



Exporting cocoa to the European Union

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The Stabilisation and Equalisation Fund (Caistab) holds the monopoly on marketing Gabonese coffee and cocoa and handles their sale abroad. A shipment of beans to the European Union therefore goes through Caistab, then AGASA's phytosanitary certificate, bank domiciliation with a foreign exchange undertaking (sale outside CEMAC worth at least 5 million FCFA), the BIETC and the customs declaration. On the EU side, the importer must meet the deforestation regulation requirements. Gabon has not benefited from EU trade preferences since 2014.

Steps 7	Total indicative delay At least 1 day 6 steps without a published delay	Total indicative cost 2,500 FCFA to 3,500 FCFA plus 5 proportional or variable fees
Responsible institution Directorate General of the Stabilisation and Equalisation Funds (Caistab)		Last validation 22 September 2026

Steps

1 Sell or have the cocoa marketed through Caistab

Caistab buys cocoa and coffee throughout the country and markets them abroad; it also represents Gabon in international coffee and cocoa bodies. Growers and operators go through it. Contract, quality control and pricing arrangements are not published online.

Institution	Directorate General of the Stabilisation and Equalisation Funds (Caistab)
Channel	At the counter
Location	Libreville
Delay	Not published
Documents	Sales contract
Fees	Not published
Link	http://caistab.ga/presentation-de-la-caisse-cacao-cafe/

2 Obtain the phytosanitary certificate

AGASA inspects plant products for export and issues the export or re-export phytosanitary certificate; the application form is offered online by the agency.

Institution	Gabonese Food Safety Agency (AGASA)
Channel	Online or at the counter
Delay	Not published
Documents	Phytosanitary certificate
Fees	Not published (scale set by decree no. 000922/PR/MEFBP/MAEDR of 18 October 2005, amount for cocoa not published online)
Link	https://agasa.site/

3 Provide a certificate of origin if the buyer requests it

Gabon, an upper middle income country, has not been eligible for the EU generalised scheme of preferences since 2014 and has no economic partnership agreement with the EU, so no preferential proof of origin can be used. A non-preferential certificate of origin may still be requested by the buyer or the bank.

Institution	Directorate General of Trade (foreign trade) (DGC)
Channel	At the counter
Delay	Not published
Documents	Certificate of origin
Fees	Not published
Link	https://trade.ec.europa.eu/access-to-markets/en/content/epa-central-africa

4 Give the EU importer the data required by the deforestation regulation

Cocoa is one of the commodities covered by Regulation (EU) 2023/1115. The operator importing into the EU must file a due diligence statement showing the cocoa comes from plots not deforested after 31 December 2020 and was produced in line with Gabonese law. The exporter provides the geographic coordinates of the production plots and proof of legality. These obligations apply from 30 December 2026 for large and medium companies and from 30 June 2027 for micro and small companies (Regulation (EU) 2025/2650).

Institution	European Commission and competent authorities of EU member states (UE)
Channel	Online
Delay	Not published
Documents	Due diligence statement (EU deforestation regulation)
Fees	No public fee set by the regulation
Link	https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/1115/oj

5 Domicile the export and sign the foreign exchange undertaking (outside CEMAC, 5 million FCFA or more)

BEAC Instruction No. 006/GR/2019 of 10 June 2019 covers exports of goods and services outside CEMAC (article 1). Unless exempted, any export worth at least 5 million FCFA is domiciled with a single licensed credit institution, which carries out the banking formalities for the exporter until the file is cleared (articles 6 and 7). Domiciliation comes before customs clearance (article 9). For goods, the file contains the export declaration, a copy of the commercial contract or an equivalent document, the firm foreign exchange undertaking following the template annexed to the instruction, the tax identification number and, for restricted goods, the required authorisations (article 13). Exemptions include supplies to foreign ships and aircraft, samples not for sale, gifts to a foreign State and permanent removals outside CEMAC (article 18). Splitting an export to stay below the threshold is prohibited (article 27). Proceeds are repatriated to CEMAC through the domiciliation bank within 150 days of export at most (article 20).

