



BIENVENUE AU SITE D'HABITUATION DES GORILLES

Aidez-nous à améliorer la protection et la gestion
des gorilles pour un écotourisme durable



Ne pas chasser dans le parc

Ne jeter aucun déchet en forêt (même
pas les restes de nourritures)

Ne pas cracher ou se moucher en forêt

Eviter de déféquer en forêt (en cas de
besoin, creuser un trou d'au moins 20cm de
profondeur avant de l'utiliser)

Great ape conservation in Cameroon: mapping institutions and policies

Stanley Chung Dinsi and Simeon Abe
Eyebe

Ne faire aucune gravure sur les arbres et
plier seulement les petits arbustes pour

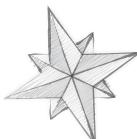
Ne pas aller en forêt quand on est
malade (Surtout pas si on a le rhume, la
diarrhée, la toux, etc...)

Disposer d'un seau d'eau désinfectant
(avec de l'eau de javel) à l'entrée du
campement

Laver les mains (avec de l'eau et du savon
anti bactérie) à l'entrée et à la sortie du
campement

Toujours couvrir l'urine (épater les
feuilles avant et recouvrir avec la tôle
après)

Éviter de tousser ou éternuer
en présence des gorilles (en cas de b



Poverty and
Conservation
Learning Group



PCLG RESEARCH REPORT

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About the project partner

GREG-Forêts (also known as Cameroon PCLG) is an alliance of individuals who aim to exchange experiences and knowledge on forest governance, livelihoods and conservation issues in Cameroon, in order to improve poverty and conservation policy and practice. GREG-Forêts is convened by the Network for Environment and Sustainable Development in Cameroon (NESDA-CA).

Photo credits

Front cover: Sign at the entrance of CAMPO Ma'an National Park in Cameroon; Stanley Chung Dinsi.
Back cover: Gateway into the CAMPO Ma'an National Park in Cameroon; Stanley Chung Dinsi.

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Cameroon is home to important ape species. But the survival of these animals is persistently threatened by factors like habitat loss, poaching and disease. This study aims to contribute to the improvement of great ape conservation in Cameroon by linking conservation, livelihood and development needs. It presents the findings of a mapping exercise aimed at identifying the main institutions, policies and laws put in place by the government to ensure conservation of the remaining great apes in Cameroon. It also identifies the non-governmental organisations involved in great ape conservation in the country, and their activities. The authors conclude that many supportive great ape conservation policies and laws are in place, and many NGOs are carrying out projects that have positive outcomes for great ape conservation and local livelihoods. However, more concerted action among all stakeholders – the state, national and international NGOs – is needed in order to protect the remaining species, whilst improving local livelihoods.

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Acronyms

AAA	Ape Action Africa
ACF	Ape Conservation Fund
ADB	African Development Bank
CAMCOF	Cameroon Mountains Conservation Foundation
CARPE	Central Africa Regional Programme for the Environment
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBFP	Congo Basin Forest Partnership
CEW	Cameroon Environmental Watch
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
COMIFAC	Central Africa Forest Commission
DSCE	Strategy Document for Growth and Employment
EFG	Ecole de Faune de Garoua
ENEF	Ecole des Eaux et Forêts
FCFA	Communauté Financière Africaine Franc
FEM	Fonds pour l'Environnement Mondial
FGLG	Forest Governance Learning Group
FTNS	Sangha Tri National Foundation
GACF	Great Ape Conservation Fund
GRASP	Great Apes Survival Partnership
IGCP	International Gorilla Conservation Programme
LAGA	Last Great Ape Organisation
MINADER	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MINAGRI	Ministry of Agriculture
MINEF	Ministry of Environment and Forest
MINEP	Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection
MINEPDÉD	Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development
MINEPIA	Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries
MINFOF	Ministry of Forestry and Fauna
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NTFP	Non Timber Forest Product
OCFSA	Agreement of Cooperation and Consultation between the States of Central Africa on the Conservation of Wild Fauna
PACEBCo	Congo Basin Ecosystems Conservation Support Programme
PAU	Emergency Action Plan
PCLG	Poverty and Conservation Learning Group

PDF	Training Programme (Plan Directeur de Formation)
RAPAC	Réseau des Aires Protégées d'Afrique Centrale
RZSA	Royal Zoological Society of Antwerp
TNS	Tri National Sangha
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
WB	World Bank
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
WPFC	Wildlife Protectors Fund-Cameroon
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

Executive summary

The conservation of gorillas and chimpanzees in Cameroon is threatened by human activities, such as logging, mining, agriculture, bush meat hunting and the construction of major infrastructure in and around protected areas.

This study presents the findings of a mapping exercise aimed at identifying the main institutions, policies and laws put in place by the government of Cameroon to ensure the conservation of the remaining great apes in this country. It also identifies the non-governmental organisations involved in great ape conservation in Cameroon and their activities.

The results of this study show that significant efforts have been made by the government of Cameroon to put in place institutional, legal and policy frameworks capable of supporting great ape conservation. It also shows that many great ape conservation projects are currently implemented in Cameroon, and that these have positive impacts on the conservation of great apes, and also contribute to poverty reduction and an improved quality of life for local communities.

The study however concludes that the legal instruments currently in place are not sufficient to secure great ape conservation. The study recommends a synergy among all stakeholders – the state, national and international NGOs – in order to protect the remaining species of great apes in Cameroon.

Background

Africa's great apes – bonobos, gorillas, and chimpanzees – are facing a combination of threats. These include the destruction of forest habitats for agriculture, mining and commercial logging; hunting; disease; and conflict with humans. According to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), hunting for bush meat for commercial trade has also become an imminent threat to African great apes throughout their range states. All species have suffered population declines and many experts fear they could become extinct in the wild within the next half century unless urgent action is taken to address these threats.

Great apes are found in some of the poorest parts of the world – such as sub-Saharan Africa, and Cameroon in particular. They require extensive forest habitat for viable populations to survive, but conservation of this habitat entails trade-offs at the national and local level. Sometimes these alternative land use options are fundamental to national economic development, for example investment in oil or mineral extraction, or production of commodities such as timber and oil palm. In other cases (or simultaneously) great apes compete for space with high density populations of poor people. The very practice of conservation - which in the case of great apes usually takes the form of strictly controlled and enforced protected areas - can (intentionally or otherwise) have further negative impacts on the livelihoods of these already poor local communities.

