

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

Gabon Monthly Briefing August 2025

Gabon Summary 15 August 2025

President Brice Oligui Nguema (2025-present) makes his second official diplomatic trip to Türkiye between 30 July and 2 August, meeting with his counterpart, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (2014-present), and several Turkish officials to discuss political, economic and security cooperation. The World Bank's Gabon Economic Update for 2025 confirms that 97% of Gabon's exports in 2024 consisted of oil, manganese or wood, with oil accounting for 65% of all exports, indicating the key role the sector still plays in the economy. Nguema hosts France-headquartered mining group Eramet's CEO, Paulo Castellar, on 17 July to discuss the recently issued directive that bans the export of raw manganese, with Eramet committing to meeting the directive.

Gabon and Turkey expand ties

President **Brice Oligui Nguema** (2025-present) made his second official diplomatic trip to **Türkiye** between 30 July and 2 August, meeting with his counterpart, **Recep Tayyip Erdoğan** (2014-present), and several Turkish officials to discuss political, economic and security cooperation. Aside from his meeting with Erdoğan, Nguema [met](#) with Türkiye's foreign affairs minister, **Hakan Fidan**, to discuss intelligence sharing, and visited the headquarters of drone manufacturer **Baykar** to meet with its executives. Nguema also met with executives from companies keen to invest in **Gabon's** infrastructure, hydroelectricity and health sector.

Most notably, Nguema and Erdoğan signed eight [agreements](#) focused on various areas, including the establishment of the **Gabon-Turkey Business Council**. [Three](#) of the eight agreements were focused on energy, hydrocarbons and mining. State-run Turkish news agency **Anadolu Agency** [noted](#) that the latter agreements reveal Türkiye's increasing investment in **African** countries in their energy and mining sectors.

Indicative of this, during Nguema's visit, Turkish company **Aska Enerji** [signed](#) an agreement for the construction of a 1,000MW gas-fired power plant. Nguema met with representatives from Türkiye-headquartered energy company **Desiba Enerji**, which is set to start construction of a 20MW solar power plant in **Mouila (Ngounié Province)**.

Energy is a key sector in which Turkey has already invested in Gabon. Turkey-headquartered **Karpowership** is involved in Gabon's energy sector and, in May 2024, signed a five-year contract with **Société d'Energie et d'Eau du Gabon (SEEG)** (Gabon water and energy company) to provide 250MW of electricity. Two of Karpowership's floating vessels [started](#) to supply the capital, **Libreville**, with 70MW of power in February. A stable electricity supply is key in helping Gabon achieve several development goals, including the local processing of minerals (see below), which it is unable to achieve with the current installed capacity of [704MW](#) versus demand for 1,039MW.

Oil continues to drive economy

The **World Bank** [published](#) its full **Gabon Economic Update** for 2025 on 28 July, confirming that 97% of Gabon's exports in 2024 consisted of oil, manganese or wood, with oil accounting for 65% of all exports. While the value of Gabon's oil exports has been in decline since 2022, it was nevertheless the main driver behind the country's estimated 2.9% growth in 2024, up from 2.4% in 2023, thanks to increased output.

To this point, oil companies involved in Gabon's oil sector began publishing their second-quarter and half-year results in July and August. **Bermuda**-headquartered **BW Energy** [confirmed](#) that in the second quarter of 2025, its production in Gabon amounted to 2.4 million barrels – approximately 26,600 barrels per day (bpd) – with revenues increasing by 17% for the quarter. In the first half of 2025, revenue from its Gabon production reached \$239m, accounting for 86% of its total revenue. **United States (US)**-headquartered **Vaalco Energy** [reported](#) that it produced an average of 21,654 bpd in the second quarter, of which 80% was from its Gabonese offshore **Etame** field. **France**-headquartered **Maurel & Prom** [recorded](#) a total production of 37,637 bpd in the first half of 2025, a 6% increase compared to 2024, with its Gabon operations making up 15,516 of these barrels (41%). Maurel & Prom reported that Gabon accounted for approximately \$203m of its turnover.

