



WWF

Report

Cameroon

2018

A photograph of a person in a traditional wooden boat on a river. The person is wearing a colorful patterned wrap and is holding a long wooden pole. The background shows a blue sky with white clouds and a line of green trees on the far bank.

FAIRE RENAITRE L'ESPOIR CHEZ L'HOMME ET LA NATURE

ABOUT WWF CAMEROON

Our Vision

A future with healthy ecosystems and thriving biodiversity supporting people and driving sustainable development in Cameroon.

The WWF Cameroon Country Program Office (CCPO), henceforth referred to as WWF Cameroon in this report, started in 1990 as a small office with one field project (Korup Project). Twenty-eight years after, WWF has grown in scope and vision.

WWF supports the Government of Cameroon in the implementation of the medium term development strategy, the Growth and Employment Strategy Paper, thereby contributing to progress towards the country's 2035 vision of becoming a middle-income country. WWF offers support in mainstreaming environmental sustainability in sectoral policies, strategies and programs, and supports implementation of the Forest and Environment Program. We operate from 11 field offices in five landscapes and a national office in Yaoundé.

Our Strategic Pillars

Sustainable Wildlife Management

Through this strategy WWF contributes to ensuring:

- Protected Areas Management Effectiveness
- Strengthening Law Enforcement - Zero poaching framework
- Increase the involvement of communities in protection efforts
- Improve approaches for prosecution
- Improve Community Co-existence with Wildlife – Safe system approach.



Sustainable Forest Management

This strategy promotes amongst others:

- Building capacities of logging companies for the adoption of best practices
- Piloting and upscaling tools and guidelines for best management practices
- Support communities for the valorization of community forests
- Promoting certification schemes (FSC, legality, VPA/FLEGT ...)
- Piloting the jurisdictional REDD+ Approach
- Developing and capitalizing on new and existing Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) initiatives to enhance community benefits
- Forest and Landscape Restoration.



Climate & Energy

Through this strategy WWF is:

- Engaging actions to support state and non-state actors to integrate climate change resilience and adaptation guidelines into development plans
- Supporting the roll out of Cameroon's National Adaptation Plan to reduce community vulnerability to climate change
- Promoting wood and waste energy demonstration and policy initiatives, including but not limited to sustainable charcoal production
- Promote renewable energy services that serve socio-economic development, improve the quality of lives and reduce the impact on ecosystems.



Food Systems & Food Security

- Promote best practices in agriculture
- Piloting and upscaling win-win model partnerships in agriculture
- Strengthening the national food value chain for palm oil and cocoa.

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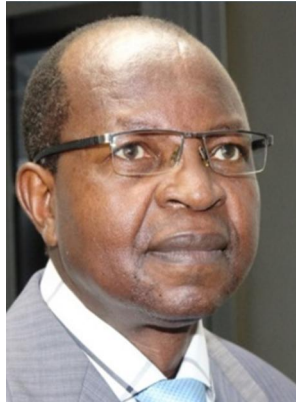
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REKINDLING HOPE FOR NATURE AND PEOPLE



Dr Hanson Njiforti
*Country Director
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We are at the threshold of a new era and may be one of the unique opportunities to make bold commitments and envisage critical actions to protect our planet from an impending disaster. The menace could not be more graphic. In October 2018, WWF published the 10th edition of its bi-annual Living Planet Report, indicating that biodiversity has declined by over 60% in the last 40 years. The report attributes this decline mostly to human, rather than natural causes. For the first time in history, human beings have had such a powerful impact on the planet. In our incessant quest for more land for logging, mining, big infrastructure, agriculture, we have overexploited nature and its resources to meet ever-increasing human consumption.

In times like this, we need bold and credible actions to restore nature to the levels that enable both people and nature to thrive. It is from this premise that WWF in 2018 pursued its actions aimed at contributing to reduce biodiversity loss, combating climate change and ensuring that people participate and benefit from protection of the environment in Cameroon.

Wildlife law enforcement

We worked with different government ministries, civil society and partners to improve policy frameworks aimed at protecting wildlife and improving the livelihood of people. WWF supported Came-

eroon's Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) to develop new guidelines for conducting wildlife surveys in the country. These guidelines will contribute enormously to improving knowledge of the status of large and medium sized mammal populations, necessary to have a base for threats monitoring and for the assessment of the success of conservation and sustainable development programs.

In a bid to fight poaching, WWF is building the capacities of local communities around the Tri-National Dja-Odzala-Minkebe (TRIDOM) and Sangha Tri-National (TNS) landscapes so they can appear as civil claimants against poachers in court. Through this approach, local people could claim damages for prejudices suffered from poaching.

Working for people

WWF has a social policy for conservation (SD4C), which highlights gender, indigenous people (IP), poverty and conservation and human rights related issues. This SD4C policy is strongly being implemented at all levels of CCPO interventions. We worked hand in gloves with RACOPY, a network of indigenous peoples NGOs to secure and promote the rights of this marginalized group. Through concerted efforts, Baka and the MINFOF have finally validated a draft convention that, once signed, will give them more access to some protected areas in eastern Cameroon.



We have defined a complaint mechanism for indigenous people, providing a platform for them to channel their grievances for lasting solutions.

Through a joint project with Plan International Cameroon, we continued shoring up the education of Baka children. We have awarded 700 scholarships to under-privileged but deserving Baka children in both primary and secondary schools in eastern Cameroon. The results are encouraging. Baka school dropout has plummeted. The number of enrollment into primary and secondary schools have gone up and more Baka children are nursing dreams of a better future.

After several years, community forests in the East Region of Cameroon are generating revenues through sales of wood and creation of temporary jobs in the communities. Three new community forests have been created for Baka bringing the total number of Baka community forest to six, covering a surface area of over 30000 hectares in less than four years.

Sustainable Agriculture

We made remarkable progress toward sustainable food production in Cameroon, especially palm oil development. After close to three years of advocacy with the Government, WWF facilitated Cameroon's admission as an official partner of the Tropical Forest Alliance (TFA2020) African Palm Oil Initiative (APOI). Cameroon's adhesion to the TFA2020 will contribute in the implementation of its REDD+ Strategy, especially its Emission Reduction Development Program (ERDP).

In 2018, WWF also began supporting the first Round Table for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) certification process in Cameroon. This includes organizing an RSPO informa-

tion campaign for local communities of SO-CAPALM and SAFACAM plantations in the Littoral and South Regions of Cameroon. We also initiated a sustainable cocoa program that will explore opportunities to enhance productivity, improve cocoa quality with reduced impact on biodiversity.

Leading the Change

Through our Leading the Change Project, we have continued to develop the capacities of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and to promote their role as advocate for sustainable management and sustainable investment. By dint of our efforts, some of the CSOs have converted hunters into bee and pig farmers, supported the creation of palm oil smallholders cooperatives to boost sustainable development of palm oil. Youths are engaging in education for sustainable development. As an upshot, the first ever Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) sustainability is under construction in a school in the Littoral Region of Cameroon.

We are humbled by our achievements in 2018, but firm in our determination to do even more. The challenges are legion. WWF will continue to support the government in its efforts to fight climate change by supporting the roll out of the National Adaptation Plan that builds socio-ecological resilience to climate risks and impacts. We shall campaign vigorously for a New Deal for Nature and People, in a bid to reverse the downward trend in biodiversity loss. Indeed the year 2019 is pregnant with actions that must be taken as we prepare for the super year in 2020, when the world will make decisions on biodiversity, climate and sustainable development.

Together we will make it happen.



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FAIRE RENAITRE L'ESPOIR CHEZ L'HOMME ET LA NATURE

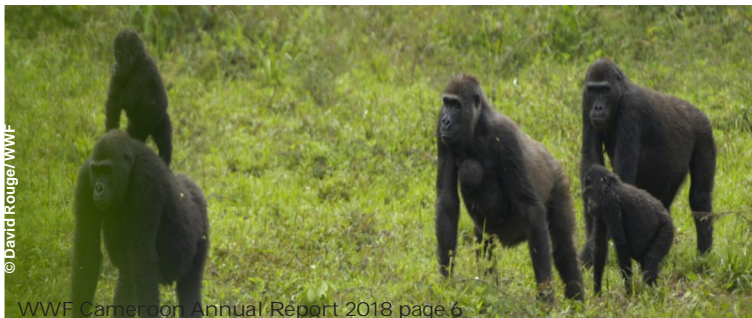
Nous sommes à l'aube d'une nouvelle ère qui pourrait être l'une des occasions uniques, de prendre des engagements audacieux, et d'envisager des actions critiques pour protéger notre planète d'une grande menace. Celle-ci ne pourrait pas être plus visible. En octobre 2018, le WWF a publié la 10^e édition de son rapport biennal : *Rapport Planète Vivante* qui indique que, la biodiversité avait diminué de plus de 60% au cours des 40 dernières années. Le rapport attribue ce déclin principalement à des causes humaines plutôt qu'à des causes naturelles. Pour la première fois, les êtres humains ont eu un impact aussi puissant sur la planète. Dans notre quête de plus de terres pour l'exploitation forestière, les grandes infrastructures agricoles pour nourrir une population sans cesse croissante, nous avons surexploité la nature et ses ressources pour faire face à une consommation humaine en constante augmentation. Nos actions ont eu un impact sérieux sur la nature et les hommes.

Dans des moments comme celui-ci, nous avons besoin d'actions audacieuses et crédibles pour ramener la nature à un niveau qui lui permette ainsi qu'aux hommes de s'épanouir. C'est à partir de ce constat que le WWF a poursuivi en 2018 ses actions visant à contribuer à réduire la perte de la biodiversité, à lutter contre le changement climatique et à faire en sorte que les populations participent et bénéficient de la protection de l'environnement au Cameroun. Nous avons travaillé avec différents ministères, la société civile et d'autres partenaires. Ceci pour améliorer les cadres stratégiques visant à protéger la faune et à améliorer les moyens de subsistance des populations.

Le WWF a accompagné le Ministère des Forêts et de la Faune (MINFOF), dans l'élaboration de nouvelles directives pour la réalisation d'études sur la faune dans le pays. Ces lignes directrices contribueront énormément à améliorer la connaissance de l'état des populations des grands et moyens mammifères. Connaissance nécessaire pour disposer d'une base solide de surveillance des menaces et l'évaluation du succès des programmes de conservation et de développement durable.

Dans le but de lutter contre le braconnage, le WWF renforce les capacités des communautés locales autour du paysage tri national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe dénommé TRIDOM afin qu'elles puissent engager des actions en qualité de partie civile devant les tribunaux contre les braconniers. Grâce à cette approche, les populations locales pourraient réclamer des dommages et intérêts pour tout préjudice subi.

Le WWF a une politique sociale de conservation (SD4C) qui met en avant les questions liées au genre, aux peuples autochtones (PI), à la pauvreté, à la conservation et aux droits de l'homme. Cette politique est implémentée à tous les niveaux d'intervention du CCPO. Nous avons travaillé main dans la main avec le Réseau Recherches Actions Concertées Pygmées (RACOPY), pour défendre et promouvoir les droits de ce groupe marginalisé. Grâce à des efforts concertés, les Baka et le MINFOF ont finalement validé un projet de convention qui, une fois signé, leur donnera plus d'accès à certaines aires protégées de l'est-Cameroun.

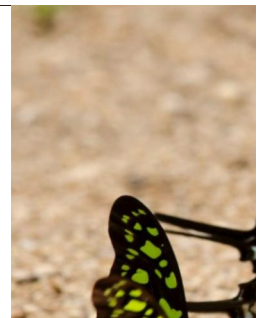


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WWF Cameroon Annual Report 2018 page 6



© Eyong Blaise/WWF



Nous avons défini un mécanisme de plainte pour les populations autochtones en leur fournissant une plate-forme qui leur permet de transmettre leurs griefs au WWF, afin d'y trouver des solutions durables.

Grâce à un projet conjoint avec Plan International Cameroun, nous avons continué à renforcer l'éducation des enfants Baka moins privilégiés mais méritants auxquels nous avons octroyé 700 bourses dans les écoles primaires et secondaires de l'est du Cameroun. Les résultats sont encourageants. Le décrochage scolaire chez les Baka a chuté. Le nombre d'inscriptions dans les écoles primaires et secondaires a augmenté, et de plus en plus de ces enfants nourrissent le rêve d'un avenir meilleur.

Après plusieurs années d'efforts, les forêts communautaires de la région orientale du Cameroun commencent à générer des revenus grâce à la vente de bois et à la création d'emplois temporaires dans les communautés. Trois nouvelles forêts communautaires ont été créées pour les Baka, ce qui porte à six le nombre total de ces forêts qui, en moins de quatre ans, couvrent déjà une superficie de plus de 20000 hectares.