Cameroon has put in place policies for the management of great apes¹. However, the existence of these measures has not guaranteed its effectiveness. Many rural communities still depend on bush meat hunting for food and for selling in local and urban markets. In addition, the majority of farmers on the periphery or inside the forest practices slash-and-burn agriculture, and the unsustainable exploitation of non-timber forest products and overgrazing has exacerbated habitat loss. So there is a conflict of interest between the conservation of great apes and the livelihood needs of forest-dependent communities.

Main objective of the study

This study aims to improve the management of great apes in Cameroon by linking conservation, livelihood and development needs.

¹ Government of Cameroon, Law No 94-01 of 20 January 1994 to lay down Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries Regulations.

Specific objectives

- Analysis of the existing conservation policies specific to great ape conservation
- Analysis of the institutional and legal framework governing great ape conservation
- Analysis of the impacts of the policy, legal and institutional frameworks on great ape conservation
- Identification of the constraints to policy implementation
- Survey of the organisations involved in great ape conservation
- Identification of the specific activities carried out by each great ape conservation organisation
- Exploration, to a limited extent, of the impact of great ape conservation activities on local communities' livelihoods, and
- Recommendations for institutional and policy changes that could improve the conservation of great apes in Cameroon, and improve the livelihoods of local communities.

Methodology

This study is divided into two parts. Part I analyses the existing conservation policies, legal and institutional dispositions on great ape management in Cameroon. It also identifies the constraints to policy implementation, and proposes key recommendations for institutional and policy changes to improve conservation of great apes in Cameroon.

For this part of the study, the key forest and environment ministries – the Ministry of Forestry and Fauna (MINFOF), and the Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED) – served as the major sources of data collection. We visited the relevant departments at the ministries to obtain information on the various policies and implementation strategies used. See Annex 1 for a list of the wildlife management related ministries and their activities. Reports, studies, and other published documents also served as an important source of data collection. Finally, we used the internet to review existing texts and policies on conservation in Cameroon.

We identified and analysed existing great apes policies and laws, and research was carried out to ascertain which state institutions are involved in great ape management in Cameroon. We carried out a gap analysis of the existing policies, institutions and laws on great ape management. The draft report was presented to the GREG- Forêts team for inputs and validation during a working session. The final version of the report was later presented to relevant stakeholders at a workshop.

Part II reviews the main great ape conservation organisations in Cameroon. It examines the impact of existing great apes projects on the survival of these endangered species and on the livelihoods of local communities.

The major organisations engaged in the conservation of great apes in Cameroon include IUCN, WWF, WCS, LAGA, AAA, GIZ, PACEBCo, RAPAC, TRIDOM, CEW; financial institutions and foundations (WB, ADB, CARPE, FTNS ACF, CAMCOF and WPFC); and national training institutions (EFG and ENEF). Data collection targeted the period between 2003 and 2013. For conservation organisations, data collection focused on the conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources in relation to the livelihood and development challenges of local communities. As far as the financial institutions were concerned, data collection focused on the types of financing, the priority activities and their impacts on great ape conservation, while the national institutions provided information on training programmes on the ground.

The tools used to collect information for this research were the internet, books and reports. Data was collected during 45 days, distributed over three months.

An overview of threats to great apes in priority conservation areas

In 2008, protected areas covered 18.8 per cent of the country, and this is expected to increase to 30 per cent (Forestry Law 1994). In 2012, national coverage was around 20 per cent (Eyebe *et al.* 2012a). The priority areas for the conservation of chimpanzees and gorillas include SanghaTri National Complex, Dja Conservation Complex, BoumbaBek/Nki Conservation Complex, Mengame Sanctuary, Campo Ma'an National Park and Ebo Conservation Forest. Table 1 lists the major conservation areas, showing the specific threats to great ape conservation in each location.

Table 1 Major great ape conservation sites in Cameroon, their location and specific threats to great ape

Conservation areas	Location	Specific threats to great apes	Comments
SanghaTri National Complex	South east	Hunting, logging, mining	Contiguous lowland tropical rainforest that is of critical biological significance. It is home to one of the largest remaining populations of gorillas and chimpanzees on the continent
Dja Conservation Complex	Eastern	Hunting, logging, habitat fragmentation ²	One of the largest and best-protected rainforests in Africa, with 90 per cent of its area left undisturbed
Boumbabek/Nki Complex	Centre	Hunting, illegal, trafficking	The largest contiguous block of protected forest in Cameroon
Campo Ma'an National Park	South	Large infrastructure development	Atlantic coastal forest zone containing a remarkable biodiversity including several endemic species
Mengame Sanctuary	South	Hunting, agriculture activities	The sanctuary lies on the southern Cameroon-Gabon border
Ebo Conservation Forest	South west	Hunting, logging, road development	One of the largest intact forests remaining in Cameroon

² Habitat fragmentation is due to the creation of physical barriers to the movement of apes, which in turns divides populations into smaller groups, increasing great apes vulnerability to extinction.

Analysis of threats on great apes in protected areas

Habitat loss

The constant pressure from human activities, such as the construction of hydro-electric dams, mining, roads, logging etc, accounts for a significant loss of Cameroon's rainforest every year. The direct consequence of this loss is a massive biodiversity decline. Western lowland gorillas (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*) and central chimpanzees (*Pan Troglodytes*) are heavily affected by this (Kondgen *et al.* 2008; Bermejo *et al.* 2006). In addition, Cameroon's rich natural heritage is threatened by uncontrolled wildlife harvests, due to agricultural encroachment and human settlement. Human-initiated fires are also degrading the grassland areas.

Bush meat hunting

Commercial hunting for the bush meat trade endangers many wildlife species. Increased poverty of an ever-growing local population with a taste for game meat has meant that traditional bush meat hunting has become more and more widespread. Over the last decade, it has been noted that all large and medium-sized mammalian species in the Dja Biosphere Reserve are hunted for human consumption, and that wildlife is the source of 98 per cent of animal protein consumed in villages and towns in the vicinity, with game meat comprising close to 80 per cent of all meat eaten by the inhabitants. A large proportion of this meat is acquired through poaching in the reserve (Koulagna 2001).

Disease

During the period of December 2004 to January 2005, *Bacillus anthracis* killed three wild chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes troglodytes*) and one gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*) in the northern border of the Dja Biosphere Reserve, a remote forest area adjacent to Minkebe Forest. All four animals tested positive for the *Bacillus anthracis*-specific virulence genes. While this is the second anthrax outbreak in wild chimpanzees, this is the first case of anthrax in gorillas ever reported. A number of great apes in Cameroon are seriously threatened by other diseases. Even though a considerable number of deaths in recent years cannot be attributed to the Ebola virus and remained unexplained, diseases like Ebola also threaten wild great apes (Leendertz *et al.* 2006).

