

Gabon's CAFE Payment: Africa's First Forest-Carbon Cheque, and Its Minister's Own Admission

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Gabon

Quality score: 20/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

Under a 10-year, \$150M CAFE deal, Gabon became the first African country paid for forest-carbon results - \$17M in 2021 via AGEOS satellite monitoring. But Global Forest Watch data showed deforestation rising, and Gabon's own forests minister admitted emissions were not falling.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	1/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	1/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	0/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	0/3
Governance, certification & transferability	1/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-09-27

[Agence Gabonaise d'Études et d'Observations Spatiales \(AGEOS\)](#) — accessed 2026-09-27

[UNDP - Gabon receives first payment for reducing CO2 emissions](#) — accessed 2026-09-27

[Mongabay - Gabon becomes first African country to get paid for protecting its forests](#) — accessed 2026-09-27

[Climate Home News - Norway pays Gabon \\$17m for forest protection despite deforestation spike](#) — accessed 2026-09-27

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