Agriculture durable

Nous avons fait des progrès remarquables dans l'évolution vers l'agriculture durable au Cameroun, en particulier le développement de l'huile de palme. Après près de trois ans de plaidoyer auprès du gouvernement, le WWF a facilité l'admission du Cameroun comme que partenaire officiel de l'Initiative pour la production d'huile de palme en Afrique (TFA2020). L'adhésion du Cameroun à cette initiative contribuera à la mise en œuvre de sa stratégie REDD+, en particulier de son programme de développement pour la réduction des émissions des gaz à effet de serre.

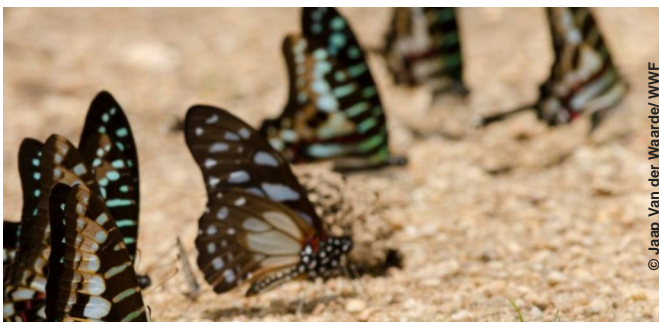
En 2018, le WWF a également commencé à soutenir le processus de certification de la première Table ronde sur l'huile de palme durable (RSPO) au Cameroun. Cela comprend

l'organisation d'une campagne d'information RSPO pour les communautés locales des plantations SOCAPALM et SAFACAM dans les régions du Littoral et du Sud du Cameroun. Nous avons également lancé un programme de cacao durable qui explorera les possibilités d'améliorer la productivité et la qualité, tout en réduisant l'impact de cette culture sur la biodiversité.

Dans le cadre de notre projet «Leading the Change», nous avons continué à développer les capacités des organisations de la société civile (OSC), et à promouvoir leur rôle de défenseur de la gestion et des investissements durables. Grâce à nos efforts, certaines OSC ont converti des chasseurs en apiculteurs et éleveurs de porcs. Ils ont également soutenu la création de coopératives de petits producteurs d'huile de palme, afin de stimuler le développement durable du palmier à huile.

De plus en plus, les jeunes s'engagent dans l'éducation pour le développement durable. En conséquence, le tout premier centre d'éducation au développement durable est en construction dans une école de la région du Littoral au Cameroun.

Tout en restant humbles face à nos réalisations en 2018, nous sommes déterminés à faire encore plus. Les défis sont légion. Le WWF continuera à soutenir le gouvernement dans ses efforts de lutte contre le changement climatique en soutenant la mise en œuvre du plan national d'adaptation qui renforce la résilience socio-écologique face aux risques et impacts climatiques. Nous ferons campagne pour un New Deal pour la nature et les hommes, afin d'inverser la tendance actuelle qui est à la baisse alarmante de la biodiversité. En effet, l'année 2019 est pleine de mesures à prendre pour préparer la super année 2020, au cours de laquelle le monde prendra des décisions fortes en matière de biodiversité, de climat et de développement durable. Ensemble, nous comptons bien y arriver.



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CAMEROON'S STRATEGY TO 'BEND CURVE OF BIODIVERSITY LOSS'

WWF promotes inclusive conservation, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and fights against environmental corruption

WWF and partners are working towards a "future with healthy ecosystems and thriving biodiversity supporting people and driving sustainable development in Cameroon". This vision is in line with Cameroon's development priorities as outlined in her vision 2035 strategy. It also falls in line with WWF global effort to reverse biodiversity loss by 2030, through the "new deal for nature and people" strategy. For this to be achieved, the Cameroon Country Program Office (CCPO) has aligned its strategy to five of the nine WWF practices, which include Forest, Wildlife, Climate and Energy, food, governance and finance. The elaboration of WWF Cameroon's strategic plan for 2018-2023 took into account recommendations of a WWF conservation forum held in Quito, Ecuador. During the forum, participants highlighted the need for conservation directors to work together to contribute to bending the curve of biodiversity loss.

The roadmap adopted in Quito included the alignment of the office strategy with the practices critical contributions, develop and implement a performance assessment process and dashboard, assess capacity needs and feed into organisation development process.

Cameroon's strategic plan integrated the practices strategies and various areas of collective action and innovation (ACAI). WWF Cameroon is engaging partners and government towards forest sector transformation and valorisation and forest landscape restoration. We want to protect wildlife and their habitats and manage landscapes sustainably. We are anxious to see agro-industries and small-scale farmers produce food through methods that protect environment and cause less harm to biodiversity. WWF Cameroon promotes inclusive conservation, sus-

tainable development goals (SDGs) and fights against environmental corruption. We are pushing for an energy adaptation initiative and sustainable infrastructure financing.

Practice focal points are effectively engaged in the practices work. However, WWF needs to increase its participation in the finance practice and to build the capacity of the focal points. Thanks to close collaboration with practice leaders, the capacity of the focal points in project design has been increased. The focal points are currently informed and involved in the ACAI implementation. Cameroon has played a key role to facilitate the cross practice work especially in TRIDOM. In this line, a cross practice field visit has been prepared in TRIDOM for 2019 and will bring together most of the practices. Thanks to the involvement of the focal points in the design of the new projects and initiatives, for example, the innovation and the capacity building, funds and the African adaptation initiative

The physical presence and the technical support of three practice core team members (forest, wildlife crime and food) based in Yaounde is very useful to the national focal points. Cameroon is an example of synergy between the practice strategy and the national strategic plan.

The close collaboration between the practice community, the focal points and the conservation team contributed to empower the focal points, to secure additional funds, and to access the innovation and capacity building funds, especially in the framework of the Africa Adaptation Initiative.

Cleto Ndikumagenge
Conservation Director
WWF Cameroon

TACKLING CORRUPTION IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL SECTOR

The interest in the fight against corruption is based on the following socio-economic rationale: a reduction in accountability and transparency will enhance poverty and hinder economic and social development. However, what is less known is that corruption equally has a negative impact on the country's environmental protection and conservation efforts. In many developing countries endowed with abundant natural resources, like Cameroon, corruption is regarded as a major culprit in environmental degradation. Here, wildlife crimes and illegal logging are undermining resource management plans and legal trade regimes, threatening food security as well as the economic, environmental and social pillars of sustainable development.

The rise in environmental crime and corruption in Cameroon could be ascribed to weak governance, weak enforcement of existing laws; weak institutions, limitations in launching credible investigations and ensuring successful prosecution, a costly, complex and slow judiciary, compounded by the lack of political will.

Corruption has real political, economic and social costs; often difficult to quantify, since corruption by its very nature is difficult to measure. Yet, it leaves people worse-off and impedes development. First, it is an obstacle to democracy and the rule of law. Second, it distorts the allocation of resources, reduces productivity of public expenditures, lowers investment and slows down economic growth. Third, perhaps most insidiously, corruption leads to frustration and

apathy among citizens.

In a bid to tackle this, the Ministry of Supreme State Audit "Contrôle Supérieur de l'Etat" (CONSUPE) and the Civil Society Organization's Platform, of which WWF Cameroon is a member, signed an agreement on July 5th 2018, to promote good governance in the use of public assets and collaboration on governance, with regards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This agreement reinforces the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), which recognizes the role of civil society in combating corruption under Article 13, by calling on governments to increase transparency, improve public access to information and to promote public contributions to the government decision-making process. More specifically, it provides an opportunity for WWF to enhance its contribution towards promoting good governance in natural resource management.

Good governance including a broad commitment to the rule of law is crucial for environmental sustainability and a way to put an end to the devastating impact corruption has had on the environment.

Thus, it is expected that this initiative, the first of its kind, will promote transparency and accountability, which are critical for the effective definition and implementation of sound environmental policies.

By Estelle Mandeng

Fundraising, Legal & Policy Officer



Ivory tusks seized from traffickers in Douala, Cameroon

WWF CAMEROON IMPLEMENTS COMPLAINT RESOLUTION POLICY

Most of the world's ecosystems and areas of high biodiversity or ecological sensitive areas under threat are also home to rural communities and indigenous peoples whose livelihoods and cultures depend directly on the natural environment. In most of the places WWF works, its success depends on the degree to which conservation contributes not only to the maintenance and preservation of biodiversity and ecosystems but also to equitable and sustainable development for the well-being of people.

As WWF strives to implement activities that ensure humans live in harmony with nature, people are occasionally affected by these activities. Hence, the organisation thought it was right for people to have an opportunity to give WWF feedback or concerns on its activities.

IWWF Cameroon like WWF International established a complaint mechanism to receive and respond to concerns raised by stakeholders who have been, or are likely to be affected in a direct and material way by WWF-supported conservation activities. This is a key means of strengthening implementation of WWF's social safeguards reflected in WWF's social policies including: Indigenous People, Human Rights, poverty and conservation and Gender WWF Social Policies. Addressing complaints in a timely and effective way helps resolve conflicts, improves mutual understanding, strengthens accountability and provides a foundation for increased collaboration. This mechanism is based on the respect of the following key principles.

- Free Prior Informed consent (FPIC)
- Transparency
- Impartiality
- Good faith
- Confidentiality.

An individual or a group of at least two people that believe they have been affected in a direct or indirect way by a failure on the part of WWF to follow its social policies in the design or implementation of a WWF project activity can file a complaint. Representatives filing a complaint on behalf of an Affected Party must provide concrete evidence of authority and capacity to represent them. When a complaint is received, WWF works hand in glove with the complainant through open dialogue and joint resolution to obtain a lasting solution to the issue and learn from the experience.

WWF expects people to be open and critical in giving feedback concerning their conservation work in the communities but in good faith in the process. WWF is also willing to make every effort to coordinate and cooperate with other complaints resolution processes – whether developed by government or other organizations - which may have similar purposes, but which may differ from region to region. WWF is committed to build capacity for its staff and its partners in order to increase their capacity to implement this innovative tool

By Fideline Mborongong
B & I Assistant

WWF expects people to be open and critical in giving feedback concerning their conservation work in the communities but in good faith.

WWF COMPLAINTS RESOLUTION POLICY

INTRODUCTION



The policy is based on:
Transparency
Impartiality
Good faith
Confidentiality
Prior informed consent

Complainants can either send their complaint by:
post or email or directly in person



ELIGIBILITY



together possible.



SUSTAINABLE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

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NATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR WILDLIFE INVENTORIES DEVELOPED



Sustainable wildlife resources management cannot be attained without good mastery of the species status, their distribution in time and space and the threats to which they are exposed. Today, threats to wildlife, and large and medium sized mammals in particular, warrant immediate conservation actions at all levels (local, national, regional and international). Good knowledge of the status of large and medium sized mammal populations is necessary to have a base for threats monitoring and for the assessment of the success of conservation and sustainable development programmes.

Cameroon's Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) with the technical and financial support of WWF, has developed new national guidelines aimed at improving inventory methods for large and medium size mammal populations in the country.

The new guidelines focus on current approaches used for inventories and monitoring of large and medium size mammal populations in terrestrial ecosystems, with 10 techniques that can be used depending on the characteristics of each species or group of species. They provide details on inventory conception, data

collection methods and analytical approaches, with guidance for the choice of each technique, as well as requirements for their optimum implementation.

