

## Detailed Information Note on Field Trips

### 19th Meeting of Parties of the CBFP

**Before the 19th CBFP Meeting of Parties begins, we are delighted to offer you 6 options for exclusive field trips. Get inspired by great views, innovative projects and new ideas on these field trips!**

Field visits will take place before the start of the conference, between 02 and 04 July 2022. All excursions are organized in kind collaboration with the National Agency of National Parks (ANPN), the Ministry of Water and Forests (MEFME) and their trusted tourism providers. If you have any questions, please contact [celluletourismeapn@gmail.com](mailto:celluletourismeapn@gmail.com) and [field.trip@pfb-cbfp.org](mailto:field.trip@pfb-cbfp.org).

### Single-day Trips

The Emerald Arc is a green belt that surrounds Libreville, the capital of Gabon. This green belt consists of three protected areas: Raponda Walker Arboretum, Akanda National Park and Pongara National Park.

#### Site 1 : Raponda Walker Arboretum (ARW)

The Raponda Walker Arboretum is a protected forest protected managed by the ANPN, which offers great biodiversity. With an area of 6747 ha, this touristic site allows you to observe all the wood species of the Gabonese flora, located only 20 km outside of Libreville.

The ARW houses a "Canopy Tower" with a height of 15 m. It is co-financed by the Debt Conversion Agreement between France and Gabon, GSEZ and the Media-Impact Foundation. It also features the "Trail of the Discovery of the Forest" , which introduces the general public to the knowledge on the forest and ecotourism.

The ARW is also the site of a monitoring activity for forest carbon stocks. It aims to estimate the emission factors and determine the sequestration rate, as well as the forest carbon absorption factors using a representative sample of eight permanent plots with an area of 1 ha each. This activity also targets forest carbon.



*Departure from 7:30 am for an excursion about 3 hours. Excursion made from 10 people. Guided tour by the eco-guides of the ANPN.*

*Price: 50 euros per person..*

### Site 2 : Akanda National Park

Located north of Libreville, Akanda National Park is home to one of the largest populations of migratory birds in Gabon. It covers an area of 89,000 ha.

Akanda National Park is characterized by a high diversity of natural habitats, due to a varied vegetation cover that experiences little impact and modification by logging. It is home to more than half of mangrove forests (by area) in Gabonese national parks.



As such, it acts as "nursery" for the reproduction of fish and shrimp. In addition to the mangroves, there are some of the wettest environments in the country and important mudflats that contribute to the high plant and animal biodiversity of this national park. Some of the present fauna and flora are not found elsewhere in Gabon.

Some species specific to Akanda Park:

- Pink Flamingos
- Scissor spouts
- Plovers

*Departure from 7:30 am for an excursion until 5 pm. Excursion made from 10 people.*

*Transport by bus and/or boat, fast and easy from Libreville (3 h).*

*Rates: from 192 euros per person.*

### Site 3 : Pongara National Park and Pointe Denis

Pongara National Park covers an area of 54,000 ha. It is located south of Libreville, along the Komo Estuary. It is accessed by shuttle from Libreville.

It represents a vast, almost intact and diverse mangrove ecosystem ranging from marine formations to brackish water formations and swampy and flood-prone riparian forests. In this context, visitors will be able to understand the preservation of sensitive habitats: Mudflats, feeding areas for green turtles, the highest mangroves in the world of Chinchoua. It is also the park where issues of marine submersion and coastal erosion, threats for sea turtle nesting beaches (a large nesting site of global importance for lutes) can be observed.

Observable species:

- Buffaloes
- Elephants
- Humpback Whales (July-August)

- Egg-laying of leatherback turtles (December January)

*Excursions (2 types) for visiting sites of Pongara National Park. Departure from 7:30 am for an excursion until 5 pm. Excursion made from 10 people. Transport by bus and boat, fast and easy from Libreville.*

- *Excursion1 (E1) to visit the preserved landscapes; from 180 euros / person*
- *Excursion2 (E2) to visit the submersion and erosion of the coasts; from 215 euros/ person (includes sea kayaking and a lunch break at Turtle Bay)*



## Multi-Day Trips

### Site 4 : Lambaréné and Oelo

200 km southeast of Libreville, the tourist center of Lake Oguémoué, is an hour by canoe from Lambaréné which houses the famous bush hospital of Dr. A. Schweitzer. A beautiful nature tourism experience involving the local community. Discoveries of animals (elephant, buffaloes, ...) and cultural activities are to be experienced in this camp in Oguémoué.



*Three-day/two-night tour with accommodation, catering transport, hiking and various activities. Visit made from 10 people. Transport by bus and canoe from Lambaréné, from Libreville (4 h). Price: from 390 euros per person.*

### Site 5 : Monts de Cristal National Park

With an area of 120,000 ha, the Monts de Cristal National Park is divided into two distinct parts, each on either side of the Ntoum-Médouneu road axis. The southern part includes the SEEG reservoirs and the two Kinguélé and Tchimbélé dams. The northern part is wilder. This reserve has the greatest diversity of plant species in the whole of Africa. There are an incredible number of species of orchids, begonias and ferns. You can also observe mammals such as forest elephants and monkeys as well as many species of birds and butterflies. Circuits in this forest occupying the flanks of these mountains are proposed by guides of the national parks.



The misty landscape around the mountains gives the unusual impression of getting lost between clouds and sky. Accommodation is offered by a bed and breakfast (former apartments of SEEG agents).

Payments for Environmental Services may represent alternative sources of income. PES has the potential to change the issue of conservation of biophysical environments in Gabon. The Monts de Cristal are the water towers of Gabon. They act as resource for the production of electricity for the capital of the country. It is therefore a national park that illustrates the use of PES well.



*Two-day/one night tour with accommodation, catering transport, hiking and various activities. Visit made from 10 people. Transport by bus and/or boat, fast and easy from Libreville (3 h).  
Price: from 275 euros per person.*

#### Site 6 : Bangombé

This site comprises 581 ha rehabilitated in five years on the Bangombé plateau. Located east of Moanda (south-eastern Gabon), Bangombé is a former ore (manganese) mining site. It marks the commitment of Comilog to have a net gain in biodiversity and to preserve the environment.

Comilog's (a subsidiary of the Eramet Group) activities consist of enhancing the value of natural resources by having the least possible impact on the human, plant and animal environment. It applies international best practices.



It is a site that can become a good example of reforestation and rehabilitation after exploitation.

*Three day/two night tour with accommodation, catering transport, tour and various activities. Visit made from 5 people.*

*Transport by plane then bus. 5h from Libreville*

*Rates: from 650 euros per person.*