Illegal trade

As in many developing countries, law enforcement in Cameroon is often hampered by a lack of manpower, logistical support and training. Limited conservation awareness and few alternative sources of income, in turn, drive the wildlife trade, resulting in a serious everyday threat to great ape survival.

Great ape conservation organisations and the government of Cameroon have made efforts to bring hunting under control in protected and non-protected areas. At the same time as involving local communities in wildlife conservation, small-scale development projects are helping them find alternative sources of income to poaching. In 2003, a management plan for the Dja Biosphere Reserve was agreed which focuses on the involvement of local stakeholders to build past and present conservation activities.

As far as illegal deals are concerned, great apes were taken from the wild between 2005 and 2013 and traded on international markets, primarily for the pet trade (LAGA 2013). According to WWF, the actual number of apes killed and traded is double or even triple the figures estimated due to the larger, more influential and significant bush meat trade.

Human-Wildlife Conflicts

Conflicts between humans and great apes appear to be a relevant challenge. There are many situations where great apes and humans come into conflict and these vary among sites. Conflicts resulting from human activities include habitat conversion for crop cultivation, and competition over natural resources (Hockings and Humle 2009). There have, however, been some positive achievements following a signed agreement between local communities and local conservation organisations to create and implement a management plan. Backed by national legislation, community wildlife management committees have been established in some areas to implement the plan through stakeholder agreements that help locals protect their forest against unsustainable practices (Sandbrook and Roe 2010). In addition, Cameroon has established three zoological gardens to date - Mvog-Béti

Yaoundé in the central region (4.07 hectares), Garoua in the north region (1.4 hectares) and Limbe in the south-west region (0.5 hectares) (GREG-Forêts 2013).

Restrictions on land use in areas where bush meat constitutes about 24 per cent of major protein intake has meant that people rely on poaching to secure their livelihoods (Eyebe *et al.* 2012a). This indicates a need for a multi-layered management approach in protected areas; including awareness-raising, controls on poaching, alternative income generation and recognition of the rights of local people around and outside protected areas. According to Vermeulen *et al.* (2009), the development of a participatory sustainable hunting management plan ensures livelihood security and improved social and economic well-being, and contributes to the maintenance of biodiversity. This approach, together with government-led mechanisms for monitoring and law enforcement, is crucial for maintaining the sustainability of bush meat harvesting in Cameroon.

Apart from development threats from industrial complexes, some protected areas are also affected by semi-nomadic activities. This is the case of Mbam and Djerem National Parks, where Fulani cattle herders drive their cattle deep into the park's savannas in search of water and grazing grounds, thereby destroying vegetation. In addition, slash-and-burn agriculture is practiced by the majority of farmers on the periphery of the parks, exacerbating habitat losses.

Part I: Institutional, legal and policy frameworks for great ape conservation in Cameroon

Institutional framework

The management of great apes in Cameroon is under government control, in particular under the responsibility of the Ministry of Forestry and Fauna (MINFOF), which works in close collaboration with other related ministries. Great ape management in Cameroon involves a wide range of stakeholders, including civil society, NGOs, international and bilateral organisations, financial institutions, regional and sub-regional organisations.

Major state institutions

During the 1980s, Cameroon's forest was placed under the responsibility of the former Ministry of Agriculture (MINAGRI-present day MINADER), whereas fauna fell under the Secretariat for Tourism. In 1993, the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MINEF) was created. MINEF was subsequently divided into two separate ministries on 8 December 2004; namely MINFOF and the Ministry of Environment and Protection of Nature (MINEP). In 2011, MINEP became MINEPDÉDÉ, with sustainable development placed under its remit.

The rural sector encompasses the following sub-sectors: forests and fauna, agriculture, livestock and fisheries, the environment, and protection of nature (MINFOF 2012). Forests and fauna contribute significantly to the national GDP and provide an element of competitiveness to the Cameroonian economy. They also have an important ecological function - protection of the environment and conservation of biodiversity. The forestry and fauna sub-sector is therefore not only interconnected to the rural sector, but it is also embedded in the economy, trade, tourism, industry, and education.

Other state institutions

The activities of a number of other ministerial departments are closely linked to those of MINFOF, either for land management or for leadership and support to rural populations (MINFOF 2012). The traditional rural sector ministries (MINADER, MINEPIA, MINEPDÉDÉ), the social ministries (MINEDUC, MINSANTE, MINAS, MINFOPRA, MINFF), the regulatory ministries (MINATD, MINDEF, MINDAF), and the economic ministries (MINEPAT, MINEFI, MINIMIDT, MINTP, MINTOUR, MINTRANS) operate in synergy (see Annex 1 for the complete list).

Legal framework

Government policy on the management of forest resources and wildlife has been characterised by a wealth of legislative and regulatory instruments. From a legal standpoint, the most significant laws include:

- Ordinance No. 73/18 of May 1973 and its implementing decree no.74/357 of 17 August 1974; the first to cover the whole of Cameroon since independence and deal exclusively with forest resources.
- Law No. 81/13 of 27 November 1981, dealing with the regime of forests, wildlife, and fisheries, and its implementing decree no. 83/169 of 12 April 1983.
- Law No. 94/01 of 20 January 1994, regulating the forestry, wildlife and fisheries sectors law enacted in 1994, their decrees of application were signed in 1995, with a wealth of sometime confusing regulatory texts.
- Framework Law No. 96/12 of 5 August 1996, regulating environmental management.
- Decree No. 86/230 of 13 March 1986, setting out the procedures for uniforms, weapons and ammunition, badges and ranks of administrative officials of the forests, wildlife, fisheries and livestock sectors.

- Decree No. 95/466/PM of 20 July 1995, laying down the procedures for wildlife management.
- Decree No. 96/237/PM of 10 April 1996, laying down the procedures for the operation of the special funds provided for by Law No. 94/01 of 20 January 1994 on forests, wildlife and fishing.
- Decree No. 96/238/PM of 10 April 1996, implementing the 1994 Forestry and Wildlife Law.

Policy framework

The Forestry sector policy was adopted in 1993. Its general objective was to 'sustain and develop the economic, ecological and social functions of the forests of Cameroon, in the framework of an integrated management which ensures, on a sustained and sustainable basis, the conservation and use of resources and forest ecosystems'.

Cameroon is committed to the sustainable management of its forest resources and plays an active part in international dialogue and law making on biodiversity and forests' conservation. This has led to the objectives being put in place for forest management and the development of a vision for the sustainable management of forests, and includes the following international instruments:

International policies

- The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was adopted in 1973 in response to a resolution in 1963 by the General Assembly of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was signed by Cameroon on 14 June 1992, and ratified on 19 October 1994.

