

Our vision

The vision for the Park is to be an **intact and protected refuge for the emblematic biodiversity of Central Africa for the benefit of local communities and indigenous populations**, and the mitigation of global climate change.

It is through the prism of these 3 pillars that Noé has set the course for its action and its long-term impacts. The latter are also fully in line with the Congolese state's vision of a green economy.

ECONOMY

- **Generating income** with tourism by attracting investors
- **Developing self-financing mechanisms** for the park in exchange for environmental services provided
- **Including and empower socio-economic actors**, such as the private sector, in the protection of the park
- **Valuing ecosystem services**, particularly carbon capture
- **Creating jobs locally** through the green economy

ENVIRONMENT

- **Deploying a protection system** (infrastructure, human and financial resources) for the maritime, river and land areas of the park
- **Monitoring key species and habitats** to guide protection efforts

SOCIETY

- **Integrating communities into governance bodies**
- **Establishing sustainable economic activities** (agriculture, fishing, non-timber forest products)
- Ensuring the **mitigation of human-wildlife conflict**
- Supporting programs related to water, education and health
- **Contributing to sustainable regional development**

Financial partners



Noé works according to the strategic orientations of the Congolese Agency for Wildlife and Protected Areas



Noé is technically supported by the African Parks incubator program



Conkouati-Douli National Park





Where the forest meets the ocean

The **Conkouati-Douli National Park**, created in 1999, is located in the southwest of the Republic of Congo, and covers an area of **795,500 hectares**. Cross-border with Mayumba National Park in Gabon, the two parks form a block of 890,000 hectares of **unique forest, coastal and marine habitat**. Konkouati is also home to a chimpanzee sanctuary created by the NGO HELP Congo, which, in nearly 30 years, has reintroduced into their natural environment more than half of the 110 chimpanzees saved from the illegal trade. Between the Atlantic coast and the mountains there is a **mosaic of habitats made up of beaches, coastal forests, mangroves, lagoons, lakes surrounded by forests**. The park is home to **400 species of vertebrates**, several of which are endangered, such as the large fauna emblematic of Central Africa such as the forest elephant, the forest buffalo, the leopard, the sitatunga, the gorilla and **no less than 7,000 chimpanzees**. The wetlands provide **refuge for migratory birds**, while the large lagoon and its mangroves are home to manatees and hippos and serve as a spawning 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.



Specific attributes

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

Technical partners

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

Key governance actors

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

A jewel in danger

This jewel of the Central African coast is **under strong pressure**: illegal wildlife trafficking such as poaching for the international ivory trade, wildlife trafficking (pangolins, shark fins, etc.) and hunting for bushmeat.

Added to this are the illicit artisanal extraction of mineral resources, such as cassiterite and gold, illegal logging for the economic capital, banned industrial and artisanal fishing, as well as uncontrolled and unregulated local fishing in the marine part of the park.

Additionally, plastic pollution affects marine wildlife, such as leatherback turtles, and human-elephant conflicts are recurrent.

It is essential to restore this ecosystem, while supporting a green economy in favor of biodiversity, sustainable land use planning, and good governance.



Importance économique

In addition to its great tourist potential (located close to the economic capital of the country, Pointe Noire), the National Park plays a major social and economic role for the Congo. Its lagoon system and maritime space ensure the renewal of fish stocks, allowing the fishing sector to generate economic income and feed the population.

The national park includes an eco-development zone allowing the **7,800 inhabitants** spread across 30 villages to practice subsistence activities. The populations are **mainly of Vili and Loubou ethnic origin**. Faced with a significant level of poverty, the promotion of artisanal fishing and the development of local green sectors are alternatives to the consumption of bush meat and illegal logging.



conkouati.org