.

Key Results

The key aspects of the PDO are the strengthening of DGS's capacity, filling key data gaps, improving statistical production, and enhancing dissemination practices. In this respect, the key data gaps identified pertain to poverty, national accounts, price, agriculture and health statistics. As a result, progress toward the PDO will be measured and monitored through the following

indicators:

(a)   Increase in the Gabon's Statistical Capacity Index score;
(b)   Number of welfare, agriculture, economic and business surveys and censuses conducted;
(c)   Improved National Accounts and Price Statistics ;
(d)   Number of survey and census microdata files freely available online.

The key outputs of the project that will be monitored include the following:

(a)   Number of staff at the DGS with improved skills;
(b)   Data collection of the next welfare survey is completed ;
(c)   The sample for the agriculture census is prepared;
(d)   Base year of the CPI is updated;
(e)   Increase in the number of technical staff working on National Accounts at the DGS.

D. Project Description

The proposed project is structured into three components. They are (a) Improve Data Collection, Statistical Production, and Dissemination; (b) Build Technical Capacity and Modernize Infrastructure; and (c) NSS Institutional Reform, Project Management Capacity Building.

Component 1: Improve Data Collection, Statistical Production, and Dissemination (US$33.3 million)

Because the ultimate objective of each NSS is to deliver reliable and timely statistics to the Government, citizens, businesses, international organizations, and other institutions for informed decisions, this output and outcome-oriented component is the first pillar of the proposed project. The overall aim of this component is to support the Gabonese NSS toward this goal. Specifically, it aims to fill critical data gaps, expand and improve statistical production, and enhance data accessibility and dissemination practices. In this respect, the three focus areas of this component are (i) National Accounts and real sector statistics; (ii) welfare monitoring statistics; and (iii) agricultural statistics. These areas of focus were selected by a policy-driven approach, including the most pressing demands in the Government PSGE. These focus areas are also in line with the priorities expressed in the NSDS.

Subcomponent 1.1: National Accounts (NA) and Real Sector Statistics (US$8.5 million)

In addition to the shortcomings in data source, the current capacity and staffing levels in the DGS unit responsible for the compilation of NA are insufficient. In this regard, the priority here will be the capacity building of the staff and support on data collect and processing. The methodology of national accounts currently in use will be upgraded to ensure compliance with international standards and best practices. To ensure medium-term sustainability, the project will provide in-house technical assistance through a resident lead NA expert and three high-level statisticians to work alongside and build the skills and capacity of the existing staff. The project will also funds the realization of a national economic census, to update the business register, quarterly business surveys as well as some specific related surveys needed. The overall objective will be to (a) eliminate the four-year backlog in producing NA estimates; (b) bring the production and dissemination cycle of NA statistics up to date; (c) develop capacity to produce quarterly NA

estimates; (d) update the currently in use methodology of national accounts to ensure its compliance with international standards and best practices (an action plan and work toward compliance with the 2008 System of National Accounts' standards will be developed and implemented); (e) re-base the NA using the new source data that will be made available through the support of the project, especially the planned household, agricultural, and business census and surveys. New source data from the last 2013 population and housing census will also be used in this process; and (f) develop a new macroeconomic projection model.

The project will also strengthen price statistics and aim to (a) update the CPI base year from 2003 to 2017 using the Gabonese Survey for Poverty Assessment (Enquete Gabonaise pour l'Evaluation de la Pauvrete, EGEP) II data and (b) enhance the monthly price data collection operations from 2017 onward by refining the list of products and services and expanding the geographical market coverage beyond Libreville to three additional cities-Franceville, Port-Gentil, and Oyem. A technical study will be financed to determine whether a potential shift to Computer Assisted Personal Interviews (CAPIs) to collect market price data would be feasible and cost effective. The base year's prices of the index are expected to be collected throughout 2017 and the production of the new index would start in 2018. The project further proposes to finance technical assistance by CPI experts as well as data collection costs, including equipment and software.