Regional and sub-regional policies

- The agreement of cooperation and consultation between the States of Central Africa on the conservation of wild fauna (OCFSA) was signed in 1983 in Libreville.
- Cameroon signed the COMIFAC treaty in 2005 during the 2nd Summit of Heads of State of Central Africa, establishing the organisation and the convergence plan, a strategic planning document common to the ten committed countries. This was ratified by the majority of the member states in late 2006, and formally implemented in January 2007.
- In 2007, the sub-regional agreement on forest control by the countries of the COMIFAC obliges member states to strengthen their legal frameworks to improve governance of the forestry and wildlife sector.
- In collaboration with the Central African Republic and Congo-Brazzaville, Cameroon established a transboundary protected area - the Sangha Tri National (STN) Park. This area is one of the most important sites for biological conservation in Central Africa. It is home not only to a wide variety of habitats, including a large river system and lowland forests, but also to diverse animal populations such as forest elephants, lowland gorillas, chimpanzees and bongos. Cameroon has developed a network of protected areas which covers a surface area of about 8,138,800 hectares, and 17 National Parks, all of which cover about 20 per cent of the national territory. Other protected areas are grouped into the following categories; 6 wildlife reserves, 1 wildlife sanctuary, 3 zoological gardens, 46 hunting concessions and 22 community hunting zones (MINOF 2010).

National policies

- In 1993, soon after the Rio Earth Summit of 1992, Cameroon outlined its forestry policy and subsequently drafted the Forest Law of 1994, which has continued to govern the sector. A review of this act is currently in preparation to integrate both national and international level developments.
- The Framework Law on the Environment, adopted in 1996, provides a clearer view of national environmental issues, with a comprehensive, cross-cutting approach across the economic and social sectors. The Framework Law and the Forestry Law specify the conditions of its implementation.

- In 2009, Cameroon adopted Vision 2035 and the Strategy Document for Growth and Employment (DSCE), aimed at a rapid economic and social development, which is diversified and sustainable. The three strategic pillars of this vision are economic growth, employment and governance, and strategic management of the State, which is reflected in the forestry and wildlife 2020 sector strategy.
- The forestry and wildlife strategy is also outlined in the 2007 State Finance Law, which established the principle of results-based management and the preparation and implementation of programme budgets.
- Cameroon adopted a national biodiversity strategy and action plan (NBSAP) in 2012 as part of its commitments under the CBD. In its targets 7, 8 and 9, the NBSAP makes projections to sustainably manage endemic and threatened species of flora and fauna by 2020, re-establish and/or recover local extinct species in-situ and ex-situ, and maintain a level of conservation that ensures long term sustainability. The NBSAP promotes a participatory approach for biodiversity conservation and identifies opportunities, risks, challenges and solutions to sustainable biodiversity conservation and national development. The government of Cameroon also initiated the development of a national action plan for the conservation of great apes in March 2003, with the support of the Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP) and other international NGOs (Eyebe *et al.* 2012b). This action plan aims 'to update knowledge on the geographical distribution and the status of the populations [of great apes] in various areas of the country' (MINOF 2005). The national plan emphasises the political will of Cameroon to contribute to biodiversity conservation efforts, and defines concrete and urgent actions that must be taken to ensure the conservation of the great apes species.

These policy and legal frameworks include the following provisions for communities, in particular those directly affected by conservation measures:

- The right of every individual to a healthy environment, a harmonious balance of ecosystems, and sustainable food production in both urban and rural areas.
- Environmental education to be provided by public and private sector institutions for all citizens.
- The rights of grass-root communities and approved associations to exercise their legal rights in cases of infringement of environmental laws and regulations.

Strengths and weaknesses of existing great ape conservation policies, laws and institutions

The strengths and weaknesses of the laws, policies and institutions put in place by the state of Cameroon to ensure the effective management of wildlife, and of great apes in particular, are outlined below.

Strengths

The positioning of forests and wildlife as an integral part of the rural sector has many advantages:

Close engagement by the competent authorities

There has been a strong political will by the President of the Republic of Cameroon on several occasions to reaffirm his commitment to the sustainable management of forest resources, economic growth, employment, supply of manpower, and the preservation of forest ecosystems. This has been translated into commitment by high level Cameroonian authorities to make the rural sector the real lever for growth and employment.

Technical and financial support from partners

Cameroon's conservation efforts have attracted strong support from technical and financial partners to develop strategy documents and implement reform programmes.

Significant efforts invested in combating poaching

The creation of a specific ministry for forests and wildlife (MINOF) as per decree No. 2004/320, the 1994 Forests, Wildlife and Fisheries Law, and the framework law of 1996 relating to the management of

the environment, has led to a reduction in the poaching of great apes. These efforts have been further enhanced by government directives to focus on new policy issues, such as poverty reduction, decentralisation and good governance. An emergency action plan (PAU) complemented these actions in 2000, with particular emphasis on the fight against poaching and the overall improvement of the sector.

Efforts towards the conservation of great apes

The efforts to create more great ape conservation sites have placed Cameroon in a very good position to conserve endangered species such as the cross-river gorillas.

Weaknesses

Institutional

- Lack of effective coordination by MINFOF, leading to weak communication between the central administration and the field
- Insufficient development of the tourism sector, leading to a weak contribution of the sector to the national economy
- Inadequate training of staff to meet the demands of MINFOF and of great ape conservation in particular
- Insufficient human resource capacity for great ape conservation, and
- Loss of revenue due to bad governance.

Legal

- Weak enforcement of legislation, leading to embezzlement of limited resources from wildlife conservation
- Slow implementation of existing laws, leading to significant loss of protected wildlife species, and
- The slow pace of the ongoing revision of the 1994 Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries Law.

Policy

- Weak governance policies promoting the tourism sector, especially linked to great ape conservation, and
- Slow implementation of existing great apes policies.

Part II: Conservation organisations in Cameroon and their activities

This section maps the major great ape conservation organisations operating in Cameroon, showing their impacts on great apes and on the livelihoods of local communities. These include state organisations and national and international NGOs. We have listed ten such organisations, as shown in Table 2 below. The large conservation organisations such as the Wildlife Conservation Society and WWF work closely with the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife, and these have helped created national parks and monitor their impacts both on great apes and on the communities. These organisations have a mix of government and international donor funding. PACEBco and RAPAC work specifically to support initiatives with local populations living in and around the parks to reduce pressure on protected areas and secure indigenous people's rights in conservation.

