

## **A Simple Overview of Musics Throughout Gabon**

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Musics in Gabon share a number of common features, but reveal a great intrinsic diversity. Most of previous studies on these musics were focused on monographic description or small-scale comparisons. However, increasing knowledge about these musics, as well as intensive fieldwork throughout Gabon now allow a broader comparison of these musics.

We collected first-hand musical and contextual data in 20 ethnonymo-geographical units. These represent 10 ethnonymical groups, distributed in 7 different provinces of Gabon. These analytical recording and musical data were analysed thanks to musical systematics tools.

We compared three categories of data, concerning the internal organization of the sound produced. Metrical organization were studied through the number of beats per period and the type of subdivision of the pulsation. Rhythmical organization were studied through its segmentation in elementary rhythmic cells, and taking the playing context into account. Scales were studied through their interval sequence, the number of scale degrees and the number of semitones they contain.

These data were compared by simple descriptive tools such as graphical representations and map plotting. This gives a first global overview and quantitative assessment of the diversity of Gabonese musics.