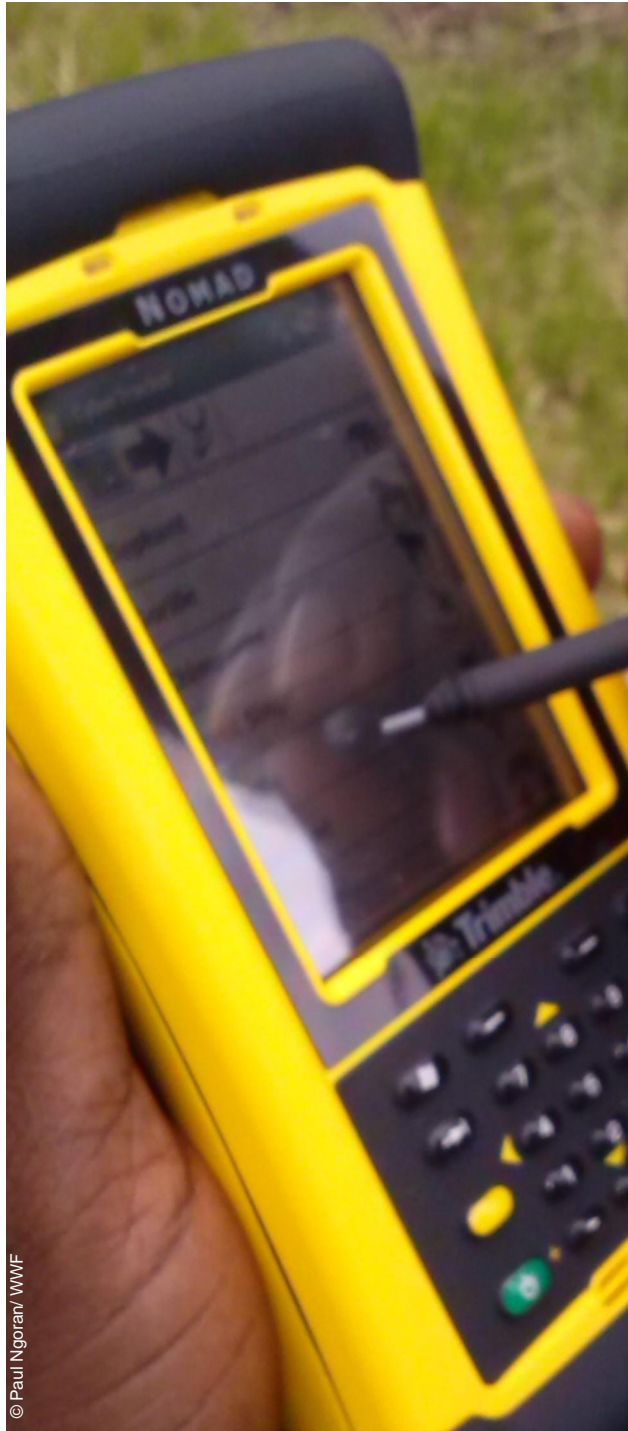
The guidelines come 12 years after MINFOF signed two Ministerial Orders in 2006 (Orders No. 0221 / MINFOF of 02 May 2006 and No. 0244 / MINFOF of 23 May 2006) laying down inventory standards for wildlife species in Cameroon's forest and savannah areas respectively. The implementation of these standards between 2006 and 2017 by the administration through several partners, consultancy firms and training and research institutions, made it possible to highlight some weaknesses, which have been addressed in the new guidelines.

Enriched and validated by the administration, conservation partners and different wildlife research institutions, the guidelines are meant for field biologists, officials of protected areas, forest concession holders, hunting guides, research institutions, NGOs, wildlife departments and the wider conservation community.

By Dr Zacharie Nzooch,
Biomonitoring & Wildlife Coordinator
WWF Cameroon

APPROCHE SMART INSTITUTIONNALISÉ AU CAMEROUN

Le « Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool » pour le suivi de l'efficacité et de l'effectivité des opérations de surveillance-contrôle dans les Aires Protégées



© Paul Ngoran/ WWF

Le Ministère des Forêts et de la Faune (MINFOF) accompagné par ses partenaires sont engagés dans la mise en œuvre des stratégies, périodiquement revues et adaptées pour garantir la pérennisation des ressources fauniques et accroître leur contribution aux objectifs de développement durable du Cameroun. Parmi les stratégies déployées figure la conduite des opérations de surveillance-contrôle dans les aires protégées et leur zones périphériques pour lutter contre le braconnage. Une standardisation et systématisation des mécanismes de planification, d'exécution, de rapportage spatial et de suivi de l'efficacité des opérations de lutte contre le braconnage est indispensable pour l'atteinte des impacts escomptés dans la préservation des ressources fauniques. C'est dans ce cadre que le WWF et les autres partenaires à la conservation (ZSL, AWF, WCS et UICN) accompagnent techniquement et financièrement le MINFOF dans le processus d'institutionnalisation de l'approche SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) pour le suivi de l'efficacité et de l'effectivité des opérations de surveillance-contrôle dans les Aires Protégées. Ce processus initié en 2015 au niveau des aires protégées pilotes, a évolué au niveau national par la désignation des points focaux au niveau de la Direction de la Faune et des Aires Protégées, le renforcement de leur capacité et l'élaboration d'un projet de Décision portant institutionnalisation de cet approche SMART.

Ce projet de Décision accompagné des règles et principes devant garantir la mise en œuvre efficace de cette approche, a été examiné et validé par les cadres de l'administration centrale du MINFOF, les points focaux SMART au niveau national, les conservateurs des principales aires protégées, et les partenaires à la conservation suscités. Le projet de Décision portant institutionnalisation de l'approche SMART et protocole validé est structuré en 5 parties, notamment 1) les dispositions générales présentant cette approche, (2) les rôles et responsabilités des acteurs de sa mise en œuvre, (3) la planification et déroulement des patrouilles suivant cette approche, (4) la typologie des données collectées pendant les patrouilles et la méthode de leur collecte et archivage au niveau local et nationale, (5) l'analyse des données et production automatisée des rapports périodiques. Les rapports périodiques à générer automatiquement au niveau national font ressortir une analyse croisée des efforts de surveillance et contrôle et leurs impacts dans la préservation des ressources fauniques au Cameroun.

By Dr Zacharie Nzoo



WHY GORILLA HEALTH MUST BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY

Desire Donitogo/WWF

Collection of biological specimen inside Campo Ma'an National Park



WWF is implementing a gorilla habituation program as a means to develop opportunities for gorilla observation, sustainable tourism and improve the livelihood of the local communities in the around Campo Ma'an National Park in the South of Cameroon. Through this program, tourists would be able to observe habituated western lowland gorillas in their natural habitat, while local communities benefit from programs for rural development and sustainable natural resource use.

However, gorilla habituation increases the risk of transmissible diseases between the habituated apes and humans, especially those who visit wild habitats more often. Great apes and humans are so hereditarily related as such diseases that can affect one species can easily affect the other. Naturally occurring infectious diseases such as Ebola, anthrax, monkey pox, polio, influenza etc. do not only affect great apes or other wildlife but also constitute a serious threat to the health of the human population working or living near great ape habitats. WWF-Kudu Zombo Program is looking deep into the health of habituated and unhabituated gorillas within the Dipikar Island of the Campo-Ma'an National Park to identify pathogens fatal to great apes and sympatric living mammals and to prevent/signal outbreak of diseases.

With support from Granby Zoo, WWF has set up an onsite wildlife lab in which biological specimen from the gorillas at Dipikar Island are analyzed for the purpose of infectious disease diagnosis and monitoring while aliquots of the specimens are preserved for disease monitoring on a long-term basis in collaboration with other local and international partners.

Needs for an emergency disease respond plan cannot be over emphasized in today's globalized world; where epidemic-prone diseases travel as fast as emails. WWF is fostering local solutions to health monitoring challenges by improving the gorilla trackers performance, strengthening hygiene and sanitation systems and harnessing technology. To foster an epidemic emergency plan at the frontline, gorilla habituation workers are trained on basic hygiene and sanitation procedures and methods to identify disease signs and symptoms of gorillas, collect and conserve biological specimens as well as record data and report basic pathologic observations.

The project has a veterinarian who carries out non-invasive animal-health monitoring, disease diagnostic, prevention and control procedures. The onsite diagnostics laboratory has capabilities of running basic virology, bacteriology and parasitology tests to reduce the time span between the emergence of disease symptoms and identification of causative pathogens. To reduce the probability of human induced pathogen transmission to gorillas, a rigorous hygiene and sanitation and vaccination protocols are enforced as well as clinical assessment and treatment of sick staff.

In collaboration with local Civil Society Organizations (CSO), local people, students, pupils and government institutions in Campo Ma'an area are sensitized on a regular basis to human-wildlife health and hygiene.

*By Eno-Nku Manasseh
Project Executant, WWF Kudu Zombo
Michael Kuwong
Wildlife Veterinary Officer*

PARC NATIONAL DE CAMPO MA'AN UN SYSTÈME D'ALERTE ÉPIDÉMIOLOGIQUE INSTALLÉ

« Aucune épidémie d'Ebola ou d'Anthrax n'a encore été enregistrée dans le Parc National de Campo Ma'an. Mais, comme on est dans une région tropicale où les risques de transmission des maladies (notamment les zoonoses) entre les hommes et les animaux sont élevés, nous avons mis en place un mécanisme de prévention. Au cas où une épidémie se déclenche, il permettra de prévenir et d'éviter que cela se répande très vite dans le pays ou même dans la sous-région ».

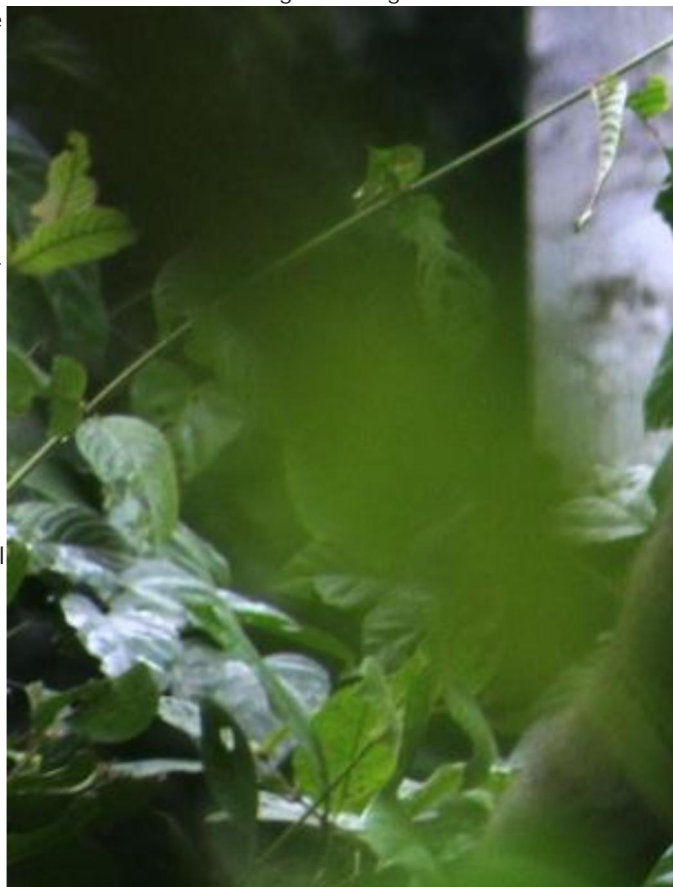
Les propos du Dr. Ilka Herbinger, responsable des programmes du Fonds Mondial pour la Nature (WWF) pour l'Afrique centrale et de l'Ouest, illustrent l'intérêt de la mise en place d'un système de surveillance épidémiologique autour de cette aire protégée située dans la région du Sud.

Lors d'un atelier national tenu les 13 et 14 novembre 2018 à Yaoundé et portant sur l'activation du système d'alerte précoce au parc national de Campo Ma'an, les experts ont indiqué qu'il permettra de prévenir la survenance et l'expansion des maladies infectieuses sur la faune sauvage du parc et les populations environnantes. La mise en place de ce système vise à éviter, selon les participants, que ce qui s'est passé en Afrique de l'Ouest en avril 2016 avec Ebola, se produise au Cameroun. Selon les statistiques officielles, Ebola a, en l'espace de 16 mois, contaminé 28 652 personnes et causé la mort de 11 325 autres dont les populations locales et le personnel médical dans cette région.

Le système d'alerte précoce vise à créer le lien entre les acteurs sur le terrain et ceux qui sont actifs au niveau national, pour qu'en cas d'épidémie, ils soient tous mobilisés en temps réel, pour qu'on ait un flux d'informations rapide. Le ministère de la Santé publique (Minsanté), le ministère des Forêts et de la Faune (Minfof), le ministère de l'Agriculture et du Développe-

ment rural (Minader), les gestionnaires du parc, les populations et les Ong locales comptent parmi les différents acteurs impliqués. Concrètement, les activités seront orientées vers la surveillance de la santé des gorilles et le prélèvement (rapide) des échantillons sur tout animal retrouvé mort en forêt. Dans ce dernier cas, si le diagnostic est positif, le système de riposte et de réponse aux épidémies au niveau national sera mis en marche. Le projet a été mis en route en 2017. Le principal bailleur de fonds est le ministère fédéral allemand de la Coopération et du Développement (BMZ).

Fidelis Pegue Manga





WWF veterinarian analyzing biological specimen in wildlife lab

© Desire Dontegol/WWF



Un gorille au Parc National de Campo Ma'an

© Pierre Calvin Fondja / WWF

WWF ASSISTS COMMUNITIES TO SUE POACHERS

WWF in partnership with some local organizations is implementing a project entitled "Protection of African forest elephant: support to law enforcement agencies and to local communities in TRIDOM and TNS" transboundary conservation landscapes.

Through this project, local communities living in these landscapes will henceforth appear as civil parties in wildlife crime cases. The project will provide legal assistance to local communities to file civil claims against poachers in wildlife crime cases before competent courts. They shall also be assisted to recover financial damages slammed against convicts and will be advised on the use of the money.

The project aims at stepping up protection of elephants and great apes in the TRIDOM landscape by reducing by 20% poaching and illegal wildlife trade, especially of great apes and elephants, by 2022. The project will also strengthen by at least 40% the operational capacities of law enforcement agencies in the landscape.

