



**CONKOUATI-DOULI  
NATIONAL PARK,  
CONGO**

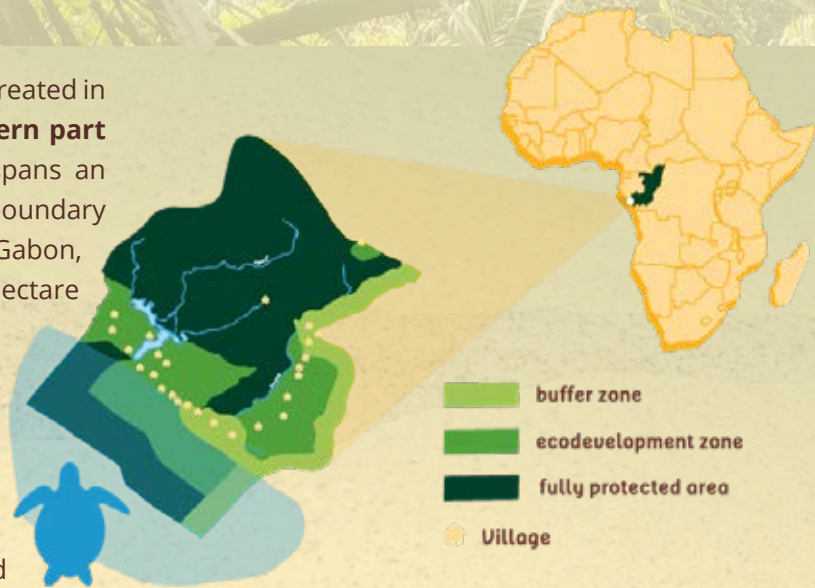
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## Where the forest meets the ocean

**Conkouati-Douli National Park**, created in 1999, is located in the **southwestern part of the Republic of Congo** and spans an area of 504,905 hectares. Transboundary with Mayumba National Park in Gabon, the two parks form a 600,000-hectare block of unique forest, coastal, and marine habitat. Conkouati is also home to a **chimpanzee** sanctuary created by the **NGO HELP CONGO**, which in nearly 30 years has reintroduced more than half of the 110 chimpanzees rescued from illegal trade into their natural environment. Between the atlantic coast and the mountains lies a mosaic of habitats consisting of beaches, coastal forests, mangroves, lagoons, lakes surrounded by forests.

The park is home to **400 species of vertebrates**, many of which are endangered, such as the great emblematic wildlife of Central Africa, like the **forest elephant, forest buffalo, leopard, sitatunga, gorilla and no less than 7,000 chimpanzees**. The wetlands provide a refuge for migratory birds, while the large lagoon and its mangroves are home to **manatees, hippos** and serve as a breeding ground for many fish and marine species, including rays and sharks. The marine area and its coastline are home to **leatherback turtles, dolphins and humpback whales**.



### Parcs de Noé's mandate

20-year partnership agreement for the management of Conkouati-Douli National Park in 2021

### Surface area

504,905 hectares (5,049 km<sup>2</sup>) of which marine segment of 121,600 hectares

### Special attributes

- IUCN II Category
- Ramsar site
- Inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List  
Cross-border with Mayumba
- National Park in Gabon

### Biomes

- Western congolese forest-savannah mosaic
- Atlantic equatorial coastal forests
- Gulf of Guinea (marine)

### Key endangered wildlife species

**Critically endangered:** Western lowland gorilla, hawksbill turtle

**Endangered:** forest elephant, chimpanzee, loggerhead turtle, green turtle

**Vulnerable:** leatherback turtle, olive ridley turtle, Atlantic humpback dolphin, manatee

### Key governance actors

- Noé
- Ministry of Forest Economy (MEF)
- Congolese Agency for Wildlife and Protected Areas (ACFAP)

### Technical partners

- HELP Congo
- Jane Goodall Institute Congo
- ESI Congo
- African Parks
- Wildlife Conservation Society

> The leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) is present in all the oceans of the planet, but its survival is seriously threatened by poaching, fishing nets, pollution and urbanization of the coastline.



## A treasure in danger

This gem of the Central African coastline is under severe pressure from illegal wildlife trafficking such as poaching for the international ivory trade, wildlife smuggling (pangolins, shark fins, etc.), and hunting for bushmeat. In addition, there is the illegal extraction of mineral resources, such as cassiterite and gold, illegal logging for the country's major cities, and unauthorized industrial fishing. Furthermore, plastic pollution affects marine wildlife, such as leatherback turtles, and human-elephant conflicts are recurrent. It is essential to safeguard and restore this ecosystem, while providing development opportunities that are compatible with biodiversity, and that guarantee security and good governance.

