



# BAKOSSI NATIONAL PARK

**THE ONLY NATIONAL PARK IN THE CAMEROON  
HIGHLANDS FOREST ECOLOGICAL REGION**



**A baby Cameroon-Nigeria chimpanzee rescued by the park service and taken to the Limbe Wildlife Centre.**

## Background

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 Ecoregion. 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.

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, Ngoe, (literally meaning Leopard) who is buried in planted secret grove Muekan Village in the Bakossi Mountains.

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.

## Approach

The collaborative management approach is used for the management of the park with the support of the Programme for the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the South West Region (PSMNR-SWR), co-sponsored by the Cameroon Government and the German Government through the German Development Bank (KfW). Conservation and development measures are being implemented with the communities.



## Achievements with the Programme for the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the South West Region (PSMNR-SWR)

Cluster conservation and development agreements (CCDAs) were negotiated and signed with 03 clusters with the participation of relevant stakeholders including the municipal councils and Local Support Organizations.

Community white pepper farms established in 20 communities as source of community revenue to enhance conservation and community development.

In the framework of the hunter engagement strategy hunters are identified and engaged in a strategy aimed to change their livelihood options. The following activities have been carried out in Bakossi National Park :

- Community-based surveillance conducted together with repentant poachers and members of VFCs, with over 3,000 wire traps dismantled and 500 empty cartridge shells collected ;
- 25 repentant poachers received vocational training at Buea for nine months on skills including building/construction, driving, mechanics, Hotel catering, ICT, welding, electricity and were supported to establish into these alternative means of income ;
- 17 repentant poachers trained in modern beekeeping, with a total of 340 beehives installed;
- 27 repentant poachers were trained in piggery and benefited from a pigsty and were handed 10 piglets each and feed as alternative livelihood options.

The park service was able to rescue of a baby Cameroon-Nigeria Chimpanzee in April 2022 with intelligence information from key community-based informants in an in-park settlement.



Repentant poachers have received piglets as alternative source of income.



Sample apiary for repentant poachers.



Sensitization of public during celebration of World Pangolin Day 2022.

For more information

### Contact Us

Bakossi National Park - Bangem  
Tel : (+237) 685 568 588  
Email : etagha@yahoo.com