Another key milestone in [July](#) was the finalisation of the sale of **United Kingdom (UK)**-headquartered **Tullow Oil**'s assets to state-owned **Gabon Oil Company (GOC)** on 29 July for \$300m (*see ARC Briefing Gabon Apr 2025*). GOC will now work alongside its operational partner, UK-headquartered **Perenco**, to exploit several offshore fields. **African Energy Chamber** executive chairman **NJ Ayuk** [commented](#) on the deal:

“African companies are growing in strength, taking on more responsibilities and proving their ability to manage complex upstream operations. This shows the value of partnership and long-term investment in capacity building on the continent.”

While various administrations have touted for at least ten years that focus is on diversifying the economy, Gabon's exports continue to tell a different story. Gabon's oil fields remain a key producer for several companies, and investment flows are still strong, which is likely to encourage the government to continue to prioritise the oil sector. The Tullow Oil deal can be viewed as an indication of this.

Eramet commits to processing manganese locally

President Nguema hosted France-headquartered mining group **Eramet**'s CEO, **Paulo Castellar**, on 17 July to discuss the recent directive that bans the export of raw manganese, effective 1 January 2029. The largest manganese miner in Gabon is **Comilog**, majority-owned by Eramet, which has an established presence in Gabon since 1953. The [directive](#) was issued on 30 May and outlined the government's intention to develop an industrial policy that focuses on local processing of raw materials, upskilling of the local workforce, control of technological value chains and increased tax revenues.

Eramet, whose shares dropped 5% following the announcement, noted the government's announcement and committed to [safeguarding](#) the 10,460 jobs it has created in the country through Comilog's operations, as well as those of Comilog's transport subsidiary, **Setrag**. Eramet noted that it would pursue dialogue with the government on the new directive. Castellari [committed](#) to Eramet processing more than two million tonnes of manganese locally per year towards meeting the government's directive. Eramet also [confirmed](#) that it would increase the number of Gabonese in management positions in Setrag and Comilog, increase transparency in the repatriation of financial flows generated from its mining operations in Gabon, launch a power project to help support the local processing of manganese and reconstruct its headquarters in Gabon. Following through on this, Eramet announced on 12 August that it had [appointed](#) **Clement Jakymiw** as the new director of value chain transformation, tasked with overseeing and developing the company's local processing capabilities.

In line with its stated objectives, Gabon is keen to expand its investor base. Vice-president **Alexandre Barro Chambrier** [met](#) with a delegation from **Hong Kong**-headquartered manganese miner **Asia Minerals Limited (AML)** in **Japan** on 28 July to discuss AML's interest in building a local processing unit in Gabon. The two parties [met](#) again, this time in Libreville on 4 August, during which AML once again expressed its interest in working in Gabon's manganese sector, and specifically in local processing.

However, challenges remain for investors in Gabon's mining sector. They will need to abide by the new directive, ensuring there is a stable power supply, potentially investing in additional port and railway infrastructure, and investing in training to upskill the workforce. However, the new directive is yielding results, not only in Eramet's commitment, but also increasing interest from other investors who could drive up competition for Gabon's resources.

Planner

27 Sep 2025 **(Gabon)** Parliamentary elections
 11 Oct 2025 **(Gabon)** Local elections
 Nov 2025 **(Gabon)** Senatorial elections
 23 Dec 2025 **(Gabon)** Constitutional court judges sworn in
 2026 **(Gabon)** Cap Lopez LNG terminal to start production

Chronology

12 Aug 2025 **Libreville (Gabon)** *RFI*. Government grants amnesty to those involved in the August 2023 coup d'état, as well as the failed 2019 coup;

11 Aug 2025 **Libreville (Gabon)** *Direct Infos Gabon*. **South Africa's International Air Services Council (IASC)** grants **Fly Gabon** a licence authorising flights between the two countries;

