



JENGI NEWSLETTER

JULY 2022

A BI-MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF JENGI PROGRAMME, SOUTHEAST CAMEROON

HOW **SAPELLI SMARTPHONES** ARE HELPING BAKA TO COLLECT DATA ON NTFP, HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION



Thanks to Sapelli smartphones, indigenous Baka people living around Lobeke National Park in the Southeast of Cameroon are able to collect data linked to non-timber forest products; poaching, human-wildlife conflicts and human rights violations. Sapelli is an open-source project that facilitates data collection across language or literacy barriers through highly configurable icon-driven user interfaces. The data collection is within the context of an Extreme Citizen Science (ExCiteS) project being implemented in six Baka communities around Lobeke with the support of the London College and WWF Germany.

As part of activities to monitor the access of indigenous people to natural resources within the national park and the adjacent forest, data has been collected using the Sapelli in six pilot communities. Partial results show that more than 78% of the data collected were linked to NTFPs (Bush mango, honey) 14% wildlife sightings (chimpanzee, gorilla & buffalo), 4.2% human-wildlife conflicts (monkeys, rodents) and 1.7% poaching signs (hunting camps, line of wire snare). Cases of alcohol abuse/fighting (0.8%) were also recorded in May 2022.





FOOD & AGRICULTURE: SIX BANKABLE PROJECTS SUPPORTED TO FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE

Six projects aimed to mitigate the causes and impact of climate change and reduce biodiversity loss in the Cameroon segment of the Trinational Dja-Odzala-Minkebe (TRIDOM) landscape are receiving technical support from WWF and partners to attract potential business partners.

The projects were selected from a highly competitive bid launched by WWF within the context of the Mobilising More for Climate (MoMo4C) project implemented in Yokadouma and Ngoyla subdivisions in the East Region of Cameroon.

Launched in November 2021, the contest saw the submission of over 100 project proposals from local, national as well as international contestants.

MoMo4C is a five-year project that aims to bring together entrepreneurs, firms, policymakers, investors and civil society organisations to make green business propositions that tackle the impacts and causes of climate change, and to attract investments to implement these initiatives.

[Read More](#)



Cameroon Human Rights Commission official, Victor Nsinsai explaining to participants the importance of embedding the respect of human rights in their work

MORE ECO-GUARDS, LOCAL PEOPLES, SPORT HUNTERS RECEIVE HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING



Eco-guards brainstorming on practical human rights cases linked to their work



Cross-section of participants

In continuous efforts to ensure that the rights of indigenous people and local communities are respected during anti-poaching activities in southeast Cameroon, WWF in collaboration with Cameroon's Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOP) and the National Human Rights Commission have trained eco-guards and other local stakeholders on human rights.

Organized in Mambele in Lobeke National Park from 24-26 May 2022, some 70 people including 31 eco-guards, 20 local anti-poaching committees (COVILAB), sports hunting organizations (Faro-Lobeke and Mayo-Oldiri), the military, local

human rights civil society organizations such as ONDH and CEFAID, and Baka representatives (ASBABUK) took part in the training. Training modules developed and delivered by a team of experts from the Ministries of Forestry and Wildlife, Justice, the Gendarmerie, the Cameroon Human Rights Commission and WWF, included the rights of indigenous and local communities, the national strategy for the fight against poaching, techniques of identifying wildlife products, investigation and interrogation techniques, writing incident reports and the Baka association ASBABUK and MINFOP MoU.

Training modules developed and delivered by a team of experts from the Ministries of Forestry and Wildlife, Justice, the Gendarmerie, the Cameroon Human Rights Commission and WWF, included the rights of indigenous and local communities

EUROPEAN UNION, GIZ, KFW, FTNS DELEGATION VISITS LOBEKE

A delegation from the European Union (EU), the German International Cooperation (GIZ), the German Development Bank (KFW) and the Sangha Trinational (TNS) Foundation visited the Lobeke National Park to appreciate its conservation work and challenges. The visiting Delegation explained the main thematic areas of interest to the EU in sub-Saharan Africa, which are sustainable food production, biodiversity and environment, and climate mitigation and resilience. In Cameroon, the EU is interested in developing a project from the east of Dja to Lobeke National Park. Lobeke benefits considerable financial support from the KFW and the FTNS that enables the Lobeke management to preserve the world heritage site and contribute to local development.