Table 2. Conservation organisations in Cameroon and their impacts on great apes and on local community livelihoods

1. The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)³ Domain of intervention/Aim: Local livelihoods, natural resource use, wildlife health, and climate change			
Activities	Impacts on great apes	Impact on community's livelihood	Funding sources
Creation of the Takamanda National Park ⁴ and Kagwene Gorilla Sanctuary to protect the highly endangered cross river gorilla (Sowers and Tabor 2010) ³ ; Creation of Deng National Park ⁵	Provides crucial baseline data for gorilla and chimps (about 300 individuals remaining in Takamanda and more than 600 western lowland gorillas in Deng)	Promotes eco-friendly income generating activities; Helps local people: produce alternative agricultural products and use alternative practices (Sandbrook and Roe 2010), modify fishing techniques, generate ecotourism revenue, provide recovery aid to areas devastated by violence and natural disasters ⁶	A funding partnership between the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife, German Development Bank, WWF, the German Development Service, and German Technical Cooperation

³ www.wcs.org/where-we-work.aspx

⁴ Like other natural areas of the country, Takamanda-Mone is experiencing considerable threats from subsistence hunters, cattle ranchers, poachers, and logging and mining interests.

⁵ The creation of Deng Deng National Park is the result of years of conservation planning, including the first gorilla population surveys in the former forest reserve in 2002 by WCS. The Park is 52 347 hectares in area.

⁶ Investing in the current and future quality of life for communities and their environment is key to sound conservation practice promoted by WCS' activities on great apes.

2. World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

Domain of intervention/Aim: Conservation of endangered species (including great apes) and livelihoods improvement for local communities

Activities	Impacts on great apes	Impact on community's livelihood	Funding sources
Provision of ape population baseline data	Improved stability of great ape habitat New great ape sanctuaries: Kagwene Mountains and Mengame	Increased anti-poaching efforts, eg Ecotourism project in Campa-Ma'an reserve employs 21 young people, including 13 Bagyeli and 8 Bantu Community-based biodiversity enterprises at Dja encourage sustainable use of resources	Primate specialist group (PSG) CARPE ECOFAC IGCP USAID
Development of conservation policies and strategies			
Improving the effectiveness of protected areas			
Education on unsustainable bush meat trade			

3. IUCN

Domain of intervention/Aim: Prevent and mitigate conflicts between humans and great apes, contributing to secure the future for biodiversity

Activities	Impacts on great apes	Impact on community's livelihood	Funding sources
Conservation of more than 630 species and subspecies of prosimians, monkeys, and apes	Reduced killing or capture Reduced behavioural disruption Reducing the severity or frequency of interactions of human with great apes	Decreased risk of disease transmission Reduced human-great apes conflicts by creating new buffers and barriers to discourage great apes from coming into contact with local people. This has resulted in a reduced number of attacks, injuries and loss of lives in the human population	Small-scale initiative programme which provides grants for community-based management and conservation of great apes in South-west Cameroon

4. Ape Action Africa (AAA)⁷

Domain of intervention/Aim: Address the immediate threats faced by gorillas and chimps in Mefou Sanctuary

Activities	Impacts on great apes	Impact on community's livelihood	Funding sources
Development of long-term solutions to ensure their survival in the wild	Rescuing orphaned gorillas, chimpanzees and monkeys	Developing teaching methods with local children, training them about bush meat, logging, conservation and on main threats to great apes	Cameroon Wildlife Aid Fund (CWAF)
Housing confiscated and rescued primates, providing rehabilitation and lifelong care for each of them	Improved living conditions for primates housed at Mvog Betsi Zoo (that has 110 chimpanzees and 21 gorillas in its care)	Providing hunters with an alternative income source through the Lebialem Hunter's Beekeeping Initiative (LHBI)	
Encouraging children and adults to protect and conserve their environment through interactive education programmes and social support		The Mefou Sanctuary has become a tourist attraction and brings additional income to the local communities	
Production of digital media to support great apes			

5. Last Great Apes Organisation (LAGA)

Domain of intervention/Aim: Protect and conserve great apes, work to gather evidence in supporting law enforcement

Activities	Impacts on great apes	Impact on community's livelihood	Funding sources
Helps coordinate arrest and monitors criminal cases closely to minimise corruption, thus contributing to advancing pressing social justice and conservation issues as well as to deter future crimes ⁸	Key great ape habitat and surrounding landscape that support viable ape population are maintained Diminished exploitation of apes	Training of wildlife officers on corruption, ethics and also job provision	Arcus Foundation Born FREE IFAW IPPL (International primate protection league) The Rufford Foundation (www.rufford.org) US Fisheries and Wildlife Service, Conserving The Nature of America Future for Nature Foundation
Supported a sustained media campaign which resulted in 367 radio, TV, and press stories in 2012			

⁷ www.apeactionafrica.org

6. Deutsche Gesellschaft für International Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)**Domain of intervention/Aim:** Rural development, Biodiversity conservation

Activities	Impacts on great apes	Impact on community's livelihood	Funding sources
Develops and promotes sustainable tourism in the Mount Cameroon region		<p>Creation of financial/economic benefits of local communities by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinvesting in wildlife management to create environmental and cultural awareness and provide alternatives for hunters • Offering additional income to the population ecotourism office and the village ecotourism committees, so they are able to coordinate their own ecotourism activities • A percentage of the income from ecotourism goes to the village development funds • Hunters are now working as guides and porters, and • Provides a platform for villages for traditional cooking, production and selling of handicraft 	<p>German Embassy Yaounde and the Global Fund</p>

7. Congo Basin Ecosystems Conservation Support Programme (PACEBCo)

Domain of intervention/Aim: Supporting development initiatives with local populations living in and around the area to reduce pressure on protected areas

Activities	Impacts on great apes	Impact on community's livelihood	Funding sources
Capacity building on sustainable management of natural resources	Reduced pressure on protected areas including great ape conservation areas	<p>It is expected to benefit 5.8 million people in six landscapes spread across the seven ECCAS countries including Cameroon</p> <p>Finances 300 development micro projects (infrastructure and income generating activities)</p> <p>Allows communities to improve their socio-economic development and significantly reduce their dependence on the forest enhanced skills of communities in terms of their technical, organisational and institutional aspects</p>	SNV and African Development Bank (ADB)

