

November 2019

منظمة  
الأغذية والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



Organisation des  
Nations Unies pour  
l'alimentation et  
l'agriculture

Продовольственная и  
сельскохозяйственная  
организация  
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las  
Naciones Unidas para la  
Agricultura y la  
Alimentación

## AFRICAN COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

### Twenty-sixth Session

Libreville, Gabon, 4 – 8 November 2019

### INFORMATION NOTE

#### 1. Introduction

The objective of this General Information is to provide participants at the 26<sup>th</sup> Session of AFCAS with all the necessary information so as to guide them for their travel and during their stay in Libreville, Gabon.

#### 2. Venue and date

The 26<sup>th</sup> Session of the African Commission on Agricultural Statistics (AFCAS) will be held at the Conference Room N° 2 of *Hôtel Boulevard* – Libreville, Gabon, from 4 to 8 novembre 2019.

#### 3. Registration

Registration of participants will take place at the Front Desk of Conference Room N° 2 of *Hôtel Boulevard* – Libreville, Gabon:

AFCAS: 4 November 2019, between 08h00 and 09h00  
The opening ceremony begins at 09h00.

#### 4. Technical documents for the meetings

The technical documents related to the 26<sup>th</sup> Session will be available from 30 September 2019 onwards at the following Website:

<http://www.fao.org/economic/ess/ess-events/afc/afc26/en/>

#### 5. Organization of the meetings

The Government of the Republic of Gabon is committed to provide the required equipment for the holding of this session. You will find the list of hotels where bookings can be made for participants at the Annex 1. Transportation will be provided from the hotel to the venue for the Conference.

## 6. Delegations

All participants are kindly requested to complete the form in Annex 2 and return it to the organizers latest by **11 October 2019**. The form contains all the details required for appropriate arrangements to be made to welcome and lodge delegates (Flight numbers and schedule).

## 7. Entry Requirements

### **Entry visa**

Entry into Gabonese territory is subject to a visa requirement. Two options are available:

- a) Obtaining a visa in the country of origin (please contact the Gabonese Embassy or Consulate);
- b) Obtaining a visa on arrival at the airport after obtaining prior entry permit.

### ***Obtaining a visa in the country of origin***

It is necessary to have a valid passport and an entry visa to travel to Gabon. The visa must be requested from the Gabonese diplomatic representations and consular. The list of documents to be provided is communicated by the consulate. Only original documents are accepted. These may be required upon arrival in Gabon by the officers of the Air or Border Police.

### ***On-site issuance of a visa in Gabon after obtaining prior entry authorization***

Exceptionally, for participants whose countries do not have Gabon Consulate and who do not transit through a country with a Gabone Consulate, an exemption will be made for them to be given their visa on arrival at Léon MBA International Airport for a fee of 50.000 Franc CFA (85 USD or 76 € EUR). For this, participants are to request an invitation letter from the National Coordinator of the Organization Committee of the 26<sup>th</sup> Session of AFCAS (whose address is at paragraph 15) to be sent to them by e-mail, indicating that their Entry Visa will be delivered to them in Libreville. For that purpose, your request must be sent by concerned participants to the National Coordinator early to obtain this invitation letter.

**Countries exempted from entry visa** in Gabon for any, type of passport are: South Africa, Morocco and Mauritius.

Nationals of the member countries of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC), the G20, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and certain countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Brazil, China, Côte d' Ivory, South Korea, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Israel, Guinea-Conakry, Mali, Russia and Senegal) holders of a biometric ordinary passport, a diplomatic passport or service passport **are exempt from an entry visa**.

**Participants, Holder of the United Nations Laissez-passer** are allowed to visit Gabon without a visa

### **Vaccinations**

Yellow fever vaccination is required before traveling to Gabon. Nevertheless, it is recommended that participants be vaccinated against:

- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Typhoid fever

## **Airport tax**

There is no airport tax to be paid, neither on arrival nor at departure.

## **8. Welcoming delegates**

Delegates who will have communicated their Flight itinerary (Flight number, Arrival time and date) **before 31 October 2019**, will be welcomed/received at Léon MBA International Airport. Transport will be provided (for them) from the airport to their hotel(s).

Unfortunately, participants arriving at Léon MBA International Airport but did not communicate their arrival details to the organizers will not be received and will have to find their own way to their Hotels at a taxi rate of between US\$3,5 to US\$5.

## **9. Local currency and foreign exchange**

Money can be changed at the airport, in banks, as well as in hotels where there are forex bureaux. The local currency is the Franc CFA.

