



TAKAMANDA NATIONAL PARK

HOME TO THE CRITICALLY ENDANGERED
CROSS RIVER GORILLA



Creation and location

Created as a Forest Reserve Order No. 53 of 23rd August 1934 in Forestry Ordinance Section 35 and Gazette No. 44 by the British colonial administration as amended in Forestry Ordinance (Cap.75) Order, 1954 of 1st August 1957, the Park was created on 21st November 2008 by Prime Ministerial decree No. 2008/2751/PM. It covers a surface area of 67,599 hectares and lies between longitudes 050 55'– 060 22'N and latitudes 090 10'– 090 35'E in the SWR of Cameroon. The park is found in Akwaya Sub Division in Manyu Division. The park shares boundary with Cross River National park in Nigeria, Okwango Section.

The Takamanda National park is host to 22 large mammal species in seven families including the critically endangered Cross River gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla diehli*), the endangered Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes ellioti*), the drill (*Mandrillus leucophaeus*), Preuss's Guenon (*Cercopithecus preussi*), forest elephant (*Loxodonta africana cyclotis*), the vulnerable red

eared guenon (*Cercopithecus erythrotis*), the red river hog (*Potamochoerus porcus porcus*), blue duiker (*Cephalophus monticola*), forest buffalo (*Syncerus caffer nanus*), yellow backed duiker (*Cephalophus silvicultor*) Pangolins (White and Black bellied) and the crown guenon (*Cercopithecus pogonias*). High hunting pressures for bushmeat over the years have reduced populations of all these species to very low levels and sparse distributions means that the biggest challenge facing the Takamanda National Park is to implement management interventions that will permit the recovery of these depleted large mammal populations.

The Cross River gorilla: Takamanda National Park is one of only 12 known or so sites in Nigeria and Cameroon where the Cross River gorilla is found. The Cross-River gorilla is the most endangered of the 4 sub-species of gorilla with a total population estimated to be between 200 -250 individuals.



Participatory resource mapping in one of the park enclaves.



Community multipurpose nursery for agroforestry purposes.



Repentant poachers handing over guns to park service.

For more information

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

- PSMNR-SWR is supporting the park in surveys in the three enclave villages in the park for a land management process in order to attain more rational and efficient land use ;
- PSMNR supported Takamanda National Park in the construction of head quarter at Kajifu, 64 km Motor bike earth roads linking some communities, 4 rangers' posts at Obonyi 1, Mbilishi, kekpani, Kalumo, 2 storage facilities at Takamanda and Nfakwe, 01 integrated health centre at Matene ;
- PSMNR has supplied cassava processing units to some communities (Assam, Takpe, Kajifu II), a rice hulling machine to Tinta, a Multi-purpose nurseries (mainly bush mango) have been established in 11 communities; seedlings are planted in community forests, on park boundaries and to enrich private farmlands ;
- 8 students from Takamanda NP are being sponsored by PSMNR through a two year scholarship scheme. To attend forestry schools and universities.

In the framework of the PSMNR Phase IV 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 Takamanda National Park :

- 27 guns were collected from 27 repentant poachers which are currently undergoing a vocational training in a vocational training centre in Buea taking different trade options like wood work, auto mechanics, plumbing and Fashion design ;
- 07 repentant poachers are currently constructing poultry pens in the communities and 04 are constructing pig stys for a piggery project.