



INTEGRATED SDG INSIGHTS GABON

This initiative supports the articulation of national commitments to SDG transformation, towards accelerated SDG action in the second half of the 2030 Agenda.



HOW TO READ THIS REPORT



Integrated SDG Insights provides an overview of a country's economic growth trajectory, highlighting potential conflicts between growth, environmental concerns, and societal well-being (referred to as the **SDG Moment**).



It builds from the foundation of national SDG progress through the lens of the 5Ps and uses machine learning to analyse national development ambition with an SDG lens (**SDG Trends & Priorities**).



Combined, these insights are mapped against SDG interlinkages to define policy choices that accelerate SDG progress, tailored to national context (**SDG Interlinkages**).



These policy choices are made against fiscal constraints and opportunities for stimulus to ensure choices translate to development impact and leave no one behind (**Finance & Stimulus**).

SDG MOMENT: GABON

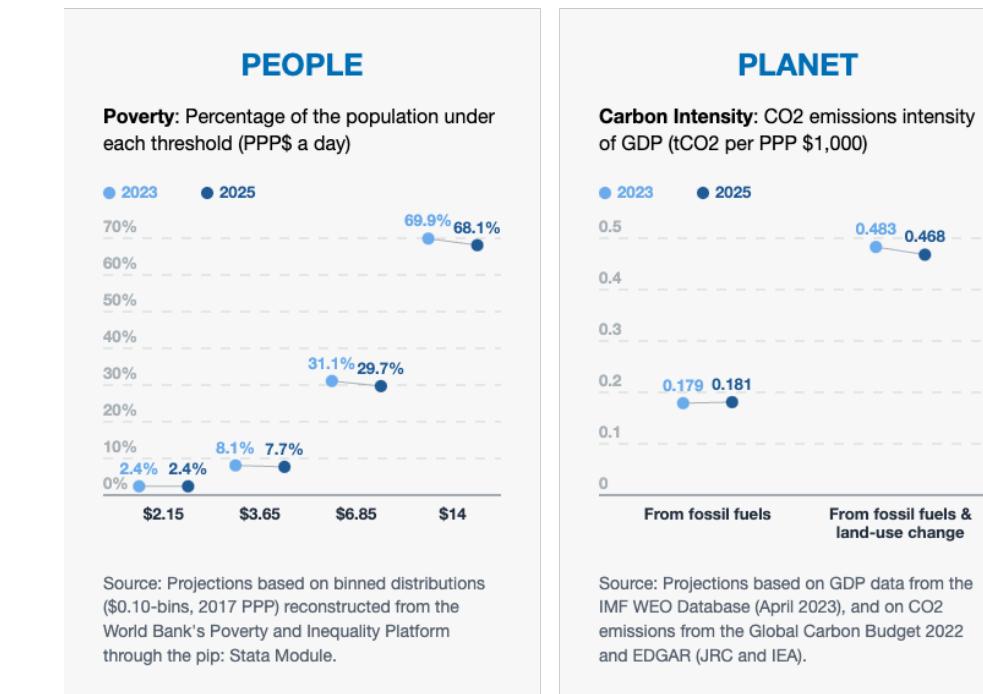
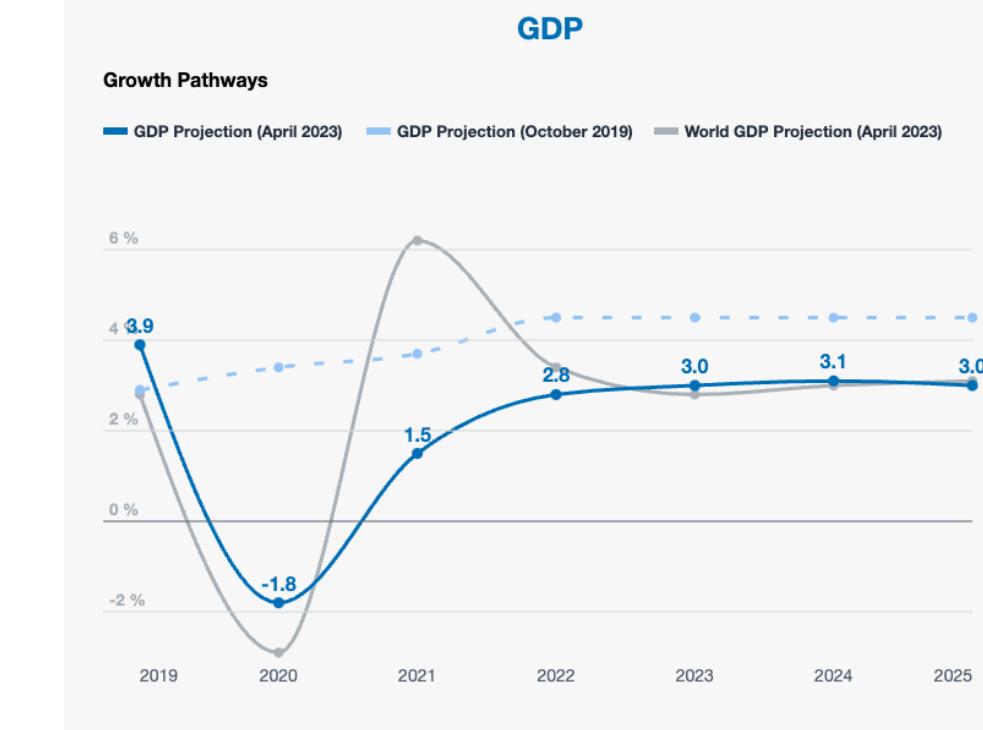
While economic growth is a key element in achieving the SDGs, many countries are intent on moving beyond growth as a yardstick for progress. In the short run, growth enables the SDGs; but in the long run, the SDGs aim to transform the pattern of growth itself.

