

The Okapi Wildlife Reserve

Okapi Conservation Project works with the Institute in Congo for the Conservation of Nature (ICCN), a government organization responsible for the protection of the Reserve, and communities throughout the Okapi Wildlife Reserve to ensure the protection of the okapi and many other species in this equatorial rainforest.



OCP provides logistical and financial support to 110 ICCN rangers to provide a conservation presence in the region and to monitor land use changes and protect the wildlife and natural resources of the Okapi Wildlife Reserve.

Biodiversity of the Congo

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the most biologically diverse country in Africa, holds infinite natural treasures and significant species such as Grauer's gorilla, forest elephants and bonobo. Over 1,500 types of plants and animals, including the okapi, are found nowhere else in the world.



Protecting the Endangered Okapi,
and it's habitat, in the
Democratic Republic of Congo



OKAPI CONSERVATION PROJECT

Okapi Conservation Project (OCP) works in the heart of the Democratic Republic of Congo to protect the natural habitat of the endangered okapi and indigenous Mbuti pygmies living in the Okapi Wildlife Reserve.



Okapi are entirely dependent on the forest sanctuary for survival; deforestation, along with poaching and mining, have led to their decline. Conservation stewardship programs promote the viability of the region's biodiversity and survival of native species like the okapi.

PROGRAMS

OCP focuses on developing an economic and educational foundation on which the Reserve can operate. This is achieved through programs in **wildlife protection and education, agroforestry, and community assistance.**

Broad-based community assistance includes:

- Building and supplying schools and health clinics
- Developing fresh water sources
- Providing medical care and transport
- Improving food security
- Conservation education



OCP presently employs 58 people, working from four locations around the Reserve, who implement education programs through meetings, seminars, and providing social assistance that moves communities to care about conserving resources and wildlife.



DONATE TO HELP SAVE THE OKAPI

OCP is represented by Wildlife Conservation Global (WCG) a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization. One hundred percent of gifts made to the Okapi Conservation Project through WCG directly support the management of the Okapi Wildlife Reserve, help local communities find sustainable ways of living, and provide an extensive refuge for the region's endangered creatures.

www.okapiconservation.org

Okapi — Okapia johnstoni “The Forest Giraffe”



- One of the oldest mammals on Earth the Okapi is known to the western world only since the early 20th century
- Classified ‘Endangered’ by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species
- Okapi need undisturbed tracts of forest to sustain themselves; approximately 3,000 Okapi live in the Reserve
- Endemic to the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Okapi has been protected since 1933