Promoters of the project hope to achieve this through the sensitisation and education of local communities on the need to participate in efforts to protect wildlife. Some communities living around Nki National Park in eastern Cameroon are already organized in legal entities and have been sensitized to their rights and obligation in conservation as provided by the wildlife law and other relevant legal instruments.

The legal base of such action is drawn from article 1382 of Cameroon civil code, and the Convention on biological diversity of 1992 providing the principle of benefit sharing and the participation of local communities in wildlife management.

Over the last 15 years, there has been a systematic decline in wildlife population, especially forest elephants in the TNS and TRIDOM transboundary conservation landscapes. This is attributed to increasing demand for ivory and other commodities in Southeast Asia facilitated by well-organized criminal networks using influence peddling and corruption to avoid sanctions at every stage of the law enforcement chain.

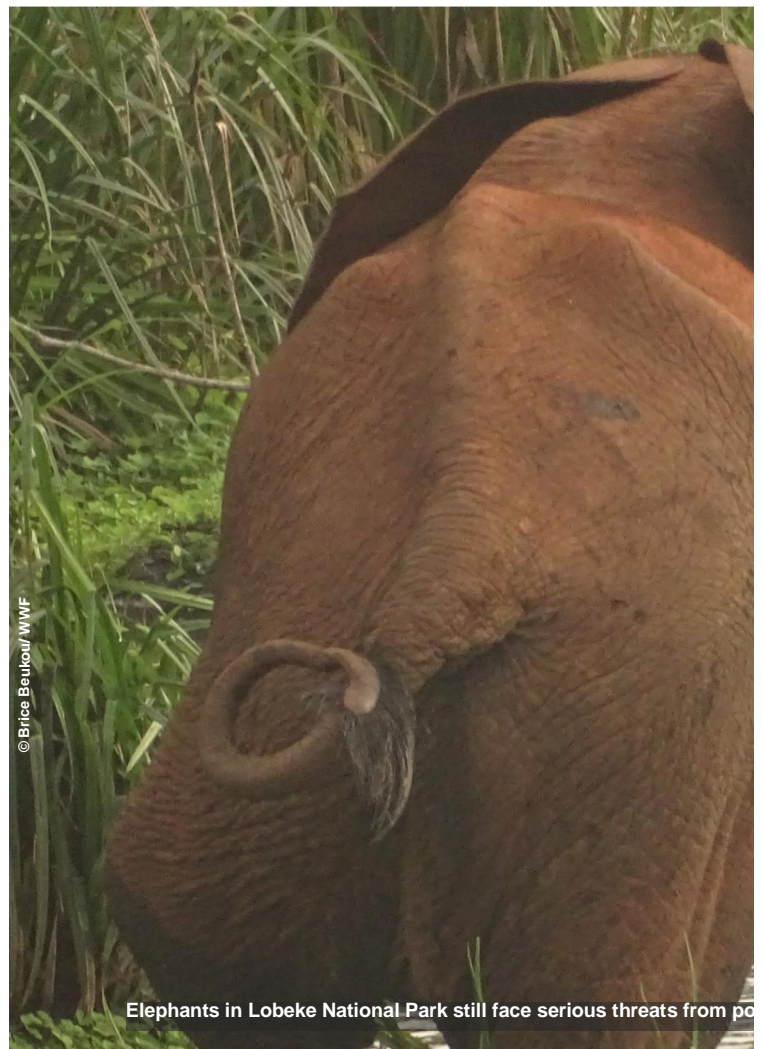
The southeast of Cameroon is endowed with an exceptional biodiversity including flagship species such as forest elephant, gorilla, chimpanzee, giant pangolin and various subclass of duikers. The area host two major transnational conservation initiatives (TRI-

DOM and TNS) but also serves as home to indigenous Baka and Bantou who have been living in harmony with nature for centuries.

Cameroon's Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife, MINFOF has welcomed the new project.

"We will collaborate frankly towards the successful implementation of this project to curb wildlife crime in the RIDOM landscape," said George Mouncharou, the South Regional Delegate of Forestry and Wildlife.

By Luc Evouna
*Wildlife Law Enforcement Officer
WWF Cameroon*



© Brice Beukour/WWF

Elephants in Lobeke National Park still face serious threats from po

SAISIES D'IVOIRE EN BAISSSE EN 2018

Ces dernières années la tendance à la hausse du braconnage des éléphants et du trafic d'ivoire est restée constante. Bien que s'inscrivant dans cette logique, l'année 2018 a pourtant été marquée par une diminution des habituelles saisies à grande échelle d'ivoire en comparaison à celles opérées au cours des deux années précédentes. Les agents d'application de la loi ont saisi 153 pointes d'ivoire et arrêté 24 braconniers et trafiquants de la faune en 2018. Ce nombre dénote une nette baisse en comparaison des 424 défenses d'ivoire saisies en 2017 et 255 en 2016. La majorité des ivoires saisis provenaient des régions de l'est et du sud du Cameroun.

Sur les 24 braconniers et trafiquants poursuivis avec l'appui de WWF, 13 ont à ce jour été condamnés par les tribunaux à des peines

d'emprisonnement allant d'un mois à la durée maximale de 3 ans tandis que les autres sont en attente de jugement. Par ailleurs, les amendes et les dommages-intérêts accordés à l'administration en charge de la faune sont compris entre 3.000.000 (US \$6000) et 50 million frs cfa (US \$ 106,000).

Au regard des pénalités prévues par la loi, ces verdicts semblent assez dissuasifs pour contribuer à endiguer le braconnage d'éléphants, en particulier dans le sud-est du Cameroun. « Les tribunaux ont prononcé des sanctions assez dissuasives, qui transmettent un message clair sur l'engagement du gouvernement dans la lutte contre la criminalité liée aux espèces sauvages », a déclaré Alain Ononino, le Coordonnateur du Programme de lutte contre la criminalité faunique pour l'Afrique au sein du WWF Cameroun. "Nous encourageons le ministère des Forêts et de la Faune à également œuvrer au recouvrement des dommages et intérêts alloués par la Jus-

tice", a-t-il ajouté.

Cette relative baisse dans la tendance habituelle des saisies d'ivoire peut être attribuée à un engagement international accru pour lutter contre la criminalité faunique. Lors de la dernière CoP 17 à Johannesburg en Afrique du Sud, la convention sur le commerce international des espèces de flore et de faune sauvage menacées d'extinction (CITES) a accordé le plus haut niveau de protection aux éléphants d'Afrique. Dans la même lancée, la Chine, l'une des principales destinations de l'ivoire, a imposé une interdiction du commerce intérieur de ce produit en Décembre 2017. Toutefois, sur le terrain il est encore très tôt pour conclure à une baisse du braconnage d'éléphants et du trafic d'ivoire, bien que l'on note une augmentation de la participation des communautés locales aux efforts de conservation notamment dans la dénonciation des braconniers et trafiquants de la faune, ce qui a permis d'augmenter l'efficacité des agents d'application de la loi pendant les opérations de terrain.

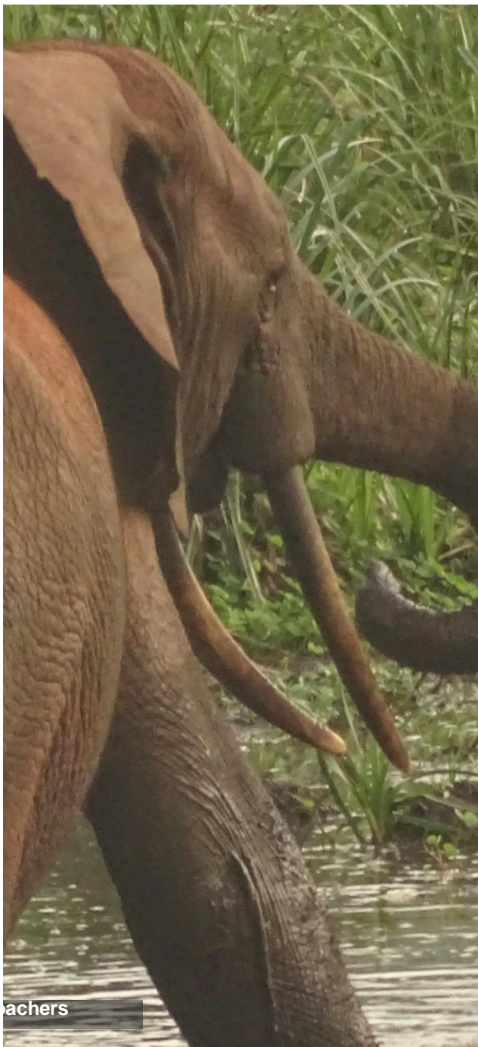
Dans le cadre de la lutte contre le braconnage transfrontalier, le WWF a travaillé en collaboration avec le Ministère des Forêts et de la Faune afin de renforcer les capacités opérationnelles de 37 agents chargés de l'application de la loi (magistrats, eaux et forêts, forces de maintien de l'ordre) en service dans les zones transfrontalières de l'espace TRI-DOM, la Tri Nationale Dja-Odzala-Minkebe, qui s'étend au Cameroun, au Congo et au Gabon. Ces agents ont été formés sur la loi et son application, de même que sur les outils de partage d'information pour une meilleure collaboration inter-agences, la protection des droits de l'homme et des droits des peuples autochtones pendant les opérations anti-braconnage.

Cependant, les défis constants de la lutte contre la criminalité faunique doivent encore être pris en compte. Le fléau de la corruption, les complicités en tous genres, le trafic d'influence, les conflits de compétence et les divergences d'interprétation de la loi et des procédures judiciaires sont quelques obstacles majeurs nécessitant des actions fortes.

By Nancy Amabo

Wildlife Law Enforcement Assistant

WWF Cameroon





L'équipe du WWF a pu apprécier les progrès réalisés et les défis en matière de gestion durable des forêts et la certification

LES ENJEUX DE LA GESTION DURABLE DES FORÊTS

La vision du WWF Cameroun est de construire un avenir avec des écosystèmes sains et une biodiversité prospère au service des peuples, qui sert de levier au développement durable du Cameroun. Cette ambitieuse vision est possible qu'en travaillant avec tous les acteurs de développement social, économique et environnemental.

Afin d'apprécier les impacts de la gestion durable des forêts et la certification sur le terrain, l'équipe d'experts de Pratique Forêt du WWF International a séjourné en décembre 2018 dans le programme WWF Jengi TRI-

DOM dans la région de l'Est Cameroun. Ce programme qui fait partie d'un paysage qui couvre trois aires protégées : Dja, Ozala et Minkebe appartenant respectivement aux Cameroun, Congo et Gabon, est une zone d'importance pour la biodiversité où le WWF travaille avec les communautés, les opérateurs économiques et l'Etat pour conserver et gérer durablement les forêts.

À travers une série de réunions et visites de terrain, l'équipe a pu apprécier les progrès réalisés et les défis en matière de gestion durable des forêts et la certification.



C'est ainsi qu'elle a pu se rendre dans l'entreprise PALLISCO, qui reste l'unique entreprise forestière certifiée FSC dans le programme, et dans la communauté Baka d'Assoumdele II, qui est attributaire d'une forêt communautaire de 5000 hectares obtenue grâce au soutien du WWF.

La rencontre entre les deux parties (WWF et Pallisco) a permis non seulement de passer en revue les actions engagées par cette entreprise certifiée FSC et leurs impacts socio-économiques et environnementaux. Mais aussi les difficultés qui freinent l'avancée de la certification FSC dans le programme en particulier et dans le bassin du Congo en générale. Les impacts de certification FSC sont réels tant sur le plan social qu'environnemental. En terme de défis, ils sont nombreux pour l'entreprise, les plus importants sont entre autres : la faible demande sur le marché du bois certifié FSC, et la concurrence qu'impose le bois illégal sur le marché.

Dans le village d'Assoumdele II, où le WWF a aidé les Baka à acquérir et à gérer une forêt

communautaire, les villageois ont confirmé que les revenus de leur forêt communautaire a permis de répondre à certains besoins prioritaires. Par exemple, en 2017, ladite forêt communautaire a généré plus de 6 millions de francs CFA (12 000 \$) et une partie de cet argent a permis de recruter et de payer un enseignant, d'acheter le matériel didactique pour les enfants et de répondre à certains besoins essentiels. Cependant, cette communauté compte beaucoup sur l'assistance technique et financière de partenaires pour assurer une gestion durable de cette portion de forêt pour qu'elle continue de générer les bénéfices pour la population.

A travers cette visite d'échange dans le programme WWF Jengi TRIDOM, l'équipe d'experts de la Pratique Forêt a pris connaissance des enjeux de conservation des forêts et des réalités terrain d'implémentation des projets.

