

- *Leptodactylodon wildi* is an amphibian species endemic to the Bakossi area, with known specimens only from the vicinity of the villages of Kodmin and Edib in the Bakossi Mountains. Some species collected for food include *Conraua crassipes*, *C. goliath*, *C. robusta*, *Trichobatrachus robustus*, *Astylosternus* spp., *Xenopus amieti*, and *Kassina decorata*. *Trichobatrachus robustus* is particularly harvested for the international pet trade ; it is reported that the males of this species are mystical, and important in alleviating barrenness in childless couples who eat them (Ngonwouo and Rodel, 2008).

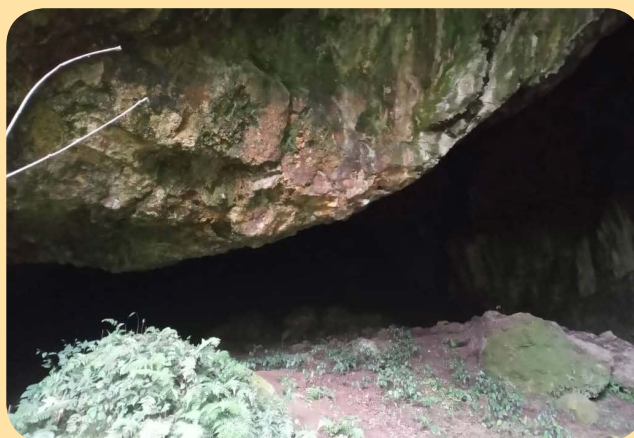
- Commonly called the goliath frog, it is highly exploited as a protein source and is regarded as a delicacy in the landscape. As pressure on the population increases, the frogs migrate further into the forest, with some communities experiencing local extinction.

Ecotourism and Research potentials

- Muandelengoh female and male rocks with a rich traditional significance
- Ndipsi and Mbwogmut Hot Springs
- Kuku and Menyom falls of Western Bakossi Nyallo Rock
- Muahunzum caves very rich in bats
- Menge and Mesaka Dykes
- Lake Edip



Muanenguba twin lakes



Muahunzum bat cave

For more information

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BAKOSSI NATIONAL PARK



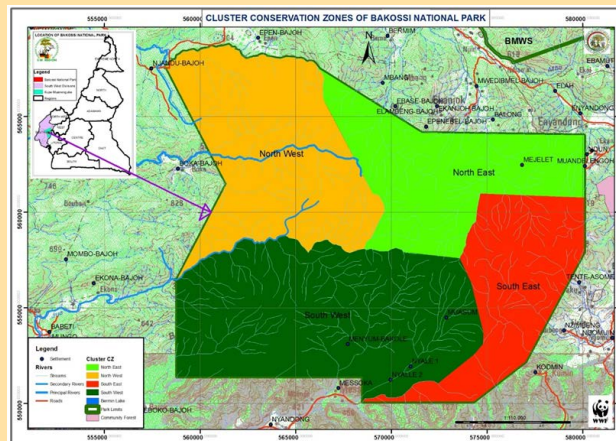
Background and History

Created by Prime Ministerial Decree N° 2007/1459/ PM of 28th November 2007, the Bakossi National Park (BNP) covers a surface area of 29,320 ha, and straddles 3 sub-divisions (Bangem, Tombel and Nguti) of the Kupe-Muanenguba Division, South West Region. It is the only National Park in the Cameroon Highlands Forests Eco-region. The BNP ranges in altitude from 300m to 1895m a.s.l. giving rise to three main vegetation types: the Sub-Montane Forest, the Atlantic Forest of the North West type which is not dominated by the Caesalpiniaceae species but with semi deciduous elements, and the Atlantic Biafran forest rich in Caesalpiniaceae. This accounts for the huge floral variety of the area, characterized with a high level of endemism and determines the variety of habitats and the corresponding diversity of fauna species.

A total of 36 villages make up the Park area, with their different activities affecting the integrity of the park directly and indirectly.

The Bakossi are the largest member of a linguistic group often referred to as the Mbo group comprising about 70,000 people found in and around the Bakossi National Park. They have a mystical origin as the descendants of the founder ancestor and tribal hero, Ngoue, (literally meaning Leopard) who is buried in planted secret grove Muekan Village in the Bakossi Mountains.

Where we work



The Park is mountainous in nature, with its highest peak, at Muandelengoe (1895 m asl), which occurs south of the River Mbwe valley very conspicuous from Bangem, the headquarter of the Park. It is close to some important existing and proposed protected areas and Community Forests, including the Banyang-Mbo Wildlife Sanctuary, FMU 11-007A, FMU 11-007B, Bakossi Forest Reserve, Mungo Forest Reserve, the proposed Mounts Kupe and Muanenguba Integral Ecological Reserves, Muaku and Ndise-Ekeb Community Forests.

Close to the BNP is the famous twin Kupe-Muanenguba lakes. The twin lakes are considered from time past as the pride of the people. These lakes are believed to be source of ancestral power to the people, and its beautiful scenery has always attracted people from worldwide to visit the area.

Specificities of the park

- A conservation checklist, The Plants of Kupe, Mwanenguba and the Bakossi Mountains, Cameroon, published by RBG Kew, reveals that this area contains 2,412 vascular plant species (updated to 2,440 following the returned RBG Kew - National Herbarium of Cameroon expedition), of which 82 are strictly endemic to the checklist area and 232 are Red Data taxa, i.e. threatened with extinction according to IUCN 2001 criteria.
- The Bakossi Montane forest contains the largest tract of cloud forest in West and Central Africa, and this forms part of a larger tract of forest that extends northwards to the Bamboutous Mountains.
- The area is home to many primate species including the highly endangered Drill (*Mandrillus leucophaeus*), and the Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*), Preuss's monkey (*Cercopithecus preussi*), Red-eared monkey (*Cercopithecus erythrotis*), Putty-nosed guenon (*Cercopithecus nictitans*), Red-capped Mangabey (*Cercocebus torquatus*), and Preuss' Red Colobus (*Piliocolobus pennanti preussi*) (Faucher, 1999), including the mona monkey (*Cercopithecus mona*).
- Local communities have reported observing some elephants along the BNP and the Banyang-Mbo Wildlife Sanctuary corridor, which is in the north of the BNP, and near the Lake Edib area.