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Acknowledgements: We thank the Government of Gabon, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the Royal Society and Gatsby Plants for their financial assistance. The Rougier Gabon, CBG, GIB-SHM and CEB-Precious Woods forestry companies and Sylvafrica/ONFI generously provided invaluable permanent plot data that enabled us to improve this analysis. USGS, NASA, JAXA and ASF provided remote sensing data.

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Gabon’s Forests...

Mapped and Monitored to reduce climate change

Tropical forests are vital carbon sinks, absorbing about 10-15% of all human-induced carbon dioxide emissions. Conversely, their destruction and degradation accounts for 10-20% of all anthropogenic emissions.

Gabon plans to be one of the first developing countries in the world to map, assess and set up a monitoring system covering all of its forests and carbon stocks. The Government of Gabon has commissioned a multidisciplinary team of satellite specialists and experts in ground-based forest monitoring to help with this task.

Accurate monitoring of the carbon stocks of tropical vegetation is needed to identify trends in carbon dioxide emissions from tropical deforestation and degradation. Measuring these carbon stocks allows the Government of Gabon to develop policies, which reduce carbon dioxide emissions and the effects of climate change.
The release of further satellite data in early 2010 should allow this change analysis to be extended to the whole of Gabon.

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Carbon stocks in the park increased from 15.19 Gt C (1.19 Gt = 1 million tonnes) in 1996 to 21.14 Gt C in 2007 (36% increase).

Final carbon stocks in the park increased from 15.19 Gt C (1.19 Gt = 1 million tonnes) in 1996 to 21.14 Gt C in 2007 (36% increase).

Case Study: Carbon stocks in Lope National Park,

The map is derived from 20,250 forest sites. 2009 forest height from GLS data.

Carbon map of the nation.