Alphonse Ngniado
Senior Forest Officer
WWF Jengi Program

FORESTERIE COMMUNAUTAIRE

LES POPULATIONS TIRENT DE GRANDS AVANTAGES

Le concept de Forêt Communautaire fut introduit par la Loi forestière de 1994 et devint opérationnel à partir des années 1998. On compte de nos jours autour de 544 forêts communautaires au Cameroun, pour une superficie d'environ 1,8 million d'ha, soit près de 20% des superficies forestières affectées à l'exploitation forestière.

Pour le WWF, la foresterie communautaire pourrait constituer un important levier pour le développement local et pour la conservation de la biodiversité si les ressources et les efforts nécessaires sont réunis pour valoriser les ressources forestières et assurer leur exploitation de manière durable. C'est fort de ceci que le WWF s'est engagé depuis 2003 auprès des communautés locales, les accompagnant dans toutes les étapes du processus d'acquisition et de gestion des forêts communautaires.

Bien que les communautés font régulièrement face à un certain nombre de difficultés dans la valorisation des forêts communautaires, force est de constater que les communautés dans la Région de l'Est du Cameroun tire bon profit de leurs forêts communautaires. Un suivi effectué sur 20 forêts communautaires en 2016 et 2017 illustre cette situation, tel que présenté dans le tableau ci-dessous :

Sources de revenus	2016		2017	
	Revenus (USD)	Nb d'emplois (temporaire)	Revenus (USD)	Nb d'emplois (temporaire)
Vente de bois	156 928		132 297	
Emplois rémunérés (Inventaires, abattage, débardage à tête d'homme, chargement du bois dans les camions...)	525 948	1356	311 085	1171
Petit commerce (principalement fait par les femmes): vente nourriture, boisson, vêtement...	106 518	82	74 364	78
TOTAL	789 394	1 438	517 746	1 249

En ramenant ces revenus au niveau unitaire, il ressort que chaque forêt communautaire génère en moyenne FCFA 444000 (8 820 USD) par an, les emplois rémunérés procurent en moyenne FCFA 150000 (266 USD) par personne. Pour les 80 femmes engagées dans le petit commerce, chacune fait un profit moyen de FCFA 450000 (953 USD).



Le gardiennage assuré principalement par les Baka rapporte FCFA 180000 (320 USD) pour chacun des 30 Baka impliqués dans ce métier.

Les revenus communautaires issus principalement de la vente de bois sont investis dans les œuvres communautaires, incluant la construction des salles de classe, la prise en charge de certains enseignants dans les écoles primaires, l'appui financier aux élèves et aux étudiants, l'assistance aux personnes de 3ème âge dans les soins médicaux... Le revenu obtenu par les individus est utilisé pour répondre aux besoins individuels (amélioration de l'habitat, soins de santé, frais scolaires des enfants).

Norbert Sonne

Global Coordinator Forest Certification, WWF Network

Alphonse Ngniado

Senior Forest Officer, WWF Jengi Program

URBAN LAND RESTORATION WWF PARTNERS WITH YAOUNDE CITY COUNCIL

Home to some 2.5 million inhabitants, the city of Yaoundé is the capital of Cameroon. Faced with the pressure of planning for the future with a growing urban population, Yaounde City Council (CUY) authorities invited WWF to collaborate on efforts to manage biodiversity and restore ecosystems in and around the city. In this line, WWF and the CUY signed a Collaboration Agreement in March 2018 to jointly implement the Yaounde master plan, management of fragile ecosystems and improving living conditions of Yaounde citizens through "*embellissement de la ville*".

CUY has an impressive vision for the future of their city and its people. The dream is for Yaoundé to be filled with thriving green urban and semi-urban landscapes that contribute to residents' quality of life, strengthen ecosystem services, boost tourism and mitigate carbon emissions. This will partly be achieved by rehabilitating areas that have been damaged by development over the past decades, as well as proactively identifying opportunities to protect and preserve other vulnerable areas of environmental value.

Several restoration initiatives are underway. Yaoundé has already gained five urban forests over the last decade. Notably, CUY is aiming to plant trees along an 18km stretch of canal under construction along the Mfoundi watercourse and its tributaries. This will obviously provide much-needed work for women and young people. CUY also has ambitious plans for a 40-hectare zoological and botanical garden across three of the seven hills on which Yaoundé sits. Again, this is an initiative that has a wide range of benefits: residents will enjoy it, tourists will come to visit it, jobs will be created, and biodiversity and ecosystems will be protected.

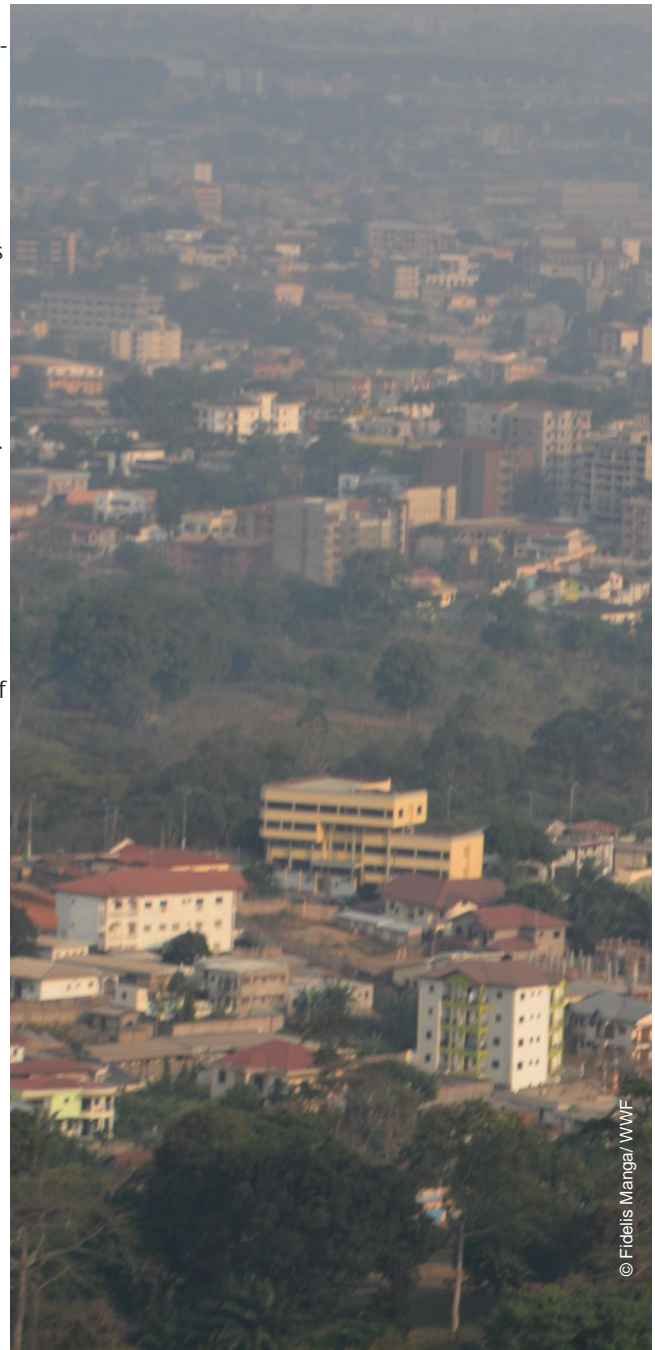
The success of any land restoration initiative depends, among others, on the quality seedlings. That is why WWF and CUY are working hand in hand to establish and develop a network of nursery managers who can supply the sheer range and volume needed for the several restoration projects. More broadly, WWF is supporting CUY authorities at several levels with the hope that the work in Yaoundé will act as a model for similar initiatives around the country in future.

Norbert Sonne

Global Coordinator Forest Certification, WWF Network

Dr Cleto Ndikumagenge

Conservation Director, WWF Cameroon



© Fidelis Manga/WWF

STUDY REVEALS DESTRUCTIVE IMPACT OF CLIMATE, WEATHER CHANGES



Spots of destroyed buildings along the coast from sea level rise

A WWF study to assess the vulnerability of the Tiko-Douala-Muanko and the Ntem segments of mangroves in Cameroon, has revealed changes in weather and climate are negatively affecting livelihood activities of people in coastal areas.

According to the survey, changes in weather and climate have led to infrastructure destruction especially homes, hospitals, schools, bridges and fences. This has resulted in huge financial losses, decreased water, sanitation and hygiene, decreased in fish productivity as well as aquaculture products, food insecurity, loss in lives and diseases, the study found.

A number of changes were observed in the communities linked to socioeconomic development in terms of schools, hospitals, pipe borne water supply and electricity. This was closely followed by environmental changes and pollution, population changes, political instability and administrative changes.

A well-tested WWF rapid vulnerability assessment tool was used to collect data for the survey. A social vulnerability assessment approach was adopted through interviews with questionnaire guides, observation platform and inputting of report into the climate crowd. Most of the people in the area were fishermen and businesspeople while few did farming. A majority of the respondents were between the ages of 36-53, 54-70, above 70 and 18-35 years old. They were mostly men.

Majority of the respondents (16%) said sea level rise is a major weather change they have observed over the last few years. This was followed by flooding (15%), changes in wind (15%), increased storms (12%), increase in rainfall(10%), changes in the timing of seasons (8%), erosion and landslides(7%), lost in water sources(5%), others like wild fires etc. 5%, heat wave and hot days (2%), decrease in rainfall and drought(1%) respectively.



Destroyed by wind

© Gaston Buh/WWF

Community members have put-up various coping strategies to respond to these changes. Some of these strategies have had negative impact on natural resources. They now have to trek further to get wood for construction of houses, boats, and firewood, leading to a reduction in mangroves forest resources. Community members travel long distances to fetch potable water.

The study recommended provision of alternative livelihood, reforestation, sensitization of communities on climate change, implementation of sustainable forest management practices and land use planning, adaptation and mitigation projects.

WWF's effort

With the support of the Climate and Energy Innovation and capacity fund, and the Africa Adaptation Initiative, WWF carried out a number of activities in Cameroon aimed at building the capacity of civil society organization, some government and other related institutions on climate change adaptation and

vulnerability assessment in the coastal zone of Cameroon in 2018. WWF conducted institutional and technical capacity assessment of 22 institutions (government ministries, CSOs, local government-councils and research institutions) in the southwest of Cameroon. WWF also organized a training workshop on climate change adaptation and vulnerability assessment involving 25 participants drawn from government, CSOs, research institutions/universities and journalists from different media houses.

Climate change has become one of the major coteremporary threats facing the global community. Developing countries such as Cameroon are more vulnerable due to their level of exposure to climatic threats and degree of sensitivity, coupled with low adaptive capacity to mitigate, adapt to or build resilience to these changes.

Gaston Buh

WWF CCPO GIS Coordinator



SCALING UP WORK ON FOOD IN CAMEROON



© Fideline Mboringong WWF

WWF interest in working on food systems stems from the fact that food production is one of the biggest threats to environmental conservation, causing a loss of 70% of biodiversity (CBD). In 2012, WWF Cameroon stepped in the food space with its program on palm oil. Apart from palm oil, WWF Food program in Cameroon has now evolved to accommodate other commodities like cocoa. There is no doubt that these two commodities have huge potentials to drive rural development through increased income but could also have far-reaching impacts on biodiversity.

In the last five years, WWF has supported the structuring of palm oil smallholders into cooperatives in a bid to create winnable partnership with the agro-industries that in turn will increase productivity and disincentivise further extensions into forested areas. WWF has also encouraged agro-industries to regenerate aging plantations against new extensions. All these efforts, coupled with policy changes at national level, will drive the palm oil sector towards sustainability in the short to medium term.

After close to three years of advocacy with the Government, WWF facilitated Cameroon's admission as an official partner of the Tropical Forest Alliance (TFA2020) African Palm Oil Initiative (APOI). Cameroon's adherence to the TFA2020 will contribute in the implementation of its REDD+ Strategy, especially its Emission Reduction Development Program (ERDP). It will also meet its exigencies under different international initiatives like the Paris Agreement (Nationally Determined Contributions), the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI) and the Marrakech Declaration on Sustainable Palm Oil Development in Africa. Cameroon, through a multi-stakeholder approach, has defined its National Principles on sustainable palm oil development and adopted a national

action plan for the implementation of the TFA2020 APOI commitments.

In 2018, WWF also began supporting the first Round Table for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) certification process in Cameroon. This includes organizing an RSPO information campaign for local communities of SOCAPALM and SAFACAM plantations in the Littoral and South Regions of Cameroon. The information campaign is to be followed by a full community engagement process as part of the RSPO Free Prior Informed Consent requirement.

WWF Cameroon has initiated a sustainable cocoa program that will explore opportunities to enhance productivity, improve cocoa quality with reduced impact on biodiversity. Partners such as Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH) supports this Program and it will entail linking up producers with the corporate actors that have undertaken strong sustainable development commitment especially in "D-Free" Cocoa and in the end create a win-win situation.

