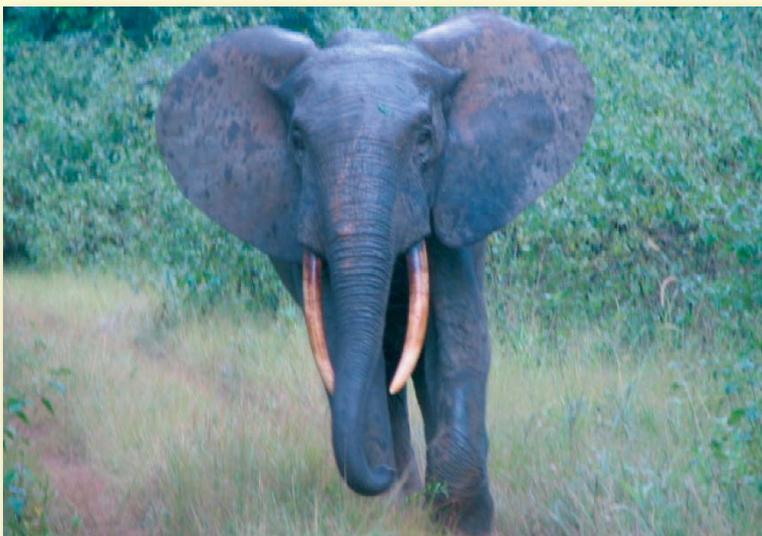
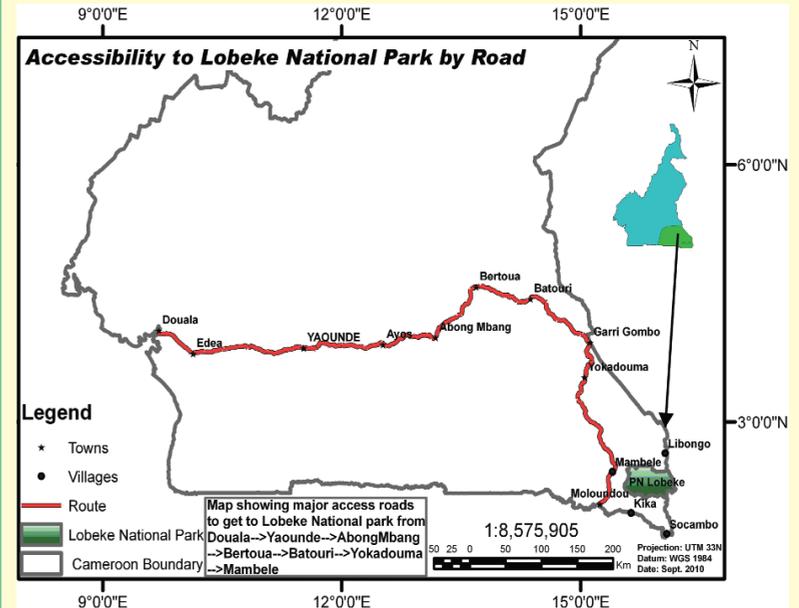




Welcome to Lobéké National Park South-East Cameroon



Location



Lobéké National Park is situated on the extreme southeast region of Cameroon. It covers a surface area of 217, 854ha. Created on March 19, 2001, Lobéké



forms part of the trans-boundary conservation initiative, known as Tri-National de la Sangha, TNS, a priority landscape that includes Dzangha-Ndoki (CAR) and Nouabale-Ndoki (Congo Brazzaville) national parks. Lobéké has a network of swampy forest clearings especially on the eastern flank of the park.

Biodiversity

Lobéké National Park has rich flora and fauna potentials :

- ◆ 45 mammal species, excluding rodents, are predominant, including elephants, gorillas, chimpanzees, buffaloes, bongo antelopes and panthers. The densities of elephants, gorillas and chimpanzees are amongst the highest in Africa.
- ◆ 305 bird species have been observed in Lobéké, three of them new to science. A huge population of African grey parrots is found in the park.
- ◆ 18 out of 30 species of reptiles found in the sub-region have been recorded in Lobéké.
- ◆ 16 species of amphibians and 134 species of fish belonging to 19 families are found in the area. Amongst the shellfishes collected in the region, the shrimps is the most sought after.
- ◆ About 215 butterfly species have been recorded, eight of them endemic in Cameroon.
- ◆ Botanic inventories show that there are 764 species of plants belonging to 102 families. Among these species, two are said to be endemic.



