

A pristine example of biodiversity conservation in Loango National Park, Gabon

Sentinel-2 MSI acquired on 13 March 2017 at 09:30:31 UTC
Sentinel-2 MSI acquired on 02 April 2017 at 09:30:31 UTC
Sentinel-1 CSAR IW acquired on 04 May 2018 from 04:58:58 to 04:59:23 UTC
Sentinel-1 CSAR IW acquired on 09 May 2018 from 05:07:06 to 05:07:31 UTC
Sentinel-2 MSI acquired on 31 January 2023 at 09:32:31 UTC

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Keyword(s): Coastal, land, beach, sandbars, lagoon, river, flood plain, forestry, swamps, savannah, mangrove, rainforest, ecotourism, biodiversity, RAMSAR wetland, Gabon

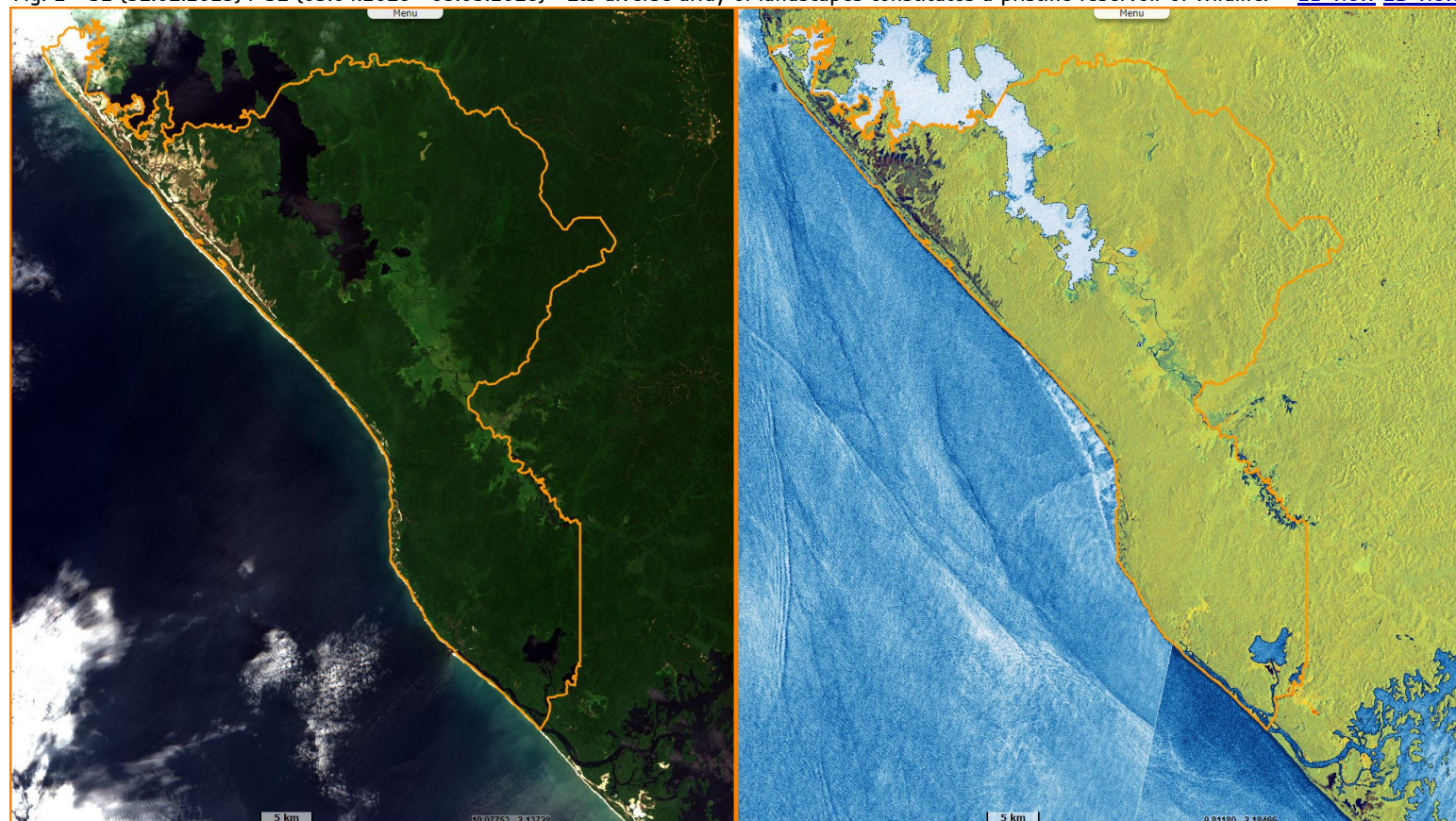
Fig. 1 - S1 (03.04.2018->09.05.2018) - Loango National Park is located at south-west of Gabon.

