



## Press release

For immediate release

N'Djamena, 27 July 2021

### Signature of a partnership between the Republic of Chad and the NGO Noé for the management of the Binder-Léré Protected Area Complex



On 26 July 2021, the Minister of Environment, Fisheries and Sustainable Development of Chad, Mr. Mahamat Ahmat Lazina, and the President of Noé, Mr. Arnaud Greth, signed a partnership agreement in N'Djamena to entrust the management of the Binder-Léré Protected Area Complex to the French NGO for a period of 15 years. After Niger and Congo, this is the third partnership agreement of this type implemented by Noé.

#### A jewel of Chadian biodiversity

The Binder-Léré Protected Area Complex, with a surface area of 1,350 km<sup>2</sup>, is located in the southwest of Chad, englobing a unique ecosystem gradient of this Sudano-Sahelian environment. This mosaic of Sudanese savannahs, gallery forests, rivers, alluvial plains and lakes makes this protected area one of the most diverse in Chad. Designated as a wetland of international importance (Ramsar site), it is home to many iconic species, including the third largest population of savannah elephants in Chad, the manatee (unique in Chad), the hippopotamus, the Kordofan giraffe, the leopard, the buffalo, the Roan antelope and many other species of ungulate.

The Complex provides important environmental services including grazing areas and fish. However, its ecological and cultural assets are under strong pressure, resulting in a degradation of its characteristic ecosystems, the loss of vital vegetation cover to combat climate change and a considerable decrease in wildlife populations. Faced with this, the Ministry of the Environment, Fisheries and Sustainable Development and Noé, together with the local population, have decided to strengthen the protection status of the heart of the Complex, upgrading it to a National Park.



Arnaud Greth, President of Noé : « ***We are convinced that we can make the Binder-Léré Protected Area Complex a showcase for nature conservation and sustainable development.*** »

#### A relevant management model for Protected Areas

To limit biodiversity loss and climate change, a network of well-managed, long-term protected areas is essential. Unfortunately, many of these wilderness areas are poorly managed. National authorities, donors and NGOs have therefore developed partnership models in which governments draw on NGOs to assume responsibility for the daily management of protected areas while at the same time being an integral part of the governance bodies of the protected

areas. This is the case with this partnership, which aims to protect this natural heritage and integrate it into the socio-economic development of the region, thus contributing to the maintenance of biodiversity and improving the sustainability of resource use benefitting local communities.



To achieve this, thanks to financial partnerships with the French Development Agency and the European Union, **Noé will ensure the building of infrastructures, organising surveillance of the park, restoring animal populations, coordinating research and scientific monitoring, and setting up income-generating**

**activities and green industries benefitting local communities.**

This to ensure that the Binder-Léré Protected Area Complex becomes a true showcase for nature conservation and sustainable development.



Mahamat Ahmat Lazina, Minister of Environment, Fisheries and Sustainable Development of Chad : ***« The signing of this partnership agreement is of paramount importance and is in line with the government's policy on environmental protection, which places particular emphasis on the involvement of the private sector through partnerships for environmental governance. »***

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