

we all need water



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Gabon Washing at the River

Gabon is a country of rivers. The “l’Eau Claire”, the river featured here, is the main water source for Leconi, a border town of about five thousand on the Bateke Plateau. Water from the l’Eau Claire is bottled and sent all over the world under the name *Andja* – the Bateke word for water. These children were my constant companions and on this afternoon we got a rare ride down the river’s edge to do our weekly washing. I still marvel today at the enthusiasm these children showed even as they tackled the most mundane of activities.

-- Carol Cisse, *Peace Corps/Gabon, Central Africa, 2000-01*

Gabon (Gabonese Republic)

Capital Libreville

Population 1,514,993 (2009 est.)

Life Expectancy 53.11 years

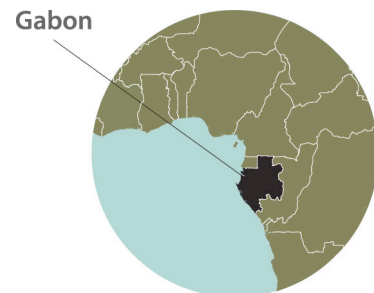
Literacy 63.2% (age 15 and over can read and write)

Languages French (official), Fang, Myene, Nzebi, Bapounou/Eschira, Bandjabi

Religions Christian 55%-75%, animist, Muslim less than 1%

Government republic; multiparty presidential regime

Source: *The World Factbook, 2009*



This photo appears on the **we all need water** International Poster, produced by the RPCVs of Wisconsin-Madison, 2009. For more information and to order a complete set of full-size posters, see <http://www.rpcvmadison.org/>