[2D view](#)



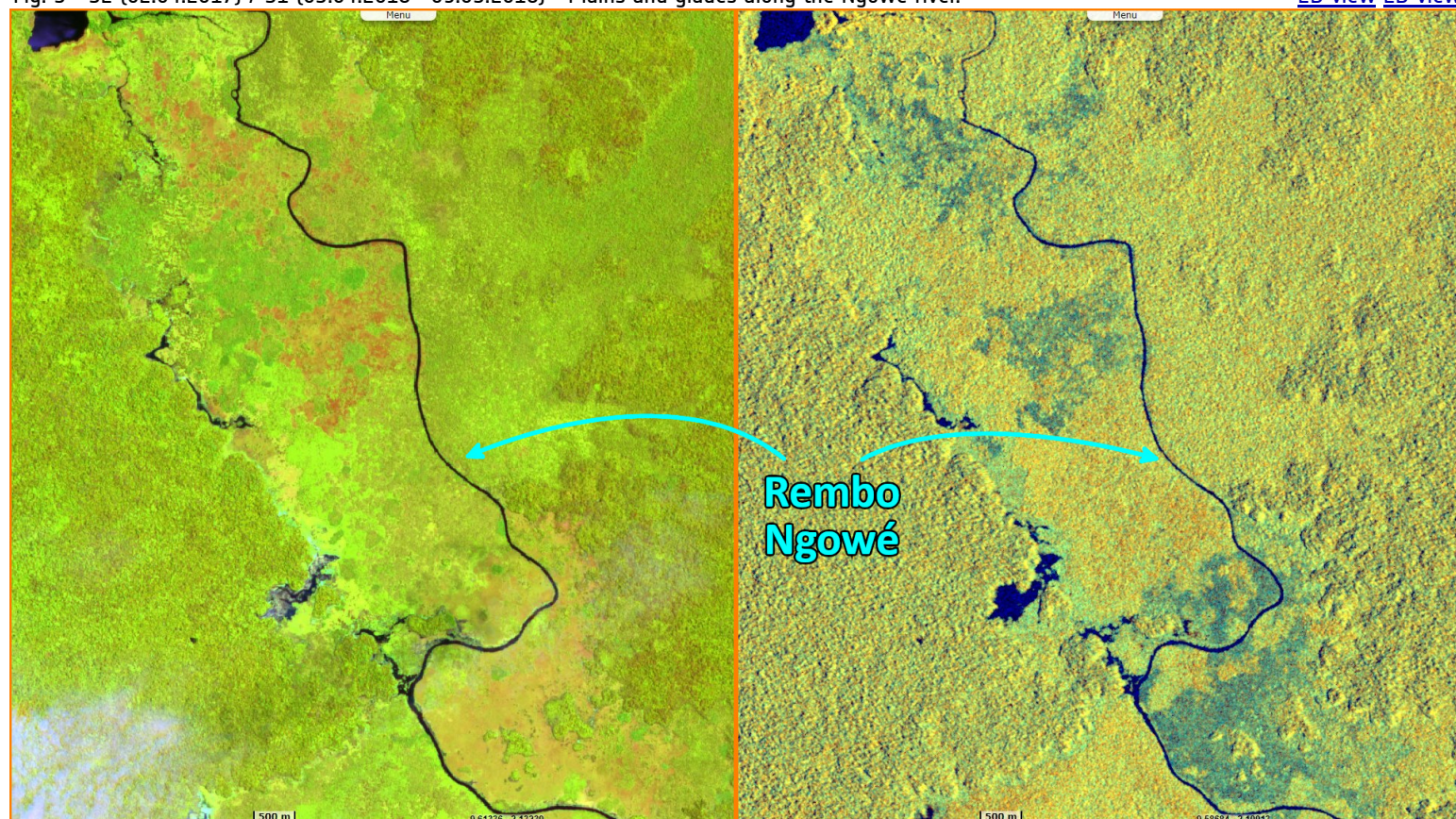
In an article dedicated to Loango National Park, Jessica Shaw [wrote](#) for Time Magazine: "The home of 'Africa's Last Eden,' Gabon, sandwiched between Congo and Cameroon on the continent's central Atlantic coast, may not have an ecotourism infrastructure like hot spots Botswana or Kenya. What Gabon does have, however, are 13 unspoiled national parks that cover 10% of the country. [Independent from France since only 1960, Gabon is considered by the U.N. to be a global leader in fighting climate change.] Loango National Park is one of the few places on the planet where rainforest meets ocean."