The project also proposes to provide support to regularly produce and disseminate macroeconomic statistics and leading indicators to enable timely monitoring of the economy. The production of regular flagship annual statistical publications will also be supported (for example, the statistical yearbook and annual wage rate statements). Finally, technical assistance will be supported to design a data collection approach that is able to cost-effectively produce regular labor force indicators to complete the suite of statistics required to monitor the real sector of the economy.

Subcomponent 1.2: Welfare Monitoring Statistics (US$14.0 million)

The project proposes to finance data collection for two household income, expenditure, and living standards surveys-EGEP II and III-to be conducted respectively in 2017 and 2020, respectively. The 2017 survey will also contain a module on the informal sector and both surveys will include a module on employment. The core methodology of the surveys related to household consumption data collection will be based on current best practices and follow the World Bank-endorsed approach adopted by the West African Economic and Monetary Union countries. These surveys will be conducted using a CAPI methodology. In accordance with the General Data Dissemination Standard guidelines, publically and freely available reports with poverty numbers will be published within 9-12 months following the end of data collection.

The technical assistance needed to implement the 2017 survey is being provided through the abovementioned RAS. The support from the project will cover the cost of all the field activities, including data collection equipment (mainly vehicles and tablets), enumerators, controllers, supervisors, and trainings. All these costs will be entirely funded through the Project Preparation Advance of US$3.75 million already granted to the government. The support will also include the conduct of poverty analysis workshops and help produce and peer review the reports. The 2020 survey will be fully funded by the project, including consultants, if needed.

Additional technical assistance will be financed to produce a thematic socioeconomic atlas for Gabon based on the 2013 Population Census and generate a small-area poverty map using the 2017 EGEP II. Furthermore, technical assistance will be provided to prepare the technical documentation of the next 2023 population census. Finally, to provide updated data to monitor

welfare statistics from a demographic and health perspective and provide important gender indicators, the project will finance implementation of a DHS in 2018, including the contract with ICF-Macro to support and supervise the survey, as it was the case in 2012 when Gabon conducted a similar survey.

Subcomponent 1.3: Agricultural Statistics (US$ 8.8 million)

To fill data gaps and enable the production of agriculture statistics, the project proposes to support two main data collection activities: (a) an agriculture census in 2017 and (b) at least one annual agricultural production survey to be conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture with the support of the NSA and technical assistance from the United Nations FAO. The census will be conducted in accordance with the modular approach recommended by the FAO. This approach encompasses a core census module based on complete enumeration or a large sample to provide key data and one or more supplementary census modules to cover selected topics in-depth.
Because agriculture is essentially practiced in rural areas, the census will principally cover this area, which represents 14 percent of the population in Gabon. However, the 2013 Population Census data will be analyzed to determine whether some parts of the urban areas are to be excluded. The census will be based on a complete screening of the concerned area, which will lead to a sample frame for the agriculture surveys. The reference master frame of the agriculture census will be the enumeration areas of the 2013 Population Census and the census will cover both crops and animal species.
In the three years after the agriculture census, a sample from the agriculture census will be used to carry out annual agricultural production surveys. During the surveys, many supplementary modules will be covered for an in-depth analysis of selected issues, including drivers of agricultural productivity.
The project will finance the hiring of a seasoned agriculture statistics specialist to support the Ministry of Agriculture with the design, implementation, and analysis of the census and the surveys. Publicly and freely available reports detailing the findings from each survey will be produced and published within 9-12 months following the end of data collection.