Gabon's economic growth is in mitigation mode in 2023 but is projected to transition to higher rates of growth by 2024-2025.¹ This pace of growth is characterized by being 3% higher, on average, than the global figure, but well below the country's growth trajectory projected before the pandemic.

While this pace of growth would exert a somewhat positive impact on reducing poverty at \$3.65 a day, there are still significant challenges to accelerate progress, especially when using more stringent thresholds. Hence the country's commitment to achieving the SDGs should focus on reducing extreme poverty. On the other hand, this economic growth cycle comes at the expense of the environment as the country's carbon emissions intensity of GDP is expected to increase at an annual rate of 0.5% due to fossil fuel usage.²

¹ The economic cycle is determined by adjusting the country's current GDP growth forecasts (April 2023) by their gap relative to the forecasts made before the pandemic and subsequent crises (October 2019). If the adjusted rates (not shown) are below 2%, the economy is considered in mitigation; it is coping if the adjusted rates range between 2%-4%, and it is in acceleration if they are above 4%.

² CO2 emissions intensity of GDP is computed as tonnes of CO2 per \$1,000 (2017 PPP).



SDG TRENDS

Understanding how Gabon performs against the SDG targets provides a baseline landscape against which to build integrated SDG pathways. SDG progress tracking follows [UN Stats](#) standards and [methodology](#), and is aligned with country profiles.



Trends in detail:

<https://data.undp.org/sdg-push-diagnostic/GAB/sdg-trends>

SDG PRIORITIES

Gabon's national priorities are analysed using machine learning to reveal the most prominent SDGs referenced in national policy documents. This analysis uses a custom-built model for SDG classifications. It considers 100k+ terms, including phrases and expressions.



Key documents for analysis:

1. Transformation Acceleration Plan 2021-2023
2. Strategic Plan Gabon: Vision 2025 and Strategic Orientations 2011-2016

Priorities in detail:

<https://data.undp.org/sdg-push-diagnostic/GAB/current-priorities>

SDG INTERLINKAGES

SDG interlinkages reveal how actions directed towards one SDG can impact others. Uncovering and understanding these interactions can help Gabon to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to navigate trade-offs.

Based on a global framework for interlinkages, Gabon's SDG progress is colour-coded at the target level. Building from national priorities, the following pathways reflect policy investments with the most potential to accelerate the SDGs for Gabon:

- Target 8.5: Full employment and decent work with equal pay
- Target 9.2: Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization
- Target 11.2: Affordable and sustainable transport systems

Note that the guidance for Member States is to identify a set of priority areas for investment that will help secure maximum progress across the SDGs. The three targets could form a basis for this. The other two include setting a national benchmark for reducing poverty and inequality, and an overview of planned adjustments in national planning and institutional frameworks that will better support the SDGs' achievement.