Fig. 2 - S2 (31.01.2023) / S1 (03.04.2018->09.05.2018) - Its diverse array of landscapes constitutes a pristine reservoir of wildlife. [2D view](#) [2D view](#)



Registered in the [UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List](#): The Loango National Park is located on the coast 300 km south of Libreville, it covers an area of 1550 km². It represents remarkable natural phenomena of beaches, coastal strips, lagoons and plains populated by an abundant and exceptional fauna.

Fig. 3 - S2 (02.04.2017) / S1 (03.04.2018->09.05.2018) - Plains and glades along the Ngowe river. [2D view](#) [2D view](#)



The national park is also a RAMSAR wetland, described as [follows](#): "Petit Loango is part of the lagoon complex of Iguela. It is a slightly undulating coastal plain with several lakes, dissected by small rivers and temporary and permanent swamps, set in a savanna, mangrove and rainforest environment."

Fig. 4 - S2 (02.03.2020) - Floodplains bordered by rainforest.

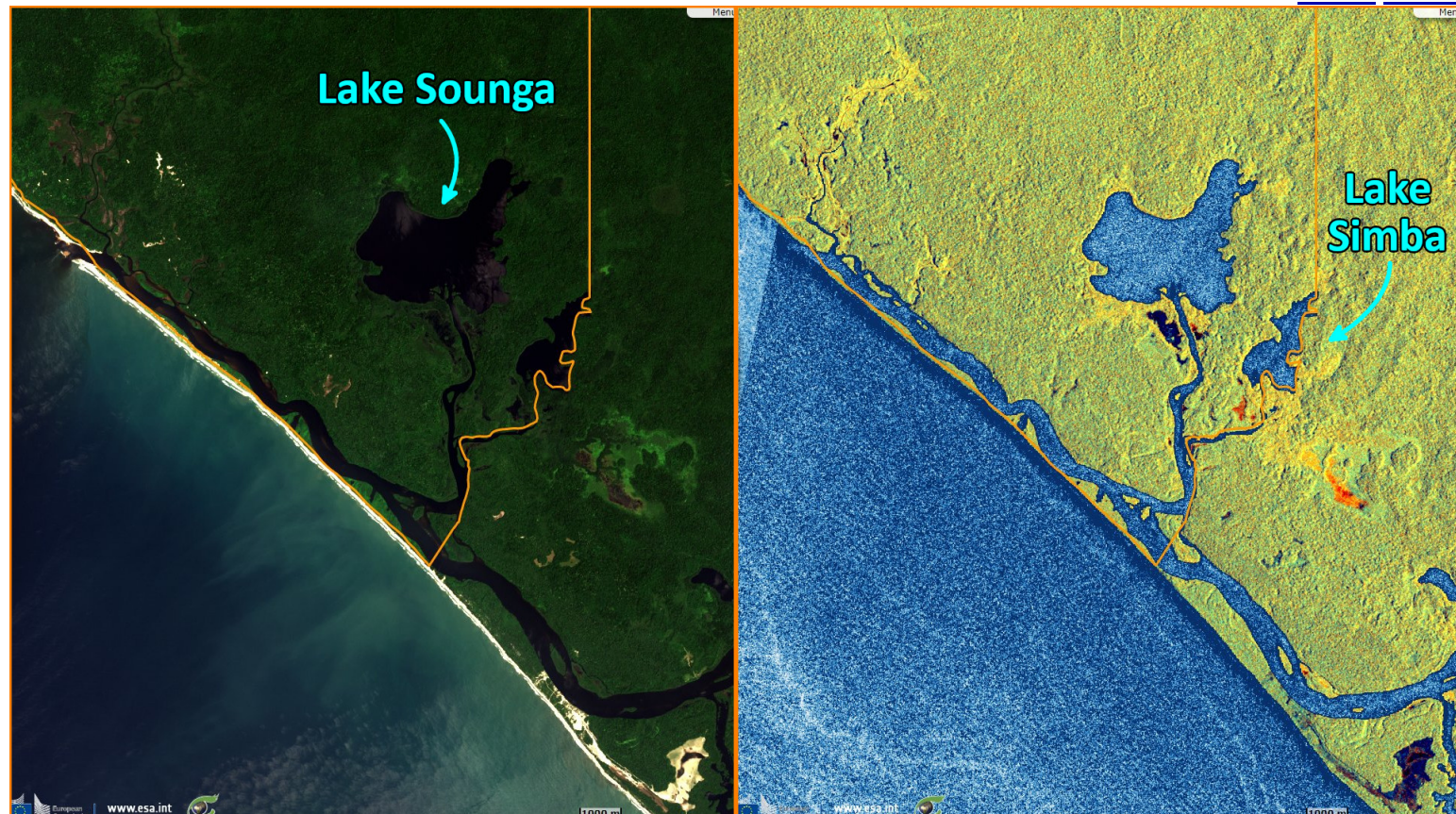
[2D view](#)