1980

CREATION OF THE CONKOUATI WILDLIFE RESERVE

1999

CREATION OF THE CONKOUATI-DOULI NATIONAL PARK

2008

RECOGNITION OF THE RESERVE AS AN INTERNATIONAL WETLAND (RAMSAR)

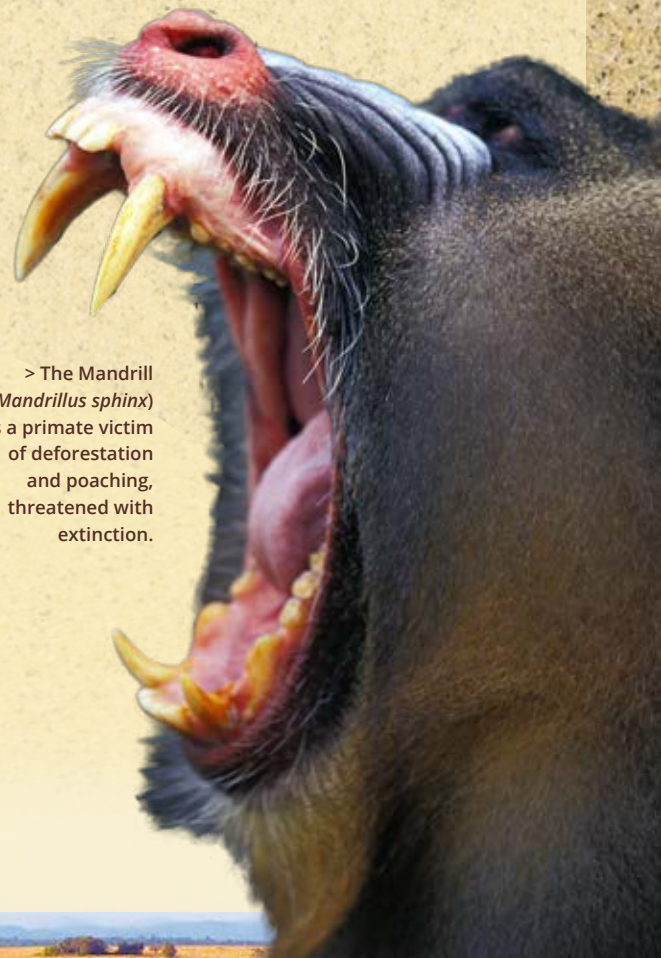
2021

SIGNING OF A PARK MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH NOÉ FOR 20 YEARS

## Economic relevance

In addition to its great tourist potential (located near the country's economic capital, Pointe Noire), the National Park plays a major social and economic role for Congo. Its lagoon system and its 1,200 km<sup>2</sup> of marine surface ensure the renewal of fish stocks, allowing the fishing sector to have economic revenues and to feed the local population. The park includes an eco-development zone allowing human settlements for 7,000 people in 30 villages. The coastal populations, which make up more than 50% of the park's inhabitants, are of Vili ethnic origin. Faced with a high level of poverty, artisanal fishing is an essential part of their livelihood, a source of income, and an alternative to bush meat.

> The Mandrill (*Mandrillus sphinx*) is a primate victim of deforestation and poaching, threatened with extinction.



## Our vision

The vision for the park is to be a **natural refuge** for Central Africa's emblematic wildlife, as well as Congo's number one tourism destination, **benefiting local communities and climate change mitigation**. This can only be achieved by balancing the three pillars of sustainability environment, society and economy.



### ECONOMY

- **Developing** self-financing mechanisms for the park in exchange for environmental services (grazing areas, spawning grounds, etc.)
- **Including** and giving responsibility to socio-economic actors, such as the agro-industry, in the protection of ecosystems
- **Developing** natural chains that are respectful of the environment
- **Promoting** agroecological and agroforestry techniques

### ENVIRONMENT

- **Deploying** a protection system (infrastructure, human and financial resources)
- **Monitoring** of key species to guide protection efforts
- **Establishing** an internationally recognized center for equatorial forest research

### SOCIETY

- **Creating** local employment
- **Contributing** to the safety of the area
- **Integrating** communities in governance bodies
- **Establishing** sustainable economic activities (agriculture, fishing, non-timber forest products)
- **Ensuring** the mitigation of human-wildlife conflict
- **Supporting** education and health programs

### PARTNERS



[www.noe.org](http://www.noe.org)

Parcs de Noé is a program of the **NGO Noé**, which is a non-profit public nature protection organisation created in 2001. Noé has programs in France and around the globe to **safeguard biodiversity for the benefit of all living, including the human species**.



[www.parcdenoe.org](http://www.parcdenoe.org)

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