

## **The African Development Bank's Independent Evaluation Department (OPEV) Releases its Evaluation of the Bank's Assistance to Gabon from 1996 to 2008**

### **Relevant strategies and improvement in non-lending activities, but generally unsatisfactory results**

Despite the relevance of its strategies, the Bank's assistance to Gabon during 1996-2008 was generally unsatisfactory, according to an evaluation report released by the Bank's Operations Evaluation Department in May 2011. Active portfolio performance improved but remained unsatisfactory overall because of persistent generic problems. Overall performance of completed projects was also unsatisfactory. The report identifies long delays in fulfilling loan conditions, inadequate quality at entry, problems of implementation capacity, as well as the consequences of protracted sanctions as some of the root causes of cancellation of activities and delays in achieving results. It maintains that this lack of efficiency and responsiveness reduced the Bank's capacity to contribute more effectively to the country's development. The evaluation also found that the Government's performance was generally unsatisfactory despite its commitment to difficult reforms.

***Gabon:  
Country  
Assistance  
Evaluation,  
1996 - 2008***

In contrast, the evaluation found that **the performance of non-lending activities was satisfactory owing to recent capacity building efforts, studies, policy dialogue and contribution to aid coordination.** It also reported that economic and sector work (ESW) had contributed to the definition of policies; the field office (GAFO) had strengthened dialogue, partnership, as well as continuous assistance to the country; and the Bank's support for consolidation of the macroeconomic framework and good governance was satisfactory though limited.

The evaluation covered three programming cycles (1996 -1998, 2003-2005 and 2006-2010), each based on a Country Strategy Paper (CSP). Its objective was to draw conclusions and make recommendations to improve ongoing and future interventions.

OPEV is the Operations Evaluation Department of the African Development Bank. It conducts independent, systematic assessments of the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, and impact of the Bank's policies, strategies, and operations.

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It focused on Bank assistance in the form of lending and non-lending activities, taking into account projects and programmes approved prior to 1996 and completed after 1996; those approved between 1996 and 2007 (completed or ongoing); as well as economic and sector work, resource mobilization, policy dialogue and aid coordination.

**Recommendations:** The evaluation recommends that the Bank take the following actions:

1. Increase strategic selectivity within the governance and infrastructure pillars of the CSP;
2. Strengthen Bank support for private sector development through more active participation in improving the business climate and direct support to the sector;
3. Strengthen support for good governance by improving the realization, effectiveness and synergy of actions through effective implementation of updated legal texts and instruments.
4. Show greater interest in building countries' capacity to take over and implement Bank financed operations.
5. Strengthen monitoring and evaluation and the Bank's field presence by empowering the field office (GAFO), among other measures, to avoid unduly wide deviation from initial objectives and slippages in project implementation.
6. Improve coordination and synergy of action among the various Bank departments, including the Private Sector Department and GAFO, by focusing on a shared vision for Bank assistance in Gabon, division of labor, and accountability.

**Related Documents** [\[insert link or pdf file\]](#)

Approach Paper:

Executive Summary:

Full Report:

Management Response:

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