

GLOBAL WILDLIFE PROGRAM

PROJECT: Integrated and Transboundary Conservation of Biodiversity in the Basins of the Republic of Cameroon

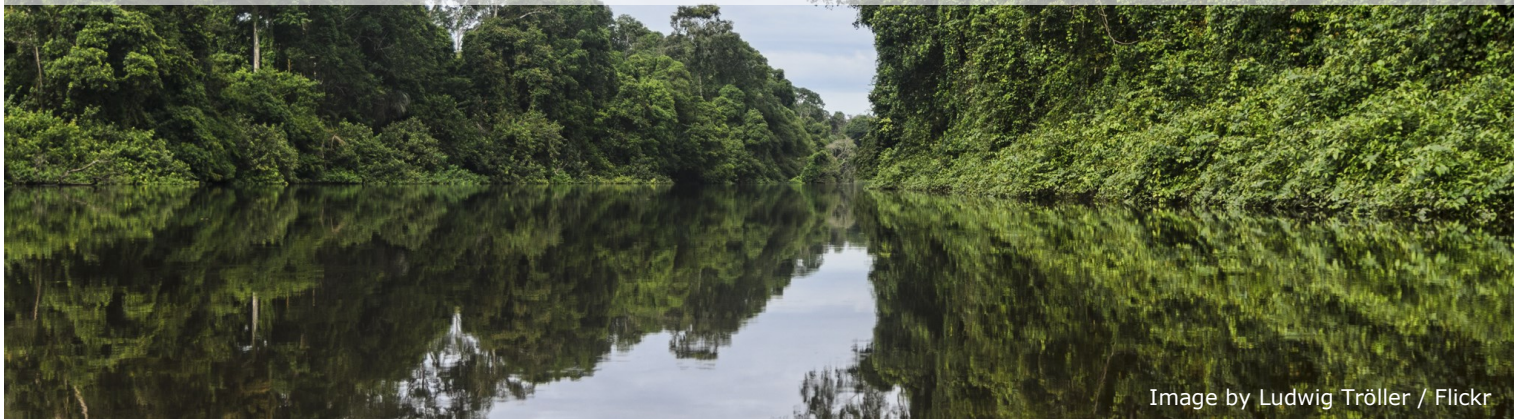


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OVERVIEW

Project Sites: Dja, Boumba Bek and Nki Protected Areas, Megame, Ngoyla Wildlife Reserve and Lobeke Gorilla Sanctuary

Species Focus: Elephants, Low-land gorillas, Pangolins and Chimpanzees

Total Project Cost: US \$3.9 million

Executing Partner: Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife

GEF Implementing Agency: UNDP

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CONTEXT

Cameroon's forests are a core element of the Congo Basin forest ecosystem, the second largest remaining contiguous block of rainforest on Earth, covering almost 200 million hectares in Central Africa. With a deforestation rate of 0.14% per year and a forest elephant population that has declined by 62% in the last ten years, Cameroon is facing severe environmental threats. Furthermore, illegal wildlife trade compromises the integrity of the forest system, and law enforcement officials lack resources, tools, equipment and financial means to combat poaching and overhunting. Cameroon's conservation efforts include the establishment of a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and the National Ivory Action Plan (NIAP), the development of the 2003 National Action Plan for the Conservation of Great Apes, and regional transboundary biodiversity agreements.

PROJECT COMPONENTS

The GWP Cameroon project aims to strengthen the conservation of globally threatened species by improving biodiversity enforcement, resilience and management. The project's main components are:

- Strengthening capacity for effective protected area (PA) and illegal wildlife trade (IWT) governance in Cameroon
- Improving management of globally significant protected areas in the forest landscapes of Cameroon
- Reducing wildlife crime in the Cameroon forest landscapes affecting threatened species [site level]

PROJECT FOCUS

- Protected Area (PA) management plans and capacity building for PA staff on legislation, enforcement, wildlife monitoring, planning, budgeting, and community outreach.
- Antipoaching (brigades and posts; community based poaching and IWT surveillance and monitoring system)
- Transboundary integrated management
- Implementation of National strategy for combatting illegal wildlife trade (Wildlife Crime Unit strengthened; monitoring system for wildlife crime established)
- Human-wildlife conflict mitigation and prevention