Subcomponent 1.4: Improve Data Access and Dissemination (US$2 million)

Filling critical data gaps is not just about enabling the measurement of gender disparities or changes in poverty or in employment levels. When these data and statistics are disseminated freely and widely, they do not just inform policy makers. Open data and timely statistics will also inform development partners, the private sector, and the Gabonese public in general. That in turn unleashes the potential to inspire and catalyze broad-based efforts to reduce poverty, create jobs, and foster gender equality.
The objective of this focus area is to improve data access and dissemination by financing (a) the redesign of NSS agency and line minis try department websites in line with open data principles; (b) the formulation and adoption of data dissemination and microdata access policies; and (c) technical assistance and training to roll out the Accelerated Data Program initiative and provide free online access to anonymized census and household survey microdata. In addition, the project proposes to finance the establishment of a small-scale printing and publishing unit at the new NSA to enhance the dissemination capacity of the NSS. The cost to revival quarterly and annual statistical bulletins by the National Statistical Agency will be also funded through this sub-component.

Component 2: Build Technical Capacity and Modernize Infrastructure (US$13.5 million)

The staff's technical capacity, the working environment, and the availability of adequate equipment count as important pillars of the statistical capacity, because they are important factors in the productivity of each institution. In this regard, the aim of this component is to strengthen the overall technical capacity and skills of staff and modernize the infrastructure, especially at the new NSA. To that end, the project intends to support the human resources development, and finance the renovation and refurbishment of the building that will host the headquarters of the created NSA.

Subcomponent 2.1: Build Technical Capacity (US$2 million)

Through this component, the project will invest in (a) strengthening the human resource profile of the NSS; (b) implementing a training and skill enhancement program for existing staff; and (c) providing scholarships to successful temporary contract staff and candidates in statistics. The training program will be conducted primarily in-house, will be designed by experts to fit precise needs, and will focus on specific statistical skills that are linked directly to data collection or statistical production activities, because the overall objective is to permanently improve the quality of the statistical products.

Subcomponent 2.2: Modernize Infrastructure (US$11.5 million)

The project proposes to finance the renovation and refurbishment of the dilapidated building used by the DGS, which the Government has officially allocated as the building that will serve as the headquarters of the new NSA. The activities to be financed include work to undertake interior renovations of the building, procurement of office furniture, and enhancement of the electrical and IT systems. Equipment for data collection (vehicles), for data processing, analysis, and storage (servers, computers, and laptops) as well as for data dissemination (web server, printing and scanning equipment) are also needed to enable data collection, production, and dissemination activities.

The project will also finance the establishment of a modern and functional data center to ease the current movement of the DGS toward the modernizing of data collection processes by the use of new technologies. The data center will particularly ensure management of the IT system, data dissemination, and archiving, and tablet-based data collection processes.

Component 3: NSS Institutional Reform, Project Management Capacity Building (US$3.2 million)

The statistical governance, comprising the regulatory framework governing the system and the structure and management of the NSS, is an important component of the statistical capacity because of its impact on the effectiveness of the system. On the other hand, having overall good quality project management is crucial to achieving the current PDO. Therefore, the aim of this component is to support implementation of the ongoing statistical institutional reform and ensure that there is adequate capacity for project management.

Subcomponent 3.1: NSS Institutional Reform (US$1.2 million)

The aim of this subcomponent is to support implementation of the ongoing NSS institutional

reform in accordance with the 2015 Statistics Act, to particularly ensure that the new NSA and the new statistical coordination council are efficiently operational. Through the RAS, technical assistance has been provided to prepare all the regulations required to have the two bodies start their activities. The Government is expected to adopt the prepared regulations by the end of 2016. In this respect, this project will not only take over all the technical assistance intended to be provided by the RAS (which will stop implementing any activity of such once the project is approved) but will also focus on the development of annual business plans of the NSA, the development and implementation of an effective human resources management system, and on strengthening the National Commission for Statistical Information (NCSI). In this regard, this subcomponent will support (a) the design of the next NSDS and finance technical assistance to develop, implement, and monitor the Statistical Office's annual business plans; (b) the recruitment of a senior statistics advisor; (c) the financing of technical assistance to develop a results-based management system; and (d) the statistical coordination activities through the NCSI.
Because the main objective of the NSDS is to draw an action plan on what will be done during the next four to five years to ensure that better statistics are made available to meet the priority needs of national and international decision makers as well as those of civil society, the NSDS will in turn offer the opportunity to the NSA to develop its annual business plans accordingly. The programming exercise will help the NSA establish a new standard of corporate performance and the process is expected to be executed with the full involvement of all services to ensure the support of all and develop a sense of responsibility and commitment from all the Agency's entities. Furthermore, this annual activity programming exercise must ensure that for each product, the costs are assessed and the planning period of issuance of each product is indicated. The senior statistics advisor will be based at the NSA and provide guidance to the Director General (DG) and senior management team to support implementation of the institutional reforms and change process of the NSS. The objective of developing a results-based management system is to establish a staff evaluation and monitoring approach that provides incentives and career development opportunities to well-performing staff.

