

# KOM-WUM FOREST RESERVE

«A veritable home to chimpanzees; potential Wildlife Sanctuary»  
 Exceptional Priority Site for Conservation of the Endangered Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee!

## Fact sheet of Kom-Wum Forest Reserve (KWFR)

Date of creation: 1951

Text of creation: Ordinance No. 108

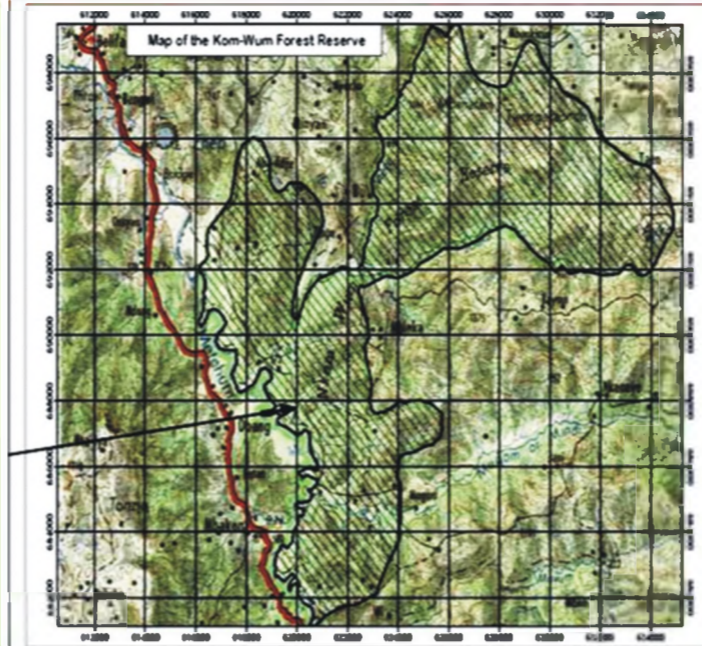
Surface area: 8,029 ha/80 km<sup>2</sup>; plus a forest of 16 km<sup>2</sup> with high chimpanzee density outside the reserve (Fotang Chefor, 2020).

Geographic location: between Lat. 6°16'12.53"N and Long. 10°7'57.85"E in N. W. Region, (4/5 in Fundong Municipality; 1/5 in Wum Municipality).

Landscape: An undulating landscape with altitude of 700-1500 meters above sea level.

Flagship species: *Pan troglodytes ellioti*

Threats: Timber exploitation, Hunting, bushfires, grazing, farm/settlement encroachments.



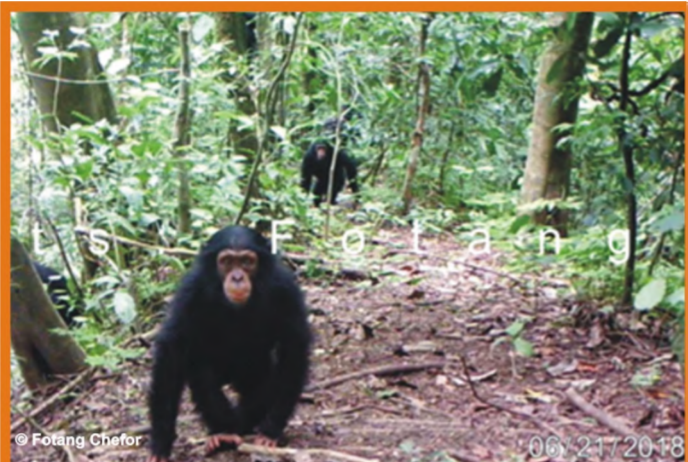
## Management Challenges/ Threats to KWFR

- ❖ Illegal exploitation of timber (sawn planks flown down the Mughom and Mezam Rivers to sales/transit points along Bamenda-Wum road).
- ❖ Poaching of wildlife resources.
- ❖ Encroachment by farmers with farm houses.
- ❖ Cattle grazing and pastoral encroachments.
- ❖ Bush burning by farmers in the slash and burn practice, and cattle grazers to generate pasture and kill ticks

