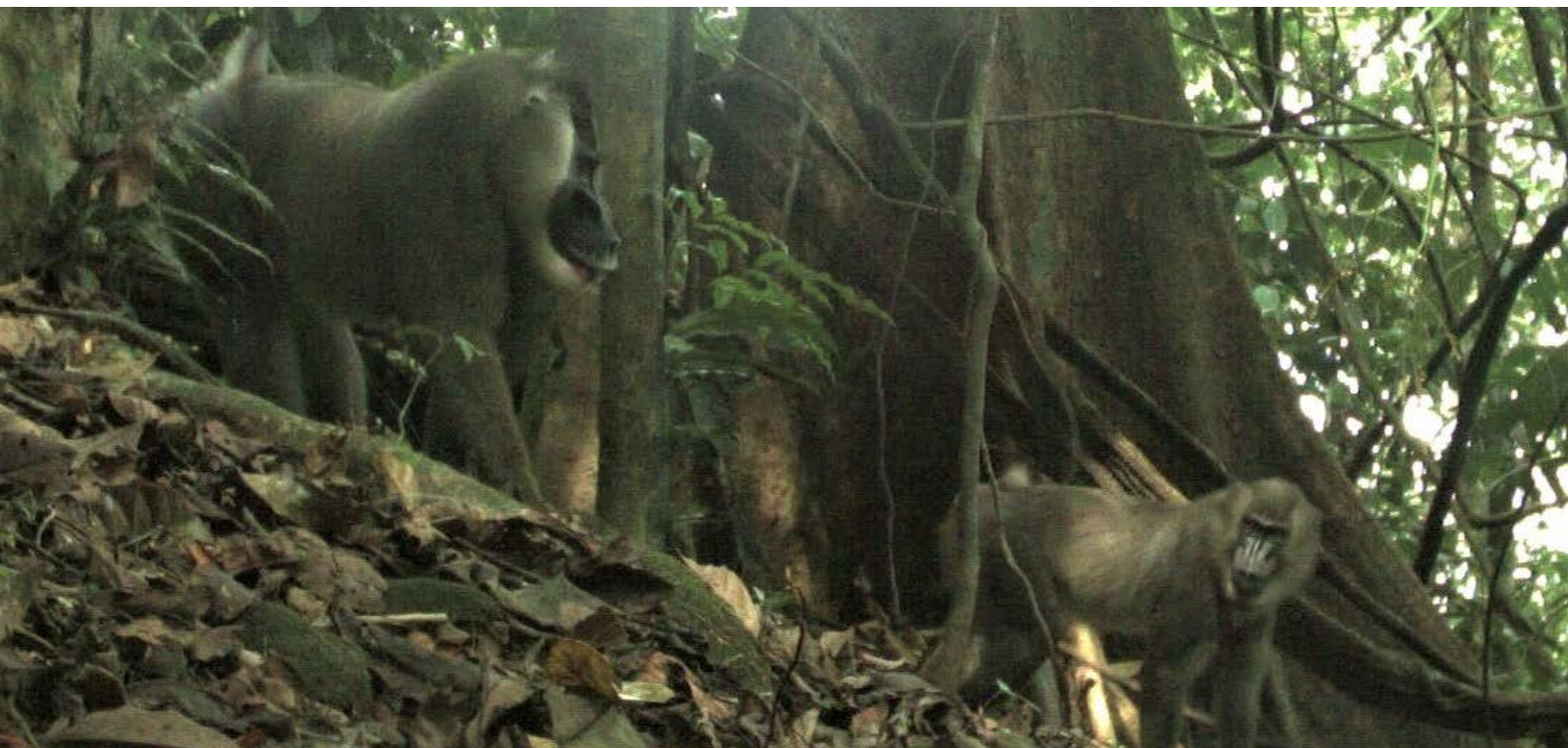




BAYANG MBO WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

FOR THE PROTECTION OF LARGE MAMMALS



Drills in the sanctuary.

Background

The Banyang-Mbo Wildlife Sanctuary was created by a prime ministerial decree n° 96/119 of 12th March 1996 and covers a total surface area of 66,220 hectares. Located within the north-western part of the Lower Guinea forest, which is one of the world's richest lowland rainforests in terms of biodiversity, this Sanctuary possesses one of the highest plant diversities in Central Africa. It falls within the permanent forest estate as prescribed in the Cameroon Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries Law established on the 20th of January 1994.

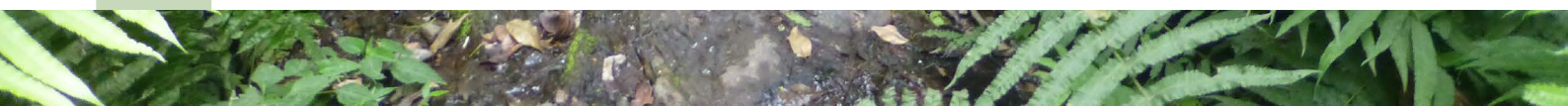
The Sanctuary was designed specifically to protect its populations of large mammals, particularly the forest elephant (*Loxodonta cyclotis*) where their numbers recorded were higher than anywhere else in Western Cameroon. Among the four species of pangolins found in Africa, three are found in BMWS: the white-bellied pangolin (*Phataginus tricuspis*; Endangered), the giant pangolin (*Manis gigantea*; Endangered) and the black-bellied pangolin (*Phataginus tetradactyl*; Endangered) and with the tropical

rainforest's ecological setting of this Wildlife Sanctuary, there are possibilities of having pangolins at high numbers that need to be conserved at this early stage.

In Cameroon, all these species of pangolins fall under Category 'A' wildlife species that are completely protected by the law.

Also, the Sanctuary is home to at least 38 species of large and medium-sized mammals including the chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes vellerosus*) and the drill (*Mandrillus leucophaeus*), both of which are endemic to South East Nigeria and South West Cameroon and are endangered species according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) criteria.

The forest buffalo (*Syncerus caffer nanus*), yellow-backed duiker (*Cephalophus sylvicultor*), and the water chevrotain (*Hyemoschus aquaticus*), all recorded as near-threatened species, are also present within and around the sanctuary.





Also found in this Sanctuary are some endemic plants such as *Ossiculum aurantiacum*, *Coffea charrieriana*, *Kupea martinetugei* and *Rothmannia ebamutensis*.

The Sanctuary is also classified as an Important Bird Area. However, the Sanctuary is threatened by illegal hunting, deforestation, encroachment, enclavement, unsustainable NTFPs collection, river poisoning resulting in biodiversity depletion and wildlife habitat destruction

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

- Cluster Conservation Development Agreements signed with Ebamut and Banyue clusters ;
- Priority livelihoods activities for two clusters assessed and implementation ongoing ;
- 13 nurseries of over 170,000 seedlings of crops and NTFPs established in 9 communities ;
- 30,000 seedlings of cocoa and NTFPS distributed to 201 identified forest users ;
- 9 communities supported with assorted nursery tools and equipment ;
- 19 monitoring and community-based surveillance of thirty eight-man days conducted ;
- 20 repentant poachers from BMWS taking training at COIC Buea as alternatives to poaching ;
- Four cooperatives legally registered in four communities of the Banyue cluster.



Trap removal by repented poachers.



Handing over of piglets to repented poacher in Nzobi.



Children in Songlu village with trees after training trees.

For more information

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