



Ilima Primary School

Client

African Wildlife Foundation

Location

Ilima, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Population

350 students, grades 1-6

Project Status

Completed May 2015

Services Provided

Community Engagement & Immersion, Strategic Visioning, Architectural Design, Landscape Design, Masterplanning, Construction Administration, On-site Training

Size

800 sq. m.

In collaboration with the African Wildlife Foundation, MASS completed a primary school in the rural Congolese jungle village of Ilima. The school serves as a primary school as well as a community center for safe and mutually-beneficial integration with local wildlife. The school's construction is grounded in the belief that conservation and community development is most feasible when communities are given the opportunity to develop in harmony with surrounding natural environments.

School construction employed exclusively local materials, harvested and fabricated on and around the site, including the fabrication of custom shingles, mud bricks, and beams using local timber from within a 10 mile radius.

The landscape features play equipment made from local materials and techniques, and integrated habitat and agriculture on-site. Educational signage throughout landscape allows every part of the school and campus to be an opportunity for discovery and learning for the students, with the AWF curricula addressing strategies for wildlife conservation.

