

## Projet Protection des Gorilles The Lésio-Louna project

The goal of the “Projet Protection des Gorilles” (PPG), a collaboration between the Government of the Republic of Congo and the John Aspinall Foundation, is the conservation of the threatened species and in particular gorillas in Congo Brazzaville. Concretely, we have been searching since 1986 to decrease the illegal trade of baby great apes by promoting the confiscations made by the Ministry in charge of these activities. Then, we take in charge the orphan gorillas victims of the poaching in order to release them progressively in their natural habitat.

For its re-introduction program, the PPG manages a 170.000 ha protected area, located at 140 km north of Brazzaville.

### The tourist sites of the projet

In order to let share the project experience, 3 tourist sites are accessible :

- **The base camp Iboubikro**, accessible by the Nationale 2, thanks to the roads connecting Itaba and Imvouba ( at 120 km and 130 km from Brazzaville) to the Mâh village (presence of roads signs)
- **The Abio camp**, accessible by a road connecting the National 2 at the level of Mpoumako village.
- **The Confluent camp** accessible by canoe from the Mbouambé-Léfini village or the Abio camp.

## Lésio-Louna (Iboubikro)

Accessible by 4X4 or following an arrangement with the



PPG, go down to the **Blue lake** to go swimming in the lake or to have lunch in the shadow of an equipped paillote. Then, you can continue to Iboubikro, the « gorilla village » where there is the possibility to catch sight of orphan baby gorillas. However, due to sanitary precautions, the orphans can't be

approached at less than 7 m 50.

Several pedestrian walks can be done (**Sampion lake, blue lake, Mont Ngaka, botanical path...**)

*Make the most of a night in the bush on the edge of the Lesio river. This site is ideal for family groups.*



*Presence of bedrooms and sanitary dedicated for tourists. A paillote with kitchen, barbecue, living room and dining room will guarantee pleasant evenings. Fresh drinks can be bought on the site but not food.*

Early in the morning, you may be lucky enough to see a sitatunga antelope or a hippo behind the base camp. By walking on the botanical path at the crack of dawn or at the end of the afternoon, you will probably see groups of monkeys playing in the trees.

## Sud-ouest Léfini (Abio - Confluent)

From the camps of **Abio** and **Confluent**, it is possible to see reintroduced gorillas totally free. From there, ascend the Léfini river in a real canoe and enjoy the savannah, cliffs and gallery-forests that constitute the superb landscape of the Léfini Reserve.



For the most sportive people, pedestrians walks are also possible (**cliffs crests along the Léfini reserve, Mont Abio, ancient village of Mbokakala...**).

The sight of the two groups of gorillas reintroduced in the wild will be an unforgettable event at the reserve. The visit of free gorillas is organized with 5 visitors maximum.



*There aren't any bedrooms for tourists but PPG tents are available. The both sites are equipped of electricity, latrines and rudimentary showers.*

*Many insects are presents ... So, you have to foresee long sleeves but also a repellant against insects. Don't forget neither a hat and some solar cream.*

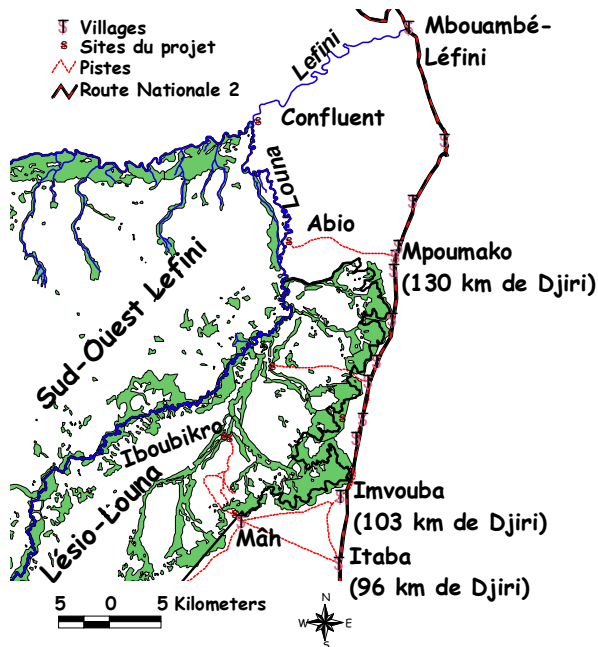
## How to organize your visit?

- 1) Get contact with the PPG
- 2) Go to the « *Direction de la Faune et des Aires Protégées (DFAP)* » to get the MEFÉ authorization (offices close to the zoological park of Brazzaville)
- 3) Confirm the visit with the PPG

### Access to the sites and means of transport

The three sites are available all the week.

The entry in the reserve is possibly accessible by taxi for the Iboubikro base camp. For people with a 4x4 vehicle, it is suggested to sleep to Iboubikro and go to Abio camp very early in the morning. It is also possible to get to the Confluent by canoe from the Mbouambé-Léfini village.



Understand that it is illegal to kill, eat, sell, buy or to own a gorilla, a chimpanzee or a bonobo.



Unfortunately, some people ill-disposed don't respect this international law.

Gorilla

You might see a baby offered for sale in the street ...



Bonobo



Chimpanzee

If you really want to help this animal, and protect this species, **don't buy it but go immediately** to the "*Direction Départementale de l'Economie Forestière de Brazzaville*" (DDEF Brazzaville), or to PPG, and we will act in consequence.



PROJET  
PROTECTION DES  
GORILLES

## The Lésio-Louna Gorilla Reserve / South-west Léfini



The western lowland gorilla is recognized as a globally endangered species because of the commercial hunting for the bushmeat trade and the illegal baby trade, the devastating impact of the Ebola virus and the destruction of the forest habitat.

Together, we have to protect gorillas!

### PPG Contact:

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The John Aspinall Foundation's website :  
[http://: www.totallywild.net](http://www.totallywild.net)