GABONREVIEW - ECONOMIE (GABON) · GABON

Gabon's 754bn FCFA Booué Dam Still Under Study

Saga deep read · 04 November 2026 · Score 65

The Booué hydroelectric dam project in Gabon's Ogooué-Ivindo province remains in the study phase, with no construction start date confirmed, despite being identified as a key initiative to address the country's energy deficit. Questioned before the National Assembly on 3 November 2026, Gabon's Minister of Universal Access to Water and Energy confirmed that the project has not yet entered the construction phase. The scheme carries an estimated price tag of 754 billion FCFA.

The Booué dam has been presented by Gabonese authorities as one of the priority interventions capable of closing a persistent gap between national electricity supply and demand. Gabon's power sector has long faced structural shortfalls, with generation capacity insufficient to meet the needs of both urban centres and rural communities. Hydropower is considered central to any long-term solution, given the country's significant river resources, particularly along the Ogooué river system where the Booué site is located.

The minister's appearance before the National Assembly underscores growing parliamentary scrutiny of large infrastructure commitments that have yet to translate into ground-level activity. At 754 billion FCFA — equivalent to approximately 1.15 billion USD at current exchange rates — Booué would represent one of the most substantial single energy investments in Gabon's recent history. The scale of the financing requirement helps explain why the project remains under study, as securing funding of this magnitude typically demands a combination of sovereign commitment, multilateral development bank participation, and potentially private or export-credit financing.

No contractor, development partner, or financing structure has been publicly announced in connection with the project at this stage. The absence of a construction timeline or procurement process means the dam remains at a pre-feasibility or feasibility stage, with detailed engineering, environmental assessment, and financial close all yet to be achieved. Projects of comparable scale in the sub-region have historically required multi-year preparation periods before reaching a final investment decision.

Gabon's transitional government, which came to power following the August 2023 military intervention, has signalled infrastructure development as a priority. However, the fiscal space available to the state and the broader investment climate remain subject to scrutiny by international partners. Progress on Booué will likely depend on the government's ability to stabilise public finances, attract credible project developers, and satisfy the technical and environmental due diligence requirements of potential lenders. Until a financing framework and construction mandate are formalised, Booué remains a planned asset rather than an active project.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

With no procurement process open and the project still under study, Norwegian service companies should monitor rather than pursue active outreach at this stage. Relationship-building with Gabonese state energy institutions and multilateral development banks active in Central Africa — such as AfDB and IFC — is the appropriate near-term posture. Companies with hydropower civil or electromechanical supply-chain experience should track the project for an engineering contract or equipment tender that may emerge in two to four years if financing is secured.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Pipeline:** Monitor for transmission infrastructure tenders that typically accompany large hydropower commissioning, connecting generation assets to national grid interconnection points.
- **Service:** Feasibility and environmental impact consultancies with Central African hydro experience should seek early engagement with Gabonese energy ministry counterparts to position for study-phase assignments.

- **Subsea/FPSO:** No direct relevance at this stage; monitor for indirect indicators of Gabon's broader infrastructure financing appetite which may signal offshore project momentum.
- **Drilling:** Limited direct relevance, but Gabon's overall energy investment climate — of which Booué is an indicator — affects the regulatory and fiscal stability relevant to upstream drilling commitments.

Original source: Gabonreview - Economie (Gabon) →

Saga Advisory

General: info@saga-advisory.com · saga-advisory.com

STAVANGER · CAPE TOWN