

## Towards community-led conservation of endangered primates in Ebo forest, Cameroon

|                                   |                                    |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Pays</b>                       | Cameroon                           |
| <b>Bénéficiaire</b>               | Ebo Forest Research Project (EFRP) |
| <b>Montant total du projet</b>    | 60 150 €                           |
| <b>Montant de la subvention</b>   | 25 650 €                           |
| <b>Partenaires financiers</b>     | San Diego Zoo Global               |
| <b>Durée du projet</b>            | 15 mois                            |
| <b>Signature de la convention</b> | 04/02/2020                         |

### CONTEXT

The proposed Ebo National Park (ENP, 1 110km<sup>2</sup>), located approximately at 60 km from Douala, in the Littoral Region is one of the most important remaining tracks of closed-canopy forest in the Gulf of Guinea biodiversity hotspot where Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes ellioti*, EN), gorillas – of unknown taxonomic affinity (*Gorilla gorilla* sp., CR), elephants (*Loxodonta cyclotis*, EN), drills (*Mandrillus leacophaeus*, EN) and Preuss' red colobus (*Piliocolobus preussi*, CR) can be found. In 2007, WWF and San Diego Zoo Global initiated the process for the creation of a national park, but WWF gave up after 6 years and to date the Ebo National Park has not yet been classified by the Government of Cameroon.

The ENP is mainly threatened by poaching and illegal trafficking but also by illegal logging and the establishment of an extensive plantation of oil palms in the buffer zone in the northwest. This plantation has not only destroyed essential primate populations and habitat, but risks exacerbating hunting and habitat destruction as many people who flood the area for low-paid jobs might seek to complement their meagre incomes through hunting and subsistence farming.

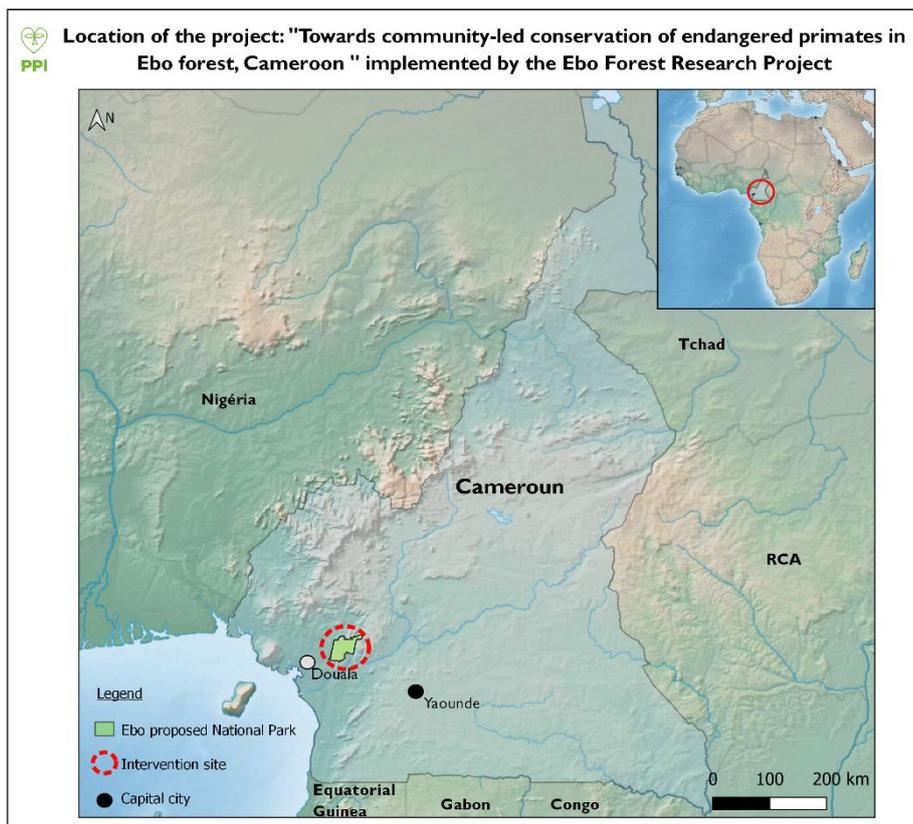
The manager of the association Ebo Forest Research Project, Dr. Abwe, is the secretary general of the African Primatological Society and also an executive committee member of the Great Ape Section (SGA) of the IUCN Primate Specialist Group.

### PURPOSE

The ultimate goals of the project are to develop the future Ebo National Park into a well-supported and managed protected area, and to establish the Ebo forest as a showcase for primate research and conservation base in the Gulf of Guinea biodiversity hotspot.

## MAIN ACTIVITIES

- The diversity of primate species frequencies and distribution, as well as the distribution and frequency of human-related threats are known ;
- An ongoing community-led conservation strategy for gorillas (in the north of Ebo) is replicated for four communities around the oil palm plantation targeting other primate species including drills, Preuss's red colobus monkeys, and Preuss's monkeys ;
- At least one sustainable alternative livelihood project is promoted and is benefiting at least 50% of members in each of the 4 targeted communities.



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