To scale up its work on food in Cameroon, WWF continues to rely on key stakeholders like the Media. In 2018, it organized a training session for journalists through a role-play game enabling the journalists to have a comprehensive understanding of the palm oil value chain.

In the coming months, focus will be to bring all these together to ensure a veritable transformative change entailing a better use and sustainable management of natural capital as a production base. Some key milestones will be RSPO National Interpretation and developing capacity of stakeholders on key tools for sustainable food production like HCV/HCS and concretizing collaboration with the private sector to create winnable solutions for the food systems.

Durrel HALLESON

*WWF Business & Industries
Policy Coordinator*

COMMUNITIES WELCOME RSPO PROCESS IN CAMEROON

Palm oil smallholder farmers, traditional rulers and local communities living around plantations belonging to agro-industrial companies: SOCAPALM and SAFACAM in the Littoral and South Regions of Cameroon have welcomed the introduction of the Round Table for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO).

RSPO is a not-for-profit multi-stakeholder platform certification scheme created in 2004 by a collective of industry representatives, financial institutions and civil society organizations. RSPO promotes oil palm production that comprises legal, economically viable, environmentally appropriate and socially beneficial management and operations. The new RSPO standard adopted in November 2018 focuses on three impact goals: Prosperity, Planet and Population.

SOCAPALM and SAFACAM, both subsidiaries of SOCFIN Group, though not yet members, have nevertheless engaged the process that will result in RSPO certification by 2020 for SAFACAM and 2021 for SOCAPALM.

WWF Cameroon with the technical support of WWF Gabon and RSPO General Secretariat represented by its Assistant Technical Manager for Africa, Victor Tamanjong, held meetings in the plantations of SOCAPALM and SAFACAM. The meetings were aimed at raising awareness of local communities and smallholder farmers on the benefits (economic, environment and social) of the RSPO certification scheme and seek full support for the processes.

Local people said the coming of RSPO heralds a new dawn for the hostile relationship between the communities surrounding the plantations and the agro-industrial companies. "Before coming to this meeting, we were very skeptical of its outcome because things have not gone well between us and SOCAPALM over the years," says

Etamane Etamane, representing the Chief of Apouh A Ngog village, in the Littoral Region of Cameroon. "I am happy with the coming of RSPO and if it were a law, I would have advocated that it be implemented immediately because you have presented the truth just as if you were in our minds," he says.

SOCAPALM and SAFACAM are the first companies in Cameroon to commit to the RSPO certification standards. Both companies produce 70% (118 840 tons) of palm oil consumed in Cameroon. According to Jean Francois Pajot, Director General of SAFACAM, they have engaged in the RSPO process in a bid to establish a platform for communications and exchange, which will instill transparency and restore trust between the company and local people. "I have the impression that the communities have understood and are ready to embark on this journey with us," Pajot says.

According to Ludovic Miaro, Regional Palm Oil Coordinator for WWF Africa, one of the biggest challenges and sources of conflict SOCAPALM and SAFACAM face is related to land tenure. "Engaging the RSPO certification process marks a new beginning that will provide sustainable solutions to these conflicts," he says.

The snag is that besides the companies, local people must understand and buy into RSPO principles for the effort to succeed. In this light WWF is liaising with local Civil Society Organizations: EGI, APED and Cameroon Ecologie, to effectively reach and sensitize the local populations. "We need to build the capacity of local communities to enable them embrace the process, negotiate and defend their interests," says Flore Ngo Nken of Cameroon Ecologie.

Fidelis Pegue Manga
Communications Coordinator
WWF Cameroon



Fidelis Manga/WWF

Community member speaking out during RSPO roadshow



© Fidelis Manga/WWF

Palm oil fresh fruit bunches heading for the oil mill

PALM OIL FLOWS IN JOURNALISTS VEINS

Some 18 journalists drawn from national and international media houses in Cameroon played the role of actors in the palm oil sector in a companion modelling game session organized by WWF. The journalists described the two-day game sessions as inspiring and enriching.



Journalists playing palm oil companion modelling game

WWF in collaboration with Cameroon Agriculture Ministry is seeking ways to ensure sustainable palm oil development in the country. One of the approaches used is the palm oil companion modelling game. The game draws from the setting of the palm oil value chain in Cameroon showing the interactions, dynamics and trade-offs amongst stakeholders.

The media as non-traditional actors in the sector played the game recently in the city of Douala, Cameroon. Assuming the role of palm oil smallholders, agro-industries, artisanal mills, bankers, truck rental services, the journalists for two days, came to understand why and how actors in this sector behave and the challenges they face.

Randy Joe Sa'ah, BBC correspondent based in Yaounde, describes the game as a very innovative way of imparting knowledge of the palm oil sector to journalists. "I played the role of a palm oil smallholder, which enabled me to understand the difficulties and frustrations farmers face. If I were to do any reporting on palm oil henceforth, I will ask the right questions to the right people," Randy says.

On his part, Ntumngwe Elias Ngalame, a freelance journalist and stringer for Thompson Reuters Foundation now knows which stakeholders to meet when doing any investigative reporting on palm oil issues. "This training has helped me to know the different stakeholders in the chain and the specific problems

they face. From playing the game I came to understand smallholders are more vulnerable and need much protection," says Ngalame.

"These challenges inform me on how to tailor my reports and content of my TV Program," says Regina Leke, presenter of an environmental program, *Planet Rise*, on Canal 2 International TV.

"Initially I thought palm oil production concerned only agro-industrial producers and second level transformers. Now I understand there are other very important actors including smallholders and bankers in the

sector. I now know the banks are very important in terms of provision of loans to smallholders," says Omer Mbady, journalist of *Jeune Afrique*, a pan African magazine. "These are actors in the sector I must henceforth take into account when treating information on the palm oil sector," he says.

The game is a participatory modelling approach within the context of the implementation of the Oil Palm Adaptive Landscape (OPAL) project in Cameroon financed by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF). "It enables local stakeholders to navigate and explore possible alternatives and make informed decisions on palm oil production," explains Durrel Halleson, Business and Industries Policy Coordinator for WWF Cameroon. "WWF uses outcomes of the game to provide decision support for the development of Cameroon's National Sustainable Palm Oil Strategy," he adds.

By Fidelis Pegue Manga
Communications Coordinator
WWF Cameroon

HUILE DE PALME DURABLE

LE CAMEROUN PEAUFINE

SA STRATÉGIE

Le plan d'actions met un accent sur la promotion des petits producteurs et la protection de l'environnement.

Comment produire de l'huile de palme en quantité et en qualité sans engager l'avenir des forêts? La question était au cœur du deuxième atelier national pour la mise en œuvre de l'initiative huile de palme durable en Afrique (APOI) tenu du 28 au 29 novembre 2018 à Douala au Cameroun.

Selon l'organisation environnementale PRO-FOREST, 50% des émissions de gaz à effet de serre proviennent de la production de commodities agricoles telles le soja, la pâte à papier et l'huile de palme. Et, lorsqu'il est établi que les surfaces exploitées pour la production d'huile de palme sont d'à peu près 190 000 hectares (à raison de 70 000 hectares pour les agro-industries et environ 120 000 hectares pour les producteurs privés), il faut cadrer sa production pour que les secteurs comme l'environnement et la santé ne soient pas perturbés.

Les échanges de Douala ont porté sur la définition d'un plan d'actions national pour la

vulgarisation et la mise en œuvre de l'Alliance pour les forêts tropicales, autrement appelée Tropical Forest Alliance 2020 (TFA 2020) en anglais. Le draft dudit plan doit permettre de développer une filière d'huile de palme prospère, qui offre des opportunités de création d'emplois et de richesse pour les communautés locales de manière durable sur le plan social et environnemental, préserve les habitats naturels et protège le couvert forestier.

Plusieurs paramètres ont été pris en compte dans la définition de ce plan d'actions. « On est dans la logique des mécanismes permettant aux petits planteurs de développer des techniques et des itinéraires durables; de promouvoir de bonnes pratiques de gestion et d'exploitation des différentes plantations; de réhabiliter les vieilles plantations existantes », justifie Dr. Valérie Tsama, chef service Bio-sécurité au ministère de l'Environnement, de la Protection de la Nature et du Développement Durable (MINEPDED). Les questions

liées aux intrants, à la protection des petits producteurs et au renforcement des capacités des acteurs sur le principe Round Table for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) pour la compétitivité de l'huile de palme camerounaise à l'international sont revenues sur la table.

La TFA 2020 est un partenariat public-privé initié en 2012 à RIO+20 au Brésil. Le Cameroun est membre de l'initiative depuis juillet dernier. Le pays a élaboré en septembre, huit principes nationaux prenant en compte la viabilité économique, la participation inclusive des parties prenantes, la gouvernance foncière et la préservation de l'environnement. Après la phase d'engagement du processus facilité par le WWF, le Cameroun est à la phase du développement.

Par Gibrile Kenfack



A group of young children, likely in a classroom or community center, are looking towards the camera. The lighting is warm and slightly dim, with some blurred lights in the background. The children are of various ages and are dressed in simple clothing. The overall mood is focused and attentive.

PEOPLE CENTERED CONSERVATION ACTIONS



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PROTECTION DES DROITS DE BAKA LE WWF ET SES PARTENAIRES S'E

Les populations autochtones dépendent étroitement de la forêt pour leur bien-être. Conscient de cette importance de la forêt pour ces populations, le WWF avec l'appui des organisations de la société civile et le consentement des communautés, a consacré l'essentiel de l'année 2018 à mettre sur pied des mécanismes permettant de garantir l'accès des populations autochtones à la forêt et ses ressources, d'améliorer leur participation à la prise de décisions aux processus de gestion des ressources naturelles, et de renforcer la protection de leurs droits humains.

Dans cette logique, des consultations ont été menées en vue d'affiner la volonté des communautés Baka à nouer des accords avec le gouvernement du Cameroun garan-

tissant et formalisant leur accès libre à la ressource dans les aires protégées. Un accord de gestion a été signé entre le ministère des Forêts et de la Faune (MINFOF) et les communautés Baka riveraines de la Réserve de Faune de Ngoyla, et un projet similaire est en cours de négociation entre le MINFOF et les communautés Baka riveraines des parcs nationaux de Lobeke, Boumba-Bek et Nki. Il sera formalisé dans les jours qui viennent. Ces accords vont considérablement améliorer le bien-être des populations autochtones car ils facilitent leur accès à la ressource dans les espaces forestiers dont ils dépendent étroitement, réduit les conflits liés à la gestion de ces espaces et contribuent à la pérennisation de leur mode de vie.



ENGAGENT

De telles initiatives en vue de formaliser l'accès et l'exercice des droits coutumiers des Baka dans les concessions forestières et de chasse sportive ont aussi été amorcées avec le secteur privée, et il est probant qu'au courant de l'année 2019 elles aboutissent à des accords entre les communautés Baka et le secteur privé.

En vue d'adresser la question d'éducation aux droits de l'homme et faciliter l'accès des Baka à la justice, un mécanisme de documentation et référencement des cas d'abus des Baka a été développé avec l'appui des organisations de la société civile et est mis en œuvre dans le sud-est Cameroun. Grâce à ce mécanisme, plus de 40 cas ont pu être jusqu'ici suivi et documentés et les victimes ont bénéficié d'un

accompagnement juridique et psycho-sociale. Cette initiative pilote permet progressivement de réduire dans ces localités les cas de violation des droits des Baka et change progressivement la perception que les Baka ont d'eux-mêmes d'une part et la perception que les acteurs extérieurs ont des Baka.

Pour l'année 2019 les perspectives sont de renforcer les acquis obtenus et de poursuivre les consultations des communautés en vue de développer une stratégie efficiente d'intervention de WWF en faveur des populations autochtones.

Moise Kono

IP Coordinator, WWF Cameroon

CSO CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT: GOOD PROGRESS, SURMOUNTABLE CHALLENGES



Four WWF supported Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), have made progress in their technical and organizational capacity development, a WWF assessment has shown. The CSOs include Community Action for Development (CAD), Environmental Governance Institute (EGI), Food and Rural Development Foundation (FORUDEF) and *Centre pour l'Education, la Formation et l'Appui aux Initiatives de Développement au Cameroun* (CEFAID).

The CSOs are part of a WWF civil society capacity development project, christened, Leading the Change: Civil Society, Rights and Environment which is a sequel to a WWF 2014 to 2017 Civil Society Capacity Project both financed by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

The Leading the Change Project seeks to address a major constraint to building a sustainable relationship between humans and nature – poverty. Central to the project strategy is capacity development for CSOs to promote their role as advocates for sustainable management of natural resources and sustainable investments.

The September 2018 assessment report shows that while the CSOs have remained embryonic in some categories, such as financial planning and advocacy, most have clearly demonstrated understanding of the necessity to develop their organizational capacities to which WWF Cameroon contributed. The assessment shows

that the CSOs are developing or have moderately developed in some categories. Two of them, (CAD and FORUDEF) indicated having well developed CSO networks and links.