8. Central Africa Protected Area Network (RAPAC)

Domain of intervention/Aim: Securing Indigenous People's Rights in Conservation

Activities	Impacts on great apes	Impact on community's livelihood	Funding sources
Assessing progress of Indigenous Forest People of Cameroon (Baka, Bakola and Bagyeli) living in and around Lobeke, BoumbaBeke, Nki and Campo-Ma'an National Park, and the Dja Wildlife Reserve	<p>Combats poaching</p> <p>WWF-trained eco-guards (under the control of the Government of Cameroon) ensure security of the forest ecosystem, particularly wildlife, in the parks and reserves</p>	<p>Offers capacity building to communities, including providing them with information about their land rights, enabling them to collect data for their own land use maps and use them in their discussions with conservation agencies</p> <p>This has enabled the government to: take into account socio-economic aspects relevant to local population; protect indigenous access and use rights of the indigenous Bagyeli in the management plan for Campo-Ma'an National Park</p>	WWF; UNDF (United Nations Development Fund); the World Bank (WB) and its Global Environmental Facility (GEF)

9. Trans-Boundary Forest Complex Dja-Adzala-Minkebe (TRIDOM)

Domain of intervention/Aim: Conservation of transboundary biodiversity in the Minkebe-Odzala-Dja inter-zone in Gabon, Congo, and Cameroon, ensure the sustainability of protected area systems

Activities	Impacts on great apes	Impact on community's livelihood	Funding sources
Mitigating threats to TRIDOM	Enhance sustainable land use adjacent to core conservation zones	Promote development of alternative economic activities, including viable ecotourism ventures and community forestry/wildlife management initiatives	UNDP, governments, WWF, European Union-ECOFAC and GEF Funds
Contributing to reducing impacts of new infrastructure development	Support the development and adoption of strict regulations on hunting in logging concessions		
Putting in place the long-term resource management and financing systems needed to achieve conservation objectives	Build capacity of logging companies to apply adequate internal control systems on hunting		

10. Cameroon Environmental Watch (CEW)

Domain of intervention/ Aim: Monitoring of logging using Geographic Information System (GIS), to fight against poaching and its effects on human activities

Activities	Impacts on great apes	Impact on community's livelihood	Funding sources
Provides GIS support to community forest development and training; the estimation of rainfall through satellite; and the study of the climate	Contributes to better application and enforcement of norms in forest management in Africa in general and Cameroon in particular Reports on illegal hunting and logging which is the principal threat to the great apes of Cameroon Works with the Cameroonian government to enforce law No. 94/01 (1994) that lists gorillas and chimpanzees as category A species which are fully protected against hunting, capture or sale in whole or in part		World Resources Institute (WRI) channels international support for the improvement of community livelihood (local communities)

Table 3 below lists recent conservation projects with their benefits for local communities and for conservation.

Table 3. Conservation projects being implemented in Cameroon and their budgets (Source: USFWS 2007)

Projects	Community & conservation benefits	Project area	Stakeholders	Budget
Cameroon Ngoyla Mintom Project	Improved income generating activities for the local communities	South and East regions of Cameroon	Government of Cameroon World Bank WWF FEM	US\$ 3.50 million
Great Ape Conservation Project ⁸	Initiatives led to the establishment of two new great ape sanctuaries national parks (Takamanda, Deng & Kagwene mountains & Mengame Gorilla Sanctuary) Assisting local communities to conserve the ape populations that are found outside of protected areas through a 'Gorilla Guardian' programme	Cross River	USFWS WCS Cameroon WWF Government GACF	
Kudu Zombo Project	Alternative livelihood opportunities created (new agricultural products and practices, modify fishing techniques, and recovery aid for areas devastated by violence/natural disasters) Increased anti-poaching efforts in a number of national parks	Central Cameroon		
Jengi ¹¹ Project	Generate ecotourism revenue Improved management of three forest parks and identification of other forest sites for potential protection. Restore Jengi to the guardians of the forest: a unique gift to the earth and symbol of a healthy functioning forest ecosystem	Campo Ma'an National Park Forests of south-east Cameroon	WWF Local NGOs ⁹ WWF WCS GTZ	20 million FCFA ¹⁰ 'revolving fund' of 5 million FCFA

⁸ Through effective support for government and community-based law enforcement in the Cross River gorilla habitat of Cameroon and Nigeria, there has been a reduction of illegal poaching incidents by 10 per cent, preventing an estimated loss of 30 gorillas per year. In addition, USFWS is working closely with local communities, NGOs, and the governments of Nigeria and Cameroon on the development of a five-year Cross River gorilla conservation plan to ensure the survival of the gorilla in its native habitat (source: Great Apes Support Fund).

⁹ GIC EBOTOUR (1,000,000 FCFA), ASSOCIATION KUDU A TUBE (2,000,000 FCFA), GIC CODEVI (2 000 000 F CFA), GIC MOTOURS (2,000,000 FCFA), ONG SDD (2,000,000 FCFA), Ass des Pêcheurs de Campo (1,000,000 FCFA), (Ass DJOBO JA Kudu Campo (2,00,000 F CFA), FC d'AKAK (2,000,000 FCFA), FC BIBOULEMAM (2,000,000 FCFA), FC de TYA'ASSONO (2,000,000 FCFA), ONG CEPFIELD (2 000 000 FCFA), PLACUTO (Plateforme des Communes de l'UTO) regrouping four councils (30 million FCFA, with 5,000,000 FCFA for implementation. Source: www.africanmodelforests.net/index.php/one-programme/ecotourisme

¹⁰ Ecotourism project, WWF results.

¹¹ 'Spirit of the forest'

Projects	Community & conservation benefits	Project area	Stakeholders	Budget
Great ape conservation strategies	Improve the conservation status of western lowland gorillas and central chimpanzees through an increased understanding of great ape population dynamics; initiation of an environmental and health education campaign, and the development of a long-term ape conservation strategy	Southeast Cameroon National Parks and TRIDOM Interzone	USAID/USFWS ¹²	US\$ 99,809; leveraged funds US\$ 53,371
Population status, ecology and conservation of gorillas and chimpanzees	Support for surveys of critical gorilla and chimpanzee habitat to develop management recommendations and possible gazetttement as protected areas	Ebo Forest Cameroon	Zoological Society of San Diego. USFWS	US\$ 50,130; leveraged funds: US\$ 119,760
LAGA-MINFOF collaboration for wildlife law enforcement	Support for law enforcement, public awareness, and prosecution of wildlife crimes to prevent trafficking of bush meat, live apes, and other wildlife products in Cameroon		LAGA, MINFOF, USAID/USFWS	US\$79,812; leveraged funds: US\$ 112,606
Great ape and human impact monitoring	Field surveys to evaluate the conservation status of Mbam et Djerem National Park, and to provide management recommendations to wildlife authorities	Mbam et Djerem National Park	WCS, USFWS, USAID/USFWS	US\$ 49,560 leveraged funds: US\$ 32,506
Capacity building for ape sanctuary's managers	Effectively design and executed education and public awareness programmes to take place in Limbe, Cameroon	Education workshop in Limbe	Panafrican Sanctuaries Alliance, USAID/USFWS	US\$ 19,580; leveraged funds: US\$ 18,025
Controlling transportation of bush meat	Increasing public awareness, education and law enforcement to reduce the transport of illegal bushmeat on Cameroon's rail system.		CAMRAIL WCS USAID/USFWS	US\$ 74,800; leveraged funds: US\$ 73,997
Projet Grands Singe	Great Apes protection in non-protected forests (logging concessions and community forests) loans and capacity building for resource management (sustainable hunting management plans, etc) 'Scientific tourism' (collection of fees from researchers and volunteers) as a form of revenue generation Local people are employed in all project activities (cooks, guides, builders, porters, research assistants, botanists, etc)	Northern periphery of the Dja Biosphere Reserve	Royal Zoological Society of Antwerp	

