



Obtain a mining operating permit

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The 2019 mining code distinguishes the small-scale operating permit, issued by ministerial order for five years, from the large-scale permit, issued by presidential decree for ten or twenty years. Only the exploration permit holder who has proven a deposit can obtain it, on the basis of a feasibility study and an environmental impact assessment.

Steps 5	Total indicative delay Not published	Total indicative cost Proportional or variable fees
Responsible institution Ministry of Mines and Geological Resources		Last validation 21 September 2026

Steps

1 Prove an economically viable deposit

While the exploration permit is valid, the holder notifies the discovery to the mining administration and proves an economically viable deposit within the perimeter. The operating permit must be requested before the exploration permit expires.

Institution	Ministry of Mines and Geological Resources
Channel	At the counter
Delay	Not published
Link	https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/gab196942.pdf

2 Carry out the feasibility study

The application must, on pain of rejection, include a feasibility study validated by the relevant departments of the ministries in charge of mines and of the economy.

Institution	Ministry of Mines and Geological Resources
Channel	At the counter
Delay	Not published
Documents	Feasibility study
Link	https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/gab196942.pdf

3 Have the environmental impact assessment validated

The environmental impact assessment, also required on pain of rejection, is validated by the environmental administration.

Institution	Environmental administration (Ministry of Water and Forests, Environment and Climate)
Channel	At the counter
Delay	Not published
Documents	Environmental impact assessment
Fees	Not published
Link	https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/gab196942.pdf

4 File the permit application

File the application with the minister in charge of mines. Small-scale mining is reserved for companies at least 35% owned by Gabonese nationals; the permit covers at most 50 km². Large-scale mining covers deposits requiring major investment.

Institution	Ministry of Mines and Geological Resources
Channel	At the counter
Delay	Not published
Documents	Identification and technical and financial capacity file, Feasibility study, Environmental impact assessment
Fees	Award fees and charges set by regulation
Link	https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/gab196942.pdf

5 Obtain the award act and sign the agreement

The small-scale permit is issued by ministerial order for five years, renewable for three-year periods. The large-scale permit is issued by presidential decree, on the minister's proposal, for ten years (renewable for five-year periods) or twenty years (renewable for ten-year periods). The mining agreement sets production sharing among other terms.

Institution	Ministry of Mines and Geological Resources
Channel	At the counter
Delay	Not published
Link	https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/gab196942.pdf

Documents to prepare

☐	Feasibility study	Steps 2, 4
☐	Environmental impact assessment	Steps 3, 4
☐	Identification and technical and financial capacity file	Step 4

Fees

Step	Fee	Amount	Basis	Status
3	Not published	Not published	Variable	
4	Award fees and charges set by regulation	Not published	Variable	

Legal basis

Code	Mining code Loi n° 037/2018 du 11 juin 2019 portant réglementation du secteur minier en République gabonaise, of 11 June 2019
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Sources

Loi n° 037/2018 du 11 juin 2019 portant réglementation du secteur minier en République gabonaise, Journal officiel n° 28 bis du 24 juillet 2019, FAO, base FAOLEX

<https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/gab196942.pdf>, retrieved on 21 September 2026

Loi n° 037/2018 du 11 juin 2019 portant réglementation du secteur minier, UNEP, Law and Environment Assistance Platform

<https://leap.unep.org/en/countries/ga/national-legislation/loi-ndeg0372018-du-11-juin-2019-portant-reglementation-du-secteur>, retrieved on 21 September 2026