The exchange rate at July 2019, for information only:

- 1 US Dollar \$ = 580 FCFA
- 1 Euro € = 655,96 FCFA

## **10. Hotel reservations**

The 26<sup>th</sup> AFCAS Secretariat will be situated at the premises of “l’Hôtel Boulevard”, ACAE Libreville LBV 18420 Gabon. Tel : +241 01705781 / 02125853 / 07896169 / 07788888 / 04071065  
E-mail: [hotelboulevardgb@hotmail.com](mailto:hotelboulevardgb@hotmail.com) / [hotelboulevard@hotelboulevardgabon.com](mailto:hotelboulevard@hotelboulevardgabon.com)  
Website: [www.hotel-boulevard.org](http://www.hotel-boulevard.org)

### **Hotel**

Arrangements will be made for reservations for participants at selected Hotels. Participants may choose from the list of Hotels that are proposed in Annex 1 and communicate to the AFCAS secretariat and to the National Organization Committee Coordinator.

To facilitate transport between the two (2) hotels and conference venue, a shuttle will be available for two (2) other hotels including:

We kindly advise the delegates to quickly make their hotel choice and communicate to the National Organization Committee to confirm booking.

## **11. Badges**

Special badges will be designed for this Conference and will be given to each participant. They will serve as identification for access to the venue of the meeting. Delegates are therefore required to wear them to facilitate the work for the Organisers.

## 12. Introduction of the host country (General Information)

Please refer to Annex 3 for the Map of Gabon and aerial view

<b>Location:</b>	Afrique Centrale
<b>Capital:</b>	Libreville
<b>Major Airport:</b>	Aéroport International Léon MBA
<b>Population:</b>	1.811.079 (RGPL-2013)
<b>Time:</b>	GMT + 1
<b>Currency:</b>	Franc CFA
<b>President:</b>	Son Excellence Monsieur Ali BONGO ONDIMBA
<b>Prime Minister:</b>	Julien NKOGHE BEKALE
<b>Official Language:</b>	Français
<b>Calling code:</b>	+241
<b>Membership of international organizations:</b>	Le Gabon est membre de: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC)</li><li>- Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)</li><li>- Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC)</li><li>- International Organization of La Francophonie (OIF)</li><li>- African Union (UA)</li><li>- United Nations (UN)</li></ul>

### Geography

The Republic of Gabon or Gabon, located west of Central Africa, is crossed by the Equator and covers an area of 267,670 km<sup>2</sup>. About 800 km of coastline give it access to the Atlantic Ocean and it shares its borders in the North with Cameroon, in the North West with Equatorial Guinea, and in the East and South with Congo-Brazzaville Administratively, the Gabonese territory is divided into 9 provinces (Estuary, Upper Ogooué, Middle Ogooué, Ngounié, Nyanga, Ogooué-Ivindo, Ogooué-Lolo, Ogooué-Maritime and Woleu-Ntem), 50 departments, 150 cantons, 26 districts, 26 districts, 2254 villages and 830 village groups

### People, Culture and Language

A sparsely populated country (1.8 million inhabitants), Gabon is composed of about 50 ethnic groups (Fang, Mpongwe, Mbédé, Punu, Batéké, Bakota, Obamba, Pygmies, etc.) from the various provinces

The official language of Gabon is French. 80% of the country's population is able to express themselves in French. This is the highest proportion of all countries on the African continent. Gabon has a variety of cultural groups speaking about fifty languages

The Catholic religion is the first in the country. The main religious groups are Catholic, Protestant and Muslim. Traditional masks occupy a significant part of Gabonese culture. Each ethnic group has its own masks with different meanings and uses.

## Cuisine

Gabonese cuisine is a simple cuisine. Gabonese cuisine is rich and varied in local dishes, the main ones are: Le Niemboué (made with fish or shrimp, spices and red palm oil ...); Cassava leaves (made from smoked fish or meat, cassava leaves a kind of spinach, spices ...); Indigenous chocolate (made with fish, shrimp or meat, grated chocolate from an exotic fruit of cocoa color, spices ...).

## Wildlife

Gabon is a country of forest where the fauna and flora are still well preserved and protected in thirteen national parks including the Lopé National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. According to estimates, 80 to 85% of the country is covered by the forest. Its subsoil is rich in minerals and oil.

## Climate

The climate is equatorial, hot and humid, with alternating dry seasons and rainy seasons during the year. There are two wet seasons (February-May: long rainy season, September-December: short rainy season) and two dry seasons (June to mid-September: long dry season, December-January: short dry season). Average temperatures range from 21 ° C in the south-west of the country to 27 ° C on the coast and inland. The extremes range from 18 ° C to 36 ° C. Precipitation ranges from 1500 mm in the northeast and in the savanna provinces to 3300 mm in the northwest and southwest. The atmospheric humidity rate is on average 85%, it can reach 100% in the rainy season.

