

Relations with Canada

After a period of difficulties related to federal-provincial matters, diplomatic relations between Canada and Gabon rapidly improved and are now excellent. Gabon has had an embassy in Ottawa since 1971. In 1978, Canada opened an embassy in Gabon, headed since 1985 by a resident ambassador. Ministerial visits between the two countries are relatively frequent.

Aid from Canada

The Canadian aid program in Gabon is very important. CIDA has disbursed C\$17 million to date. The CIDA program for education and human resources focuses on the training of Gabonese personnel and, in the future, will concentrate more on professional and technical training. Rural electrification and water supply projects and the Office du Chemin de Fer Transgabonais (OCTRA) rehabilitation project have been financed under the economic component of the Canadian aid program. Industrial co-operation facilitates the participation of Canadian firms in Gabonese development. Finally, Gabon benefits from the embassy funds for local initiatives.

Trade with Canada

Gabon has recently become an interesting trade partner for Canada. Since 1987, important investments have been made in the petroleum sector, especially by Shell-Gabon. The rate of investments is expected to reach C\$2 billion during the next four or five years. These investments will offer very attractive opportunities for the Canadian petroleum industry.

Notes for Travellers

Time:

EST + 6

Passport and visa:

Valid passports and visas are required.