



# DEVELOPMENT OF MOUKALABA-DOUDOU NATIONAL PARK GABON

A future for people and rainforests



Sustainable Eco Tourism Investments

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# THE VISION OF TARESIKA

Through a network of effective organisations and influential and experienced individuals in a global society, Taresika implies an active and balanced approach of bringing together International Investors, subject matter experts and local stakeholders in a platforms that accomodates Private Business and Public organisations, to enhance rural development and nature conservation through sustainable eco tourism projects.

We have chosen Gabon for different reasons : it's stability in Central Africa, very small and friendly population, the pristine forests and deserted beaches, the high biodiversity and the possibilities for developing profitable upmarket tourism.

For this particular project, Taresika aims at developing, in a sustainable way, the National Park of Moukalaba Doudou through sound eco tourism in conjunction with scientific research projects, led by knowledgable NGO's like WWF and The Gorilla Organisation.

The project will generate income and employment for the remote local communities. An array of socio-economic projects, financed by the Taresika Foundation, will also be made available to the surrounding villages.

Next to the developments of the above, investors will get the exclusive opportunity to secure and enjoy a pristine beach location where private, full service villas will be an option.

Taresika's ultimate goal is to increase the awareness of people that keeping our planet rich of Primeval Nature is a need for a 'complete and healthy' planet, as well as a short – and long term viable business proposition.

An investment in Taresika is a unique opportunity to enter into the fast growing international high end tourism market and being personally involved in making a difference for people, nature, conservation and the well being of our planet.



# GABON

## GABON, A WELL-KEPT SECRET.

There is a place in Africa that still represents how Africa used to be throughout history. Green, dense rainforests and a myriad of savannahs, rivers and lagoons that run through it. Wild and unspoiled by mankind. Forest elephants and buffalo roam the savannahs and beaches while lowland gorillas, chimpanzees, mandrills and many other creatures live in the rich rainforests. Scientists refer to Gabon as the biodiversity paradise. Hundreds of kilometres of deserted beaches line the Gabonese coast where 10 % of the world population of humpback whales come to breed in this stretch of the Atlantic Ocean. Sea and lagoons are teeming with fish, reptiles and marine mammals. And most impressive : the space, solitude and privacy. Almost nobody around...

At the same time, this is deep, dark Africa. Central Africa. A land people dream of, while reading Conrad's 'Heart of Darkness'.

The culture of Gabon is rich and not really exposed to the outside world yet. A broad mix of animistic beliefs and ceremonies are still practised in the forest- and coastal settlements where local fishermen and hunters/gatherers still live in harmony with their environment.

Gabon is a destination for nature lovers and people that value exploring wild places.

A place to retreat to, away from our busy life and overpopulated countries.

In 2002 President Omar Bongo signed a decree to set aside 10 % of the Gabonese territory to create 13 National Parks.

The National Park of Moukalaba Doudou boasts a population of an estimated 5000 Lowland Gorillas, ranking it second in place in the world.



# FACTFILE GABON

SURFACE : 267,667 km<sup>2</sup>, 257,667 km<sup>2</sup> in land, about 10,000 km<sup>2</sup> in water bodies

LAND BOUNDARIES : 2551 km

COASTLINE : 885 km

BORDERS : Cameroun, Guinea, Congo Brazza, Atlantic Ocean

GEOGRAPHY : mainly (hilly) rainforest, partly savannas, rivers, lakes, narrow coastal zone with lagoons and beaches. 77 % forest cover

ELEVATION EXTREMES : Atlantic Ocean at 0 m, Mont Iboundji at 1575 m

CLIMATE : tropical, warm and humid with dry season from june-sept and december-february