Visiting Delegation with staff of Lobeke National Park at end of meeting

USE OF DRONES IN BIO-MONITORING SHOWS PROMISING RESULTS



To test a methodological approach in the observation and listing of animal species populations in forest clearings in Lobéké National Park, ecological monitoring activities were carried out by drones in several of its target clearings during the months of February through April 2022. The approach was experimented by HANSEN Michael, a second-year Bio-engineer Master student of Liege Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech University, Belgium. During this period, three missions were conducted in six different clearings, with a total of 17 monthly flights carried out on the whole of the baïs. Videos of the baïs and their fauna, such as buffaloes, sitatunga, forest elephant, the bush pig, the gorilla or the African grey parrot were recorded.

39 CAMERA TRAPS SET UP AT LOBEKE CORE ZONE TO ASSESS WILDLIFE ABUNDANCE

In order to assess the abundance and distribution of wildlife species in Lobeke National Park, two students from the University of Gembloux, Belgium, installed 39 camera traps at the core zone of the park, while another student is monitoring the reaction of wildlife (gorillas, buffaloes and red river hog) in the presence of a drone.

Partial results from videos captured by a drone indicated that elephants and buffaloes have returned to Bolo forest clearing. The permanent presence of ecoguards at PK27 closer to Bolo forest clearing might have deterred poachers and wildlife is gradually returning to their natural habitat.



Installation of camera trap by WWF staff, eco-guard and Gembloux University student



WWF, LOCAL COMMUNITIES WORKING TO REGENERATE DEGRADED FORESTS

Three plant nurseries were created in three communities comprising 1150 tree seedlings; 1,5 ha of fallows in community forests were reforested with 800 fruit trees, while 32,2 ha of the council forest was regenerated with 1000 forest tree species.

Yokadouma Council forest and surrounding community forests have been exploited for many decades and are facing forest degradation due mostly to slash and burn agriculture and unsustainable logging.

In order to strengthen the environmental services of the council forest and three community forests, WWF launched in 2021 a project to support the responsible management of Council and Community forests in TRIDOM Cameroon Landscape. As part of the implementation, WWF identified fallows and other degraded areas in the Yokadouma Council forest and three community forests, trained over 200 indigenous people and local communities, council and community forest managers on environmental and social best practices, creation of plant nurseries as well as tree planting techniques.

Thanks to the training and material

provided by WWF, three plant nurseries were created in three communities comprising 1150 tree seedlings; 1,5 ha of fallows in community forests were reforested with 800 fruit trees, while 32,2 ha of the council forest was regenerated with 1000 forest tree species.

The engagement of the communities (Bienemama, Landjoué and Parny) in the project follows prior consultation and sensitisation meetings in villages, where the local peoples including the Baka wholeheartedly welcomed the project and collectively listed their needs. The project, which will also be implemented in the Ngoyla Council forest and surrounding community forests, aims to create local markets for timber and non-timber forest products as well as employment opportunities for indigenous and local communities.

PARK MANAGEMENT:

PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME FOR YOUTHS

Marlyse Bebe Guewa and Frédemi Sebeneli are natives of Mambele village for the Lobeke National Park (world heritage site within the TNS lands in the southeast of Cameroon). They have been working with the Park since 2014 when they were formally recruited as biomonitoring assistants. They participate in field biomonitoring by collecting data on wildlife presence in forest clearings (bais) and setting camera traps to film animals in the forest. As biomonitoring assistants, they lead teams into the forest comprising local Bantu and Baka community members (most of them youths) living in villages around the Park.

While they are proud that they are contributing to the conservation of their natural heritage, they have a sense of fulfilment that the revenue they make has helped them to provide shelter for them and their families.

Bebe Guewa (mother of two) beams with joy as she talks about her achievement. From the savings of her income working in the forest, she was able to build for herself and her family a modest plank house in Mambele. Bebe Guewa explains how she achieved this.