People

Some 15000 people live in 24 villages around Lobéké, with a very low population density of less than four people per sq. km. A huge chunk of the population is concentrated around Moloundou (administrative headquarters), Kika, Libongo and Lokomo, all logging towns. The main ethnic groups are Bantus and Baka pygmies with Bantus further split into two tribal lineages namely Bangandos and Bakweles. A large immigrant population, including Moslem traders and job seekers reside in the area.



Eco-tourism sites

Djembe



Djembe is a base camp situated on the shores of the Sangha River that serves as a natural boundary between Cameroon, Central African Republic and Congo Brazzaville.

The base harbours wildlife species such as elephants, gorillas, sitatunga, buffalos, bongo antelopes and forest hogs. Visitors to Djembe attest to having encountered marauding elephants feeding on Indian bamboo, gibbering gorillas sequestered in the thickets and ferocious buffaloes trudging on the road that leads to the base camp.

Djembe has a connectivity of trails that lead to four small clearings regularly visited by gorillas and elephants. From the base, visitors may be lucky to see forest elephants cross the Sangha River into Congo Brazzaville, as the area provides a corridor for migration of elephants among the three protected areas that make up the TNS. Tourists can also have the opportunity to fish on the Sangha River and take a boat ride to catch a glimpse of the picturesque landscape.

Forest clearings

Large forest clearings (some twice the size of a soccer pitch) are found inside Lobéké National Park. These clearings, known by the Baka pygmy name as Bai are rich in saltlicks and serve as a pool of attraction for wildlife. They are large grass fields with unique vegetations found sometimes deep inside the forest. They are maintained by foraging large mammals such as elephants, gorillas, buffaloes, bongo antelopes and sitatungas. Six forest clearings are being monitored in Lobéké. They include Bolo, Djanguï, Ndangaye, Ngoa, Djaloumbe and Petite Savane. Observation towers (Miradors) have been constructed near these bais. Miradors are wooden structures that can accommodate up to five people and serve as platform for observation of animals that visit the clearings.





Bolo

Bolo is a marshy forest clearing situated southwest of the park. It is accessible from Mambele (65 km by road and 3km of hiking). Sitatunga is the dominant wildlife species likely to be found in this clearing, from dawn to dusk. Elephants amble in from time to time to feed on the clearing's rich saltlick. Buffaloes also visit Bolo, between January and July every year. African grey parrots also swamp the clearing occasionally. On their way to Bolo clearing, tourists have the opportunity to make a stop at the majestic bolo falls some 3 km walk from the motorable trail.

Ndangaye

Ndangaye is situated in the northwest of Lobéké. An entirely swampy forest clearing, Ndangaye is reputed for its sitatunga and forest hogs. Gorillas and buffaloes visit this clearing too.

Ngoa

The largest clearing in Lobéké, Ngoa is a converging point for different wildlife species, including the forest elephants, gorillas, sitatunga, monkeys and forest hogs. Situated in the north of the park, Ngoa is wholly inaccessible during the rainy season.

Petite Savane

Petite Savane is a partially swampy clearing situated some 36 km from Mambele. The clearing is most visited by lowland gorillas in groups of up to 14. Very elusive, gorillas in Petite Savane easily get frightened by the least noise or sense of human presence. Chances of seeing forest elephants are also high. Sometimes they come in group of five and stay briefly in the clearing. Elephants also pay nocturnal visits to the clearing. The springy black and white colobus monkeys predominate alongside the forest hogs. Petite Savane is easy to access from Mambele. Visitors can do 30 out of the 36 km distance to the clearing by car and just 6 km of hiking. The clearing has a watch tower and base camp which can accommodate up to five people.