ACCELERATION PATHWAYS

SYNERGIES

TRADE-OFFS

SDG INTERLINKAGES

8.5: By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value

Job creation in industry and services has not been sufficient to drive structural transformation in Gabon. Inactivity and unemployment rates are high at 52% and 14% of the working population aged 15–64 years. The unemployment rates are particularly high among youth (21%) and women (19% vs. 11% for men), and rise to 32% and 29%, respectively when discouraged workers are included. About 50% of the unemployed are less than 30 years old and/or first-time job seekers, underlying the difficulty of the young generations to access the labour market.

To create jobs and reduce poverty, it is essential that Gabon increases its growth potential substantially through economic diversification, the accumulation of human capital and physical assets, and by attracting private investment in agriculture, fisheries, manufacturing, ecotourism, green economy, environmental services and digital services, which have a large untapped potential to support structural transformation.

By focusing on SDG Target 8.5 Enhancing trade in goods and services, Gabon can open new drivers of growth, create jobs and reduce poverty and inequality. These new drivers of growth will help Gabon to break free from its resource dependent growth model and create the conditions to move people into jobs in promising green sectors.

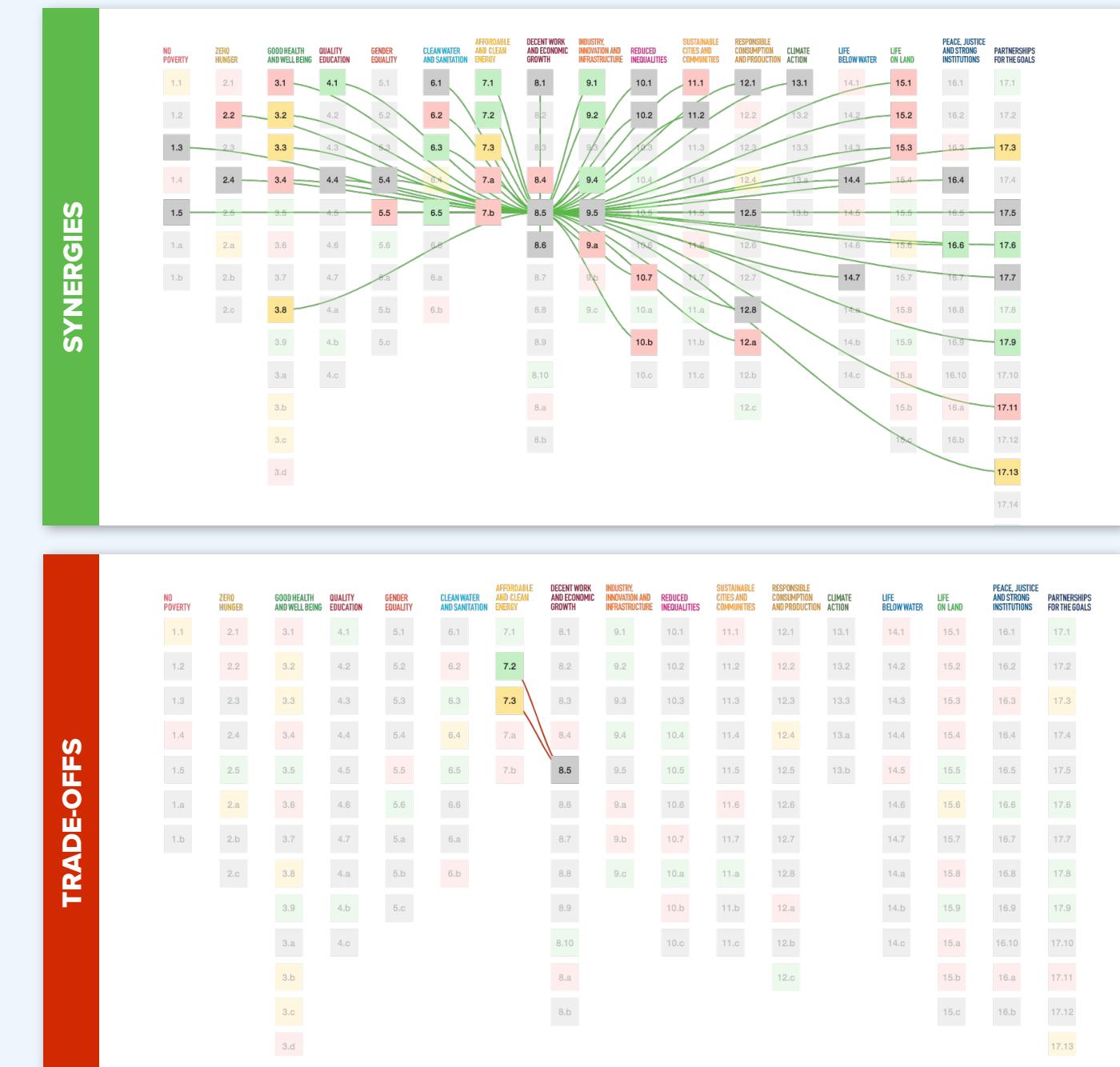
Progress on Target 8.5 should be supported with policies to reduce energy intensity and increase its efficiency to mitigate the negative impact on the share of renewable energy (Target 7.2), energy efficiency (Target 7.3) and strengthening its resilience to environmental and climate shocks by leveraging trade in carbon credits linked to the preservation of rainforests.

