



Sarl-SO.VA.TER.

## Sarl SO.VA.TER.

Société de valorisation du terroir gabonais

BP 1960, Libreville, GABON

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Libreville, October 25th, 2017,

*SOVATER would like to thank all the participants at the IBOGAIN Forum conference which took place in Vienna on 8-10 September, 2017 for their warm welcome and the quality of the exchanges which took place there.*

*We would like to take this opportunity to let you know about our mission and objectives for the coming years.*

*Our company came about based on the following finding: Gabon is rich in resources of great value, genetic variety (plant and animal) and cultural ones (local traditions, spiritual philosophies, and folk lore), but the value of these resources is little known about or under-appreciated, on both a national and international level. In addition, some of these resources are already being exploited unofficially, illegally, but without benefits for the Gabonese population while also endangering national reserves.*

*As a result, SOVATER will develop to attain the following objectives:*

- Establish a framework of lasting, legal procedures for the commercialisation of products of already known interest and benefit, as well as, in collaboration with the Ministry for Waterways and Forests, promoting and organising the setting up of plantations in the private sector for the long term, sustainable exploitation of existing national resources. This specifically concerns Tabernanthe Iboga, Maranthacea, Gnetum and other tree barks and plants from the Gabonese forests.*
- Develop research programmes to better investigate or confirm the understood or partially known benefits of certain genetic resources and related local folk-lore usage practices, with the collaboration of national and international organisations and research institutes, to establish such research, as well as its financing and development.*
- Organise the promotion of local culture (Bwiti, Djobi etc), folk lore and crafts (weaving, musical instruments, medical usage of plants etc) through, for example, the organisation of tourist visits, appreciation of traditional musicians and the exportation of craftwork etc.*
- Finally, organise the redistribution of the wealth produced back to the villages, by setting up development programmes in the countryside with regard to improving the living conditions of the inhabitants, and proposing legal activities concerning the exploitation of resources so that they can support themselves independently according to their needs.*



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*In these ways, SOVATER hopes to fight rural exodus, bring dignity back to the villages, fight against the disappearance of natural genetic resources, improve living conditions for the Gabonese, and finally, participate in the struggle to overcome the economic crisis currently devastating Gabon.*

*Work has already started for a number of these points.*

- *Collaboration with the village Mboka A Nzambe. This village already has an association, Ebota a Maganga, with which we will collaborate to set up a plantation, aquaculture, and for which in 2018 we'll organise the welcoming of several groups of tourists and travellers who will participate in the development of the village.*
- *Collaboration with Middle Africa to set up tourist routes that will value Gabonese patrimony.*
- *Collaboration with several villages to set up durable and legal exploitation of non-woody forest products.*
- *Collaboration with the Ministry of Waterways and Forests to set up a framework of legal activities as above*
- *Participation in the workshop for the validation of the National Strategy for the Valorisation and Promotion of forest products other than lumber which took place at the Ministry of Waterways and Forests from 18 -19 July 2017.*
- *Participation in the European Forum on Ibogaine which took place in Vienna, Austria, from 8-11 September 2017.*

*We are looking for associates and partners, especially abroad, to set up research programmes, to set up commercial networks and for financing these activities, the details of which can be supplied on demand*

For SOVATER, the manager