## 13. Useful Contacts

All correspondence should be sent to the following address:

Monsieur Paul N'GOMA-KIMBATSA  
26<sup>th</sup> AFCAS/Secretariat  
FAO Regional Office for Africa, PO Box 1628, Accra, Ghana  
Tel: +233 30 2610930 extension 41613,  
E-mail: [Paul.NgomaKimbatsa@fao.org](mailto:Paul.NgomaKimbatsa@fao.org)

### **With copy to:**

Madame Petrina Ami Massan KUMAPLEY  
26<sup>th</sup> AFCAS/Secretariat  
FAO Regional Office for Africa, PO Box 1628, Accra, Ghana  
Tel: +233 30 2610930 extension 41611  
E-mail: [AmiMassan.Kumapley@fao.org](mailto:AmiMassan.Kumapley@fao.org)

Mme Huguette BILOHO ESSONO  
Assistant FAOR – Programme  
FAO Sub-Regional Office for Central Africa and FAO Country Office – Gabon  
Tel: +241 07644027  
Sis à 1.206.V Impasse Pacal Nze Bie, Pont de Gue Gue, Immeuble FAO/CICIBA, BP 2643  
Libreville, Gabon  
E-mail: [Huguette.BilohoEssonon@fao.org](mailto:Huguette.BilohoEssonon@fao.org)  
E-mail FAO Gabon : [FAO-GA@fao.org](mailto:FAO-GA@fao.org)

Monsieur Lucien ASSOUMOU  
*Directeur Central des Statistiques et Etudes*  
*Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Elevage et de l'Alimentation, chargé du Programme*  
*GRAINE*  
*Coordonnateur National de la 26<sup>ème</sup> Session de l'AFCAS*

*Libreville, Gabon*  
Tel: +241 06295959  
Email: [1962assoumoulucien@gmail.com](mailto:1962assoumoulucien@gmail.com)

Madame Claude Irma ASSOUMOU  
*Responsable de la Direction Centrale de la Communication*  
*Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Élevage et de l'Alimentation, chargé du Programme GRAINE*  
Tel: +241 06172461 / 07172461  
E-mail: [claude\\_assoumou@yahoo.fr](mailto:claude_assoumou@yahoo.fr)

## Annex 1

### Information on the Hotels

Name of the Hotel	Rating (Star)	Room	Price of Room	Breakfast compris	TV Channel	Internet in bedroom	Mini Bar	Coffre	Piscine
<i>Hôtel Boulevard</i> ACAE Libreville LBV 18420 Gabon. Tel : +241 01705781 / 02125853 / 07896169 / 07788888 / 04071065 E-mail: <a href="mailto:hotelboulevardgb@hotmail.com">hotelboulevardgb@hotmail.com</a> / <a href="mailto:hotelboulevard@hotelboulevardgabon.com">hotelboulevard@hotelboulevardgabon.com</a> .		Chambre Standard	<b>Simple:</b> 60.000 FCFA <i>(Environ 105 USD ou 92 EURO)</i>	YES	YES	YES	N/A	YES	YES
			<b>Twin:</b> 70.000 FCFA (pour 2 personnes; 35.000 FCFA par personne) <i>(Environ 120 USD ou 107 EURO, soit 60 USD ou 53 EURO par personne)</i>						
<i>Hôtel Empereur (Succursale de l'hôtel Boulevard)</i>		Chambre Standard	40.000 FCFA <i>(Environ 69 USD ou 61 EURO)</i>	YES	YES	YES	N/A	NO	NO

**Participants Form**

No	Details of participants	
1.	<b>Name:</b>	<b>First name:</b>
2.	<b>Expected arrival :</b>	<b>Flight number:</b>
3.	<b>Expected departure:</b>	<b>Flight number:</b>
4.	<b>Choice of hotel</b>	
5.	<b>Do you need assistance for entry visa upon arrival?</b>	Yes      No
		Yes. If yes, kindly provide passport details below
	<b>Passport number:</b> <i>Kindly attach a scanned copy of the bio-data page of your passeport</i>	
	<b>Issuing authority:</b>	
	<b>Date and place it was issued:</b>	
<b>Expiring Date:</b>		



### Map and flag of Gabon



© Cartographie HACHETTE Tourisme

**OVERVIEW Libreville**