## THE RICH FAUNA OF KOM-WUM FOREST RESERVE



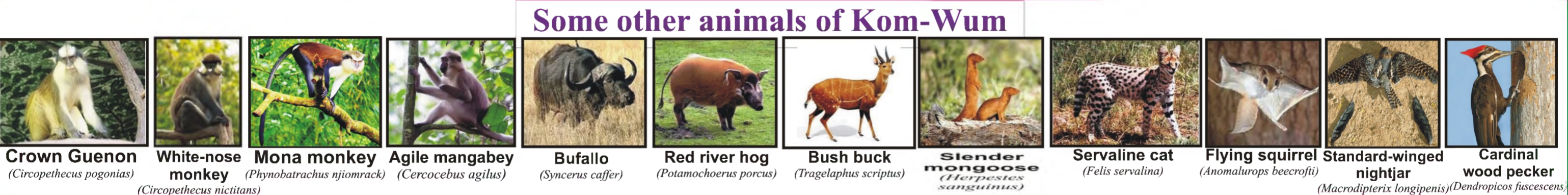
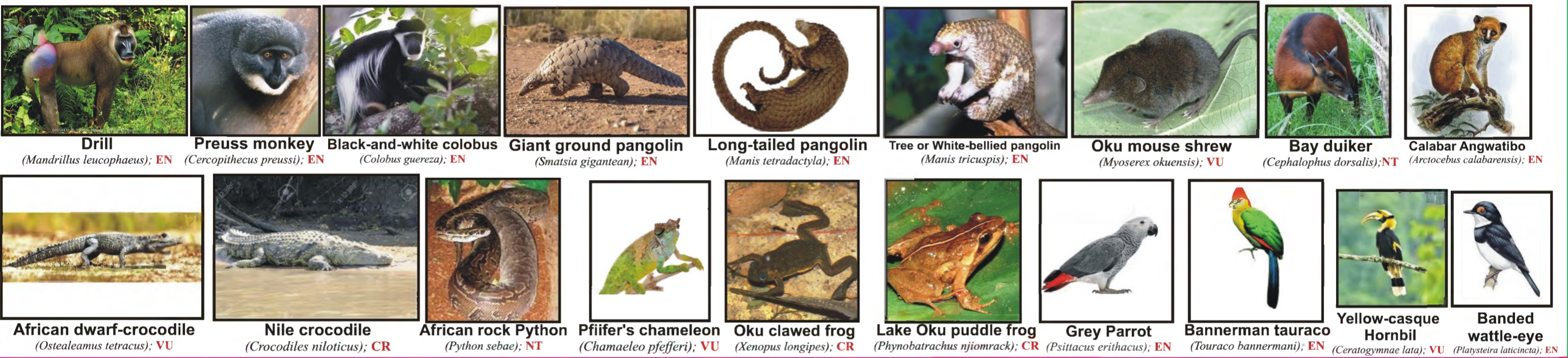
Fundong Mayor & CIRMAD CEO exchanging MOU for conservation partnership in KWFR



Fotang Chefor, Researcher under CIRMAD, measuring chimp nest in KWFR, with funding from the Rufford Small Grants Foundation

Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes ellioti*), commonly called chimpanzee, and known in local languages as *Fubo* (in Baiso), *Fubuh* (in Mbongkisu, Mentang, Mbengkas and Bu), and *Fubuhk* (in Mughom). It is classified as **ENDANGERED** in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

Other threatened species of Kom-Wum, listed in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species as **CR (Critically Endangered)**, **EN (Endangered)**, **VU (Vulnerable)** or **NT (Near Threatened)**; and generally considered as Totally Protected or Class "A" species in Cameroon



## Kom-Wum Forest Reserve featured prominently in the 2011 Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of the Nigeria-Cameroon Chimpanzee

Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes ellioti*) Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of the Nigeria-Cameroon Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes ellioti*)

### EXCEPTIONAL PRIORITY SITE North West Region, Cameroon

Kom-Wum Forest Reserve Recommended Actions	Potential implementing partners	Time frame	Funding requirement
Develop a proposal to create a multi-site protected area including Ako-Mbembe and Fungom Forest Reserves, together with a comprehensive management strategy to protect chimpanzees and other wildlife	MINFOF, NGO partners	5 years	\$300,000
Establish community awareness and conservation education programme in schools and communities and increase dialogue with community groups to support conservation action	MINFOF, ERuDeF, FFI, ACF	5 years	\$50,000
Develop and support law enforcement activities to curb all illegal activities	MINFOF, NGO partners	5 years	\$100,000
Investigate and develop opportunities for community engagement, including employment, boundary clearance, livelihood improvement, monitoring, and eco-tourism	MINFOF, NGO partners	5 years	\$150,000

A main domain of activities of CIRMAD is the conservation of the Endangered Cameroon-Nigeria Chimpanzee, under its Participatory Programme for the Protection of Chimpanzees (PAPPro-Chimps), in line with the Regional Action Plan



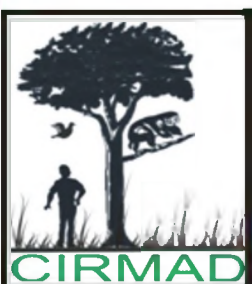
Group photo of commissioning of Steering Committee of KWFR VFMCs



CIRMAD Coordinator with community ecoguards in KWFR

## Potentials of Kom-Wum as Wildlife Sanctuary:

- A primary forest very rich in flora and fauna.
- Main habitat site of the Endangered *P. t. ellioti* in the Bamenda Highlands.
- Rated "Exceptional Priority Site" in the 2011 Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of the Nigeria-Cameroon Chimpanzee.
- Scientific confirmation of substantial chimp populations and other primates by researchers: Fotang Chefor (2020); Osiris Doumbé (2015).
- Boosts of a renewable force of village-based Community Ecoguards enlisted for surveillance and wildlife monitoring.
- General inaccessibility by vehicle, which contribute to limiting illegal exploitations.
- Substantial ecotourism potentials, like the German Rock at Mentang.
- Record involvement of conservation organizations: CIRMAD, SEKAKOH, SURUDEV, etc. with several backing donor partners.
- Village Forest Management Committees (VFMC) since created in 5 of 6 surrounding villages, for standard community participation.
- Strong local government involvement, through the trusted commitment of the Fundong and Wum (Municipal) Councils.



## 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.



This poster is produced within a project supported by Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium-PPG Conservation and Sustainability Fund