[Read More](#)



Marlyse by her house



Sebeneli points to his farmland

HEALTH & WELLBEING

ADDRESSING WATER CRISIS IN COMMUNITIES

To contribute to the improvement of the sustainable management of clean water points (wells) while reinforcing the active participation of communities adjacent Lobeke National Park, 10 water management committees were created, with 09 trained and /or revitalized, 04 local repairing water points identified and trained (Mambélé, Mboli, Koumela, Nguilili). Five wells were repaired and a list of spare parts established to be bought and donated to the water management committees in the various communities.





ERNEST ADJINA: BAKA PATRIARCH WHO LED ASBABUK TO SIGN MOU WITH GOV'T

Baka patriarch, Ernest Adjina, is seen as a hero among the indigenous communities of Southeast Cameroon, having led the indigenous Baka people to sign a historic memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the country's Minister of Forestry and Wildlife in February 2019.

The convention with government grants the Baka people access right into three national parks in the East Region; Lobéké, Boumba-Bek and Nki. Before the signing of this MoU, the Baka could not freely access these protected areas that harbor natural resources important for the Baka.

Born in the forest of Lobéké some 65 years ago, Adjina knows that the forest is sacred and central to the Baka's survival. "I grew up with my parents in this forest of Lobéké, feeding on wild yams and honey. My parents carried out fishing and hunting. They showed me the way of the forest by initiating me into the jengi (a sacred Baka traditional ritual that is performed to fortify and protect young Baka in the forest).

[READ MORE](#)



TECHNICAL ADVISER, VOLUNTEERS RECRUITED

A Technical Adviser, a volunteer biologist and a local community facilitator have been recruited to reinforce the WWF staff in Lobeke. To further improve on the quantity and quality of staff at Mambele, procedures are ongoing to finalize the recruitment of a mechanic, junior biologist and a junior accountant in June 2022. The new Technical Adviser, Philip Tem Dia, is holder of an MSc in Natural Resources and Environmental Management from the University of Buea, and comes on board with over 10 years of national and international professional experience in Conservation. Before joining WWF, Tem Dia worked as Site Manager of Wonezigi & Wologizi Northwest Landscape based in Liberia. The new Technical Adviser will work with the Lobeke Park Conservator, the Programme Manager of Jengi TNS as well as other MINFOF and WWF field staff and support the coordination of technical work linked to bio-monitoring, law enforcement and community development.



Philip Tem Dia, Lobeke Technical Adviser

HYGIENE & SANITATION:

13 PILOT SCHOOLS RECEIVE HANDWASHING KITS, TRAINING



Park staff (MINFOF and WWF) supervise handwashing session in a school

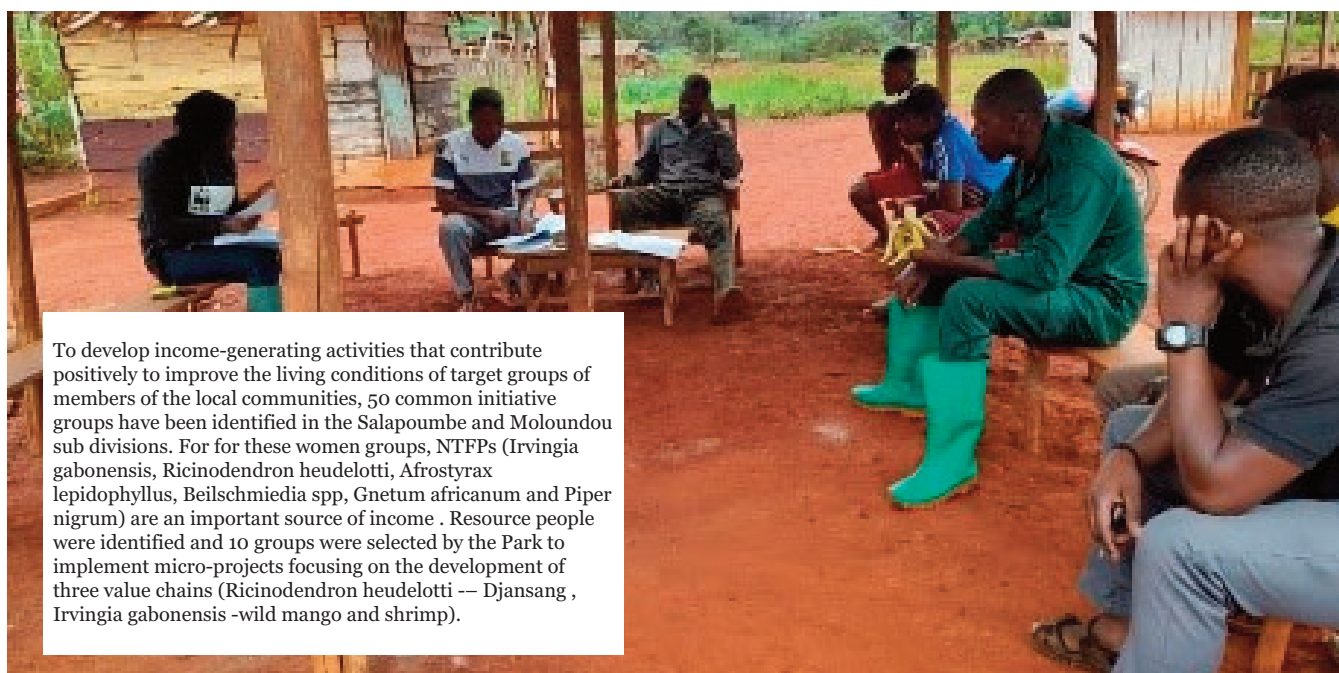
Within the framework of promoting hygiene and sanitation through handwashing in schools and colleges, awareness kits (13 large hand washing buckets, 26 buckets of 10 liters, 225 pieces of soap (3 boxes + 45 pieces), 150 hydro-alcoholic gels (400ml each) and 300 nose plugs) were installed in 13 pilot schools, 8 in Moloundou district and 5 in Salapoumbé district.



