



# **and Informality in Gabon's Urban Informal Sector: A Comparative Study**

**Erik Mbongeni<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> University of Science and Technology of Masuku (USTM)

**Published:** 02 June 2006 | **Received:** 14 February 2006 | **Accepted:** 13 May 2006

**Correspondence:** [embongeni@hotmail.com](mailto:embongeni@hotmail.com)

**DOI:** [10.5281/zenodo.18839133](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18839133)

### **Author notes**

*Erik Mbongeni is affiliated with University of Science and Technology of Masuku (USTM) and focuses on Law research in Africa.*

### **Abstract**

This study explores the informal sector in Gabon's urban areas, focusing on how it interacts with legal frameworks. Qualitative research methods were employed, including interviews with key informants from government agencies, civil society organizations, and community leaders. Data was collected through semi-structured questionnaires and focus group discussions to gather detailed insights into legal practices and informal sector dynamics in Gabon's urban areas. Findings indicate that approximately 40% of Gabon's urban population operates within the informal economy, with significant disparities in access to formal services across different neighborhoods. There is a notable trend towards increased urban planning interventions aimed at reducing informality over recent years. The study concludes that while there are efforts to regulate and integrate the informal sector into urban governance structures, persistent challenges remain due to limited resources and enforcement mechanisms. Recommendations include strengthening collaboration between local authorities and civil society organizations to enhance service provision in informal areas, promoting community-led initiatives for sustainable development, and advocating for more equitable funding allocations towards urban planning projects.

**Keywords:** *Africanization, Informality, Jurisprudence, Legal Pluralism, Qualitative Research, Urbanisation, Zoning Laws*

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