● ON TRACK

● FOR REVIEW

● OFF TRACK

● TRENDS NA



Explore the interlinkages at:

<https://data.undp.org/sdg-push-diagnostic/GAB/synergies-and-tradeoffs>

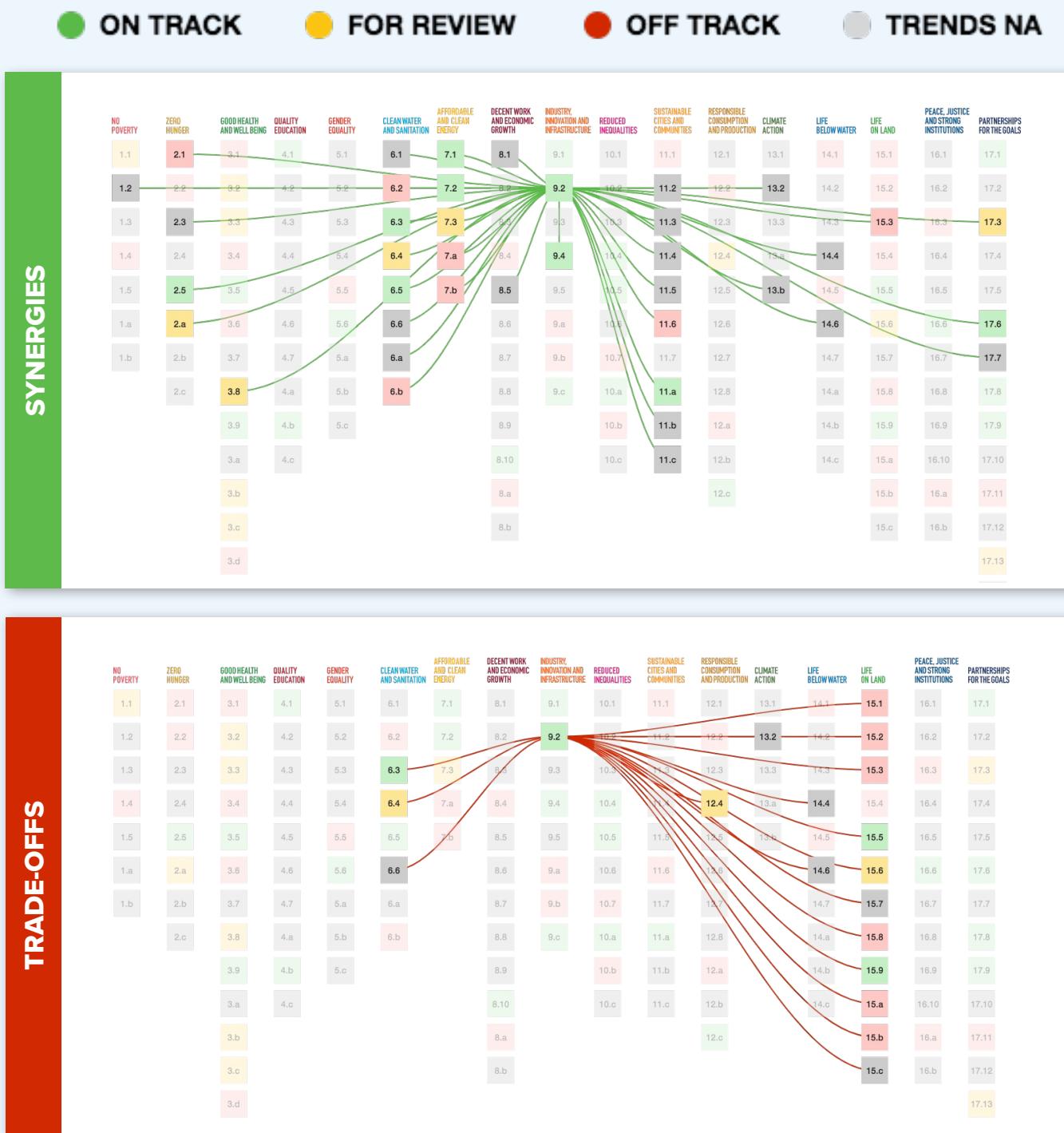
SDG INTERLINKAGES

9.2: Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries

SDG 9.2 aims to foster inclusive and sustainable industrialization in Gabon while simultaneously enhancing its economic transformation. Heavy reliance on oil has hampered the country's economic transformation. The country is one of the most highly commodity-dependent economies in the world, with oil, manganese and other extractives accounting for 98% of merchandise exports in 2021. Lack of economic diversification makes the economy vulnerable to external shocks and slows progress on reducing inequality, poverty and unemployment. Economic diversification offers multiple benefits, such as macroeconomic stability, economic growth, job creation and development, alongside promoting greater private sector activity, more sustainable public finances and greater skill diversity in the labour force .

However, the pursuit of economic diversification via industrialization also entails trade-offs. It requires careful consideration of environmental sustainability as industrial activities can have adverse ecological impacts — affecting ecosystems (15, 2), potable water (6), life below water (14) and life on land (15). Rapid industrialization could put pressure on energy access (7.2) at the expense of energy sustainability (7.2, 7.3). Ensuring inclusivity in this process is crucial to prevent potential social, gender, and territorial inequalities (10, 5).

By investing in SDG 9.2 (Industry, Infrastructure and Innovation), Gabon can improve on current employment challenges and focus on key priorities around the eradication of poverty, reducing inequality, improving the business environment and stimulating private sector investment. This would be complemented with reviving the country's agriculture, fisheries, manufacturing, stimulating ecotourism, environmental services and digital services; and leveraging trade in carbon credits linked to the preservation of rainforest will increase employment in the non-oil private sector.



Explore the interlinkages at

<https://data.undp.org/sdg-push-diagnostic/GAB/synergies-and-tradeoffs>

SDG INTERLINKAGES

11.2: By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons

Despite having all transport modes, Gabon faces a critical infrastructure gap. Poor and inadequate infrastructure is a key barrier to private sector-led growth and in expanding economic opportunities for households. With one of the highest urbanization rates in Africa, Gabon needs to promote integrated urban development. This means better urban planning, improving roads and local transport, and greater access to greener and more resilient infrastructure in underserved neighbourhoods.

To improve the quality and access to transport and infrastructure services, Gabon needs to develop a more integrated approach to transport and infrastructure connectivity anchored on a long-term multimodal strategy and a priority investment plan to coordinate efforts and mobilize additional financing for the following: the primary roads network, road maintenance, climate-resilient road construction, digital public infrastructure, increased competition for international flights and increasing private sector participation in infrastructure investment through public-private partnerships (PPPs).