AVERAGE TEMPERATURE : 31° C

AVERAGE RELATIVE HUMIDITY : 81 %

ANNUAL PRECIPITATION: 2500 mm

MAJOR CITIES : Libreville (capital), Port Gentil, Franceville

POPULATION : 1,450,000, where 60 % in urban areas

POPULATION GROWTH RATE : 2,1 %

RELIGIONS : christian, animistic, less than 1 % moslim

ETHNIC GROUPS : all Bantu, with 5 major tribes : Fang, Bapounou, Nzebi, Obamba

LANGUAGES : French, Myene, Fang

LITERACY RATE : 63 %

GOVERNMENT TYPE : republic, multi-party presidential regime

INDEPENDENCE : from France : 17 august 1960

LEGAL SYSTEM : based on french civil law and customary law

AIRPORTS: paved : 11 unpaved : 45

TRAINS : 814 km

ROADS : paved : 6,300 km unpaved : 26,000 km

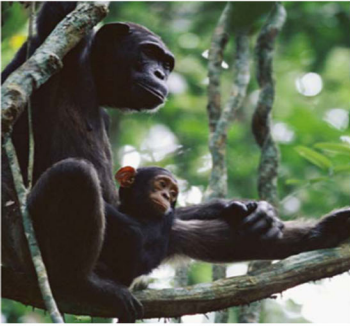
WATERWAYS: navigable : 1600 km

CURRENCY : Communauté Financière Africaine Franc (XAF), normally referred to as FCFA (franc CFA). 1 euro = 656 F CFA





# OUR MISSION AT MOUKALABA DOUDOU NP



Our mission is to develop a true eco-tourism lodge, in a private concession of the Gabon rainforest, that offers the ultimate Central African experience where guests will have a close communication with nature and local culture without forsaking luxury and outstanding personal service. This lodge will be the base for the further development of the Park. Future extensions are foreseen at the beach and the Rembo Bongo.

Through low impact on the environment, cooperating with and employing the local population and an array of community projects, the initiative will be a first example in Gabon for real eco-tourism where guests can interact with skills and knowledge of the indigenous people and their local culture. The project will create a direct and indirect livelihood for the surrounding local communities.

The guests will discover the extreme biodiversity of the Gabonese rainforest by guided walks in the forests tracking lowland gorillas and chimps, fishing or sight-seeing the rich lagoons, rivers and swamps and encountering bush elephants, buffalos and all forest dwelling creatures. Lowland gorillas and chimpanzees are numerous in this area and we intend to have a dedicated scientific- and tracker team available to ensure guests the highest possible chance of an encounter with these fantastic animals. In addition, in-house research and conservation projects in cooperation with WWF and The Gorilla Organization.

The guest will enjoy luxurious, spacious accommodation made out of local materials, blending in the rainforest. A close cooperation with the local communities will create the possibility to discover Gabonese culture through dance performances, visits to local villages and witness traditional crafts and skills of the indigenous communities.

We pride ourselves to become a top class rainforest eco-lodge in Gabon for the high-end market traveler who wants to discover the real feel of Central Africa.



# THE MARKET

## THE PROMISE OF GROWTH

The tourism market around the globe continues to grow and investments in tourism in Africa has multiplied in the last decade. Tourists are continuously looking for new countries to explore and cultures to discover. Furthermore, people in emerging countries like Russia and China are also starting to travel.

Many travellers are searching for alternative and useful experiences, away from the mainstream. This is a developing trend for the consumer market as well as for the business to business market.

Taresika tends to offer useful products to its guests, from the consumer market as well as from the business to business market. For the latter, the need for intercultural management capabilities is growing strongly in the current globalization. Incentive tours, training journeys, outplacement orientation , professional exchange and sustainability conscience contribution programs are on the agenda in a joint venture with a known Dutch training institution/company.

More and more individuals are getting wealthy and are looking for their own private paradise. Luxury private properties, situated in pristine, remote areas are seen as an exclusive asset and this market has already been successfully exploited in South Africa. Direct investments in Africa generate more profit than in any other part of the world and the economy is growing much faster than in Europe and America (Source : World Tourism Organisation (WTO) and Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC). Since the mid 1990's, the 14 strongest economies in Africa have grown with an average 5 % each year. These are countries like Botswana, Ghana, Mozambique etc. Presently, 7 % of Dutch entrepreneurs are developing activities on the African continent.

