Centre for Digital Public Infrestructure

How Gabon Can Launch Verifiable Credentials Quickly

A DPI Builder Brief



A BUILDER'S VIEW OF GABON'S FUTURE

Trust Once. Use Everywhere.

RECOMMENDATION

Start with ONE Verifiable Credential.

Don't digitize every certificate. Build trust first. Scale later.

+1 IMPROVEMENT

Add a digitally signed QR code to existing certificates. No new platform. No citizen retraining. Immediate value.

TODAY'S CHALLENGE: THE SAME DOCUMENT. THE SAME VERIFICATION. OVER AND OVER.

CITIZEN / BUSINESS



- Obtains paper certificate
- Sends or submits document

BANK



- Receives document
- Reviews manually
- Calls issuer
- Waits
- Approves / Rejects

EMPLOYER



- Receives document
- Reviews manually
- Calls issuer
- Waits
- Approves / Rejects

INSURANCE COMPANY



- Receives document
- Reviews manually
- Calls issuer
- Waits
- Approves / Rejects

GOVERNMENT AGENCY



- Receives document
- Reviews manually
- Calls issuer
- Waits
- Approves / Rejects

OTHER INSTITUTIONS



- Reviews manually
- Calls issuer
- Waits for response
- Repeats verification



THE RESULT: HIGH COST, LOW TRUST

SLOW

Delays services for citizens and businesses and slows economic activity.

EXPENSIVE

High operational costs due to manual work, phone calls, and delays.

FRAUD RISK

Paper documents are easy to forge or manipulate.

LOW TRUST

Citizens and institutions lose confidence in the system.

WHY THIS MATTERS FOR GABON

Millions
of verifications happen manually every year

Days
lost in delays for citizens, businesses and institutions

High Costs
in staff time, phone calls, and paper handling

Low Trust
in documents leads to friction and lost opportunities

BUILDER PRINCIPLE: REUSE BEFORE REBUILD

- Reuse existing certificates.
- Reuse existing registries.
- Reuse existing government systems.

Only add trust.

WHY VERIFIABLE CREDENTIALS ARE ELEGANT

- The issuer issues only once.
- The holder controls the credential.
- Every verifier trusts it instantly.
- No repeated phone calls.
- No central verification bottleneck.

THE PROBLEM IS NOT THAT CERTIFICATES ARE PAPER. THE PROBLEM IS THAT TRUST CANNOT BE REUSED.

BUILD ON WHAT EXISTS. ADD TRUST. DELIVER VISIBLE VALUE FAST.

One certificate. Many verifiers. Instant trust.

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The Builder Solution

Add Trust. Reuse Everything.

Verifiable Credentials (VCs) turn existing certificates into instantly verifiable, **trustworthy** digital credentials—**without changing how they are issued.**



WHAT IS A VERIFIABLE CREDENTIAL?

A digital credential that is cryptographically signed by the issuer, owned by the holder, and instantly verifiable by anyone authorized.

1. ISSUER

Ministry / Agency

Issues the certificate and signs it digitally.

Issues VC →

2. HOLDER

Citizen / Business

Owns the credential and decides when and with whom to share.

Presents VC →

3. VERIFIER

Banks, Emploess, Agencies, Insurers...

Verifies instantly using the issuer's public key.

ONE CERTIFICATE.
MANY VERIFIERS.
INSTANT TRUST.

No phone calls.
No emails.
No repeated verification.
Just trust.

THE FIVE DPI PRINCIPLES IN ACTION

INTEROPERABILITY	Built on open standards (W3C VCs) to work across systems.
MINIMALISM	No new systems for citizens. Reuse existing certificates and processes.
ECOSYSTEM INNOVATION	Banks, insurers, employers and agencies can innovate on top of trusted data.
FEDERATED ARCHITECTURE	Each issuing ministry/agency remains in control. No central bottleneck.
SECURITY & PRIVACY	Citizen controls what to share. Only what is shared can be verified.

+1 IMPROVEMENT

Add a digitally signed QR code to existing paper certificates.

- No new platform
- No citizen retraining
- Immediate value
- Low cost, high impact

WHY VERIFIABLE CREDENTIALS ARE ELEGANT

- The issuer issues only once.
- The holder controls the credential.
- Every verifier trusts it instantly.
- No repeated phone calls or emails.
- No central verification bottleneck.

Trusted by design.
Built for reuse.

> We are not digitizing certificates.
> We are making **trust reusable**.
>
> **Build Once.**
> **Verify Everywhere.**

START SMALL. DELIVER FAST. BUILD FOR TOMORROW.
One certificate today. Millions of uses tomorrow.

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How to Start in Gabon

One Certificate. Real Value. Fast.

Start small with a high-impact use case, engage first adopters, and deliver visible results in 90 days.

Prove value. Build trust. Scale naturally.



