



ENVIRONMENT

National Wood Traceability System to be implemented

A National Wood Traceability System (abbreviated as “SNTBG”) has been created, and is regulated and implemented by Order No. 001/MEFPECCHF/CAB-M, dated 3 October 2023. The SNTBG will have to be used by wood sector operators for all activities carried out in the country relating to logging, wood processing, and transportation of logs, processed products and byproducts.

Forestry Code revised

The Forestry Code, adopted by Framework Law No. 016/2001, of 31 December 2001, has been revised by Framework Law No. 039/2023, of 2 November 2023. The changes made to the Forestry Code pertain to hunting activities in woodlands, and the related permits and infractions.

STATE

Adoption of rules for State to deal with disasters and humanitarian crisis

To strengthen disaster response and humanitarian aid, the Transition Parliament has passed Law No. 007/2023, of 12 November 2023 (promulgated by Decree No. 0036/PR, of 2 November 2023). This new Law establishes rules for risk prevention, disaster management, and humanitarian crises in the Gabonese Republic, covering aspects such as prevention measures, setting-up of central and local services, coordination of actions and financing mechanisms, with the aim of clarifying the role of various stakeholders in addressing emergencies.

Institution of Ministry of Planning and Development

Decree No. 0066/PR/MPP, of 14 February 2024, instituted the Ministry of Planning and Development, which is henceforth responsible for conceiving and implementing governmental policies for the development of the country, including preparing investment programs, drafting legislation and conducting economic impact assessments.

Public Procurement Code revised

The Public Procurement Code (Decree No. 00027/PR/MEPPDD, of 17 January 2018) has undergone a revision through Decree No. 0053/PR/MEP, of 21 November 2023. This revision is justified by an identified need to reinforce principles of access, equality, and transparency in public procurement procedures. Among other changes, the revision introduces the concept of

'reserved public procurement', by reserving the participation in procurement procedures relating to contracts with certain thresholds to Gabonese-owned small and medium companies.

HEALTH

National Agency of Medicines and Health Products is created

A National Agency for Medicines and Other Health Products has been created by Ordinance No. 0004/PR/2023, of 24 October 2023 (ratified by Law No. 006/2023, of 26 January 2024). This is a scientific State agency, with separate legal personality and financial and management autonomy, subject to supervision by the Ministry of Health, which is entrusted with different tasks to ensure the quality, safety and efficacy of pharmaceutical products for both human and veterinary use. This Agency's tasks include assisting in the formulation of a national pharmaceutical policy, drawing up and enforcing standards, granting and withdrawing permits for the introduction of products into the market, regulating research facilities, evaluating risks, and monitoring the quality of pharmaceutical and health products, including cosmetics.

LABOR

Rules for the National Employment Promotion Center are adopted

The President of the Transition has ratified Decree No. 0035/PR/MTLC, of 16 January 2024, approving the bylaws of the National Employment Promotion

Center (PNPE). The PNPE is a State agency with separate legal personality and financial and management autonomy, established by Law No. 010/2022, of 5 August 2022. The bylaws now adopted set out the scope of activities of the PNPE, which revolve around increasing job and work opportunities especially for unemployed, and the different bodies and departments of the PNPE and their roles.

JUSTICE

Judges have a new law

After several months of strike, judges now have a new law on their duties, privileges and rights. The Transition Parliament has enacted Law No. 040/2023, of 26 October 2023, which was immediately promulgated by the President, and which supersedes Law No. 12/94 of 16 September 1994. The strike was suspended and the courts resumed hearings shortly after the approval of the new Law, but unions are still waiting for the rules that will implement it.

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