Some figures :

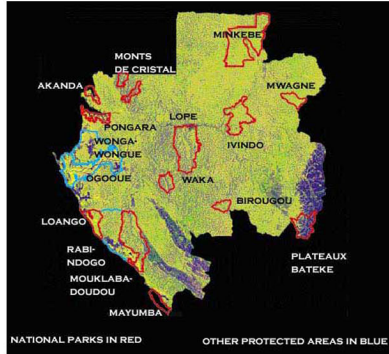
1995 : Tourism income in Africa : 5 billion US\$  
People employed/involved : 350,000  
2,5 % of worldwide tourism income

2005 : Tourism income in Africa : 15 billion US\$  
People employed/involved : 1 million  
3 % of worldwide tourism income



The WTO estimates that the above figures will be doubled in Africa within the 5 coming years.

## DEVELOPMENT OF THE AREA





# THE PLAN

1. Phase 1 : The Lodge at Igotchi
2. Phase 2 : The Beach camp
3. Phase 3 : The Floating lodge at Rembo Bongo
4. The joint venture with PROGRAM at Doussala
5. The cooperation with WWF
6. The cooperation with Gorilla Organisation



## THE MAIN LODGE AT IGOTCHI

Igotchi is the strategic access to the Park and therefore the first development for Taresika. From Igotchi, old forestry roads can be used going Northeast to the Doussala area and Northwest to the Rembo Bongo river.

The Igotchi concession area is situated in the Southern part of the Park, bordering the Nyanga river and the area is covered with hilly equatorial rainforest. The zone offers high numbers of lowland gorillas, chimpanzees and other primates and features extreme biodiversity. The rapids and small waterfall in front of the lodge will ensure green power by means of water turbines.

The 30-year, expandable concession has a surface of around 12,000 hectares.

The eco lodge will be built at the edge of the Nyanga river, offering a panoramic view over the river and the bordering National Park. The bungalows are spacious and well equipped, providing the discerning traveller the expected comfort.

To ensure privacy and small scale exclusive tourism, the maximum number of guests will be limited to 16. A swimming pool and spa and health facilities will be a feature of the lodge.

The nearby local settlements are very much in favour of our projects and have offered us their full cooperation.

A complete overview of the capital investment , budgets and ROI are available on request.

## THE CAMP AT THE BEACH

At the mouth of the Nyanga river a small intimate camp will be developed to offer guests at the beginning and/or the end of their safari circuit a relaxing beach experience. The camp will also serve as the spot to embark on whale watching tours. 10 % of the world population of Humpback whales migrate to the Gabonese waters to breed between June and September and present a spectacular behaviour by breaching and showing off to impress eachother. Between October and March, Leatherback turtles come ashore the beaches to nest. Gabon hosts the largest Leatherback Turtle nesting sites in Africa.

The beach camp will consist of 4-5 wooden houses on stilts, ensuring a nice panoramic view over the ocean.



Not far from the beach camp, guests can visit the research, conservation and surveillance base that Taresika supports and where scientists and local staff will interact with the clients and explains their activities and projects.



## THE FLOATING LODGE AT REMBO BONGO

This area is situated in the Northwest of the Park and features a number of large sweetwater lakes.

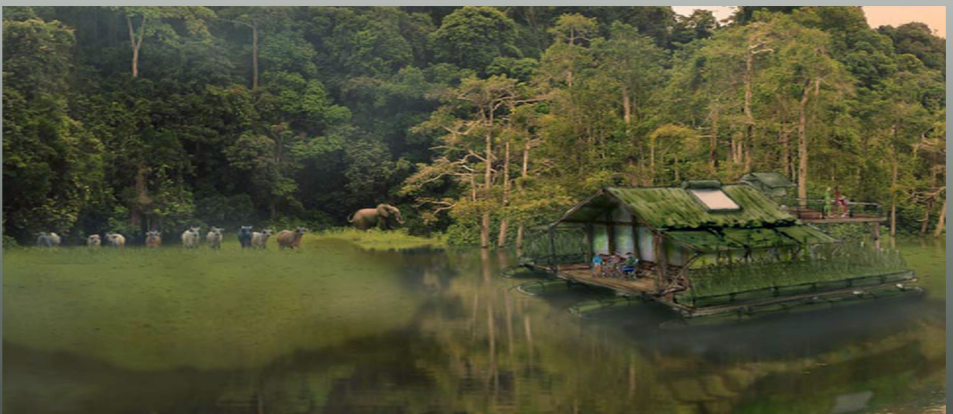
The Rembo Bongo river is the natural limit of the Park and flows towards the Ndogo lagoon, re-connecting the tourism circuit to the Gamba area.

