

AKO-MBEMBE FOREST RESERVE

< CAMEROON >

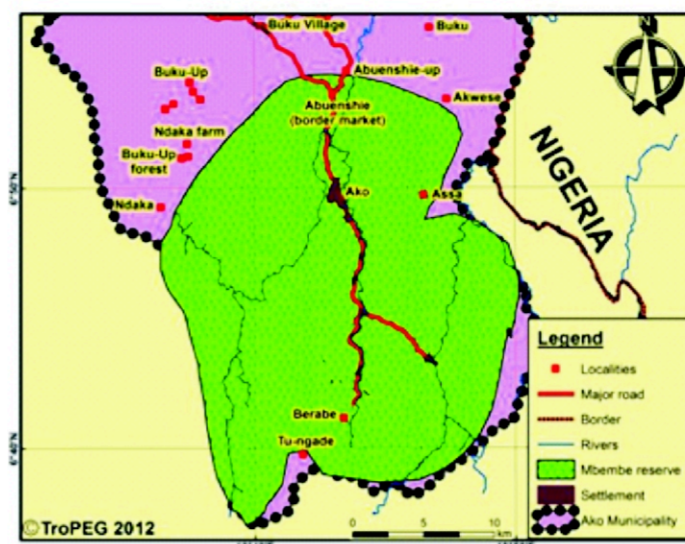
“Important Priority Site” for Conservation of the Endangered Nigeria-Cameroon Chimpanzee!

Fact sheet of Ako-Mbembe Forest Reserve

Date of creation: 27/07/1934
Text of creation: Ordinance No. 50 of 27/07/1934
Demarcation history: Demarcated as Forest Reserve in 1949, and again in 1953 with current boundaries (as in the map)
Surface area: 2,849 ha / 283 sq. km
Geographic location: Ako Municipality, Donga Mantung Division, North West Region, Cameroon; Lat. 6°75'N and Long. 10°74'E
Flagship species: Pan troglodytes ellioti
Threats: Timber exploitation, Hunting, bushfires,

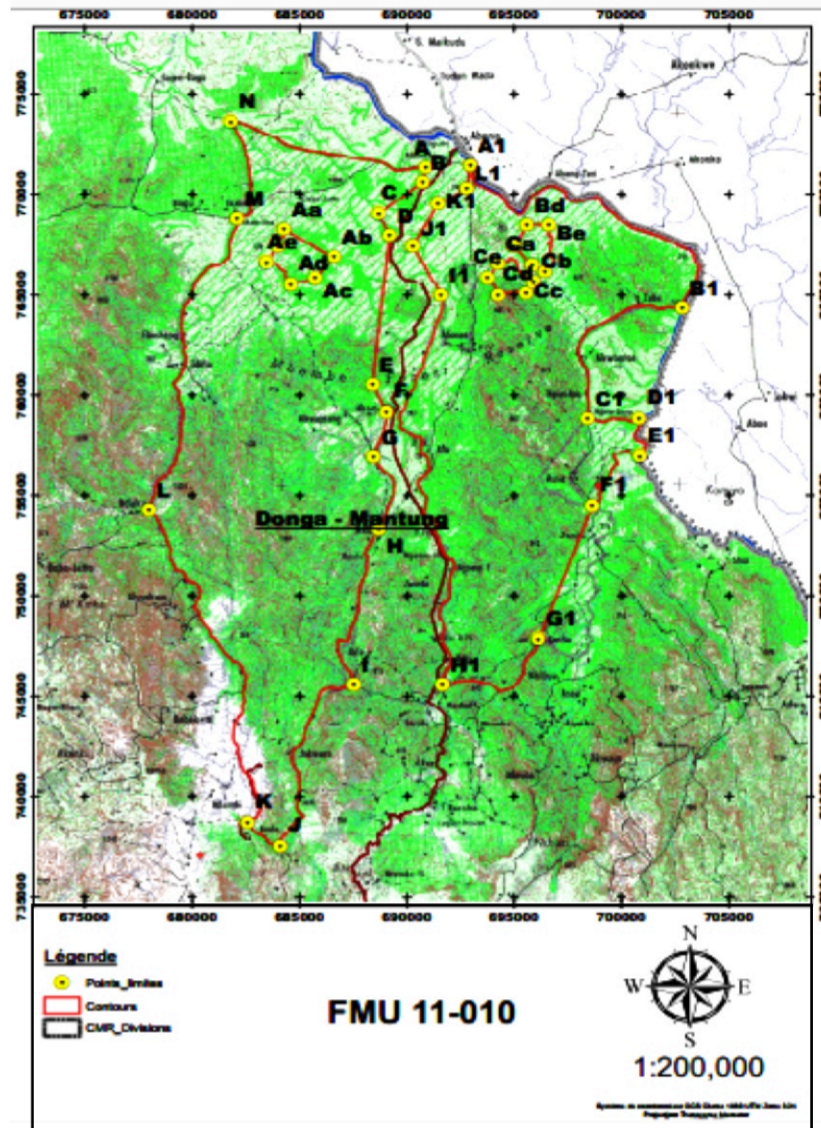


SPATIAL MAP OF THE RESERVE



CAUSE FOR CONCERN !!!

What fate for Ako-Mbembe Forest Reserve, an “Important priority Site” for Conservation of the ENDANGERED Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee, via-à-vis a 2014 plan of Cameroon’s Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) sets to create a Forest Exploitation/ Management Unit (FMU 11-010) of 46,687 hectares across the chimpanzee site?