START SMALL: CHOOSE THE RIGHT FIRST USE CASE

FIRST VERIFIABLE CREDENTIAL

Tax Clearance Certificate

High demand. High value.
Frequently requested. Easy to verify.

FIRST ADOPTERS (TRUSTED VERIFIERS)

BGFI Bank
KYC & loan underwriting

CNAMGS
Social security & employer onboarding

Ministry of Public Procurement
Vendor qualification & contracting

GOAL
Make the Tax Clearance Certificate instantly verifiable by key institutions across Gabon.

90-DAY ROADMAP: DELIVER VISIBLE VALUE QUICKLY

0–30 DAYS

1. ALIGN & PREPARE

- Align with DGI, key ministries and regulators
- Define data, legal basis and governance
- Agree on VC standard (W3C) and minimal data
- **Identify and onboard first adopters**

Outcome: Stakeholders aligned. Pilot scope defined.

31–60 DAYS

2. BUILD & PILOT

- Add digitally signed QR code to existing **certificate**
- Issue first VCs
- Integrate verifier (BGFI Bank, CNAMGS, Procurement Ministry)
- Test verification flow

Outcome: Live pilot. First verifications succeed.

61–90 DAYS

3. LAUNCH & MEASURE

- Go live with first adopters
- Monitor usage & feedback
- Measure impact (time, cost, satisfaction)
- Refine and prepare for expansion

Outcome: Visible value delivered. Ready to scale.

90+ DAYS

4. SCALE & EXPAND

- Add more verifiers (banks, insurers, employers)
- Expand to additional high-value certificates
- Enable **cross-border** recognition

Outcome: Ecosystem growth. Regional potential.

KEY SUCCESS FACTORS

- Strong issuer commitment
- Simple, legal and secure design
- Trusted early adopters
- Clear communication & support

THE FIVE DPI PRINCIPLES IN ACTION

INTEROPERABILITY	W3C Verifiable Credentials work across institutions and systems.
MINIMALISM	We reuse the existing certificate. We only add trust.
ECOSYSTEM INNOVATION	Banks, insurers, employers and agencies build new services on top of trusted data.
FEDERATED ARCHITECTURE	Each ministry remains in control of its data and issuance.
SECURITY & PRIVACY	Citizen controls what is shared. Only what is needed can be verified.

BUILDER MINDSET

Start with one certificate.
Deliver fast. Learn. Improve.
Then let adoption spread.

WHAT SUCCESS WILL LOOK LIKE

-80%	Time to verify documents
-70%	Cost of verification per transaction
100K+	Verifications in the first 6 months
10+	Institutions using the credential
High	User satisfaction and trust

START SMALL. DELIVER FAST. BUILD TRUST ONCE. USE EVERYWHERE.
One certificate today. Millions of verifications tomorrow.

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Deliver Visible Public Value

Start Small. Scale with Trust.

Prove value early. Build confidence. Let the ecosystem scale it.

Build once. Verify everywhere.



EXPECTED IMPACT FOR GABON (FIRST 12 MONTHS)

-80% Time to verify documents	From days/weeks to minutes.
-70% Cost of verification per transaction	Fewer calls, visits and manual work.
100K+ Verifications in the first 6 months	Growing adoption across institutions.
10+ Government & private institutions using the VC	Expanding use across sectors and services.
High User satisfaction and trust	Citizens experience faster and easier services.

Better services for citizens. Lower costs for institutions. Stronger trust in public systems.

WHY THIS APPROACH WILL SUCCEED

VISIBLE VALUE FAST
Citizens and institutions see immediate benefits within weeks.

BUILT ON TRUST
Digitally signed by trusted issuers. Instantly verifiable everywhere.

EASY TO ADOPT
No new systems for citizens. Works with existing processes.

ECOSYSTEM MOMENTUM
Early adopters drive demand. More use cases follow naturally.

SCALABLE NATIONALY. REUSABLE REGIONALLY.
Built once for Gabon. Can interoperate within the region.

BUILDER TIPS

- Start with one certificate.
- Reuse before rebuild.
- Deliver value in weeks, not years.
- Engage early adopters.
- Measure, learn, improve.
- Let adoption spread voluntarily.

Think small. Act fast. Build for tomorrow.

FINAL RECOMMENDATION

Don't start by digitizing everything.
Start by making
one certificate
instantly trusted everywhere.

- Deliver visible value in 90 days.
- Build trust with citizens and institutions.
- Scale to more certificates and services as demand grows.

> The problem is not that certificates are paper.
> The problem is that **trust cannot be reused.**

One Certificate. Many Verifiers. Instant Trust.
Gabon can lead the way.

BUILD ON WHAT EXISTS. ADD TRUST. DELIVER VALUE FAST.
One certificate today. Millions of verifications tomorrow.

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