A floating lodge enables Taresika to make use of the seasonal wildlife activities and migration throughout the area.

The lodge will be of a unique design, and studies on feasibility have already been made.

The proposed floating lodge will consist of 5 units and a central floating building with restaurant, bar and lounge.

Through the seasons, the units will be pulled up – or downriver to the areas hosting the biggest concentrations of wildlife.

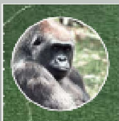


## THE JOINT VENTURE WITH 'PROGRAM' AT DOUSSALA

The area of Doussala is known for its high density of lowland gorillas. A team of scientists from the Japanese Kyoto University is doing Gorilla research in the area. The savannas around Doussala are the only place in Gabon to see waterbucks. PROGRAM is a local NGO project with the intention to start community-driven tourism and to revalorize nature and protect great apes in this area. It is an initiative of Professor Kombila, the current Gabonese Minister of Science and Education and his family. They are in favour to start a joint venture with Taresika enabling our companies to diversify the tourism product and to share knowledge.

Moreover, this cooperation would complete the proposed tourism circuit, taking guests from Igotchi to the East of the National Park over the old forestry roads and spending the night in the old - to be refurbished - colonial houses of Doussala. From there, guests would continue to the Rembo Bongo Floating Lodge, crossing the Park to the Western boundary.

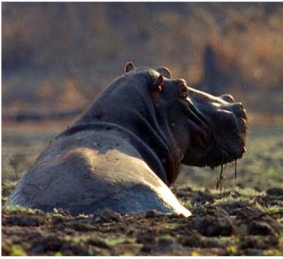
The former Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund, now called The Gorilla Organisation, one of the Taresika partners, will co-invest in this project by focussing on training and capacity building for the rural population. Also WWF and WCS have offered their assistance to PROGRAM.



The goal of Taresika is to offer technical -, construction -, renovating -, and commonsense business support to PROGRAM.

Also the Gorilla Organisation will invest in exchange programs between Gabonese guides and Rwandese specialist guides to train gorilla trackers and guides.





## THE COOPERATION WITH WWF

WWF has been present in Gabon for more than 10 years.

Together with government bodies and other NGO's, the 'Gamba Complex' was created; an area of nearly 13,000 Km<sup>2</sup> comprising 8 protected zones including the national parks of Loango and Moukalaba Doudou.

It is considered one of the best protected areas of its kind in Africa and a place that is almost unique on our planet.

WWF acts as the technical and financial advisor to the government and local authorities and is very involved in all aspects of development and conservation in the Gamba Complex.

WWF has agreed to cooperate with Taresika, to develop true eco tourism in the National Park of Moukalaba Doudou. They will play an important role in assisting Taresika with social projects for the local communities, research on our concession and in the National Park.

For more information on WWF's activities in the Gamba Complex, please refer to [www.panda.org/about\\_wwf/where\\_we\\_work/africa/where/gabon/gamba/index.cfm](http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/where_we_work/africa/where/gabon/gamba/index.cfm)

## THE COOPERATION WITH GORILLA ORGANISATION

The former Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund—The Gorilla Organisation—is an International NGO with years of experience in developing gorilla tourism and protecting great apes in countries like Rwanda, Uganda and Congo. They have played an important role in the success of the Mountain Gorilla habituation and the boosting 'Gorilla Tourism' in Bwindi NP, The Virungas etc.