10 Aug 2025 **Casablanca (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. Casablanca-headquartered **TGCC** is exploring infrastructure projects in **Gabon**, focusing on university hospitals, housing and modern complexes as part of strengthening Gabon-Morocco cooperation;

8 Aug 2025 **Libreville (Gabon)** *Direct Infos Gabon*. Nineteen magistrates appear before the high council of the judiciary to face accusations of corruption, abuse of power, extortion and other breaches of professional ethics;

6 Aug 2025 **Libreville (Gabon)** *APA News*. Opposition party **Ensemble pour le Gabon (EPG)** files a petition with the constitutional court contesting the legality of the candidacy deadline for the legislative and local elections, citing an overlap between the candidacy deadline and the ongoing electoral roll revision;

6 Aug 2025 **Libreville (Gabon)** *Le Nouveau Gabon*. **African Development Bank (AfDB)** reports Gabon's banking sector saw a significant deterioration in asset quality in 2024, with non-performing loans rising nearly 20% to 205 billion FCFA (\$34m), representing 10.2% of total outstanding loans compared to 8.6% in 2023;

1 Aug 2025 **Libreville (Gabon)** *APA News*. President **Brice Oligui Nguema** signs eight strategic agreements with **Turkey's** President **Recep Tayyip Erdoğan** during an official visit focused on military cooperation, energy, mining, hydrocarbons, public health, education, vocational training and financial support;

1 Aug 2025 **Libreville (Gabon)** *Sika Finance*. Water and electricity ministry announces that **Turkey-headquartered Karpowership's** two floating power plants will be shut down from 1-21 August as Karpowership replaces the two plants with a single large-capacity vessel;

1 Aug 2025 **Libreville (Gabon)** *Direct Infos Gabon*. Water and electricity ministry signs a memorandum of understanding with **Turkey-headquartered Aksa Energy** to build a 1,000MW gas-fired power plant;

30 Jul 2025 **Libreville (Gabon)** *Le Nouveau Gabon*. **Hong Kong-headquartered Asia Minerals Limited** announces its desire to build a manganese processing plant in Gabon, the world's second-largest manganese producer;

26 Jul 2025 **Libreville (Gabon)** *Le Nouveau Gabon*. Gabon hosts the **Sino-Gabonese** trade fair, aiming to strengthen commercial ties with **China**, its leading trade partner;

24 Jul 2025 **Libreville (Gabon)** *Direct Infos Gabon*. **Australia's Genmin** secures financing of approximately \$651,270 to help support its exploration activities, including in Gabon;

21 Jul 2025 **Libreville (Gabon)** *Direct Infos Gabon*. **European Union (EU)** adopts a new set of sanctions aimed at tightening the cap on the price of **Russian** oil, including a measures that targets several so-called flags of convenience that sees countries such as Gabon allowing ships linked to Russia's oil sector to fly their flag to circumvent sanctions;

21 Jul 2025 **Libreville (Gabon)** *RFI*. Former president **Ali Bongo Ondimba** appoints **Ali Akbar Onanga Y'Obegue** as secretary general of the former ruling **Parti démocratique gabonais (PDG)** – despite the party electing **Angélique Ngoma** in January 2024– and tasks him with reorganising the party to prepare for future elections;

18 Jul 2025 **Libreville (Gabon)** *Jeune Afrique*. Former president **Ali Bongo Ondimba** releases a video denouncing what he calls interference by President **Brice Oligui Nguema** in the former ruling **Parti démocratique gabonais (PDG)** and confirms that he remains at the helm of the party;

18 Jul 2025 **Libreville (Gabon)** *Direct Infos Gabon*. State-owned **Gabon Oil Company's** acquisition of **United Kingdom**-headquartered **Tullow Oil's** assets is delayed, reportedly due to delays in raising funds by **Swiss** commodities trader **Gunvor**, a key financial partner in the acquisition;

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