

# BID Africa 2015 – National Grant Template

## Final narrative report

### 1. Project Information

**1.1. Project Coordinator: Institution/network/agency name:**

Herbier National du Gabon

**1.2. Main contact person and role:**

Nestor ENGONE OBIANG (Curator of Herbier National du Gabon), coordinator of project

**1.3. BID proposal identifier:**

BID-AF2015-0038-NAC

**1.4. Project title:**

Support for data collection of plant biodiversity in Gabon

**1.5. Start date and end date of the reporting period:**

01/06/2016-01/12/2018 (this date was modified according the revised schedule after the herbarium building destruction)

**1.6. Country in which the activities take place: Gabon**

### 2. Summary

Gabon has a surface of 267 667 km<sup>2</sup> and forests occupy 88% of the national territory. Although a comparatively small country, its botanical wealth is exceptionally high and reputedly its lowland rain forests are the richest in the whole of Africa. The study of Gabonese floristic diversity began in the 19th century with botanical collecting activities. Gradually, the notion about the rich diversity in Gabon grew and in 1982 led to the creation of the National Herbarium of Gabon. The best estimate of the total number of species present in Gabon is between 7000 and 7500, with 13% of the flora being endemic. With its large database of nearly 70 000 specimens, the National Herbarium of Gabon is the main public structure that contains the most important floristic biodiversity's collection of this country. Other data on botanical diversity is dispersed in governmental institutions and universities. Another part of information is contained either in old journals or in the unpublished reports. Unfortunately, this dispersion of information does not facilitate scientific research. This project aims to mobilize as much data as possible on the floristic diversity of Gabon, by combining specimen information with forest inventory data and the content of the published data. The resulting database will then be made available to the public and will serve as a powerful support tool for the best knowledge on Gabonese floristic diversity. It may also help governmental and non-governmental organizations to develop effective strategies for the wise management and conservation of biodiversity.

