

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000501/26
to the Commission**

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(6 February 2026)

Subject: Serious infringement of the rights of the Baka people by forest guards from African Parks, an organisation financially supported by the EU

In January 2024, non-governmental organisations and several international media outlets reported serious and repeated human rights abuses allegedly committed by forest guards employed by African Parks against indigenous Baka people in the Odzala-Kokoua National Park in the Republic of Congo. The abuses were confirmed by an investigation commissioned by African Parks and conducted by Omnia Strategy LLP ⁽¹⁾, although the report was not made public.

The EU was one of the largest donors to the park through the ECOFAC programme, which came to an end in 2023. However, according to African Parks ⁽²⁾, the EU remained one of the main financial contributors to the park in 2024.

1. Can the Commission confirm whether Odzala-Kokoua National Park still receives EU funding?
2. If so, through which programme(s) is this funding granted?
3. Can the Commission confirm that it had access to the full investigation carried out by Omnia Strategy concerning the above-mentioned allegations, and specify the conclusions it drew from them, as well as any follow-ups to those conclusions, including in relation to the financial support provided to African Parks?

Submitted: 6.2.2026

Answer given by Mr Síkela on behalf of the European Commission
(18 May 2026)

In line with the EU Biodiversity strategy for 2030 ⁽¹⁾ that commits the EU to support biodiversity globally, the Commission resumed its financial support to the Odzala Kokoua National Park in August 2024 for a duration of 36 months through its NaturAfrica programme ⁽²⁾.

The main objective is to protect wildlife and key ecosystems while offering opportunities in green sectors for local populations. The EU provides additional support to this landscape under its Transition to Green Economy programme ⁽³⁾ enhancing agroecological practices and sustainable and inclusive value chains around the park.

The Commission could not get access to Omnia's full report but regularly checked with African Parks the progress of Omnia's investigation.

The Commission took good notes of its conclusions as per Omnia public statement ⁽⁴⁾ and of the corrective measures decided by the Board of African Parks ⁽⁵⁾.

As per the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument — Global Europe Regulation ⁽⁶⁾, the Commission applies a human rights-based approach to all its actions.

The implementation of the corrective measures — strengthening of the Odzala Indigenous Peoples Plan, partnership with local human rights non-governmental organisations, human rights impact assessment, development of a remedy framework and review of access rights — is supported by the EU's financial contribution. Progress in their implementation is detailed in regular reports received by the EU Delegation in the Republic of Congo.

¹ <https://www.africanparks.org/sites/default/files/African%20Parks%20Response%20to%20Investigation%20into%20Allegations%20of%20Human%20Rights%20Abuses%20%282%29.pdf>.

² https://www.africanparks.org/sites/default/files/uploads/resources/2025-06/2024-African_Parks_Annual_Report.pdf.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A52020DC0380>.

⁽²⁾ https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/policies/programming/programmes/naturafrika_en.

⁽³⁾ https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/countries/congo-republic_en.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://omniastrategy.com/statement-upon-conclusion-of-independent-human-rights-investigation/>.

⁽⁵⁾ <https://www.africanparks.org/sites/default/files/African%20Parks%20Response%20to%20Investigation%20into%20Allegations%20of%20Human%20Rights%20Abuses%20%282%29.pdf>.

⁽⁶⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/947/oj>.