

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.*"

CONSERVING THE NIGERIA - CAMEROON CHIMPANZEE The Bamenda Highlands - Cameroon

The Bamenda Highlands

- It encompasses the North West Region of Cameroon
- A hotspot of biological diversity and endemism
- Has high population density, about 100 - 250 people per km²
- Forest destruction for agricultural and pasture has reduced and fragmented forest habitats of the surviving primates
- Only some forest reserves, of montane/gallery forests, and grassland savannah remain as chimpanzee habitats here.
- Hunting pressure and habitat loss still pose major threats to the chimpanzee habitats of the Bamenda Highlands.



**The Nigeria-Cameroon Chimpanzee
(Pan troglodytes ellioti)**


Habitat sites of the Nigeria - Cameroon chimpanzee in the North West Region

Forest	Year Created	Size (ha)	Sub Division	Adjacent Communities
Ubin-Fungui National Park	2010	13,171	Fungui, Fungui, Fungui, Fungui, and Shigi	Koko, Fungui, Eyo, Fungui, Doko, Fungui
Kom-Wum Forest Reserve	1981	8,020	Fundong, Wum	Sam, Aghem, Shonko
Yala Forest Reserve	1981	8,020	Fundong, Wum	Sam, Aghem, Shonko
Tulali-Awung-Buhumbe Forest Reserve	Unspecified		Tulali, Baka, Baka	Koko, Koko, Koko, Koko, Koko
Yala Forest Reserve	Unspecified		Tulali, Baka, Baka	Koko, Koko, Koko, Koko, Koko
Wum Forest Reserve	Unspecified		Wum, Wum	Sam, Aghem, Shonko
Wum Forest Reserve	Unspecified		Wum, Wum	Sam, Aghem, Shonko

THREATS OF EXTINCTION

Habitat Loss

- Clearing of forest habitat for farmland
- Slash burning for grazing and hunting
- Agricultural and pasture encroachments in forest reserves
- Timber exploitation in some forest reserve/habitat



Slash burning a permanent threat

No Hunting

No Hunting

Hunting

- Abandoning of meat for the bushmeat trade
- Capture and sale of infant chimps, as pets
- Hunting for parts for traditional medicines



CONSERVATION ACTIONS

Habitat Fragmentation

- Fragmentation of forest corridors
- Fragmentation of forest corridors
- Fragmentation of forest corridors
- Fragmentation of forest corridors
- Fragmentation of forest corridors

Conservation Education

- Chimp conservation awareness campaigns
- Engagement of school clubs for community sensitization
- Networking among chimp conservation stakeholders



INTEGRATED CONSERVATION ACTIONS + ASSURED CHIMP SURVIVAL

Species/Habitat Protection


- Creation of protected areas
- Implementation of the enforcement of agricultural and pasture encroachments
- Community engagement for reforestation
- Creation of voluntary rangers
- Implementation of the Action Plan for conservation

Research & Monitoring

- Ecological surveys to track out persistent allegations of great ape presence all over the region
- Field surveys to determine the distribution and population status of the P. t. ellioti in the region
- Public-private partnership for research and monitoring on the great apes in the region

Community Conservation Initiatives

- Creation and involvement of village forest management committees
- Community empowerment for alternative income generating activities
- Scholarship for chimp habitat site communities
- Scientific planned great ape tourism in the chimp habitat sites








LEGAL PROTECTION

The chimpanzee is a "Totally Protected" animal of the Class "A" Category in Cameroon in the Cameroon Forestry/Wildlife Law (No. 94/01 of 20/01/1994) Section 101 states: *Any person found, at any time or place in possession of part of live or dead protected animal shall be considered to have captured or killed it.*

For sanctions, Section 158 states: *A fine of 3,000,000 to 10,000,000 CFA Francs and of imprisonment for one to three years shall be imposed on whoever kills or captures a protected animal.*

"CIRMAD's Participatory Programme for the Protection of Chimpanzees (PnP-Chimp) responds to the government of need in the Regional Action Plan" for NCD purposes to work with government to implement conservation activities in the region for the continued survival of the chimpanzee.


In 2016:

- ✓ 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.

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**PARTICIPATORY PROGRAMME FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHIMPANZEES (PAPPro-Chimps) - CIRMAD
TRAINING OF COMMUNITY ECOGUARDS FOR KOM-WUM FOREST RESERVE - N. W. REGION, CAMEROON**

				 <p>Contact CIRMAD Tel: (237) 677984046 e: info@cirmad.net www.cirmad.net</p>
				
<p>Graduating Ecoguard Receives Certificate from one of the Training Supervisors</p>		<p>Mbungkisu Baiso Mentang Mbenkas Mudhom</p>		<p>Community Ecoguard Recruits with MINFOP, Fundong Council & CIRMAD Officials</p>
				<p>Produced from Ecoguards Training Project of CIRMAD & Fundong Council with WWF-EFN Support</p>

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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