



**ZAH SOO
NATIONAL PARK,
TCHAD**



A park with many biotopes

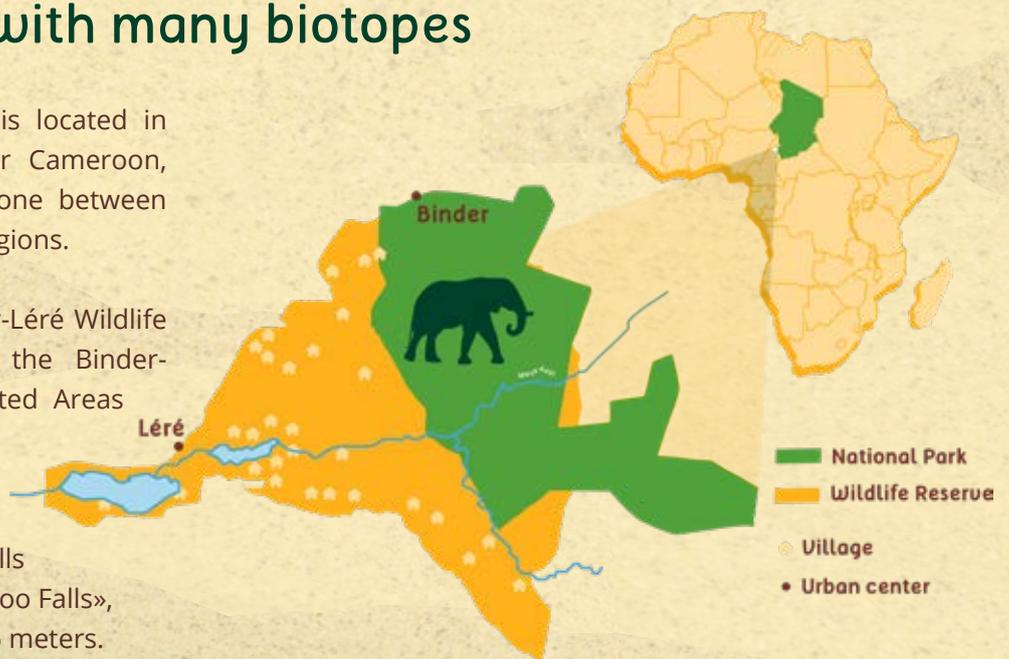
Zah Soo National Park is located in southwestern Chad near Cameroon, and is in a transition zone between sudanian and sahelian regions.

Together with the Binder-Léré Wildlife Reserve, it is part of the Binder-Léré Complex of Protected Areas (CAPBL).

It includes a unique variety of wetlands as well as the largest waterfalls in the country, the «Zah Soo Falls», with an abrupt drop of 45 meters.

The falls create an unsurpassable natural barrier for fish species from the Niger Basin to the Chad Basin. The protected area consists of open forests and forest corridors populated by large sudanese savannah trees and perennial grasses, large floodplains serving as spawning and nursery grounds for many fish, as well as two lakes (Léré and Tréné) hosting a rich bird wildlife.

> The **Kordofan Giraffe** (*Giraffa camelopardalis antiquorum*), widely distributed in Chad, is threatened by the destruction of its habitat, mainly due to deforestation.



Parcs de Noé's mandate

15-year partnership agreement for the management of the Zah Soo National Park and Binder-Léré Wildlife Reserve.

Surface area

Zah Soo National Park: 815 km².

