Why implement a public scientific data sharing infrastructure in Gabon?

Manifesto for the implementation of a public infrastructure for sharing scientific data on forest and wetland issues in Gabon.

Faced with the major and systemic challenge of the ecological transition, and given the urgency with which we must act, digital technology is an essential tool for targeting the most effective actions, managing complexity, reducing deadlines, modeling, anticipating crises, networking, and mobilizing**.** In short**, for collectively implementing an effective and just ecological transition**.

The public infrastructure project for sharing scientific data for Gabon's forests and wetlands is particularly **essential for meeting our objectives of reducing CO2 emissions and protecting 30% of the planet by 2030**. It is necessary to:

- **support public stakeholders** in their role of managing and monitoring natural resources and protected areas, and in defining long-term strategies that take climate change into account ;
- **support higher education and research** by creating digital bridges between scientific results, public decision-makers, and local populations ;
- **support private stakeholders** by simplifying their administrative procedures and providing them with access to reliable reference data to anticipate future economic developments ;
- **support citizens** by providing them with transparent access to environmental monitoring data produced by public and private stakeholders ;
- **Support associations and NGOs** working on the ground with local populations in their public-interest work in social, health, educational, or ecological support;
- **Support international partners** by providing them with reliable indicators on global environmental issues and validated monitoring data for projects funded in the Congo Basin forests.

The infrastructure could, for example, enable the production of reports by the Gabon Conseil National du Climat (National Climate Council) based on high-quality biodiversity and carbon storage data, in order to increase the availability of international "green" funding, such as that related to the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (PFBC) and the Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF).

Neither ambition nor urgency, however, should lead us to neglect the risks associated with digital technology. The public data-sharing infrastructure must guarantee **data sovereignty**. It must be **ethical** and not exacerbate imbalances between populations or digital divides. It must be **secure** and avoid the hoarding of sensitive data by illegitimate actors seeking to overexploit resources. Its own environmental impact must be limited as much as possible, as well as its potential techno-solutionist excesses.