



Obtain a mineral exploration permit

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Under the 2019 mining code, exploring for minerals requires an exploration permit issued by order of the minister in charge of mines. It is valid for three years, renewable twice, and covers at most 1,500 km² (5,000 km² for diamonds). Only a company incorporated under Gabonese law with the required technical and financial capacity may apply.

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 Incorporate a company under Gabonese law

Apart from individual artisanal mining, only a legal entity incorporated under Gabonese law can hold a mining title. A foreign company with a branch in Gabon can only obtain a reconnaissance authorisation.

Institution	National Investment Promotion Agency of Gabon (ANPI-Gabon)
Channel	Online
Delay	Not published
Link	https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/gab196942.pdf

2 Prepare the application file

Gather the identification and capacity documents required by article 15 of the code: articles and registration data, NIF, CNSS number, annual reports, staff references, evidence of financing and the work and expenditure programme.

Institution	Ministry of Mines and Geological Resources
Channel	At the counter
Delay	Not published
Documents	Identification and technical and financial capacity file, Tax registration certificate (NIF), Work and expenditure programme
Link	https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/gab196942.pdf

3 File the application with the minister in charge of mines

The application is addressed to the minister in charge of mines and recorded by the mining cadastre service, which handles follow-up and issue. If several applications cover the same area, a competitive review compares technical offers, experience, benefits to the State and local content.

Institution	Ministry of Mines and Geological Resources
Channel	At the counter
Delay	Not published
Fees	Award fees and charges set by regulation
Link	https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/gab196942.pdf

4 Sign the mining agreement

The work and expenditure programme is set out in a mining agreement negotiated under the minister's authority and signed with the State. It sets the project's technical, tax, customs and environmental terms.

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

5 Receive the award order

The permit is issued by ministerial order for three years, renewable twice for the same period. Titles subject to the surface rental fee are sent to the Official Journal within 30 days for publication. An operator may not hold more than four exploration permits (two for diamonds).

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

Documents to prepare

☐	Identification and technical and financial capacity file	Step 2
☐	Tax registration certificate (NIF) Issued by Directorate General of Taxes (DGI)	Step 2
☐	Work and expenditure programme	Steps 2, 4

Fees

Step	Fee	Amount	Basis	Status
3	Award fees and charges set by regulation	Not published	Variable	
5	Surface rental fee	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