



Take a good look at this turtle.  
What do you think its shell is made of?  
It differs from other turtles!

# OUANDA DISCOVERS

EPISODE 1

## THE LEATHERBACK TURTLE

Every week, Ouanda discovers a new animal from one of the protected areas in the Republic of Congo. She will share her adventures so that you too can discover the natural beauty of your country.  
**The activities are suitable for children from 3 to 12 years old.**  
**Participation of parents is recommended for younger children.**

**Ouanda is travelling in the national park of Conkouati-Douli, in the south-west of Congo, a few hours from the city of Pointe-Noire.**

Hi, my name is Ouanda. Do you know where I can see leatherback turtles?

Yes, come with me, I will show you!

Why do they do that?

Between October and March, the turtles return to the same place where they were born.

To lay their hundreds of eggs.

I remember the night I saw this magic moment.

The problem is, very few of these baby turtles grow into adults.

If there are hundreds of baby turtles being hatched, why are they endangered?

Baby turtles are often eaten by other animals or threatened by human activities.

How come?

Look, the little ones are heading towards the ocean because these turtles live in deep waters.

Oh, they are so cute, they need to be protected!

**Thank you for following Ouanda's adventures and see you soon!**

### HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

Did you know that leatherback turtles love to eat jellyfish? But often they can't tell the difference between plastic floating in the ocean and jellyfish. Turtles can die from eating plastic!

#### Why is this important?

Leatherback turtles keep our oceans healthy, especially seaweed beds and coral reefs.

#### How can you protect them?

Don't throw plastic on the ground or in the water. Plastic materials that are found in the rivers will end up in the oceans.

#### Take a used piece of plastic and make a jellyfish!

After following the instructions in the pictures, put the made jellyfish in a bottle or bucket of water and stir it. Now do you see how easy it is for a turtle to mistake the plastic for a jellyfish? Congo was one of the first African countries to ban plastic bags as we recognised the danger of plastic to our environment.



**PLEASE GIVE THIS ACTIVITY SHEET TO YOUR CHILDREN**

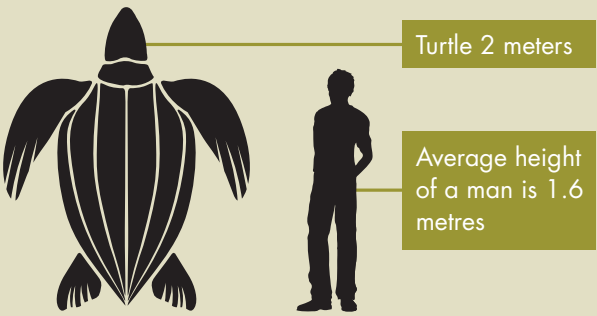


These weekly activity sheets are an initiative of Sabine Plattner African Charities (SPAC). SPAC contributes to the protection of nature through education and community-driven empowerment. SPAC supports the Congolese government through the EduConservation project, Early Childhood Development programmes and Research. During the Covid-19 pandemic, children will be able to enjoy doing these activity sheets at home.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Which turtle can be heavier than 11 men and almost the size of a small car?

**It's the leatherback turtle. It is the largest of the 7 species of sea turtles.**

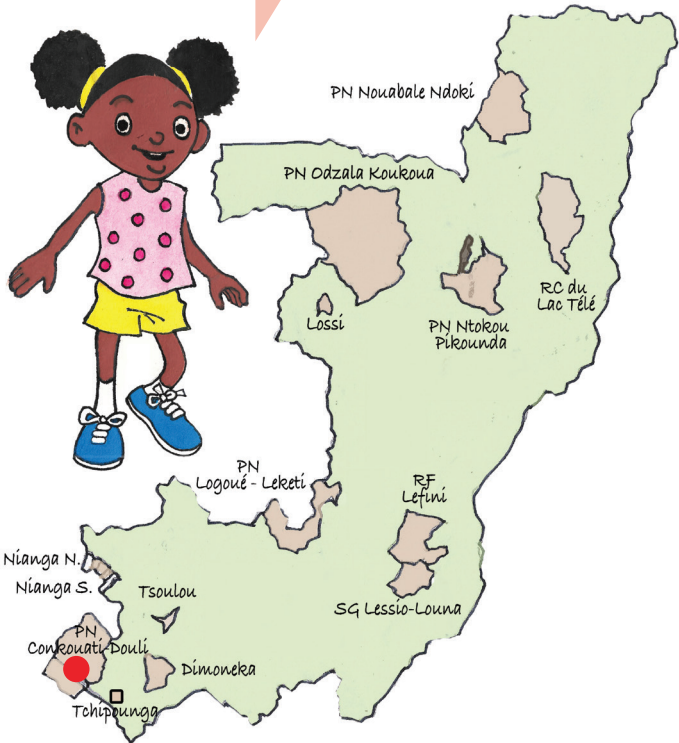


### TRUE OR FALSE? Tick the correct answer

- |   |                                   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Leatherback turtles can reach a depth of 1 kilometre in the ocean. | <b>T</b> <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>F</b> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. The favourite food of leatherback turtles is sharks.               | <input type="checkbox"/>          | <input type="checkbox"/>          |
| 3. Leatherback turtle shell looks like leather                        | <input type="checkbox"/>          | <input type="checkbox"/>          |

*\*You'll find the answers at the bottom right of the page.*

Look at the red dot on this map, it is the Conkouati-Douli National Park. This is where you can find leatherback turtles. There aren't many of them left in the world; we must protect these magnificent animals!



### HAVE YOUR SAY

Tell us which animal in the Congo is your favourite and why.  
Send your answer to **WhatsApp: +242 05 656 5543 or +242 06 579 4999**  
Some answers will be published on social networks, follow us on **Facebook and Instagram : @EduConservation**

- True. But they have to come to the surface to breathe.
- False. They like to eat jellyfish. Sharks like to eat turtles.
- True. Their skin looks like leather but the shell is not hard like that of other turtles.