

Our mission is to develop collaborative research, education, and public outreach partnerships between Gabon and Oregon to address urgent sustainable development challenges and opportunities.

Who We Are

The Gabon-Oregon Center applies scientific understanding, formal training, and public service to global-scale sustainable development dilemmas, while maintaining a local focus on the advancement of human well being for the citizens of Gabon and Oregon.

Under the new leadership of President Bongo Ondimba, Gabon is working to modernize its economy, achieve greater sustainability in its development activities, expand social justice, sharpen its focus on environmental conservation and public health, all to increase the quality of life in Gabon.

The University of Oregon is an ideal partner for Gabon: the UO is one of the world's leaders in research and teaching on sustainable development,

environmental conservation, and green business. The UO is also the hub of the five-campus Oregon African Studies Consortium, incorporating world-class schools of forestry, agriculture, and engineering; a top medical school with a strong focus on global health; and centers of excellence in African immigration, nursing, business, biology, and teacher training.

A North-South Partnership

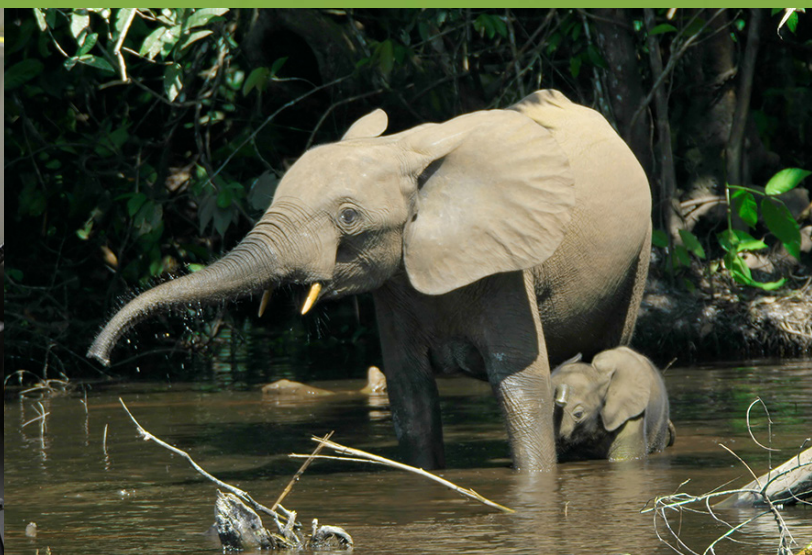
The Center represents a new partnership between the global North and South. It serves as a model for moving beyond 20th century notions of aid, technical assistance, and skills transfer towards mutual collaborations for the sustainable development of fragile ecosystems on both sides of the globe. For this reason, the Center has two locations: one in Libreville and the other in Eugene.

Sustainability Challenges

The Center seeks to advance sustainable development in Gabon and, through comparative analysis, in societies facing similar challenges and opportunities. Our diverse projects cluster in four research areas: environment, health, social and economic development, and specialized training and educational opportunities.

Social Transfer

Our focus is on two-way collaboration grounded in respect and regular sharing of novel techniques and best practices for sustainable development. The Center engages in capacity building in Gabon and Oregon, ensuring that every research includes a robust training component and builds human capital.



The Gabon-Oregon Center (GOC) collaborates with faculty, scientists, NGOs, institutions of higher education, and government agencies on a diverse set of research projects in disciplines ranging from forestry to public health in order to advance sustainable development in Gabon and in societies facing similar challenges. The research performed with the support of the GOC falls under four main categories:

- Environment
- Health
- Social and Economic Dimensions of Development
- Specialized Training and Educational Opportunities

We are working with partners in Gabon and member institutions of the Oregon African Studies Consortium (University of Oregon, Oregon State University, Portland State University, Willamette University and Oregon Health & Science University). Funding for these projects comes from a variety of sources, including government funding, private funding, large foundations and smaller research grants.

Current Projects and Research Areas

Urban Sustainability Program
(Architecture, Planning, Public Policy
and Management, Energy, Urban
Design, Urban Farming)

mHealth: Mobile Phone Health
Network for Young Women in Rural
Gabon (Public Health, Epidemiology,
Health Research)

Microbial Biodiversity in Tropical
Rainforests (Biology, Ecology)

Ogooué River Basin Sustainable
Management Program (Forestry,
Geography, Hydrology, Planning,
Public Policy and Management)

Ethnobotany & Anthelmintic
Drugs (Biology, Microfluidics,
Electrophysiology)

Environmental Law and Civic
Engagement (Natural Resource Law,
Land Tenure, Property Rights, Conflict
Resolution)

American English Institute program in
Gabon (AEI, Education)

Green Chemistry in Gabon
(Chemistry)

Epidemiology and Medical
Anthropology (Epidemiology,
Anthropology)

Deepen Forestry and Environmental
Sciences Education in Gabon
(Forestry, Political Science,
Geography, Environmental Studies,
International Studies)

Endangered Species in Tourism
Contexts (Anthropology)

Wood Durability, Harvest Reduction
and Carbon Accounting (Forestry)

Wood Products Innovation (Wood
Products Industry)

Ecotourism Business Models
(Geography, Business, Tourism and
Outdoor Program)

Alternative Energy and Materials
Science (Chemistry)

Marine Biodiversity in Gabon (Marine
Biology)

Manioc Toxicity (Global Health,
Toxicity)

Neurotoxicity of Hydrocarbons (Global
Health, Neurotoxicity)

Land Use, Livelihoods, and National
Parks (Anthropology, Geography,
International Affairs, Political Science)

Anti-Poaching Incentives and
Economic Modeling (Economics)

Ecotourism, Cultural Tourism and
Heritage Sites (Arts & Administration,
International Studies, Anthropology,
African Studies)

Cultural Cooperation and Media
(Journalism and Communication,
English Language Studies)

Archaeology and Cultural
Preservation (Archaeology,
Anthropology)

Neuroscience Trainings
(Neuroscience, Biology)

Distance Education Linkages for
Primary and Secondary Schools in
Gabon (Education)

For more information visit www.goc.uoregon.edu