## CIRMAD IN CHIMPANZEE CONSERVATION

One domain of activities of the Centre for Indigenous Resources Management and Development (CIRMAD) is the conservation of the endangered Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes ellioti*) under our Participatory Programme for the Protection of Chimpanzees (PAPPro-Chimps)



The "Nigeria-Cameroon" Chimpanzee!

This entails projects that lead to the overall goal of enhancing the survival of the endangered great ape species, with primary focus in the North West Region of Cameroon, which forms the heart of the Bamenda Highlands, itself a hotspot of biological diversity and endemism. Today the chimpanzee is the flagship species of this area, after the other big mammals like the elephant, lion, giraffe and the leopard have gone extinct, and as the critically endangered Cross River gorilla exists only in the Kagwene Gorilla Sanctuary bordering a just small portion of the North West Region. This site of our primary focus is denoted in The Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of the Nigeria-Cameroon Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes ellioti*) (Morgan, B.J et al; 2011) as the North West Region Chimpanzee Conservation Planning Unit. It suffers the progressive conversion of forests for agriculture and pasture, with only a few forest patches remaining as habitats of the remnants of the endangered chimpanzee. These are the Kom-Wum Forest Reserve (8,029 ha), the Fungom Forest Reserve (84,758ha) the Ako-Mbembe Forest Reserve (2,849 ha). There are also the Tubah Forest with some connectivity to a forest that straddles Awing and Balikumbat as a chimp habitat site. The vast Southern Menchum forest and the Ntem Forest are also believed to hold some populations of the *P. t. ellioti*.

Our actions under the PAPPro-Chimps programme include:

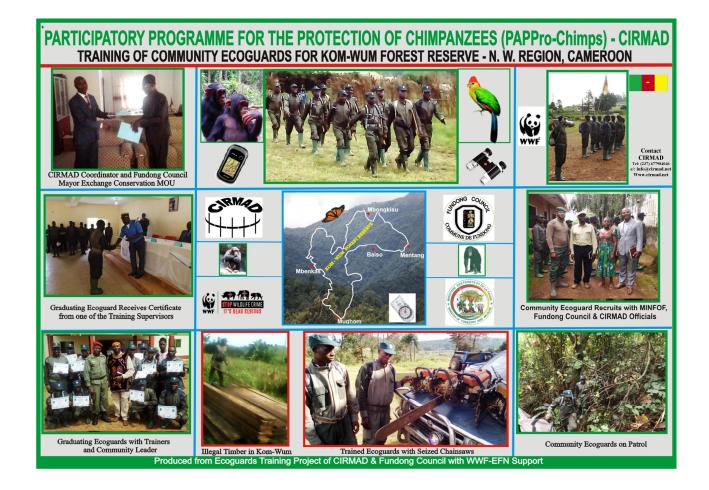
- conservation education, also through art
- habitat management
- support to wildlife law enforcement
- community conservation initiatives

CIRMAD's Participatory Programme for the Protection of Chimpanzees (PAPPro-Chimps) responds to the statement of need in the Regional Action Plan\* for: "... NGO partners to work with government to implement conservation activities in the region for the continued survival of the chimpanzees."



## <u>In 2016:</u>

- ✓ The recruitment and training of (eleven) 11 community ecoguards for Kom-Wum Forest Reserve with the support of the WWF-Education for Nature Program, under a Memorandum of Understanding CIRMAD signed with the Fundong Council.
- ✓ The creation and installation of five (05) Village Forest Management Committee (VFMCs) and their Steering Committee for Kom-Wum Forest Reserve, and installation six (6) signboards around it; with the support of the Prince Bernard Nature Fund.



## In 2017:

- ➤ CIRMAD is currently carrying out a protected area management project in the Kom-Wum Forest Reserve with the support of the Prince Bernhard Nature Fund, in a project titled: Empowering ecoguards to protect the endangered Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee in Kom-Wum Forest Reserve.
- ➤ Biomonitoring training of community ecoguards of Kom-Wum Forest Reserve with the support of the Sacramento Zoo Conservation Fund.

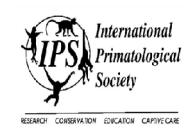
We laud the efforts of the various organizations, researchers and officials for putting in place the Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of the Nigeria-Cameroon Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes ellioti*) of 2011, with a timeframe of 5 years. It is a standard guide for the protection of the endangered great ape species. However, there is need for its mid-term review to assess achievements so far and streamline the way forward to better ensure the survival of the *P. t. ellioti* in its restricted global range.

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## And all thanks to our donor partners:













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