As part of the capacity development initiative, WWF mentors the CSOs to deliver services to communities via community-based organiza-

tions (CBOs). For example, CAD supports the Tombel Conservation and Development Cooperative, (TOCODEC) in the honey value chain, and Western Bakossi Livelihood Farmers' Cooperative (WEBALECO) and Nninong Farmers' Cooperative (NFCU) in piggery. In the process, CAD and the CBOs provide alternative livelihood support to hunters. At least twenty hunters have given up the trade for beekeeping or piggery.

On her part, EGI technically supported the setting up of six functional palm oil smallholders' cooperatives in the Southwest Region of Cameroon and made significant advances in negotiating win-win Private-Community Partnerships for the cooperatives. Thanks to the capacity acquired, EGI is upscaling the initiative in the Littoral Region of Cameroon.

CEFAID set up a mechanism to document abuses suffered by indigenous Baka people in eastern Cameroon. Forty cases have been documented through this mechanism and the victims provided judicial and psychosocial support.

In recent years, CSOs have taken the lead in their capacity development with WWF playing the role of back-stopper. In 2019, WWF support will focus in the area of financial planning and advocacy.

Dr. Philip Forboseh
Senior Field Program Coordinator
WWF Cameroon



Roger Milla (R) in warm up session during Earth Hour sensitization walk in Bertoua, East Region of Cameroon



Students in parade in the streets of Bertoua



Students in Yaounde caught in Earth Hour fever



© Fidelis Mangan, WWF

EARTH HOUR IN A SPORTING MOOD

Earth Hour, WWF-led biggest grass-roots campaign for the environment, was celebrated in Cameroon in March 2018. With the participation of Ambassador Roger Milla, Africa Footballer of the Century, The event was marked by sensitization walk, cultural displays, planting of trees and a football encounter. British High Commissioner to Cameroon, H.E. Rowan James Laxton and the Head of Political Affairs at the Chinese Embassy, Sun Wei took part in the event in Yaounde.

WWF SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME SUPPORTS 700 BAKA CHILDREN

Some 700 indigenous Baka children in eastern Cameroon have been able to attend school thanks to a WWF scholarship scheme implemented between 2013 and 2018. The WWF school project has supported Baka children in primary and secondary schools in three districts - Yokadouma, Salapoumbe and Moloundou - in the Boumba and Ngoko Division of eastern Cameroon, covering school fees, enrolment fees for public exams, uniforms and books.

"The WWF scheme has been vital in promoting the education of Baka children and encouraging parents to send their children to school," says Yvette Mongondji, a Baka community facilitator.

"In my village (Salapoumbe), Baka interest in school has grown thanks to the WWF initiative," Mongondji adds.

An estimated 26,000 Baka live in Southeast Cameroon, in and around the country's forests, which are a lifeline for indigenous communities like theirs. WWF, which has been present in Cameroon since 1990, works closely with the Baka and other indigenous peoples to identify how conservation can help protect and promote their rights and improve access to services such as education.

Thanks to the WWF support, Baka children are nursing dreams. "I am going to school so I can become a gendarme (police) officer," states Ngongo Inyas. His schoolmate, Mirreille, chimes in; "I dream of becoming a teacher." Ngongo and Mirreille are two of those who have received scholarships sponsored by WWF.

Data by local NGO, CEFAID, an implementing partner, indicates that between the school years of 2013-2014 and 2014-2015, enrolment of Baka children rose from 267 to 318, while the number admitted to write public exams climbed from 118 in 2014 to 170 in 2015.

"Thanks to this grant, WWF takes the burden off the shoulders of Baka parents

by enabling their children to attend school. That is why this gesture is commendable," says the Director of Government Primary School Koumela that counts over 40 Baka children among 150 pupils.

"The outcome is encouraging as we have witnessed increased interest and willingness by Baka to embrace education contrary to earlier held beliefs," states Gilles Etoga, WWF Jengi TRIDOM Program Manager.

WWF works with key partners like CSOs and the Ministries of Basic and Secondary Education and Social Affairs, to help support indigenous communities like the Baka through conservation activities.

By Ernest Sumelong
Communications Officer
WWF Jengi Program



Baka and Bantu children

AFRICA YOUTH TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME ON RAIL

The Africa Youth Transformational Leadership Programme has this year taken off with diverse youth engagement initiatives at regional and country levels. WWF Cameroon launched the Africa Youth Thematic Hub in Yaoundé during May, 2018. The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Civic Education, Ministries of Basic and Secondary Education, Cameroon officiated the event. A capacity assessment of Pan African Youth Networks has been carried that has demonstrated the dynamic work youths all over Africa are engaged in contributing to sustainable development. However the report has revealed gaps that need to be addressed in order to strengthen these networks to become stronger organizations that have the capacity to effectively drive the desired change we wish to see for Africa towards green growth and sustainable development.

WWF in the Africa offices has mainstreamed youth in their conservation programmes. This has included supporting education policy work by mainstreaming of education for sustainable development (ESD) in primary and secondary levels, capacity building of educators on ESD in countries like Cameroon and Madagascar. Youth

conservation campaigns have been launched in institutions of higher learning with University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania through the support of WWF Tanzania. WWF Tanzania is offering 3-6 months internships to youth to support the conservation practices.

WWF has continued to engage with youth CSOs in landscapes where we have projects. WWF Uganda is supporting youth CSOs on green entrepreneurship and value addition of products to ensure greater market access. Our WWF offices in the region have ensured that youth CSOs have the capacity to manage their organizations and have undergone training on leadership to include financial management in Madagascar, Uganda and Cameroon with the latter extending this to school Parents and Teachers Associations to ensure the institutions we engage in are run in a sustainable way. WWF Madagascar has supported the youth CSOs to develop strategic plans that will guide their engagement in the different interventions. WWF Kenya's innovation programme is championing youth ideas to advance the initiatives into green innovations.

WWF in the different countries in Africa has collaborated with global youth movements like the Scouts who have played a key role in our events like Earth Hour and Afforestation campaigns with WWF DRC supporting a One Scout One Tree Campaign. The Regional Office for Africa has engaged the Africa Alliance of Young Men Christian Associations to play a key role by providing youth voices in the Africa Ecological Futures Initiative II. The Africa Youth Leadership Awards took place again this year and we had Iddi Hamis from Tanzania as the winner with his innovative project to recycle agricultural waste project to provide fuel and reduce deforestation.

WWF in Africa recognizes that over 70 per cent of Africa's population comprises of the youth. There is great opportunity to tap into this potential and as a region we will continue to position the youth strategically in our work so that they play a key role in promoting conservation and achievement of the SDGs.

By Zipporah Musyoki

ESD Regional Coordinator

WWF Regional Office for Africa (ROA)



Children happily at school

EN QUÊTE DES SOLUTIONS AUX PROBLÈMES DE SANTÉ ET D'HYGIÈNE AUTOUR DE LOBEKE



© Olivier Iegomol / WWF

Campagne de sensibilisation sur la santé et l'hygiène

Dans un paysage caractérisé par la pauvreté, la famine et l'accès difficile aux soins de santé, il est toujours difficile de trouver un équilibre entre sécurité alimentaire, nutrition et conservation. Néanmoins, grâce au soutien du projet Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group (ABCG) PHE, le WWF s'attaque à certains des problèmes clés auxquels sont confrontés près de 23 000 personnes vivant dans 21 communautés autour du Parc National de Lobeke, dans l'est du Cameroun.

Les conditions déplorables d'hygiène et d'assainissement dans les ménages, associées à la pénurie de personnel de santé (un médecin pour 6 000 personnes et un infirmier pour environ 600 personnes) dans la région, ont laissé de nombreux habitants exposés à diverses maladies, dont la diarrhée, le paludisme et la malnutrition.

Pour remédier à cette situation, le WWF a lancé en 2015 une vaste campagne de sensibilisation sur la santé et l'hygiène, soutenue par le projet ABCG PHE. Une campagne de

sensibilisation contre la malnutrition ainsi qu'une autre concernant l'hygiène et l'assainissement dans les communautés et les écoles par le lavage des mains et l'accès accru aux sources d'eau potable a été menée.

Le WWF a mobilisé des ONG locales et formé 36 agents de santé et d'environnement sur l'intégration du PHE à la nutrition/sécurité alimentaire; appuyé plus de 30 clubs scolaires à élaborer des plans d'action pour l'hygiène, l'assainissement et l'environnement. La campagne a également sensibilisé 500 femmes par le biais de messages de sensibilisation sur la nutrition et la sécurité alimentaires, et a aidé 14 étudiants agriculteurs à mettre en œuvre des micro-projets.

Le WWF et les services de la conservation de Lobeke ont également réhabilité six points d'adduction d'eaux dans six communautés, construit des latrines dans les écoles et les ménages, formé de nombreux personnels de santé et infirmiers communautaires à la lutte contre la malnutrition.

En ce qui concerne la sécurité alimentaire, le WWF aide la Women Health and conservation Society (WHCS) un groupe de 30 femmes du village Mambele, à entreprendre des activités agricoles durables et génératrices de revenus, telles que la fabrication de savon.

« Notre groupe est constitué principalement de veuves, sans aucune source de revenus réelle pour envoyer nos enfants à l'école. Grâce au soutien du WWF, nous ne faisons pas que gagner de l'argent, nous avons également appris à nous organiser en groupe et avons pu économiser de l'argent grâce à un programme d'épargne et de prêts », a déclaré Marie Dongou, présidente du WHCS.

« Malgré les défis de la zone, nous sommes encouragés par notre soutien qui permet aux communautés à relever certains défis fondamentaux liés à la santé et à la sécurité alimentaire », déclare Djibrila Hessana, responsable du programme WWF Jengi TNS.

Par Ernest Sumelong

*Communications Officer
WWF Jengi Program*



ESD INTEGRATED INTO PRIMARY SCHOOL CURRICULUM IN CAMEROON



Following several years of WWF advocacy, Cameroon's Ministry of Basic Education on September 2018 mainstreamed Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) at all the three levels of the primary school curriculum.

In the new curriculum, ESD replaces Environmental Education as a stand-alone subject but also serves as a strategy for the teaching of the rest of the school subjects. In other words, ESD serves to enhance the teaching of the other school subjects, making them more relevant in time and space by ensuring that they also contribute to the achievement of conservation and sustainable development. The envisaged impact is that teaching will be more focused on developing competencies in the learners in a manner that will help them not only to develop sustainable lifestyles but also grow up to become active agents in the promotion of conservation and sustainable development in Cameroon.

WWF and the Cameroon government launched ESD in 2011 but effective field implementation started in 2012, with nine pilot schools in the Bakossi Landscape that cuts across South West and Littoral Regions

of Cameroon. Policy work started in 2013 when two workshops were held to discuss the possibility of integrating ESD into the national curricula of both Basic and Secondary schools.

With the active involvement of staff of Cameroon's Inspectorate General of Basic and Secondary Education, WWF Cameroon facilitated the development and submission, in 2013, of Education for ESD-oriented curricula to the ministries of Basic and Secondary Education. In 2014, the Ministry of Secondary Education did a partial integration of ESD into the curricula of the junior classes of the Secondary school and in all the classes of the Technical school and Teacher Training College.

In that same year, 2014, questions on conservation and development started featuring in the General Certificate of Education examinations of the Ministry of Secondary Education but also in the Common Entrance and First School Leaving Certificate examinations of the Ministry of Basic Education.

Andrew Ekpe Inyang

WWF ESD Capacity Building Advisor

COOPERATIVE CONVERTS HUNTERS TO PIG FARMERS

Hunting of animals for subsistence or income generation is an important activity in the Bakossi landscape in South West Cameroon. However, Ebune Barnabas, an ex-hunter has given up the trade. "I ran the risk of sustaining injuries such as snake bites, and the danger of confronting rangers," he says. "Hunting is time consuming, strenuous and sometimes exposes us to accidents and loss of life," he adds.

Ebune is one of the 45 surveyed hunters that killed wild animals around the Bakossi National Park (BNP) in the South West Region of Cameroon and sold the meat for income. He and other hunters had also observed over the years that "non-hunters who own household sizes similar to ours seem to be better-off socio-economically and appear physically healthier than most of us." The non-hunters referred to are mostly engaged in crop farming and animal husbandry to generate household income.

Ebune's decision to quit hunting did not come naturally. He decided after a local cooperative, Western Bakossi Livestock and Environmental Preservation Cooperative (WEBALEPCO) identified and sensitized hunters in seven communities around the BNP. With support from WWF Cameroon through one of their partner NGOs - the Community Action for Development, WEBALEPCO sought to know their rationale for hunting. An assessment their needs showed 75% hunt for commercial reasons and 25% for subsistence.