School children practice handwashing in one of the schools

Two environmental clubs were revived in Government Primary School Momboué and Government Secondary School of Mikel in Salapoumbé district. Overall, 1,318 students were sensitized on environmental education and hand hygiene in the schools.

10 CIGS SELECTED TO IMPLEMENT COMMUNITY PROJECTS



To develop income-generating activities that contribute positively to improve the living conditions of target groups of members of the local communities, 50 common initiative groups have been identified in the Salapoumbé and Moloundou sub divisions. For for these women groups, NTFPs (*Irvingia gabonensis*, *Ricinodendron heudelotti*, *Afrostryax lepidophyllus*, *Beilschmiedia* spp, *Gnetum africanum* and *Piper nigrum*) are an important source of income . Resource people were identified and 10 groups were selected by the Park to implement micro-projects focusing on the development of three value chains (*Ricinodendron heudelotti* --- Djansang , *Irvingia gabonensis* -wild mango and shrimp).



SIX CLEARINGS MONITORED FOR WILDLIFE

477 hours were spent observing wildlife in six forest clearings (Ndangaye, Djaloumbe, Petite savanne, Bolo, Djangui 1 and Djangui 2). Gorillas were observed at Petite Savanne and Ndangaye while elephants were observed at Djangui 2 and Ndangaye. Buffaloes and Sitatungas were observed in all six forest clearings. Vocalization of chimpanzees were recorded at Ndangaye and Bolo. Each forest clearing was monitored for at least 10 days. Elephants have started returning to Djangui 2 forest clearing during the day as the area is secured from poachers.

PARK MANAGEMENT DIALOGUES WITH COMMUNITY TO ADDRESS WORRIES

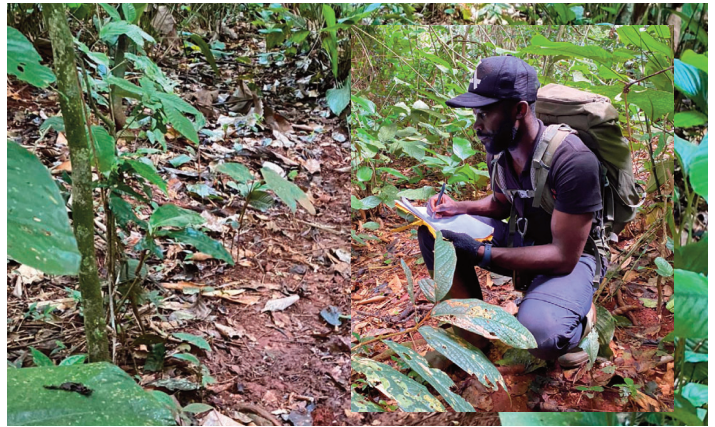
A social discussion was organized between Mambele community and the Lobeke Park management to listen to the problems of the community and to pass on conservation messages. It was explained to the community that a SAFE approach will soon be put in place in addition to the human-wildlife conflicts mitigation measures already being implemented in the community. Some community members whose crops were destroyed in the process of constructing the eco-guards' lodges were compensated. Mambele community welcome the conservation bonus concept to be implemented in communities adjacent the national park.

