Annual Activity Report 2025

Rapport annuel d’activités 2025

ANNUAL 2025 REPORT

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Acronym and Abbreviation ETF: Energy Transition Fund FC: Community Forest PFNL: Non-Timber Forest Products CLPA: Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples CLIP: Free, Prior, and Informed Consent CCC: Contractual Specifications PSG: Simple Management Plan DFCOM: Directorate of Community Forests DPEF-OI: Directorate for the Promotion of the Forest Economy – Independent Observation DGF: General Directorate of Forests EU: European Union AFD: French Development Agency MINEF: Ministry of Water and Forests RRI: Rights and Resources Initiative WRI: World Resources Institute WWF: World Wildlife Fund CCGL: Local Management Advisory Committee NGO: Non-Governmental Organization CSO: Civil Society Organization CSR: Corporate Social Responsibility AGR: Income-Generating Activities UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization ID: Development Initiative REDHAC: Network of Human Rights Defenders in Central Africa

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The year 2025 was particularly challenging for Brainforest, marked by the completion of nearly all our projects as well as the abrupt halt of the Tracer program, aimed at ensuring the monitoring of legality and traceability of wood entering the economic zone of Nkok. This situation put our operational stability to the test. However, we have shown resilience. This year, we chose to prioritize strengthening our actions to promote community forests. We also implemented several other activities on the ground, including monitoring and denouncing illegal logging, capacity building for local communities, and our Commitment. At the dawn of 2026, Brainforest reaffirms its commitment to stay close to these populations to promote their rights. The organization also commits to continuing its efforts to support the implementation of public policies regarding sustainable natural resource management and to contribute to global efforts in favor of forests. "Finally, the year 2025 allowed us to consolidate our relationships with our usual partners while engaging in discussions with new partners, whom we sincerely thank for their trust. We also commend the commitment of our staff as well as the active participation of local communities." Message from the Executive Secretary Martial DJINANG Executive Secretary of indigenous peoples regarding their rights and the legal framework of natural resources, the promotion of sustainable economic alternatives through the processing and valorization of non-timber forest products, as well as the promotion of sustainable agriculture. In addition, we undertook advocacy actions for the revision of the forestry code, improvement of natural resource governance, revision of texts governing the sharing of benefits from logging, as well as the creation and management of community forests. We also addressed new themes, such as energy transition.

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Brainforest is a Gabonese NGO established in 1998. Its initial objective was to protect the Koungou Falls (Ivindo River) in northwestern Gabon, which were threatened by the construction

of a hydroelectric dam intended to supply the Belinga iron mine. Our Vision To achieve a Gabonese society in which the environment will be protected, with the active participation of the populations, who will benefit from the economic returns of sustainable natural resource management. Our Mission To inform, train, and support all stakeholders (administration, private sector, communities, and NGOs) for sustainable and equitable management of natural resources in Gabon and now in the Congo Basin. Our Areas of Intervention Promotion of community rights Support for economic alternatives in Support for good governance participatory Promotion of the rights of defenders of Intervention Zones • Haut-Ogooué • Ogooué-Ivindo • Nyanga • Ngounié • Woleu-Ntem • Estuaire Geographical Scope Brainforest has broadly expanded its focus on the governance of natural resources. Issues related to forest protection, land tenure, transparency, the rights of local communities, indigenous peoples, and environmental defenders, as well as the fair redistribution of revenues from natural resource exploitation, remain at the center of our action and commitment. About Brainforest Promotion of community management and conservation of natural resources. on land and resources; applicative, to law enforcement and transparency in the Forest-Environment sector; rural environment and alternatives to unsustainable forest use the environment and indigenous populations

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A year rich in activities and community impact, despite the challenges encountered. Field Missions Deployments across the entire territory Executed Projects Community associations supported Workshops organized Training and awareness of stakeholders People trained Awareness and trained Empowerment of Women and Indigenous Peoples 260 Documentary productions 2025 in Numbers 14 6 Denunciation of illegal logging Legislative, regulatory, or public policy text related to the rights of CLPA that has been subject to advocacy or lobbying actions. Independent Observation Reports produced or supported. 11 Income-generating activities supported or implemented. 1 5 3 385 5 Forests initiated Community forests initiated 6 34 Communities trained Awareness and trained 29 7 Associations supported Successful multisectoral interventions Identified and supported Community observers CCGL 3 Local Management Advisory Committees supported and renewed Women and indigenous people supported or who benefited from capacity building. Influenced Text Denunciation Reports OI Reports AGR supported Direct beneficiaries

