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WILDERNESS

EARTH'S AMAZING HABITATS

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NIOKOLO-KOBA NATIONAL PARK

Located in the southeast corner of Africa's Senegal, this national park is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This means it has been singled out to be protected for future generations. Safeguarding such regions is a global matter because there are flora (plants) and fauna (animals) living here that are unique to our planet.

Niokolo-Koba and the full length of the river Gambia are home to a great number of wild animals, such as leopards, baboons, elephants, lions, and hippos, many of which are endangered or have already been killed due to poaching, or in other words, illegal hunting. Even the construction of a planned dam represents a threat. This is why the park is under special protection.

KAHUZI-BIÉGA NATIONAL PARK

The national park of Kahuzi-Biéga is located in the Democratic Republic of Congo in Central Africa. Named after two extinct volcanoes, the Kahuzi and the Biéga, the park consists of a huge tropical rainforest containing over 200 native species. The area was declared a World Heritage Site in 1980 due to tribal warfare and poaching. It is home to the last surviving group of eastern lowland gorillas—the largest species of gorilla.

QINLING MOUNTAINS

Qinling is the name of the largest chain of mountains in Shaanxi Province, right in the middle of China. These mountainous forests are home to a variety of rare plants and animals, including the Qinling panda, of which there are only about 250 left. Unlike their larger giant panda cousins, the fur of Qinling pandas are light and dark brown in color. There is no other place on earth where these brown pandas can be found, and they are protected because of their rarity.