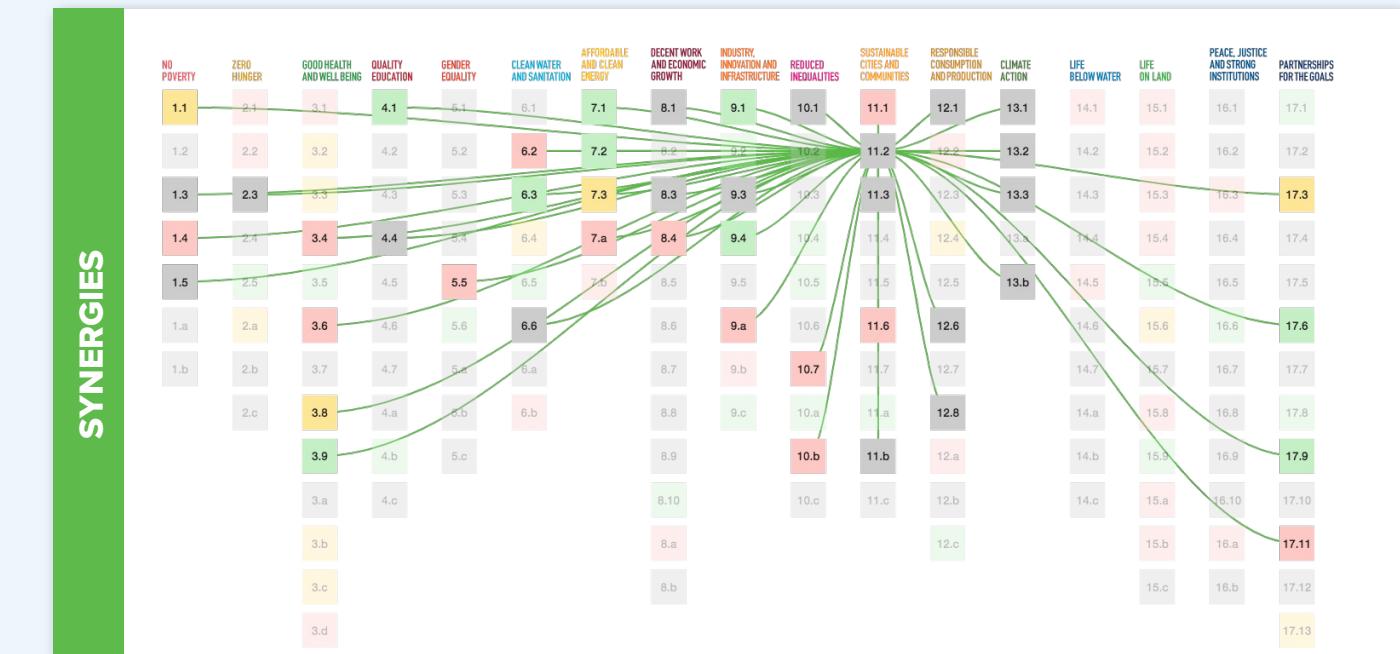
Providing access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all reduces extreme poverty and inequalities and enhances inclusive growth through stimulating private sector investment, access to jobs, health care, education services and other public goods when adequately supported by environmental safeguards on SDG Targets 2.3, 7.2 and 14.2.

● ON TRACK

● FOR REVIEW

● OFF TRACK

● TRENDS NA



Explore the interlinkages at:

<https://data.undp.org/sdg-push-diagnostic/GAB/synergies-and-tradeoffs>

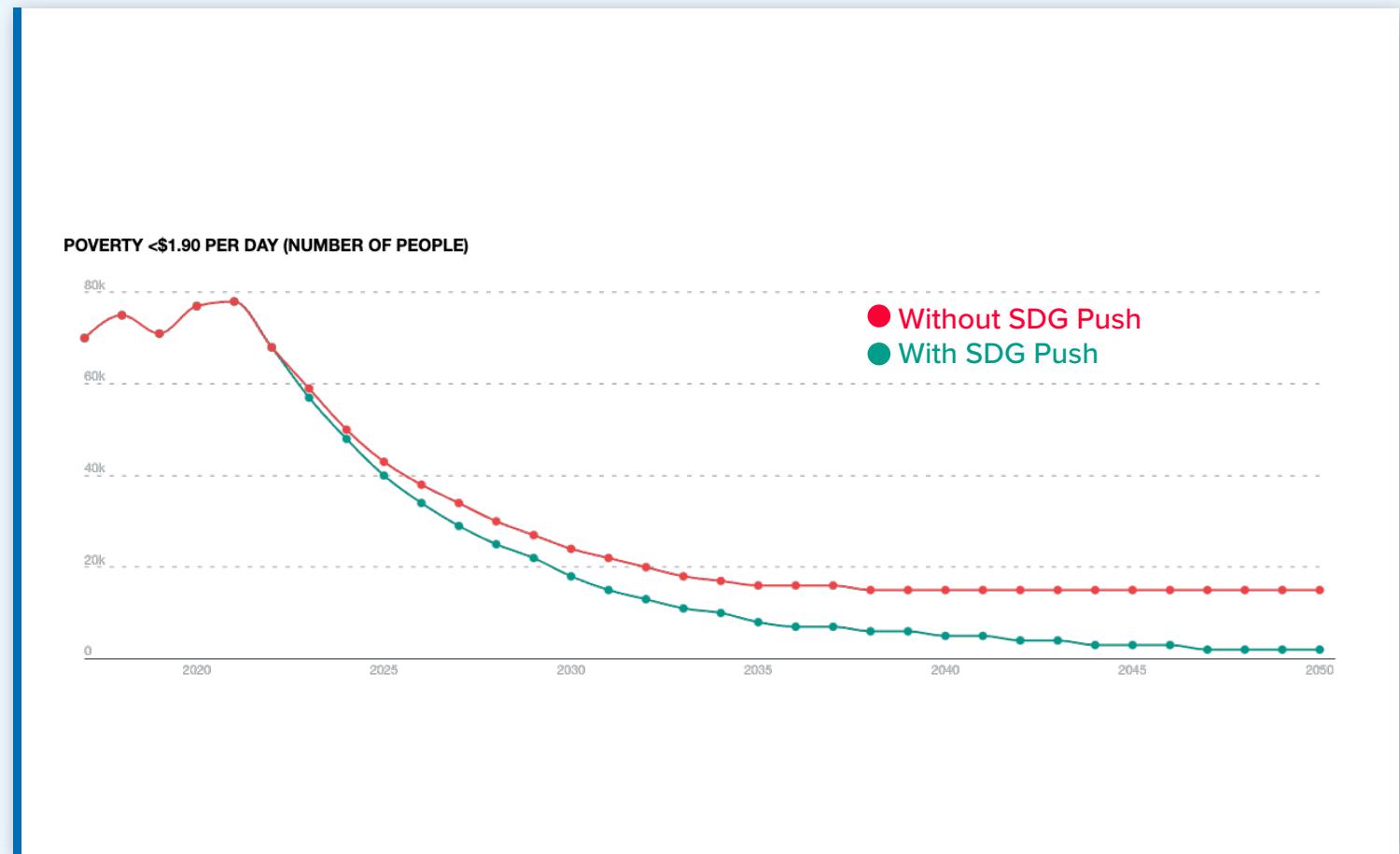
FUTURES SCENARIOS

Achieving the SDGs is possible.

The ‘SDG Push’ is a futures scenario based on 48 integrated accelerators in the areas of Governance, Social Protection, the Green Economy and Digital Disruption. It uses national data to explore the impact on human development by 2030 and by 2050 across key SDG indicators.

Incorporating ‘SDG Push’ accelerators into development interventions in Gabon can reduce the number of people living in poverty over time.

People living in poverty	By 2030	By 2050
Without the SDG Push	24,000	15,000
With the SDG Push	18,000	2,000



Explore SDG Futures Scenarios at:

<https://data.undp.org/sdg-push-diagnostic/GAB/future-scenarios>

FINANCE & STIMULUS