Flagship species of the Reserve



Management Challenges/Threats to AMFR

Habitat loss

- ❖ Logging, especially by Nigerians for Nigerian markets
- ❖ Clearing of forest habitats for farmlands
- ❖ Bush burning for farming and grazing
- ❖ Human settlements and pastoral encroachments

Hunting

- Local and cross-border killing and trade in chimpanzee parts
- Hunting for meat for the bushmeat trade

Current conservation status

Going by law No. 94/01 of 20/01/1994 laying down on Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries regulations, Ako-Mbembe Forest Reserve is an Integral Ecological Reserve, as defined in Decree No. 95-531-PM of 23/08/1995, (as) an area where all types of resources enjoy complete protection with a view to preserving it wholly in its climatic condition. Any activity therein by man shall be strictly prohibited, ... except for scientific research. Therefore human activities like timber exploitation, farming, hunting, burning, and any other activity that might adversely affect its biodiversity are forbidden by the law.

The 2011 Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of the Nigeria-Cameroon Chimpanzee rates Ako-Mbembe Forest Reserve as “Important Priority Site” for the Conservation of the ENDANGERED chimpanzee species!

Historical Profile of Ako-Mbembe Forest Reserve

- 1934: Creation as Native Authority Forest Reserve
- 1949: 1st Boundary demarcation
- 1950: 1st Map production
- 1953: 2nd Boundary demarcation
- 2011: Ako-Mbembe Forest Reserve rated as “Important Priority Site” in the
- Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of the Nigeria Cameroon chimpanzee
- 2014: MINFOF plan for creation of Forest (Exploitation) Management Unit (FMU) of 46,687 ha across the 2,849 ha Reserve area.



Bannerman's Turaco

Some animal species of Ako-Mbembe Forest Reserve*

English names	Scientific names	Class	IUCN Red List Status
Mammals			
Chimpanzee	<i>Pan troglodytes ellioti</i>	A	Endangered
Greater spot-nosed monkey	<i>Cercopithecus nictitans</i>	C	
African Civet	<i>Civettictis civetta</i>	C	
Baboon	<i>Papio cynocephalus</i>	C	
Porcupine	<i>Atherurus africanus</i>	C	Least Concern
Bush pig	<i>Potamochoerus porcus</i>	B	
Bay duiker	<i>Cephalophus dorsalis</i>	B	
Rock hyrax	<i>Procavia capensis</i>	C	
Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>	A	Vulnerable
Pangolin	<i>Manis spp</i>	A	
African buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>	B	
Blue duiker	<i>Cephalophus monticola</i>	C	
Bush baby	<i>Galago alleni</i>	A	Least Concern
Guinea pig	<i>Cavia magna</i>	C	
Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus pallidicauda</i>	C	
Birds			
Bannerman's Turaco	<i>Touraco bannermani</i>	A	Endangered
Grey Parrots	<i>Psittacus erithacus</i>	B	
Reptiles			
Snouted-nose crocodile	<i>Crocodylus cataphractus</i>	A	Critically Endangered
Nile crocodile	<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i>	A	Lower Risk
Rock python	<i>Python sebae</i>	A	Not Evaluated
Royal Python	<i>Python regius</i>		Least Concern
Forest monitor lizard	<i>Varanus ornatus</i>		Vulnerable
Bell's Hinged Back Tortoise	<i>Kinixys belliana/ Kinixys nogueyi</i>	A	Least concern
Slender /Graceful Chameleon	<i>Chamaeleo gracilis</i>	A	

*List derived from mentions in Biodiversity Assessment and Conservation Status of Plants in the Mbembe Forest Reserve – TroPEG 2012, crosschecked against Plant and Animal Guide for the Western Cameroon Highlands (Verina Jane Ingram et al, 2007); and edited, adding National Classification and IUCN Red List status of the species.

The 2011 Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of the Nigeria-Cameroon Chimpanzee on Ako-Mbembe Forest Reserve

IMPORTANT PRIORITY SITE North West Region, Cameroon

Ako-Mbembe Forest Reserve

The Ako-Mbembe Forest Reserve was created in 1934 with the aim of conserving biodiversity. Other mammals found in the reserve include Preuss's monkey (*Allochrocebus preussi*). Threats include hunting and illegal timber harvesting. The Kimbi River Game Reserve lies between the Ako-Mbembe and Fungom forest reserves, which may have the potential for linking these sites should the political will exist to promote positive change for conservation in the region.

Ako-Mbembe Forest Reserve Recommended Actions	Potential implementing partners	Time frame	Funding requirement
• Increase dialogue and support for conservation-related activities through community awareness and education programmes at all levels	MINFOF, ERuDeF, FFI, ACF	5 years	\$50,000
• Work in collaboration with MINFOF to augment law enforcement activities and reduce trans-border and other illegal trade	MINFOF, NGO partners	5 years	\$100,000
• Study potential livelihood opportunities to foster community engagement and support for conservation (boundary clearance, livelihood improvement, monitoring)	MINFOF, NGO partners	5 years	\$150,000

Conservation actions for Ako-Mbembe Forest Reserve in pictures

Trace boundary map of proposed Forest (Exploitation) Management Unit (FMU 11-010)



Regional Anti-poaching Committee - North West Region



CIRMAD Coordinator and Field Liaison in Ako-Mbembe F/R



Official signboard of the Forest Reserve



Fence trap in Ako-Mbembe Reserve



Group pics of Sensitisation Meeting - Ako town



Ndaka - Living next door to Nature!



Ako Forestry Officer in CIRMAD organised sensitisation meeting - Buku village



Trainees display constructed bamboo KTBH



Conservation enthusiasts - Abafum village



Cross section of participants with CIRMAD donated honey prees



The Centre for Indigenous Resources Management and Development (CIRMAD)
 CIRMAD works to contribute to global development through conservation awareness raising and innovative conservation actions, for the sustainable management of the indigenous natural resources.



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