Binder-Léré Wildlife Reserve: 900 km², totaling 1,715 km² (Complex of protected areas of Binder-Léré)

Special attributes

- **IUCN II and IV Category**
- **Ramsar site**
- Important **Bird Areas (IBA)**

Biomes

- Wetlands, floodplains, lakes
- Forest corridors
- Eastern sudanese savannahs

Key endangered wildlife species

Critically endangered: Kordofan giraffe, hooded, white-backed and Rüpell's vultures

Endangered: savannah elephant

Vulnerable: red-fronted gazelle, hippo, African manatee, panther, abyssinian ground hornbill

Key governance actors

- **Local authorities** (Governor, decentralized government services, etc.)
- **Traditional authorities** (Gong of Léré, Lagon and Lamido of Binder)
- **Local communities** through the Local Orientation and Decision-Making Bodies (ILOD : Instances Locales d'Orientation et de Décision)

Technical partners

- Wings for Conservation
- Université d'Exeter (Royaume Uni)



Threatened wildlife

Due to **uncontrolled poaching** and loss of habitat over the years, most of the species in the protected area have disappeared or reached **alarming numbers** requiring rapid intervention for their recovery.

Among the emblematic fauna, one of the most remarkable species is the **manatee**, which lives in the lakes. The reserve is also home to **giraffe, hippo, roan antelope, reedbuck, Oribi and Grimm duiker**. Since 2006, the third largest population of elephants in Chad has found refuge in the protected area.

An area of international importance for bird conservation, it consists mainly of **afro-ethiopian species** such as the **white-faced and fulvous whistling duck, the gambian goose and the helmeted duck**.

1974

CREATION OF THE WILDLIFE RESERVE OF BINDER-LÉRÉ

1999

INTER-COMMUNITY AGREEMENT FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE RESERVE

2005

DESIGNATION OF THE RESERVE AS AN INTERNATIONAL WETLAND(RAMSAR)

2021

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH NOÉ FOR THE LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT OF BINDER-LERE WILDLIFE RESERVE AND ZAH-SOO NATIONAL PARK