Many countries are facing reduced fiscal space, high debt levels, rising interest rates and downgrades on credit ratings. Fiscal and financial constraints tend to slow or even reverse SDG progress.

The radar diagram shows low frequency data points linked to government revenue and debt as a proportion of GDP and the natural resource share of total revenue. The financial indicator graphs show external debt servicing relative to revenue and the sovereign credit rating.

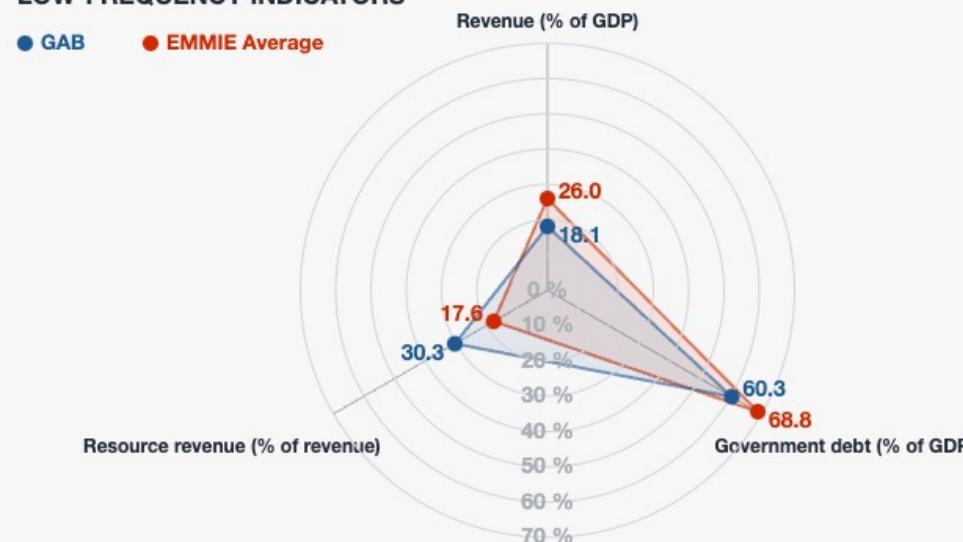
Gabon's gross government debt is projected at 60.3% of GDP in 2023 and is thus 8.5 percentage points (pp) below the emerging market and middle-income economies (EMMIE) group of 68.8%. With a projected 18.1% of GDP this year, Gabon collects less revenue than the average EMMIE country with 26%. Natural resources account for about one third of the country's revenue.

