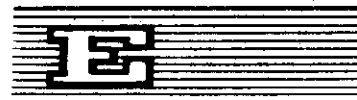


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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

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Provisional agenda item 4

**SURVEY OF CARTOGRAPHIC WORK CONCERNING GABON
DURING THE PERIOD 1966 - 1971**

Submitted by the Government of Gabon

A. Work done by the French National Geographic Institute (Institut Géographique National) (IGN)

I. AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS

At the end of 1971 about 13,000 km² out of a total area of 267,000 km², remained to be photographed.

Weather conditions, which are almost always unfavourable in this area determine whether photographic coverage is on a small-scale of 1:50,000 or a medium-scale of 1:40,000 - 1:30,000.

With such photographs, it is possible to:

- Study the terrain in detail by examining the proofs stereoscopically;
- Obtain enlargements of the original prints; and
- Carry out precise plotting.

However, during the period under review an attempt was made to restore large-scale photographs of the following cities:

Port-Gentil - (1:5,000 in 1970)

Libreville and Franceville - (1:8,000 in 1971)

1:2,000 photogrammetric surveys were carried out in connexion with the survey of the new port at Libreville and the cadastral plan of Libreville and Franceville.

II. 1:200,000 MAP

(a) Final edition

Six sheets covering 72,000 km², including sheets on Mayumba and Ewo issued in 1966, a sheet on Leconi issued in 1967, sheets on Libreville and Ebolowa issued in 1968 and a sheet on Franceville issued in 1969.

(b) Planimetric base maps of Batououala-Makokou-Lambarene and Sembé, covering 48,000 km².

III. 1:50,000 MAP

This map is of great assistance in a country as heavily forested as Gabon, particularly in that it makes it possible to obtain an accurate picture of the phytogeography and density of the timber stands.

Since 1966 eight sheets covering 6,000 km² have been produced.

IV. THE FOLLOWING PUBLICATIONS SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED :

- A 1:1,000,000 road map of Gabon issued in 1971 and

- A 1:10,000 plan of Libreville issued in 1969.

B. Work done by the Office de la recherche scientifique et technique outre-mer (ORSTOM) (Libreville Centre)

(a) A 1:200,000 pedological reconnaissance map of Gabon. Sheet issued in 1969 covering the Libreville - Kango area. This map was compiled on IGN topographic base maps and the "Libreville - West" sheet of the 1:500,000 geological map.

(b) An "interim" edition of the Fougamou sheet;

(c) Field work has been completed in the Booué and Mitzié areas, and cartographic plotting is now underway.

C. Work done by BRGM

I. 1:50,000 MAP

A 1:1,000,000 geological map of the Gabonese Republic was published in 1970 with 191 pages of explanatory notes.

D. Work done by ELF - SPAFE (Petroleum research)

Sheets were issued for Libreville in 1966, Ile Mandji and Nougou Bay in 1968 and Wora-Na-Yeno in 1970. Sheets have also been issued for the area around Lake Oguemwe and the Oloumié and Topo regions.

II. 1:200,000 MAP

In 1970 and 1971, using some IGN topographic base maps which had been improved upon and completed, ELF - SPAFE produced sheets on a scale of 1:200,000 covering Libreville, Kango, Port Gentil, Lambarene, Omboué, Fougamou, Setté, Cama, Gambia and Mayumba.

III. 1:1,000,000 MAP

- Map of the petroleum industry published in 1966.

E. National Tourist Bureau (Office National de Tourisme)

The National Tourist Bureau published a 1:1,000,000 map of Gabon in 1971 and a 1:10,000 plan of Libreville in 1968.

F. Nautical charts (sheets published for the first time)

I. FRENCH HYDROGRAPHERS - Coastlines

1966 : Cape Estérias to Pointe Ekouéta (1:108,070)

II. BRITISH HYDROGRAPHERS - Coastlines and bays

1966 : Estuary of Gabon on a scale of 1:100,000 (cardboard chart of the Port of Libreville on a scale of 1:20,000); Bay of Cape Lopez - Bay of Lékoné (1:100,000); Port Gentil (1:30,000); Mayumba Bay (Nyanga Anchorage) (1:75,000); Setté Cama (Iguéla Anchorage) (1:50,000).

1967 : Corsico Bay (1:100,000)

III. AMERICAN HYDROGRAPHERS - Coastlines

1967 : From Pointe Nyonie to Pointe Pedras (1:299,900) and from Pointe Pedras to Pointe Noire (1:299,400).

The above information constitutes a brief summary of the cartographic work done within Gabon during the period 1966-1971.

It will be seen that most of this work is carried out by the French National Geographic Institute (IGN) on behalf of the Government of Gabon, which helps to finance some of it.

Since 1968, the Gabonese Office of Public Works, in collaboration with the French co-operation services, has held examinations designed to promote the training of ingénieurs géographes (geographical engineers), ingénieurs des travaux géographiques (geographical works engineers), techniciens géomètres (surveyors) and dessinateurs (draughtsmen). Successful candidates are sent to the Centre de Saint Mandé in France.

Finally, the IGN Office in Libreville often does field work in connexion with the University.