# Gabon Blue Bond — Sovereign Debt Conversion for Ocean Conservation

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Gabon

Quality score: 27/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

### *Summary*

Gabon closed a $500M debt-for-nature swap with Bank of America and The Nature Conservancy in August 2023 — the first in mainland Africa — unlocking $163M for ocean conservation and $5M a year for 15 years to expand marine protection from 26% to 30%.

### *Key dimensions*

| Dimension | Score |
| --- | --- |
| Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced | 0/3 |
| Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced | 2/3 |
| Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control | 0/3 |
| Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced | 0/3 |
| Governance, certification & transferability | 2/3 |

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

### *Data sources*

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-08-31

Government of Gabon, Bank of America, The Nature Conservancy — accessed 2026-08-31

Bank of America — Gabon sovereign debt refinancing press release — accessed 2026-08-31

The Nature Conservancy — Gabon debt conversion announcement — accessed 2026-08-31

Afronomicslaw — critical reflections on Gabon's debt-for-nature swap — accessed 2026-08-31

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