Gabon's public external debt servicing this year is projected to be as high as 16.9% of revenue, which is 7.6 pp above the EMMIE country average of 12.3%. The country's credit rating remains 'highly speculative' and significantly below the EMMIE average.

Gabon is using an Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) to address key fiscal and financial constraints and to build a more sustainable financial architecture at the national level. Priority actions have been identified in the areas of domestic revenue mobilization, including assessing the green taxation potential across key sectors of electricity, oil and gas, forestry, mining, agriculture livestock and fisheries, waste management and transportation; PPPs, including the application of sustainable PPP criteria to boost economic and social development; and other reforms aimed at enhancing alignment with the country's 'Green Gabon' vision, such as the integration of natural capital into national accounts, and the mobilization of private investments in green and blue sectors.

LOW-FREQUENCY INDICATORS

● GAB ● EMMIE Average



FINANCIAL INDICATORS

● GAB ● EMMIE Average

Total external debt servicing (% of revenue)

Credit rating

Notes: External debt covers public and publicly guaranteed debt. The EMMIE average of resource revenue (% of revenue) includes the 60 countries that reported data for that indicator. The credit rating shows the numerical average of S&P's, Moody's, and FITCH's ratings, expressed in S&P's scale in brackets.

Sources: UNU-WIDER GRD (resource revenue, data from 2021), IMF WEO April 2023 (debt and revenue, forecasts for 2023), IDS (external debt, data from 2023), S&P, Moody's and FITCH (credit ratings, data from 2023).

SDG STIMULUS

The UN Secretary General's SDG Stimulus Plan lays out a blueprint for action within the existing financial architecture. It includes:

- Providing liquidity to support recovery in the near term
- Enhancing debt relief for vulnerable countries
- Expanding development financing by MDBs
- Aligning financial flows with the SDGs and the Paris Agreement, according to country-level priorities and needs, for example through the roll-out of the UN Integrated National Financing Framework (INFFs).

Given the projected fiscal and financial constraints faced by Gabon, possible financing options for the investments derived from the identified interlinkages are as follows:

- Tax and revenue reform
- Debt for SDGs
- Climate finance
- Blended and public-private finance
- SDG-aligned business environment and investment
- Accessing financial markets and insurance
- Remittances, philanthropy and faith-based financing

United Nations Secretary-General's SDG Stimulus to Deliver Agenda 2030

FEBRUARY 2023



METHODOLOGY

Click [here](#) to view the Methodological Note for the Integrated SDG Insights



SDG MOMENT

Methodology

Assesses challenges and opportunities in national growth trajectories with insights on environmental sustainability and inclusiveness.

Data Sources

Future trajectories to 2025 are based on IMF-WEO GDP projections, distributions of per capita income or consumption from the World Bank, and CO₂ emissions from the Global Carbon Budget 2022 and EDGAR (JRC and IEA).



TRENDS & PRIORITIES

Methodology

SDG trends tracks progress from 2015 to date for the 231 indicators. National priorities are analysed using machine learning to reveal the most prominent SDGs referenced in national policy documents.

Data Source

Trends utilizes official [UN statistics](#) to assess [SDG progress](#), supplemented with national data when available. Priorities uses a custom-built model for SDG classification. The policy documents analyses are provided by Governments.



INTERLINKAGES

Methodology

Global target-level interlinkages are drawn from the [KnowSDGs Platform by European Commission](#). SDG interlinkages were retrieved through a structured literature review in Scopus and Google Scholar to tap both grey literature and peer-reviewed publications as a source of information.

Data Source

The exercise globally considered a total of 454 documents published from 2015 to August 2022. ([Miola et al., 2019](#) updated in [2021-2022](#))



FINANCE & STIMULUS

Methodology

Provides insight into indicators of fiscal and financial stress with options (INFF) for stimulus and other means to accelerate progress.

Data Source

Most recent resource data from UNU-WIDER GRD (between 2018 and 2021), debt and revenue from IMF WEO (between 2020 and forecasts for 2023), external debt from IDS (2023), yields from Haver Analytics (8 June 2023), credit ratings from S&P, Moodys and FITCH (2023), and DSA ratings from World Bank/IMF (31 May 2023).