

Access to the sites and means of transport



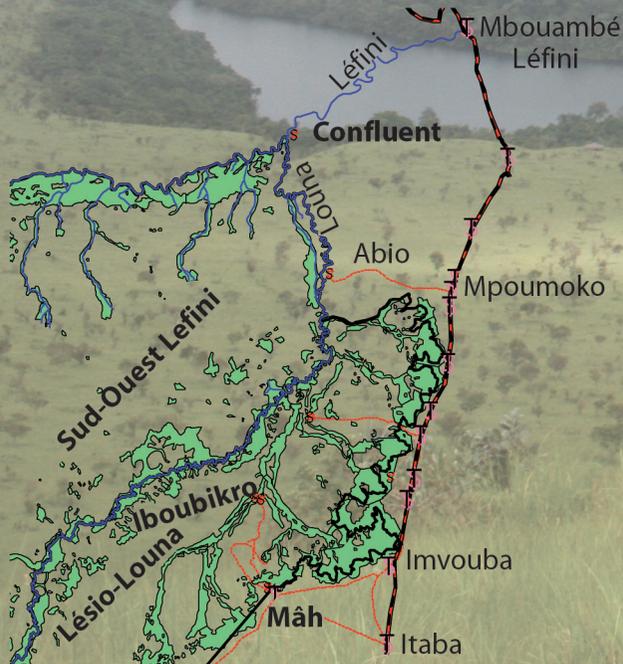
To access the reserve, you must first obtain an entry permit from the Ministry of Forestry. This process can quickly be arranged once your visit to the reserve is confirmed.

All three sites are permanently accessible.

Access into the reserve is possible by taxi from the Iboubikro base camp.

For people travelling in a 4x4 vehicle, we suggest staying overnight at the Iboubikro camp and heading out to Abio camp early the following morning.

The Confluent camp can be reached by canoe from Abio camp or from the village of Mbouambe-Lefini.



It is illegal to kill, eat, sell, buy or own a gorilla, chimpanzee or bonobo



There are however people who violate this international law and who may try to sell you bushmeat and orphaned apes, you may even see them being offered for sale in the street...

If you wish to act to protect any animal you may see offered for sale, do NOT buy it. Instead, report the situation to the "Direction Departementale de l'Economie Forestiere de Brazzaville" (DDEF Brazzaville) or to PPG staff immediately and we will take the necessary action.

Tuer, vendre, acheter, transporter, garder chez soi ou manger un chimpanzé ou un gorille est puni par la loi

Tout contrevenant à la loi est passible d'une peine de prison allant de 2 mois à 5 ans et d'une amende allant jusqu'à 5.000.000 FCFA

Chimpanzé et gorille, animaux intégralement protégés au Congo

PPG contact :

Phone number : 668 12 62 / 555 03 62 / 531 37 96

E-mail : gorille.congo@gmail.com / jafcongo@gmail.com

Website : <http://www.ppg-congo.org>

PROJET PROTECTION DES GORILLES

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**THE LÉSIO-LOUNA
GORILLA RESERVE
SOUTH-WEST LÉFINI**



THE LÉSIO-LOUNA GORILLA RESERVE / SOUTH-WEST LÉFINI

The Western Lowland Gorilla is threatened with extinction due to habitat destruction, the threat of the Ebola virus, and the illegal bushmeat trade.

Together we can help to protect this species !

PPG – The Lesio Louna Project

Projet Protection des Gorilles (PPG) is a collaborative project between the Government of the Republic of Congo and The Aspinall Foundation (TAF) that manages a protected area of 170 000ha located 140 km north of Brazzaville. The aim of this project is to protect threatened ecosystems in Congo-Brazzaville, as well as other species living there - particularly gorillas. Since 1986, PPG has been working to decrease the trade in great apes. PPG works with the Ministry of Forest Economy who confiscates orphaned gorillas, handing them over to PPG who then rehabilitate them for eventual release back into the wild.

Project tourism sites

Tourists can visit three camps within the reserve

- The Iboubikro base camp is accessible via the National 2, which links Brazzaville to the north of the country. From Itaba and Imvouba villages (120km and 130km from Brazzaville), follow the road signs to Mâh village.
- The Abio camp is accessible by a road that connects the National 2 to the Mpoumako Tabet village.
- The Confluent camp is accessible by canoe from Mbouambe- Léfini village or the Abio camp.

Iboubikro Camp



Accessible by 4-wheel drive or by prior arrangement with the PPG, tourists can visit The Blue Lake, an exceptional site for swimming or for a picnic in the shade of a straw hut.

From there, you can continue on to Iboubikro camp, the "gorilla village", where you may be able to see orphaned baby gorillas. Several walks are possible from this site – including Sampion Lake, the Blue Lake, Mont Ngaka or the 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.

The camp has several rooms equipped with mosquito nets, or alternatively you can set up your own tent on-site. Shared shower and toilet facilities are available. You will need to bring your own food, which can be stored in the project fridge. Cold drinks can be bought on site. A thatched hut with kitchen facilities, a barbecue, dining area and hall will make your evenings enjoyable. This site is ideal for family groups.

In the early hours of the morning you may be able to see sitatunga or a hippopotamus around the pools surrounding the campsite. If you walk along the botanical path at sunrise or sunset you may be able to see troops of monkeys in the trees.



Abio-Confluent camps



The Abio and Confluent camps are more basic and will appeal to those who love nature. The Louna and Léfini rivers can be navigated by canoe, and are a great vantage point to see the exceptional landscapes of the Léfini reserve.

For the more courageous, there are walking paths along the ridges that overhang the Léfini, from where you can see magnificent landscape views.

Encountering gorillas in their natural habitat is an unforgettable experience. With a little luck you may spot some of the successfully reintroduced gorillas who now live freely in the reserve along with their young, the only gorillas ever born in the wild to orphan parents - a definite confirmation of the success of this reintroduction project.



There are no rooms on site, so you will need to either bring your own tent or to make use of one supplied by the PPG. The two sites have electricity, toilets and basic showers.

Please note that there are a lot of insects, so it is advisable to wear long-sleeved shirts, bring insect repellent, a hat and sun-screen.