The Gorilla Organisation is shifting their interest to Central Africa and the Western Lowland Gorillas. They are in search of a viable partner, which they have found in Taresika. They have agreed to finance different capacity building and sensibilisation projects in Moukalaba Doudou and will offer their know how and experience to Taresika.

Gorilla Tourism has become one of the most important revenues in Rwanda and Uganda and there are waiting lists for obtaining gorilla permits for tourists.

For more information on the Gorilla Organisation, please consult their website at [www.gorillas.org](http://www.gorillas.org)



## INVESTMENTS

Sustainable development involves meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Economic growth provides the conditions in which protection of the environment can best be achieved, and environmental protection, in balance with other human goals, is necessary to achieve the growth that is sustainable.

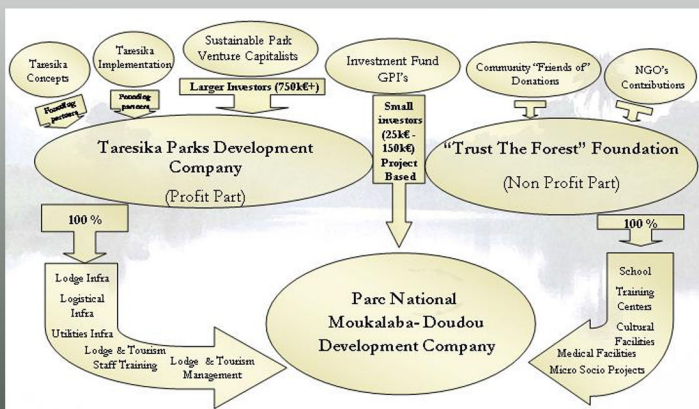
In turn, versatile, dynamic, responsive and profitable businesses are required as the driving force for sustainable economic development and for providing the managerial, technical and financial resources to contribute to the resolution of environmental challenges. Market economies, characterised by entrepreneurial initiatives are essential to achieve this.

In view of the above, Taresika Park Development Company is looking for a small number of Venture Capitalists to engage in the development of eco tourism in the National Park of Moukalaba Doudou. Taresika will operate as a Dutch BV, headed by a board of directors. The Gabonese SA will fall under the direction of the Dutch BV, which will act as an Holding Company.

In a first phase, for the development of the Main Lodge at Igotchi, a capital of 1,5 million euros is required for constructing buildings, buying cars and boats, implementing infrastructure and transportation etc.

For the second phase, the beach camp and the third phase, the floating lodge, camp, capital investments are needed in the same order of magnitude.

Scheme below shows the proposed equity structure of Taresika.



# THE FOUNDATION

For the Non Profit part of the project, Taresika will work in conjunction with the 'Trust the Forest Foundation', an entity that will secure and manage funds generated by donations of the 'Friends of Taresika community' and by NGO's. These funds will enable Taresika to kick off an array of socio economic projects, training - and medical facilities and programs, schooling and cultural activities. To ensure a parallel progress for the Profit Part as for the Non Profit part of the project, it is imperative to focus in the first stages on :

1. Training of guides to a world class level
2. Training of hotel staff for a 5\* operation
3. Training of guards
4. Protection of the National park's boundaries against illegal poaching
5. Protection of the Marine habitat by sponsoring surveillance on illegal trawlers
6. English courses
7. Fighting illiteracy



## THE SOCIO ECONOMIC PROJECTS



In sound eco tourism, the local communities should all benefit from the operations. This will be done by starting a number of socio-economic projects, bringing specialized knowledge and as a result, generating long term income for the rural population.

The foundation will sponsor and assist in following projects :

1. Ethnic Art and craftsmanship production, revalorising disappearing skills and knowledge of the people
2. Sustainable plantations : agriculture to produce food for lodge and market and simultaneously replace 'slash and burn techniques'
3. Sustainable breeding of live stock to reduce hunting and prevent poaching
4. Cultural events like performances of traditional dancing and singing, village dinners with tasting of Gabonese cuisine



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Your Planet, Your Fortune!