Promoting the ecotourism in this site rich in biodiversity, Gabon Wildlife Camps [adds](#): "Famous for its wild coastline, the national park is also brimming with mangrove forests, mirrored waterways, speckled tidal lagoons and a vast track of savannah." "There are very few places left in Equatorial Africa where you embark on a safari and experience 'Big Five' game yet Loango National Park's remarkable range of biodiversity and pristine ecosystems provide nature lovers and intrepid travellers with such extraordinary occurrences."

Fig. 5 - S2 (31.01.2023) / S1 (03.04.2018->09.05.2018) - Lakes Sounga and Simba are located within the forest at the south-east tip of the national park.

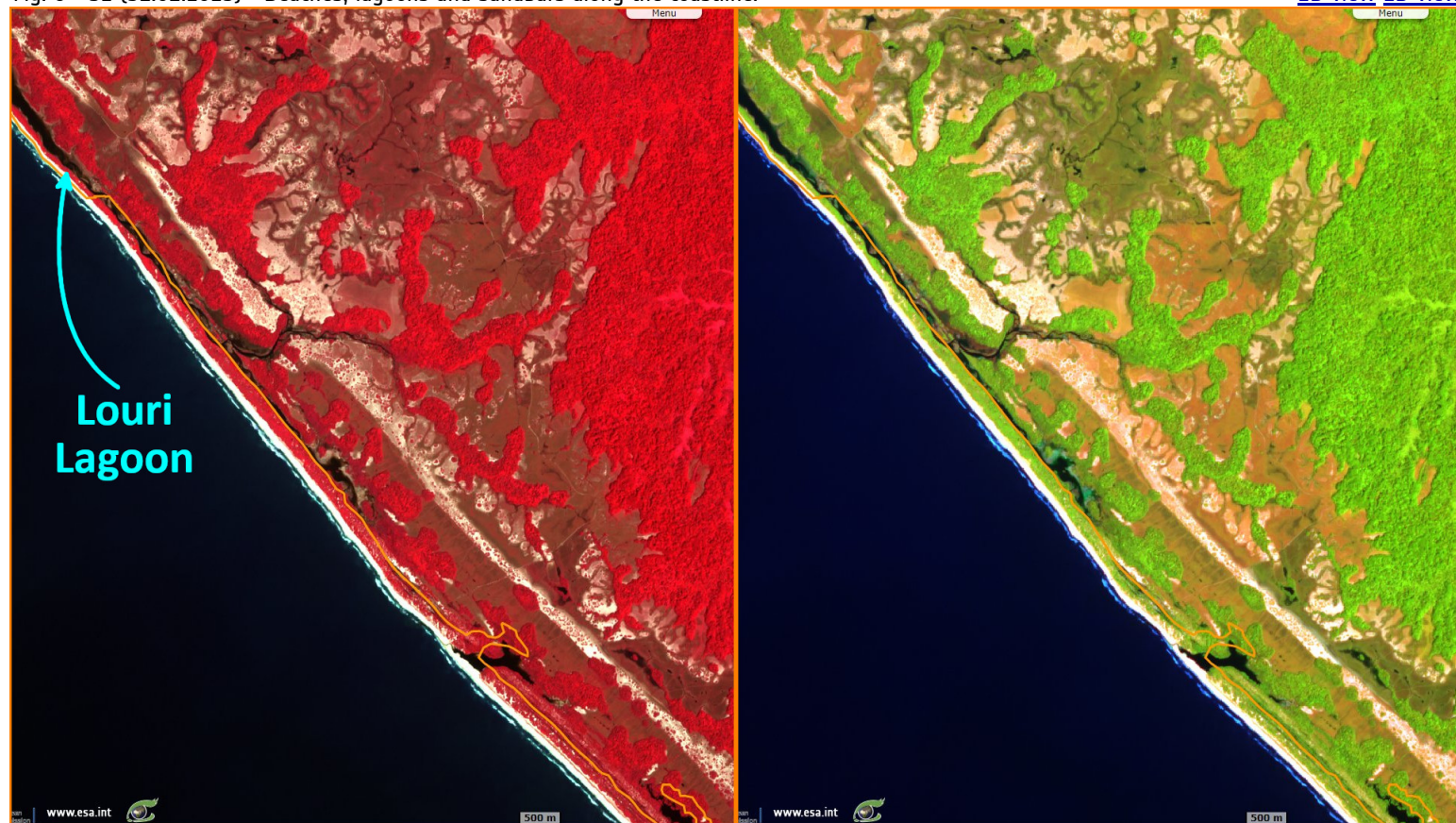
[2D view](#) [2D view](#)



In those 1550 km², visitors can see an extraordinarily diverse array of animals from water to land to sky. The UNESCO sheet [complements](#): The property is home to significant biological diversity, with emblematic animals such as hippos bathing in the waves of the Atlantic Ocean and buffalo and elephants basking in the sun on the beaches. Among the countless wildlife that inhabit the park are bushpigs, several species of monkeys (which of chimpanzee), duikers, several species of reptiles and gorillas. The park is also inhabited by panthers. From the beach, humpback whales and dolphins can be seen from June to September.

Fig. 6 - S2 (31.01.2023) - Beaches, lagoons and sandbars along the coastline.