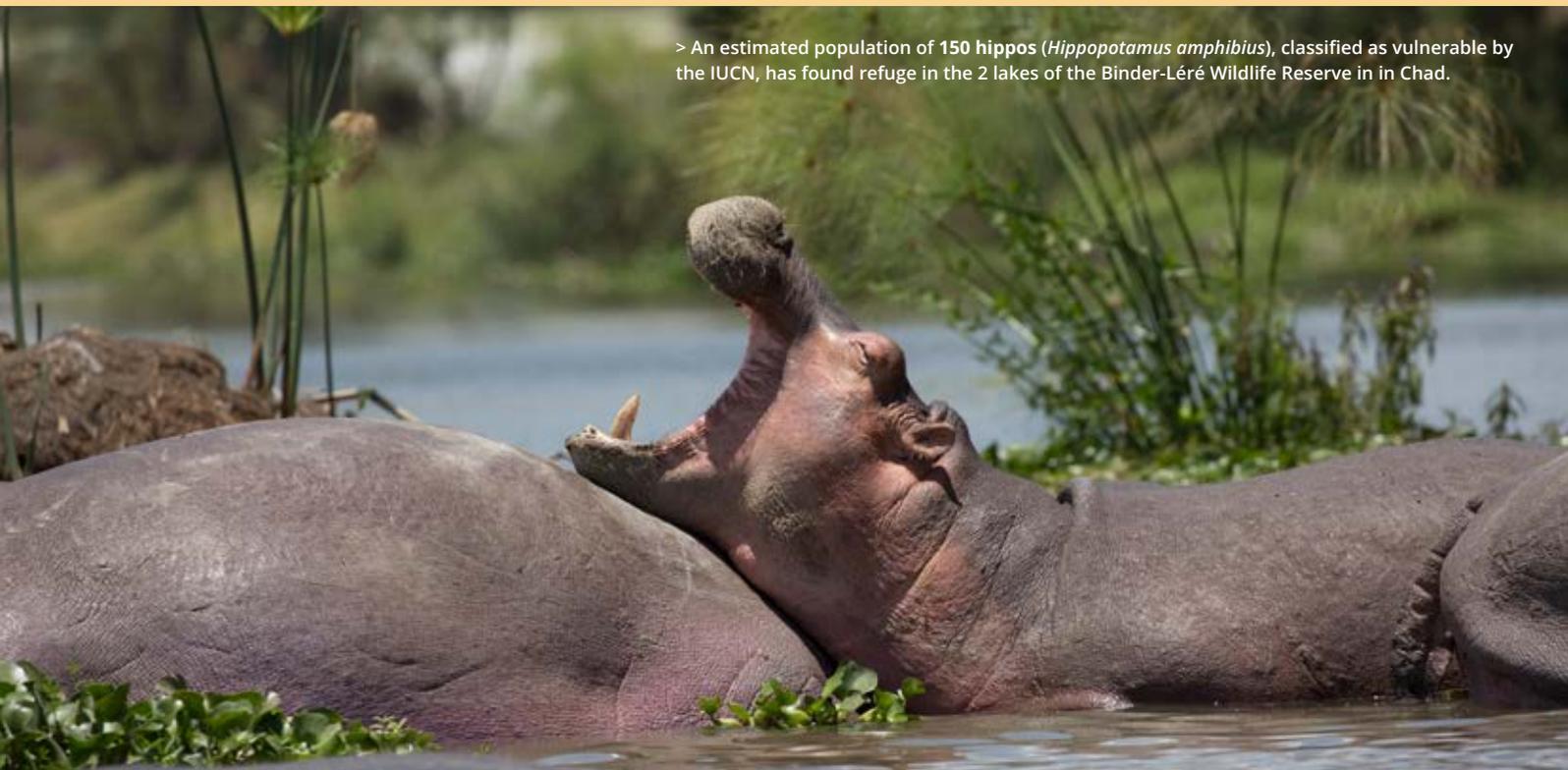
2022

CREATION OF ZAH-SOO NATIONAL PARK, NOW THE 4TH NATIONAL PARK IN THE COUNTRY

Traditional chiefdoms

The protected area's **land holdings** stretch across the domain of three customary chiefdoms controlled by the **Gong (traditional chief) of Léré, the Gong of Lagon, and the Lamido (traditional Peuhl chief) of Binder**. Approximately **120,000 people** make up these three chiefdoms and live mainly from **intensive subsistence agriculture** (cereals, oilseeds, vegetables), **cash crops** such as cotton, **agropastoralism** (large and small ruminants, pigs, poultry, etc.) and **non-industrial fishing** in lakes Léré and Tréné. The gathering of **wood** for fuel or construction is an important activity, as well as the production of **fruits, leaves, roots and honey**.

> An estimated population of **150 hippos** (*Hippopotamus amphibius*), classified as vulnerable by the IUCN, has found refuge in the 2 lakes of the Binder-Léré Wildlife Reserve in Chad.



The protected area in 2030

Our vision is for Zah So National Park to become an island of biodiversity integrity and good governance, with its **wildlife populations and ecosystems restored**, and its neighboring communities enjoying **inclusive development**. This vision can only be achieved by balancing the three pillars of **sustainability**: *environment, society and economy*.



ENVIRONMENT

- **Implementing** a safety mechanism (infrastructure, human and financial resources).
- **Monitoring** key species to guide protection efforts
- **Restoring** habitat through vegetation regeneration and increased protection of micro-habitats
- **Strengthening** wildlife populations through reintroduction of endangered and extinct species

SOCIETY

- **Creating** local employment
- **Contributing** to the security of the territory
- **implementing** a land-use plan for the agro-pastoral sector and the seasonal migration of livestock
- **Reducing** human-wildlife conflicts
- **Supporting** education and health programs
- **Integrating** communities into **governance bodies**

ECONOMY

- **Developing** self-financing mechanisms for the park in exchange for environmental services (grazing areas, spawning grounds, etc.)
- **Including** and giving responsibility to socio-economic actors, such as the agro-industry, in the protection of ecosystems
- **Developing** natural chains that are respectful of the environment
- **Promoting** agroecological and agroforestry techniques

PARTNERS



www.noe.org

Parcs de Noé is a program of the NGO Noé, which is a non-profit public nature protection organisation created in 2001. Noé has programs in France and around the globe to safeguard biodiversity for the benefit of all living, including the human species.



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