Djangui

A swampy clearing situated at the centre of the park, Djangui



is a haven for African grey parrots. As many as 200 parrots and green pigeons swamp the clearing on a regular basis. Gorillas and elephants also visit Djangui, including buffaloes and colobus monkeys.

Ethno-tourism

The rich tradition and culture of the Baka and Bangando ethnic groups living around Lobéké forest can be an exciting experience for tourists. Two major activities stand out: The Jengi cultural festival organized yearly by the Baka pygmies to introduce new members into this highly spiritual society and traditional hunting expeditions. There is also the famous Baka tortoise dance and the Molando cultural festival organized in the town of Moloundou south of the park. The indigenous population also produce good quality crafts from wood such as ebony and sapelli. They use raphia palms to produce baskets, mats and other objects.

How to get to Lobéké

Lobéké can be accessed by land, air and sea. The park is situated some 824 km east of Cameroon's capital city Yaoundé. Of the 824km road, only 340km is tarred. The rest of the road is unpaved and becomes near impractical during the rainy season. Visitors who choose to travel by road have two options: hire a land cruiser four-wheel drive vehicle from Yaoundé or go by public transport. It takes 23-hour drive by public transport to get to Mambele, a village on the outskirts of the park where the conservation services are based. Expect to stop at Bertoua, the major city where the paved road ends, situated 340km from Yaoundé. The next bus takes you down to Yokadouma, a town situated some 300km from Bertoua, where you will have to board a third bus that will take you down to Mambele.

Lobéké can be reached by air. Three airstrips owned by three logging companies can be used to ferry tourists in and out of the region thereby avoiding the trammels of traveling some 800 km on wholly unpaved road. Kika, a logging town southwest of the park has an airstrip that can accommodate small planes. From Kika, tourists travel 27km by car to reach the entrance of the park. Then there is a second airstrip in Lokomo a logging town located northwest of Lobéké. Lokomo is situated some 40km from Mambele. In the north of the park is found a third airstrip located in a logging town called Libongo. From Libongo, tourists can travel by boat up the Sangha River to get to Djembe. The boat ride can last four hours. Visitors can also travel by road through several logging concessions to get to Mambele, headquarters of Lobéké National Park some 105km from Libongo. From Mambele, tourists can visit some of the forest clearings :

Mambele to Bolo = 70km
Mambele to Djembe = 105km
mambele to Petite Savane = 47 km
Mambele to Djaloumbe = 90 km



Lodging Facilities

Djembe

There are six bungalows with internal toilet systems in Djembe. Each bungalow is equipped with two single beds. A conference hall and standard cuisine have also been built in Djembe. Djembe has MTN telephone network. Visitors can have access to the internet if they have an MTN USB flash disk and a computer.



Camp Kombo

Camp Kombo is a base camp situated in Mambele, a village located some 24km to the entrance of Lobéké. Initially a camp to house researchers, Camp Kombo now hosts tourists en route to Lobéké. The camp has bungalows with two single beds each and internal toilets. Camp Kombo is surrounded by virgin forest and provides a benign setting for reflection and rest. Visitors can have access to the internet 3km away from Camp Kombo at the conservation service headquarters.

Entrance fees into National Parks in Cameroon

Nationals	:	FCFA 1 500 /day
Residents	:	FCFA 3 000 /day
Tourists	:	FCFA 5 000 /day
Vehicle	:	FCFA 2 000 /day
Camera	:	FCFA 2 000 /per camera

Services offered in Lobéké National Park

Lodging

Tent	FCFA 3000/per night
Bungalow	FCFA 10,000 /per night/ per person (with internal toilet) FCFA 5000 (without internal toilet)
Catering services	To be arranged with park staff before arrival

To and fro transportation using Park vehicles*
Cost : FCFA 250/km

Renting of Park equipment (depending on availability)

Tent	FCFA2000 /per night
Sleeping bag	FCFA 500 /per night
Set of cooking pots	FCFA 500 /per night
Binocular	FCFA 1000 /per night

For more information please contact the finance and administrative office of Lobéké National Park through this email address: pnlobeke@yahoo.fr

* Park vehicles may not be available sometimes for transportation of tourists

* Fixed rate includes cost of taking tourists to the park and picking them up later