¹² USFWS's Wildlife Without Borders - Great Ape Conservation Fund is a primary funder for many great ape conservation projects and the only significant international funding source for the Cross River gorilla. Highly imperilled species of great apes such as the Cross River gorilla, with less than 300 individuals remaining, could be extinct in less than five years without this direct assistance.

Key achievements of great ape conservation projects in Cameroon¹³

These achievements cover the period between 2000 and 2010, during which there was an increase from 7 to 18 National Parks in Cameroon. The achievements highlight the collaboration between the government and international partners in ensuring the sustainable management of biodiversity, and the conservation of great apes in particular. They also address issues of hunting for local communities and alternative livelihood practices.

Creation and management of protected areas

- Establishment of three national parks - Lobéké, Boumba-Bek and Nki - covering about 765,471 hectares of forest
- Designation of the Lobeke National Park as a Gift to the Earth (GTTE)
- Operational management plans for eight protected areas (Waza, Korup, Bénoué, Lobéké, Campo-Ma'an, Mbam and Djerem, Dja, Faro)
- Creation and launch of the management committee for Lobeke National Park
- Establishment of 14 community hunting areas around national parks for community use
- Development of an ecological monitoring programme to monitor key bio-indicators and trends
- Participatory mapping of use areas of Baka pygmies in national parks and surrounding forest areas
- Demarcation of a 32,000-hectare community zone in the Lobéké National Park
- Training and recruitment of 43 game guards to support anti-poaching and surveillance operations, and
- Building of management and communication infrastructure for the three national parks.

Sustainable wildlife management

- Collaborative agreements with logging companies to combat poaching and the bush meat trade
- Construction and equipment of six control posts amounting to US\$ 100,000 to support law enforcement and surveillance operations
- Training for government staff in relation to monitoring, law enforcement etc, and
- A long-term monitoring programme to provide data on the population status of large mammals.

Partnership building

- Consultative platforms between local communities and other stakeholders
- Strengthening of capacities of local management institutions to play the role of village wildlife management committees
- Transboundary committees for the coordination of Tri National de la Sangha activities
- A strategic partnership document with the mining sector in TRIDOM
- A strategic document for the management of Ngoyla-Mintom forest block, and
- Strategic approaches for the management of the Ngoyla-Mintom forest massif.

Collaborative management

- Nine operational community-based Wildlife Resource Management Committees (COVAREFs)
- A clear delimitation of Baka use zones in Boumba-Bek National Park and other community use zones in Nki and Lobéké Parks, and
- Training for community leaders in conflict management and micro-project development.

¹³ Source: wwf.panda.org

Transboundary conservation initiatives

- TNS and TRIDOM transboundary agreements have been signed by member countries - Cameroon, Central African Republic, Gabon and Congo Brazzaville
- Regular tri-national patrols and other field activities by park authorities in the Tri National de la Sangha area
- Production of a land use plan document for the TNS area, and
- Requirement to mobilise an estimated US\$ 10 million to set up a TNS trust fund.

Improvement of local livelihoods

- Community hunting zones to address subsistence hunting needs
- Technical assistance to support micro projects for alternative protein production
- Marketing of trophy hunting in community hunting zones generating estimated annual revenues of US\$ 30,000, and
- Training for village health scouts to support village health programmes.

Findings from analysis of great ape conservation projects in Cameroon

A critical analysis of great ape conservation projects carried out in protected areas in Cameroon and their contribution to local livelihoods has provided interesting findings as indicated below, and these can provide some lessons to build on for the future:

- There is a strong political will of the government of Cameroon to promote conservation in general and the protection of great apes in particular
- Sanctuaries play a vital role in the protection of great apes
- There is a high demand for ape meat in Central Africa, including Cameroon
- There is a rise in tourism in recent years compared to before 2010
- There is little public knowledge on the importance of great ape conservation
- There is little or no replication of success stories on the development of community co-management and forest conservation strategies for the protection of critically endangered great apes populations, and
- Parks and sanctuaries can contribute towards improving local communities' livelihoods. In spite of human wildlife conflicts, the local population does receive some benefits from parks in the form of employment, however not everyone from the local populations can earn a living by working in the parks or gorilla sanctuaries.

Challenges

The survival of great apes inside and outside protected areas in Cameroon is under pressure, as is the protection of the rights of communities living in and around these areas. Animals, plants and other natural resources continue to attract fortune seekers whose sole interest is to reap as much benefits as possible. Great ape conservation and communities in Cameroon would benefit from the following actions, which are in progress:

- Development of management plans for Boumba-Bek and Nki National Parks
- Negotiation of users' rights for indigenous forest people within National Parks
- Reactivation of the Mambale Convention between professional hunters and local communities
- Establishment of a network for community-based forest enterprises

- Implementation of the TRIDOM accord with protected areas in the Republic of Congo, Brazzaville and Gabon, and
- Establishment of a TNS trust fund.

It has taken patience, commitment and tough resolve by environmental organisations such as WCS, GTZ and WWF to intervene in the region and stop the high rate of habitat degradation. WWF and its partners have succeeded in bringing stakeholders together to understand that their personal well-being depends on that of the forest and its resources. Both the government and the local population are cooperating to manage natural resources in a sustainable way. WWF has also been helping communities around the national parks set up and manage community forests. Fifteen community forests of 5,000 hectares each are being put in place.¹⁴

Due to an increasing population, there is more demand for agricultural land. Poaching is also taking on a new dimension as more people are using sophisticated hunting equipment. The situation has been made more insecure in neighbouring countries as guns and ammunition easily find their way into the hands of poachers. The closure of some logging companies has also increased unemployment, resulting in many more people resorting to poaching.

