GABONREVIEW - ECONOMIE (GABON) · GABON

Gabon plans new refinery to end fuel shortages

Saga deep read · 06 November 2026 · Score 58

Gabon's government is pursuing a multi-pronged strategy to address recurring fuel supply disruptions in the domestic petroleum products market, centring on expanded storage capacity, fresh financing for the state refiner Sogara, and the construction of a new refinery. The financing for the new refinery has been under active solicitation since 2024, and the project is now being positioned as the primary structural response to chronic supply tensions.

Sogara, Gabon's existing refining company, is at the heart of the near-term plan. The government intends to secure dedicated financing to stabilise Sogara's operations while simultaneously pursuing the longer-term objective of modernising the country's refining infrastructure. The dual-track approach reflects recognition that Sogara alone cannot reliably meet domestic demand without both capital injection and broader capacity upgrades.

Stockpile reinforcement forms the third pillar of the strategy. By increasing strategic reserves of petroleum products, the government aims to create a buffer against the supply disruptions that have periodically affected fuel availability across the country. The combination of reserve-building, Sogara support, and new refining capacity is intended to reduce Gabon's vulnerability to import dependency and logistical bottlenecks that have historically driven market tensions.

The new refinery proposal remains at an early stage. No financing has yet been secured, and no developer, site, or processing capacity has been publicly disclosed. The project has been in the fundraising phase since at least 2024, indicating that

commercial and financial structuring is still ongoing. The government has not indicated whether it is pursuing public financing, private investment, or a public-private partnership model for the facility.

Gabon's domestic fuel supply challenge is not new. The country produces crude oil but has limited refining capacity relative to its consumption needs, creating a structural gap that is typically bridged through product imports. Any expansion or replacement of refining infrastructure would affect import volumes, storage logistics, and the downstream distribution chain. The government's current initiative signals an intent to close that gap through domestic production rather than continued reliance on imports, though the timeline and financing pathway for the new refinery remain undefined.

> ### Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga
>
> This project is at the reconnaissance and financing-solicitation stage — no contract has been signed and no FID is imminent. Norwegian service companies should monitor financing developments and government tender announcements rather than initiating procurement outreach. Relationship-building with Sogara and the Ministry of Petroleum, as well as tracking multilateral or bilateral financing processes, would be the appropriate near-term posture.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Drilling/Well Services:** No drilling scope is indicated at this stage; monitor for upstream tie-in requirements if the new refinery project advances to FID.
- **Pipeline:** Refinery construction and storage expansion typically require new product pipeline and interconnect infrastructure — track tender announcements once financing is confirmed.
- **FPSO:** No offshore production scope is cited in this article; relevance is indirect at this stage and contingent on project definition.
- **LNG:** If the new refinery incorporates gas processing or fuel-gas utilities, there may be downstream instrumentation and gas-handling scope — monitor project design disclosures.

- **Subsea/FPSO:** Marine offloading and product import terminal infrastructure connected to expanded stockpile capacity could present engineering scope; relevance grows once storage project moves to tender.

Original source: Gabonreview - Economie (Gabon) →

Saga Advisory

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

STAVANGER · CAPE TOWN