Institution	Licensed intermediary banks (domiciliation banks)
Channel	At the counter
Delay	Processing time not published; domiciliation before customs clearance and repatriation of proceeds within 150 days at most (BEAC Instruction No. 006/GR/2019, art. 9 and 20)
Documents	Foreign exchange undertaking, Commercial invoice
Fees	Not published (bank charges set by each bank)
Link	https://www.beac.int/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Instruction-N%C2%B0-006-GR-2019.pdf

6 Obtain the BIETC from the Gabonese Shippers' Council

The exporter records the shipment on the BIETC platform of the Gabonese Shippers' Council (CGC). The note covers outbound freight by sea, air and road and supports the freight traffic monitoring set up by ordinance no. 009/PR/2014 of 20 August 2014.

Institution	Gabonese Shippers' Council (CGC)
Channel	Online or at the counter
Location	Gabonese Shippers' Council office in Owendo (filing of documents)
Delay	Not published; for air freight the document is released on arrival after checks and payment
Documents	Contract of carriage, Commercial invoice, Freight invoice or certificate, Packing list
Fees	Export BIETC, all zones and modes (WTO 2023, CGC): 2,500 FCFA (official) Express freight export supplement (WTO 2023): 1,000 FCFA (official)
Link	https://cgcgabon.ga/bietc-aerien/

7 File the detailed export declaration in ASYCUDA World

A licensed customs broker files the detailed declaration in ASYCUDA World (SYDONIA World), with the sanitary or phytosanitary certificate and the certificate of origin when the importing country requires them. A simplified export declaration (DESE) is available to some exporters. Cocoa is not among the products subject to export duty according to the WTO (2023).

Institution	Directorate General of Customs and Indirect Duties (DGDDI)
Channel	Online or at the counter
Location	Customs headquarters, 823 avenue Nelson Mandela, Oloumi industrial zone, Libreville, and customs offices at the port, airport and land borders
Delay	Average customs processing time for exports of 24 hours according to the authorities (WTO 2023) (official)
Documents	Detailed customs declaration, Commercial invoice, Packing list, Foreign exchange undertaking, Electronic cargo tracking note (BIETC)
Fees	Not published (customs broker fee)
Link	https://www.douanes.ga/professionnels/procedures-douanieres

Documents to prepare

☐	Sales contract	Step 1
☐	Phytosanitary certificate Issued by Gabonese Food Safety Agency (AGASA)	Step 2
☐	Certificate of origin	Step 3
☐	Due diligence statement (EU deforestation regulation) Issued by European Commission and competent authorities of EU member states (UE)	Step 4
☐	Foreign exchange undertaking Issued by Licensed intermediary banks (domiciliation banks)	Steps 5, 7
☐	Commercial invoice	Steps 5, 6, 7
☐	Contract of carriage	Step 6
☐	Freight invoice or certificate	Step 6
☐	Packing list	Steps 6, 7
☐	Detailed customs declaration Issued by Directorate General of Customs and Indirect Duties (DGDDI)	Step 7
☐	Electronic cargo tracking note (BIETC) Issued by Gabonese Shippers' Council (CGC)	Step 7

Fees

Step	Fee	Amount	Basis	Status
1	Not published	Not published	Variable	
2	Not published (scale set by decree no. 000922/PR/MEFBP/MAEDR of 18 October 2005, amount for cocoa not published online)	Not published	Variable	
3	Not published	Not published	Variable	
4	No public fee set by the regulation	Not published		
5	Not published (bank charges set by each bank)	Not published	Variable	
6	Export BIETC, all zones and modes (WTO 2023, CGC)	2,500 FCFA	Fixed amount	Official
6	Express freight export supplement (WTO 2023)	1,000 FCFA	Fixed amount	Official
7	Not published (customs broker fee)	Not published	Variable	

Legal basis

Regulation	EU deforestation regulation (EUDR) Règlement (UE) 2023/1115 du Parlement européen et du Conseil du 31 mai 2023, JO L 150 du 9 juin 2023, modifié notamment par le règlement (UE) 2025/2650, of 31 May 2023
Regulation	CEMAC customs code Règlement n° 05/19-UEAC-010A-CM-33 du 22 mars 2019 portant révision du Code des douanes de la CEMAC, of 22 March 2019
Regulation	Regulation on foreign exchange in CEMAC Règlement n° 02/18/CEMAC/UMAC/CM du 21 décembre 2018, of 21 December 2018

Sources

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<https://www.beac.int/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Instruction-N%C2%B0-006-GR-2019.pdf>, retrieved on 22 September 2026
