

Community-driven Giant Pangolin Conservation in Mbam Djerem National Park (MDNP)

Pays	Cameroon
Bénéficiaire	ABOYERD
Montant total du projet	71 090 €
Montant de la subvention	35 031 €
Partenaires financiers	Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund (MBZ), Chicago Zoological Society Chicago Board of Trade Endangered Species Fund (CZS), IDEA WILD, CAMGEW, Local communities
Durée du projet	15 mois
Signature de la convention	19/02/2020

CONTEXT

The MDNP with a 416 000 ha surface area is located in central Cameroon on the southern slopes of the Adamaoua plateau and at the northern limits of the closed canopy humid forest of the Congo basin. The Park is located approximately 260 km from Yaounde and over 500 km from Dschang (location of executing organization's head office). The MDNP has the greatest habitat diversity of any protected area in Cameroon and harbors a host of species of global conservation concern including about 60 mammal species amongst which are the Central chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes troglodytes*), African elephant (*Loxodonta Africana*), Giant pangolin (*Smutsia gigantea*), African forest buffalo (*Syncerus caffer nanus*), Leopard (*Panthera pardis*) and several species of antelope and well over 360 and 30 species of birds and fish respectively. This project which targets students, farmers, hunters, cattle herders/owners and the general public will involve 7 villages surrounding the Park (northern, western and southern limits).

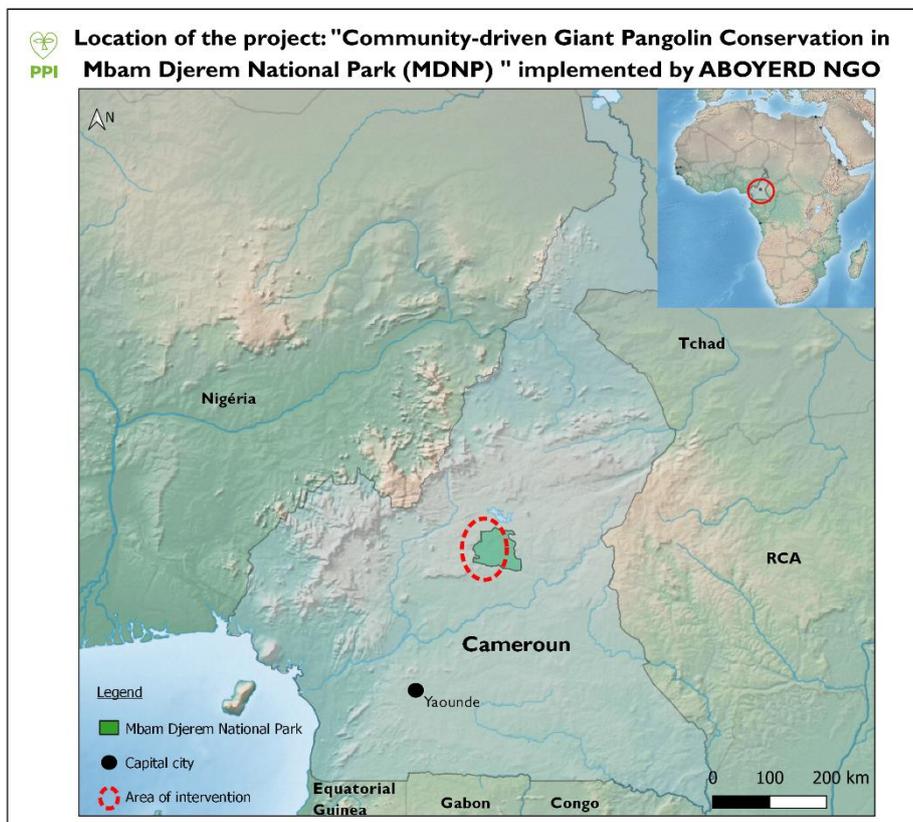
The government of Cameroon created the MDNP in 2 000 to conserve the natural richness and to promote tourism in The Mbam and Djerem Conservation Region. However, multiple users remain interested in park resources for consumptive purposes, including poachers, illegal timber exploiters, and transhumant herders moving to dry season pastures. This IUCN Species Survival Commission Pangolin Specialist Group Conservation Action Plan strongly recommends research aimed at improving knowledge on home range, movement, and distribution of pangolins through time, and population dynamics as priority action for the conservation of the species.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the project is to support the conservation of the globally threatened giant pangolin, its habitats and associated wildlife species in and around the MDNP, while improving the livelihoods of indigenous communities around the park.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Consultation meetings are organized with WCS, the Park office and each of the 7 target communities;
- 10 short radio plays broadcasted weekly and 700 copies of simplified map showing community agricultural/hunting zones drawn and distributed to the 7 target villages;
- 350 additional hunters/consumers sensitized about law related to protected species and bushmeat regulations and 350 wildlife laws and species factsheet booklets distributed;
- 3 pangolin clubs with secondary schools and 7 community livelihoods development clubs created;
- 4 ha are reforested with 15 000 trees of high economic, medicinal and ecological value planted in degraded pangolin habitats around the Park;
- 28 indigenous people from 7 villages around MDNP trained in two suitable agricultural activities;
- One exchange visit with TF-RD is organized to the Dja reserve for 7 lead farmers doing agro-forestry;
- 1 scientific study on hunting dynamics of giant pangolin and 1 scientific study on the dynamics of transhumance activities and the status of livestock production are done.



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