Subcomponent 3.2: Project Management (US2 million)

This subcomponent will finance the National Commission for Public Infrastructure Works and Promotion of Small-Scale Enterprises (Commission Nationale des Travaux d'Interet Public pour la Promotion de l'Entreprenariat et de l'Emploi, CN-TIPPEE) to manage all nontechnical aspects of the project activities, including procurement, financial management (FM), monitoring and evaluation (M&E), and safeguards support. Some of the project management costs will be shared with the other World Bank-funded projects managed by the CN-TIPPEE, but a dedicated project team within the CN-TIPPEE will be recruited and wholly funded by the project, and will report to the permanent secretary. The CN-TIPPEE's project management team will also build capacity of the NSA's administrative and project management staff.
Funding will also be made available to the NSA to organize user satisfaction surveys, aimed at strengthening dialogue with the users of statistics and assessing the impact of the project activities.

Component Name
Component 1: Improve Data Collection, Statistical Production and Dissemination
Comments (optional)

Component Name

Component 2: Build Technical Capacity and Modernize Infrastructure

Comments (optional)

Component Name

Component 3: NSS Institutional Reform, Project Management Capacity

Comments (optional)

E. Project location and salient physical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis (if known)

The data collection activities will be conducted across the entire country. The data processing and analytical activities will be primarily undertaken in Libreville. The project will benefit the entire population. The interior refurbishment of the building of the Agency's headquarters will be done in Libreville within an enclosed site already owned and in use by the Government and no land acquisition or physical resettlement is required. Project activities are not expected to have any adverse environmental or social impacts. In order to ensure environmental sustainability, guidance is provided to ensure that basic hygiene and worker health and safety rules are observed during the rehabilitation. The project is designated category C per the Bank's policy on Environmental Assessment (OP/BP 4.01).

F. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists

Albert Francis Atangana Ze (GEN07)

II. Implementation

Institutional and Implementation Arrangements

The proposed implementation arrangement builds on the current IBRD practice in Gabon and is structured around two organizational levels. The DGS will oversee the overall technical management and delivery of the project. The nontechnical implementation aspects of the project will be managed by the CN-TIPPEE, an experienced project implementation unit responsible for implementation of all IBRD-financed projects in Gabon and is directed by a permanent secretary. Reporting to the DG of the DGS for overall guidance, direction, and coordination, the CN-TIPPEE will be responsible for nontechnical project implementation, including procurement, FM, M&E, and safeguards support. A dedicated project management team headed by a deputy coordinator will be recruited and wholly funded by the project, and will report to the permanent secretary and the DG of the DGS. This architecture follows the current practice in IBRD project management arrangements in Gabon and will facilitate both effective implementation and capacity building.

The CN-TIPPEE is a national entity placed under the Ministry of Economy, which is currently implementing almost all the projects funded by the World Bank in Gabon and has so far demonstrated strong commitment and professionalism with a strong experience in handling World Bank procedures. This arrangement will mitigate fiduciary risks and the anticipated capacity constraints that will arise during the institutional reform process to establish the NSA. This will leverage the existing CN-TIPPEE structure and track record to build capacity in the NSA while

simultaneously ensuring smooth implementation of the project. The technical management of the project will transition from the DGS to the NSA, when the latter is established and becomes operational. The CN-TIPPEE will continue to implement all nontechnical aspects of the project, but will also provide technical assistance to build capacity in procurement, FM, M&E, communications, and safeguards once the NSA is operational and its administration and finance departments are staffed.