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A Decisive Turning Point for Gabon 2025 marked a decisive turning point for Gabon, characterized by the end of the political transition and the gradual return to stabilized constitutional order. This new phase has rekindled the expectations of citizens as well as those of national and international partners. Sustainable Management Sustainable management of forest resources Transparency Transparency in governance Valorization Valorization of natural capital Key Initiatives AGADEV Creation of the Gabonese Agency for the Development of the Green Economy, part of the economic recovery and diversification dynamics, with the ambition to enhance the country's attractiveness and support strategic sectors, including the forest-wood sector. In this context of reorganization, Gabonese authorities reaffirmed several structural commitments, particularly regarding sustainable management of forest resources, transparency in governance, and valorization of natural capital. Furthermore, the year 2025 was also marked by major events, such as the forest economic forum, which brought together public and private actors and technical partners around issues related to local wood transformation, value creation, and employment. These dialogue spaces have allowed for repositioning the forest as a central lever for sustainable development in Gabon, in line with the country's commitments in the Congo Basin. Environmentally, several initiatives have been highlighted, particularly in favor of

preserving sensitive ecosystems such as mangroves, as well as promoting innovative solutions for energy transition in which Brainforest is involved. These actions reflect a growing willingness to integrate climate imperatives into public policies while reconciling economic development and biodiversity conservation. Context and Framework of Intervention

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01 Community forests Support in the creation and management of community forests 02 Legal advocacy Strengthening the legal framework for recognition of the rights and traditional lands of CLPA 03 Capacity building Awareness and training of CLPA 04 Fair sharing Right to fair sharing of benefits 05 Gender equality Promotion of women's rights and reduction of inequalities 06 Advocacy and position Advocacy and position papers 07 Economic alternatives Development of economic alternatives 08 CCC Monitoring Monitoring of Contractual Specifications Our Eight Major Actions 2025

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Intervention Themes Forest governance Transparency and sustainable management of resources Land governance Protection of the rights of communities Extractive industries Mapping and monitoring Agro-industry Economic diversification Economic alternatives AGR in rural areas Executed Projects 1 Establish Legal Bases Partners: ClientEarth | Donor: NORAD/ NICFI Duration: 2021-2025 (3-month extension) | Areas: Ogooué-Ivindo, Woleu-Ntem Objectives: Develop a coherent legal framework for the rights of CLPA and community forestry. Build capacity in the practice of community forestry. Results 2025: 8 field missions, 2 workshops, 12 communities trained, production of a practical guide on community forests in Gabon. Capacity building for beneficiary communities, the agricultural fair, support for communities on integrating gender aspects into community forest management, and finally, promoting good practices in the management of FC. 3 4 Projects and Activities

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Executed Projects 2 Partners: FLAG, REM, OGF, WRI | Donor: NORAD Duration: 2021-2025 (end of September) | Areas: Gabon Objective: Increase transparency in the forestry sector through the Open Timber Portal. Results 2025: 2 capacity-building missions, training of the NADA association, practice of Independent Observation with Muyissi Environment. 3 Projects and Activities "Independent Forest Monitoring via the Open Timber Portal (OTP)" "Greening the Land Rights of Forest Communities in the Gabonese Republic" Partners: MINAPYGA, KEVA INITIATIVE | Donor: RRI (Bezos Fund) Duration: 2023-2026 (6-month extension) | Areas: Gabonese Republic Objective: Promote the rights of CLPA over land and natural resources. Results 2025: 1 monitoring mission, 5 strengthened communities. 3

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Executed Projects 4 3 Projects and Activities "Transforming the governance of forest landscapes in the Bas Ogooué-Basse Nyanga landscape corridor" Partners: DGEDD and GEF7 | Donor: UNDP Duration: 2025 | Areas: Nyanga, Ngounié Objective: To catalyze more inclusive governance of forest landscapes and strengthen environmental monitoring mechanisms in targeted areas. 2025 Results: 2 identification and consultation missions, distribution of agricultural materials for the creation of income-generating activities (IGAs), production of guides on the CLIP, 20 communities sensitized. "Strengthening the participation of civil society organizations and forest communities in improving forestry practices and public policies in Gabon" Donor: PMF/FEM (UNDP/UNOPS) | Duration: Closure 2025 Areas: Estuaire, Woleu-Ntem | Objective: To promote suitable regulations on community rights. 2025 Results: Implementation framework analysis report, 6 communities sensitized and trained, advocacy workshop planned