Recently, WEBALEPCO (that also buys and sells pigs from the community) trained 13 of the 45 hunters who had demonstrated a strong interest in pig farming. Having earlier ensured that each of the trainees – the converted hunters – had a piggery of acceptable local standards, WEBALEPCO handed to each of them as startup, a female piglet, basic inputs in the form of medication, and bags of

feed and a guaranteed market for their products. This was accompanied by the signing of a plan to repay the piglet to WEBALEPCO, after a year, in order to sustain WEBALEPCO's passing over piglet policy - a piglet gift to prospective hunters. Earlier on, three hunters handed over their guns to the Chief of Mekom village and signed a no-to-hunting agreement with their village Traditional Councils.

Each of the ex-hunters also made commitment to sell their pigs and piglets to WEBALEPCO, who in turn would sell to the wider market. WEBALEPCO provides proportionate bonuses to their members based on the number of pigs supplied to them and the profit they have made. Six hunters and four non-hunters have begun taking interest in the initiative within the BNP.

For Mr. Belle Julius, Manager of WEBALEPCO, the frequency in which people saw hunters, especially people from their community, transporting bags of bush meat from the forest, has relatively declined compared to the past. "My cooperative members took this decline positively, given that it provoked a deep reflection amongst us. We thought it was the best moment for us to intensify our quest to reduce hunting of animals in and around the BNP," Belle says.

Such community-built efforts, if well developed and supported, will go a long way to contribute in reducing pressure on biodiversity. WWF and partners are encouraging the government, private sector, local communities and other stakeholders to work towards reversing the trend of biodiversity and nature loss by building a New Deal for Nature and People in 2020.

Theophilus Ngwene

*Project Executant, WWF Coastal
Forests Program*

DR NJIFORTI HANSON:

CONSERVATION PATRIARCH RETIRES

After over three decades protecting the rich but fragile biodiversity of Cameroon and other parts of Africa, Dr Hanson Njiforti, WWF Cameroon's Country Director has taken a "well-deserved retirement". With over 35 years of field and management experience, Dr Njiforti has occupied various positions, starting as a field researcher in the 80s. He later worked as project and programme manager in WWF and other international NGOs and ended up as the Country Director for WWF Cameroon. With over 30 conservation-related publications to his credit, he has contributed to the progress of conservation in Cameroon and Africa. In this exclusive interview, Dr Njiforti shares his experiences through the years he dedicated to working for conservation. Excerpts:



Interviewer: When did you start working for WWF Cameroon?

Dr Njiforti: (laughs) If I have to stitch the in and out movements, then I will count over 35 years working for WWF Cameroon. I started as a Research Coordinator in the Mount Kupe Forest Project from 1999 to 2001. Then I moved to the Korup Project from mid-2001 to 2003. I equally had a 7-month consultancy with WWF in the Mengame Gorilla Sanctuary before moving to Ghana for 5 years to work on an EU-funded Protected Area Development Programme. I came back to Cameroon in 2010 and was immediately recruited by WWF as the Jengi TRIDOM Programme Manager, a post I occupied until January 2013 when I became the interim Conservation Director and then Country Director for WWF Cameroon. I will leave this position in March 2019 after 6 years.

You worked in the field sites, spending days and nights in the most remote communities. What are some of the experiences you had working with local communities?

I started in Kalamaloue National Park, North Cameroon in 1984 where I spent over a year in a tent. Being very young at that time, I had to adapt to eating local food like millet, and live in small remote villages. It was difficult especially between March and June when temperatures could get as high as 49°C under a shelter. Most villages had no water source so we drank from unhygienic source: the same source was used for bathing. Animals drank from it also. Most water sources either dried up or became pure mud at the end of the dry

season but you had no choice but to drink from it. It was very difficult but luckily, I never got any major illness.

Could you recount some of the strides you have made in this rich conservation career?

I will like to highlight those I consider most relevant. First the birth of the Coastal Forests Programme also known as the SAWA programme. In June 2001, I was asked by the Country Office to close the Mount Kupe Forest Project because of the end of the GEF and DFID funding but I refused and rather preferred to keep a very small office with a few staff. It was not easy to convince management to keep this small office open but we can see that there are lots of conservation successes today in the Bakossi area because this small office existed and later contributed to what is now the Coastal Forests Programme – one of WWF Cameroon's most important field programs.

What would you consider some of your high moments working for WWF?

(with a broad smile) Making another family. As the saying goes – a man's riches is measured by the number of people he has. And again family is not only those with whom you have blood relationship. WWF has made me discover the most enclave communities in my country - places I would have never known if I were not working for WWF. I have also travelled to many parts of the world and learnt from so many professionals in various domains. Thanks to WWF I have an open mind and will manage even my family from the expertise I have acquired.

Which were some of your low moments?

Yes, certainly they are; especially those circumstances beyond my control, when it has to do with staff leaving their jobs due to financial constraints, or projects closing down due to end of funding phase. I experienced quite a few of these low moments and wish for better days ahead as I leave the organization.



Dr. Njiforti On Earth Hour awareness raising caravan with Ambassador Roger Milla in Douala

Tell us about your educational background?

I hold a Bachelor's degree in Zoology from the University of Yaounde, Cameroon, an MSc in Natural Resource Management from Edinburgh Scotland, and a PhD in Natural Resource Use and management from the University of Wageningen, the Netherlands. Starting as a Researcher with the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research in 1984, I moved on to Project Director with the Waza Logone Project in North Cameroon, then project Manager for the Netherlands Development Organisation, before moving to WWF.

You are retiring as a National Director, managing over eighty staff with diverse backgrounds, expertise and attitudes. What advice would you give to managers who hold such positions?

During these years, I learned that one needs to be friendly, light-hearted, sympathetic, but also firm especially when it has to deal with taking crucial management decisions. It is golden when

a manager helps his/her subordinate to grow in their career. It is very difficult to please everyone, but managers should be able to draw a line between work and pleasure. A major tool for a Director is to recognise the effort of his or her staff. Another important lesson learned is that money alone will not attract the best staff to your organisation. You need to be credible to attract the best staff.

Recently, you were nominated Youth Champion for WWF Africa. What is your motivation around youth engagement in Africa?

The youth are an important component of our society today. Although viable statistics are rare to find, there are all indications that over 60% of the population of Africa are below 35 or are youth, and this percentage keeps increasing. I am convinced that conservation can only succeed if the majority of the population adopt sustainable use of natural resources. Our youths have lots of innovative ideas and are enthusiastic to move on and rule the world. I believe that the future of conservation lies in investing in the youth. It is interesting how much WWF is putting to bring the youth at the centre of their conservation agenda. The WWF Africa Youth award scheme that started in 2016 is encouraging more and more youth in Africa to come up with innovative projects that touch the social, economic, environmental and gender benefits of the youth, thereby giving them the autonomy they aspire for.



Field Visit with then GTZ Director (left)

Every worker must strive to be better each passing year. If you really want to make great advancement in your career, you must dedicate time every holiday for self-capacity building."

Dr Hanson Njiforti, December, 2018.

There is a common saying that “once a Panda, always a Panda.” You may certainly have plans replicating some conservation good practices in your community now that you are on retirement. What are your big ideas?

There are key global issues of great concern that touch everyone in the world, and which need small and big actions to mitigate them. I am thinking of issues related to biodiversity loss, climate change, food and energy amongst others. As human beings, we stop to work only when we are dead. I am still going to practice, be an example and continue with sensitization within my community on crucial environmental issues for behavioural change. In line with my belief on investing in youths, I believe that we should not go with the experience we have gathered during our work life, so I will be offering some free conservation and management lectures to universities around the country and beyond if possible.

What advice do you have for this great WWF family you are leaving behind?

You should know that we are here because

there are problems and we are trying to find solutions. I can assure you that there will always be problems. What is important is how we organise ourselves to solve these problems. My advice is to keep morals high even in the mist of the biggest storms, be professional, stay focused and engaging.

A farewell message to your team including partners, stakeholders and the entire conservation family?

Dear colleagues, I have been working with you all for quite a long time and have gained loads of experience with your support and frank collaboration. It has been worthwhile being part of you, knowing you and learning from your wealth of experiences. Though I retire from active service today, keep in mind that you can count on me to assist you in any way I can to enhance your conservation work. It's been great pleasure being a member of this one big panda family!

Interviewed By Janet Mukoko
Digital Communications Officer
 WWF Cameroon

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS



This document has been financed by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Sida. Sida does not necessarily share the views expressed in this material. Responsibility for its contents rests entirely with the author.



DARLINE: MA PASSION POUR LA CONSERVATION



Presque chaque mois, Darline Mappah, Volontaire au sein du Programme WWF Jengi TRIDOM dans le sud-est du Cameroun, passe 19 jours en forêt pour la suivi écologique dans la complexe des clairières de Pondo au Parc National de Boumba Bek. Son amour pour la conservation s'est développé suite à une simple discussion sur le travail de WWF dans le sud-est. Cet intérêt va conduire Darline du confort de sa maison et sa famille de la capital Yaoundé vers le sud-est du pays, où le Programme Jengi TRIDOM poursuit sa mission de conserver la riche biodiversité du segment Cameroun du Bassin du Congo pour le bien-être de l'homme et la nature.

Darline (26 ans) va ainsi intégrer le Programme Jengi TRIDOM en 2017, grâce à un programme de volontariat au sein du bureau national de WWF Cameroun, qui va permettre à la jeune Camerounaise passionnée de la conservation d'exercer dans l'un de plus grand programmes du WWF Cameroun. Elle va vite se distinguer par son engagement et son assiduité dans un domaine peu fréquenté par les femmes.

Pour mener à bien la stratégie de surveillance permanente de clairières mise en place par le Programme, Darline coordonne sur le terrain une équipe de douze personnes (éco-gardes et membres des communautés locales) pour une mission de monitoring de la faune de manière rotative.

Venant d'une base éducative autre que la conservation, Darline a eu à découvrir un autre monde. « J'ai étudié les plantes à l'université mais aujourd'hui je suis dans la conservation. C'est quelque chose de fantastique pour moi. En forêt nous avons les campements ou on dort. Nous vivons en forêt comme une famille et je suis comme la mère de l'équipe. Sur un mois, je passe 19 jours en forêt collectant les données sur les activités des animaux dans la clairière. Nous plaçons les cameras trap dans des endroits stratégiques pour filmer les animaux. Régulièrement, nous observons les gorilles, les buffles, les bongos, les colobes guereza et les potamochères. En collaboration avec les éco-gardes, nous essayons d'assurer la sécurité autour de la clairière. La forêt est déjà ma deuxième maison».

Pour Darline, être la seule femme parmi tant d'hommes n'est pas un problème. « J'ai appris à m'adapter à toutes les situations et le fait que je suis une femme ne m'empêche pas de faire le même travail que les hommes. En forêt nous parcourons les mêmes distances et en même temps je m'assure que les données sont bien collectées ».

Encouragement

«Quand j'ai pris la décision d'aller travailler et passer beaucoup de temps en forêt, ma famille était très inquiète. Certains membres de ma famille ont dit que je ne pouvais pas le faire, mais aujourd'hui je leurs ai prouvé que cela était bien possible. Maintenant, toute la famille m'encourage. Cet encouragement avec le soutien du personnel WWF me motive à aller en avant ».

La journée en forêt

«Chaque jour, on se lève à 4 heures pour préparer et manger aux environs de 6 heures. Nous quittons le campement vers 7 heures pour le mirador. Nous passons du temps entre le mirador et certaines clairières jusqu'à 16 :30, collectant les données sur les animaux qui entrent dans la clairière. Nous vérifions également les caméras trap que nous plaçons dans des endroits stratégiques de la forêt. Ensuite nous quittons le mirador et retournons au campement pour préparer le diner, ceci dans une ambiance de rigolade et de camaraderie. C'est aussi en soirée que nous vérifions ce que les cameras trap ont pu filmer ».

Que représente la forêt?

«La forêt est tellement paisible et calme. Ici, vous êtes déconnectés du bruit de la ville et connectés à la nature. Les seuls bruits que nous suivons sont ceux des oiseaux, de certaines espèces animales comme les gorilles et de la rivière voisine où nous campons. Dans la forêt, on se sent chez soi ».

By Ernest Sumelong
Communications Officer
WWF Jengi Program

WWF Strategic Plan Pillars

FOREST

Contribute to the protection of 12.5 million ha of permanent forest estate and 1.8 million ha of community forests.

FOOD SYSTEMS & FOOD SECURITY

Adopt food production systems that balance agricultural development and natural capital.



WILDLIFE

WWF will work to stabilise or increase populations of great apes and elephants in Cameroon.

CLIMATE & ENERGY

Contribute to roll out of National Adaptation Plan that builds socio-ecological resilience to climate risk and impacts.

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