Under the supervision of the Statistical Office DG, a project management committee will be set up by the agency to oversee the overall implementation of the project. Reporting directly to the Statistical Office DG, the committee will oversee, promote, coordinate, support, monitor, and evaluate the implementation of the project. It will also be responsible for managing and coordinating this operation, especially the planning, budgeting, monitoring, and reporting of the activities. Beside the agency, the committee will comprise representatives from all the other direct beneficiaries, especially the Ministries of Agriculture, Health, and Employment. The General Directorate of Economy and Fiscal Policy and the CN-TIPEE will also be part of the committee.

III. Safeguard Policies that might apply

Safeguard Policies	Triggered?	Explanation (Optional)
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01	No	
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04	No	
Forests OP/BP 4.36	No	
Pest Management OP 4.09	No	
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11	No	
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10	No	
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12	No	
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	No	
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	No	
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60	No	

IV. Key Safeguard Policy Issues and Their Management

A. Summary of Key Safeguard Issues

1. Describe any safeguard issues and impacts associated with the proposed project. Identify and describe any potential large scale, significant and/or irreversible impacts:
2. Describe any potential indirect and/or long term impacts due to anticipated future activities in the project area:
3. Describe any project alternatives (if relevant) considered to help avoid or minimize adverse

impacts.
4. Describe measures taken by the borrower to address safeguard policy issues. Provide an assessment of borrower capacity to plan and implement the measures described.
5. Identify the key stakeholders and describe the mechanisms for consultation and disclosure on safeguard policies, with an emphasis on potentially affected people.

B. Disclosure Requirements

If the project triggers the Pest Management and/or Physical Cultural Resources policies, the respective issues are to be addressed and disclosed as part of the Environmental Assessment/ Audit/or EMP.
If in-country disclosure of any of the above documents is not expected, please explain why:

C. Compliance Monitoring Indicators at the Corporate Level

The World Bank Policy on Disclosure of Information	
Have relevant safeguard policies documents been sent to the World Bank's Infoshop?	Yes [ ] No [ ] NA [×]
Have relevant documents been disclosed in-country in a public place in a form and language that are understandable and accessible to project-affected groups and local NGOs?	Yes [ ] No [ ] NA [×]
All Safeguard Policies	
Have satisfactory calendar, budget and clear institutional responsibilities been prepared for the implementation of measures related to safeguard policies?	Yes [ ] No [ ] NA [×]
Have costs related to safeguard policy measures been included in the project cost?	Yes [ ] No [ ] NA [×]
Does the Monitoring and Evaluation system of the project include the monitoring of safeguard impacts and measures related to safeguard policies?	Yes [ ] No [ ] NA [×]
Have satisfactory implementation arrangements been agreed with the borrower and the same been adequately reflected in the project legal documents?	Yes [ ] No [ ] NA [×]

V. Contact point

World Bank
Contact: Abdoullahi Beidou
Title: Senior Economist/Statistician

Borrower/Client/Recipient
Name: Gabonese Republic
Contact:

Title:
Email:

Implementing Agencies
Name: CN-TIPPEE
Contact: Richard DAMAS
Title: Secretaire Permanent
Email: tippeegabon@cntippee.org

VI. For more information contact:

The InfoShop
The World Bank
1818 H Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20433
Telephone: (202) 458-4500
Fax: (202) 522-1500
Web: http://www.worldbank.org/infoshop

VII. Approval

Task Team Leader(s):	Name: Abdoullahi Beidou	
Approved By		
Safeguards Advisor:	Name: Maman-Sani Issa (SA)	Date: 28-Sep-2016
Practice Manager/ Manager:	Name: Andrew L. Dabalen (PMGR)	Date: 28-Sep-2016
Country Director:	Name: Elisabeth Huybens (CD)	Date: 28-Sep-2016