In addition, due to ongoing infrastructural development in Cameroon, research scenarios predict that the annual loss of habitat will be greater than 2 per cent per year, with less than 10 per cent remaining in the low impact category by 2030. These figures compare with future estimates of habitat loss within protected areas of 3 to 14 per cent for African great apes over the next 10 years (UNEP 2002).

¹⁴ www.fosonline.org

Recommendations for the improvement of great ape conservation and community livelihoods

The following key policy recommendations are proposed to improve the management of great apes in Cameroon, ensure the sustainable livelihoods of local people and raise public awareness of great ape conservation:

Proposed legal reforms and related interventions

1. All wildlife law reforms should take the current socio-economic context and the reality on the ground into consideration
2. A wide awareness-raising campaign should be promoted to enable stakeholders, in particular local communities, to have a better understanding of the 1994 Forestry Fisheries and Wildlife Law
3. The Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife Law should be included in the school curriculum from primary to university level
4. Existing law and sanction defaulters should be prosecuted
5. There should be transparency in the handling of poaching cases to promote a positive image of the government and other stakeholders
6. The existing land management strategy should be updated, and
7. The 1994 Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife Law, Article 101 should be revised to give equal punishment to all defaulters (poachers, buyers etc). The sanctions given to defaulters should be proportional to the crime committed.

Proposed policy reforms

1. Strengthen governance of great ape management at national and local level
2. Create a coordinated information management system from the field to central administration
3. Create a special fund for the management of protected areas for wildlife in general and specifically for great apes
4. Invest sufficient financial resources for the conservation and management of great apes
5. Create an inter-ministerial coordination platform on the conservation of great apes to encourage collaboration and synergy between relevant ministries
6. Modernise the training programme for eco-guards and other MINFOF staff to suit the realities in the field
7. Provide eco-guards with the equipment to fight the heavily armed poachers
8. Involve the army in protecting wildlife and great apes in particular
9. Ensure close follow-up of the activities of eco-guards and the military in conservation sites in order to prevent the killing of wildlife for consumption and economic reasons, and
10. Strengthen the coordination of project activities by financial and technical partners to ensure efficiency and transparency in the management of the limited funds.

Proposed reforms to improve local communities' livelihoods

1. Ensure synergy among stakeholders involved in great ape conservation in Cameroon
2. Create alternative measures to discourage hunting around parks (non-conventional animal husbandry; non-timber forest activities (NTFPs), etc)
3. Create and develop more leisure parks in protected areas, making them accessible to tourists and local communities
4. Encourage local communities to visit the parks

5. A number of sites with critically endangered great apes are already carrying out tourist activities - these should be strengthened with the support of local and international partners, and
6. Increase public knowledge on the importance of great ape conservation. This should be facilitated so as to contribute towards conservation and benefits for local communities.

Conclusions

In Cameroon, forest communities have subsisted for centuries in relative harmony with the environment and the wildlife that surround them. However economic hardship, rapid population growth, political and cultural changes and external demand for resources are disrupting the balance of this relationship. In the face of industrial resource extraction and global trade, local governments cannot always enforce an area's traditional laws.

Gorillas and chimpanzees play a vital role in maintaining the rich biodiversity in Cameroon, acting as 'the forest gardeners' by dispersing seeds and maintaining forest health. However, wild gorillas and chimpanzees are on the brink of extinction. Their loss would be an economic and ecological disaster for Cameroon.

Over the years, the government of Cameroon has shown an increasing interest in forest and wildlife conservation by adhering to international conventions, reinforcing bilateral cooperation on biodiversity conservation, and above all putting in place appropriate institutions, laws and policies that favour the conservation of its rich biological diversity, and in particular that of the great apes. The constant pressure on the country's natural resources is undeniably a major threat to the survival of the great apes, and it is crucial that all competent state conservation institutions, non-governmental organisations, international organisations and other stakeholders work together. Moreover, all existing conservation laws must be constantly revisited in order to adjust to the realities of Cameroon becoming an emerging nation through its vision 2035.

Ways forward

A field study is recommended. This study should focus on the impacts of private operators' activities on the fauna and in particular on great apes, and look at concrete ways forward to protect this rich biodiversity.

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Annex 1: Ministries in Cameroon with links to wildlife management

Ministry	Responsible for
1. Ministry of Forestry and Fauna (MINFOF)	Development and implementation of government policy on forest and wildlife
2. Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED)	Forest conservation
2. Ministry of Fisheries and Animal Industry (MINEPIA)	Animal health
3. Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER)	Drafting and implementation of government policies in the agricultural sector
4. Ministry of Mines, Energy and Water resources (MINEE)	Development of national mining policies Management of mineral resources
5. Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation (MINRESI)	Drafting and implementation of the national policy on science and technology
6. Ministry of Finance (MINFI)	Funding of biodiversity activities
7. Ministry of Town Planning and Housing (MINDUH)	Improvement of human settlements and responsible for land occupation Drafting and implementation of land ownership, urbanisation and housing policy
8. Ministry of Public Works	Ensuring less degrading environmental impacts of road construction and maintenance
9. Ministry of Higher Education (MINESUP)	Training programmes on biodiversity and related issues
10. Ministry of Transport	Collaboration with MINFOF in tracking down poachers
11. Ministry of Arts and Culture	Drafting of policies to promote national cultures
12. Ministry of Communication	Facilitation of dissemination/exchange of biodiversity information Drafting and implementation of national communication policy
13. Ministry of Post and Telecommunication	Facilitation of electronic communication
14. Ministry of Public Health (MINSANTE)	Promotion of human health
15. Ministry of Tourism and Leisure (MINTOUR)	Drafting of tourism policy
16. Ministry of Defence (MINDEF)	Protection of wildlife from heavily armed poachers
17. Ministry of Justice	Facilitation of market operation The judicial power ensures the security of wildlife and the stimulation of private investment.
18. Ministry of Territorial administration and Decentralisation (MINATD)	A regulatory role
19. Ministry of Social Affairs	Social issues
20. Ministry of Planning and Regional Development (MINEPAT)	Policies on institutional planning of the national territory
20. Ministry of External Relations (MINREX)	Monitoring of the conventions, agreements and international commitments in regard to forests

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The Poverty and Conservation Learning Group (PCLG) is an international network of organisations and individuals that promotes learning on the linkages between biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction, in order to improve policy and practice.