IP, LOCAL COMMUNITIES CONSULTED ON REVISION OF MANAGEMENT PLAN

The consultation of indigenous people and local communities in preparation to produce the first draft of the management plan renewal for Lobeke national park was conducted. Indigenous people and the local communities raised concerns about human wildlife conflicts especially crop raiding by elephants and that some hunting safari's do not allow the local people to pass through their hunting zones to get access to the park as indicated in the ASBABUK-MINFOF MOU where indigenous people are given access to collect NTFPs in Lobeke national park.

BEE-HIVES AS MITIGATION MEASURE FOR HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICTS

The colonization rate (5%) of beehives installed as mitigation measures against human elephant conflict at Lokomo and Koumela was very low after three months of installation as 70% of the beehives were infested with termites. The beehives were cleaned and engine oil applied to the stands of the beehives to prevent the termites from climbing into the beehives.



TRACKING ELEPHANT TRAILS TO PREDICT HUMAN-ELEPHANT CONFLICT

In order to improve the understanding of the movement of elephants into the agroforestry zone in the north east of the park, a student from the university of Montpellier has tracked elephant trails and camera traps have been installed on the elephant trails. This study will assist in predicting human-elephant conflict in the zone which will further help improve on the mitigation measures against human elephant conflict being put in place.

09 ARRESTED FOR POACHING, FACING THE JUDICIARY



To deter illegal activities within the national park, 05 anti-poaching patrols were carried out within the park where 9 poachers were arrested with smoked bushmeat south of Libongo and these suspected poachers were handed over to the judiciary at Yokadouma. 54000F CFA was generated from auctioning the bushmeat. Detailed analysis of the anti-poaching patrols are not yet completed as some patrol teams are still in the forest.

COVAREF BUREAUS TRAINED ON FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Aimed at improving the governance within local wildlife management committees (COVAREF 1, 2 & 3), 45 members of these COVAREF offices were trained in administrative, financial and accounting management, identification, analysis and planning of projects, communication and participatory facilitation. This will assist in transparency in the management of the executive bureaus of COVAREF.



LOBEKE GUEST HOUSE CONNECTED BY WIFI

Lobeke Guest House and residences are now connected to internet through VSat. Visitors (researchers, tourists and others) staying the night at the guest house can now access to wifi and communicate with the world. The VSat was installed with funds from Reviving Conservation Capacity, to provide internet at the guest house and staff houses at Mambele. CCPO management further validated the urgent construction of studios for staff at Mambele and service providers were contacted. This will lead to improved sense of well-being, of motivation to work, and to improved performance by WWF staff at Mambele. This will also reflect positively on our reputation regarding staff welfare and will likely lead to higher staff retention.

180 ADDITIONAL CAMERA TRAPS TO BOOST ECOLOGICAL MONITORING



To improve wildlife monitoring within Lobeke national park, WWF Germany donated 180 camera traps of which 30 will be given to TRIDOM, 5 solar chargers, 10 torches, 30 LCD battery chargers and 100 SanDisk 32 GB memory cards. The protocol to install the camera traps at the various forest clearings at Lobeke was updated.



WWF MISSION



To stop the degradation of our planet's natural environment, and build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

FOLLOW US:
 Website: cameroon.panda.org
 Facebook: facebook.com/WWFCameroon

PUBLISHER
Clotilde Ngomba

EDITOR
Ernest Sumelong

EDITORIAL ADVISERS
 Fidelis Pegue Manga
 Romanus Ikfuingei
 Dr. Peter Mbile
 Gilles Etoga
 Philip Tem Dia

For additional information kindly contact the Editor at Endjomo@wwfcam.org