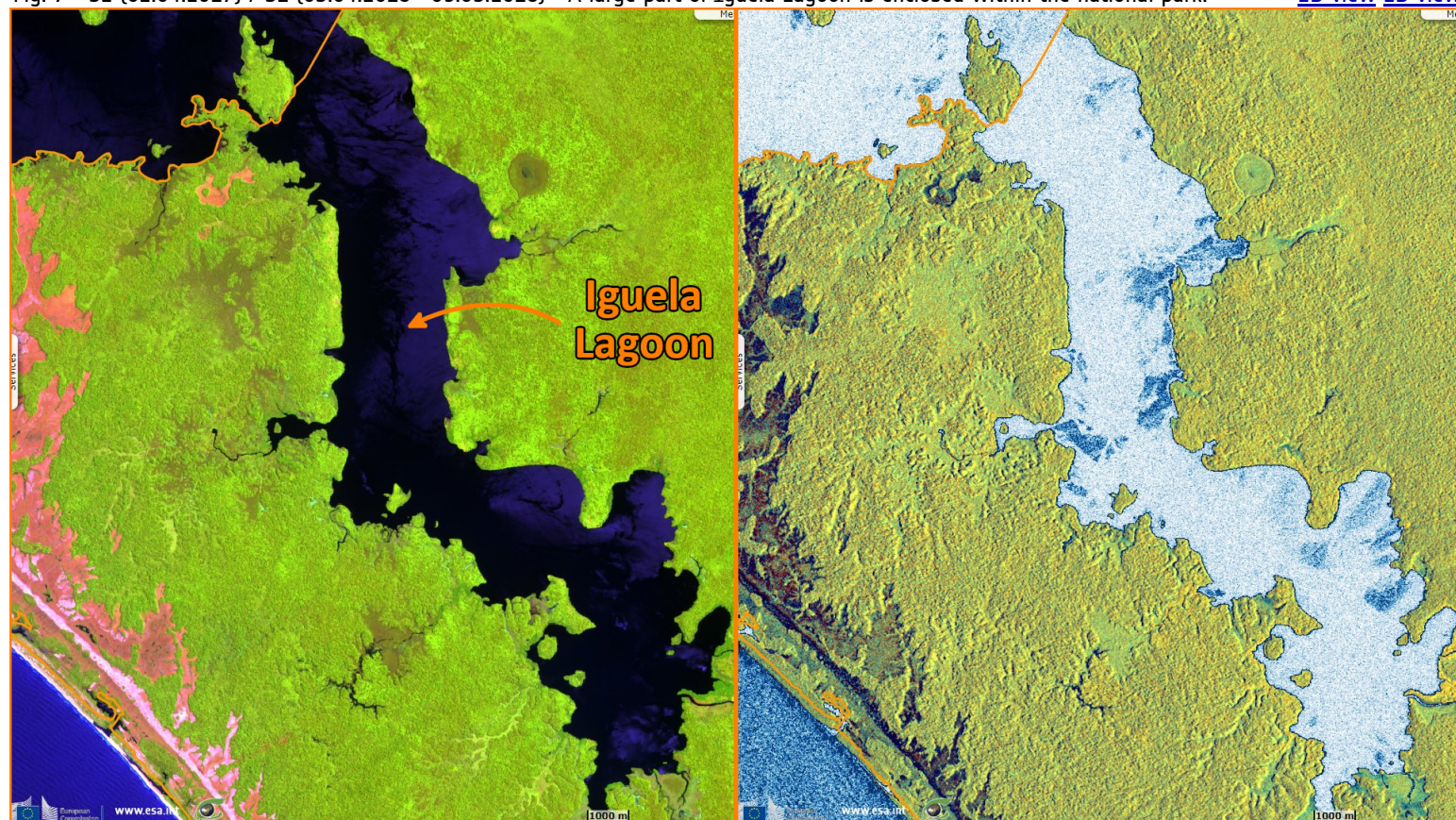
[2D view](#) [2D view](#)



The lagoons are also populated by an abundance of wildlife, including many species of fish such as tarpon, captain, barracuda, red carp, crocodile and even manatees. The mangroves, which border the park, are the breeding ground for many aquatic species and are inhabited by a rich birdlife with 355 bird species found in the park. The beaches of the park provide a nesting site for the three threatened turtle species: the leatherback, green turtle and hawksbill turtle. It is also a breeding site for the olive ridley sea turtle.

Fig. 7 - S2 (02.04.2017) / S1 (03.04.2018->09.05.2018) - A large part of Iguéla Lagoon is enclosed within the national park.

[2D view](#) [2D view](#)















Beyond biodiversity, RAMSAR [explains](#) the importance of this site, opportunities and threats: "*The Site plays an important role in flood control, sediment capture and bank stabilization through riverside vegetation. Given the very low population density and the area's classification as a wildlife reserve, the Site is very scarcely used. The surroundings are used for tourism and for oil exploitation, which could constitute a threat in the future, especially if expanded.*"

Fig. 8 - S2 (13.03.2017) - Unlike a section lying more inland, the mouth of the lagoon is enclosed within the park.

[2D view](#)



*The views expressed herein can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the European Space Agency or the European Union.
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