for early 2026. 5

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Executed Projects 6 3 Projects and Activities "Tracer-Nkok" Partners: FRM and BRAINFOREST Duration: 2018-2025 | Areas: ZES of Nkok, Gabon Objective: Traceability and compliance of incoming and outgoing logs from the forest of origin to the factory entrance. 2025 Results: 100% traceability and compliance of log suppliers with a legality reference adapted to the Gabonese context. "Strengthening the participation of civil society and local communities in promoting energy transition" Donor: ETF, ROCKEFELLER PHILANTHROPY ADVISORS | Duration: 2025 Areas: Estuaire | Objective: To promote energy transition in Gabon and improve the knowledge of involved actors. 2025 Results: 2 workshops, 1 study on Gabon's energy policy. 7

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One-off Activity 8 3 Projects and Activities "Renewal of the Local Management Advisory Committee for the national parks of Pongara, Mont de Cristal, and Akanda" Partner: ANPN, WWF | Duration: 2025 Areas: Estuaire and Akanda | Objective: To support the renewal process, revitalization of the CCGL of the national parks, and awareness-raising. 2025 Results: 5 missions, organization of elective general assemblies, and CCGL offices have been renewed.

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Measurable operational results reflecting the direct impact of our interventions on governance, transparency, and the well-being of communities. Governance Signing of 5 CCC Transparency 100% traceability Development 93M FCFA to communities Signing of 5 contractual specifications (CCC) • Areas: Estuaire (4) and Moyen-Ogooué (1) • Stakeholders: 3 forestry companies and 5 villages • Local Development Fund: 93,373,118 FCFA for the benefit of impacted local communities Capacity Building • Cascade training: 2 members of Brainforest trained at CEAS-GRNE have trained 4 agents from the NGO NADA and 1 agent from DPEF-OI; • Coaching: 3 members of the partner NGO MUYISSI ENVIRONNEMENT trained in independent observation; • 29 community observers identified (21 men and 8 women). 48.2M FCFA State's lost revenue related to abandoned timber (6 economic analyses) 106 Villagers Beneficiaries of capacity building on regulatory participation (53 women and 53 men) 29 Observers Individuals identified for independent forest observation Other Major Impacts National Strategy Establishment of a national strategy for independent observation by CSOs Governance of protected areas 3 CCGL renewed in national parks Training and awareness-raising 43 local communities and indigenous populations trained and sensitized Economic development Development of IGAs through the implementation of agricultural activities and transformation of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) Gender equality Awakening of female leadership in the management of community forest associations Results and Impacts

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At the end of this rich year for Brainforest, we move towards 2026 with a lasting commitment to our mission in favor of sustainable and equitable management of natural resources in Gabon and the Congo Basin. Evolution of governance Ongoing restructuring: structuring of the executive office and establishment of a board of directors to meet international standards. Strategic growth This transformation responds to the growth of our activities and the strategic development of the NGO. Renewed commitment In a complex global context, our teams remain motivated and are pleased that the preservation of natural resources is taking a more prominent place in current issues. 2026 Priorities Vulnerable populations Stay close to the most vulnerable populations Gender dimension Integrate the gender dimension transversally in all our interventions Sustainable development Promote an inclusive, equitable, and sustainable

approach to development Restructuring Finalize the restructuring of governance bodies Strategic Planning 2026

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Brainforest warmly thanks all its technical and financial partners for their continued support and shared commitment to the sustainable management of natural resources. Technical Partners ClientEarth Field Legality Advisory Group (FLAG) Resource Extraction Monitoring (REM) Forest Governance Observatory (OGF) World Resources Institute (WRI) WWF (World Wildlife Fund) MINAPYGA KEVA INITIATIVE Muyissi Environment NADA Funding Partners • Norwegian Agency for Development and Cooperation (NORAD) • Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI) • Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI) - Bezos Fund • United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) • Global Environment Facility (GEF/FEM7) • Energy Transition Fund (ETF) • Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors • UNOPS Institutional Partners • National Agency for National Parks (ANPN) • General Directorate of Environment and Sustainable Development (DGEDD) • Community Forests Directorate (DFCOM) • General Directorate of Forests (DGF) • Ministry of Water and Forests (MINEF) Our Partners

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