

Attractions of the Mount Cameroon National Park

Mount Cameroon is the highest mountain in West and Central Africa with a unique unbroken altitudinal vegetation gradient from evergreen lowland rainforest at sea level through sub montane and montane forest to alpine grassland near its summit at about 4100 m asl. It is a biodiversity hotspot with many endemic flora and fauna species. Furthermore, Mount Cameroon is an active volcano erupting approximately every 20 years with numerous craters, crater lakes, caves, lava flows and ash fields. It presents a fascinating, diverse and astonishing landscape, ideal for hiking tours.

Mount Cameroon is a unique point of observation for elephants, chimpanzees, drills, Preuss' monkey and bush bocks. It has an important bird diversity and is an interesting place for bird watching. You can find here the endemic Mt Cameroon Franklin. The mountain is a goo spto to enjoy beautiful views of the night sky and stars.

Visitor accomodation

Two eco-lodges, one situated at 2,850 M altitude and one at 2,300 m altitude, have been build by PSMNR-SWR in the park and are operational all year around.



Fako Mountain Lodge.



Visitor cabin Mann Spring's Mountain Lodge.



For more information

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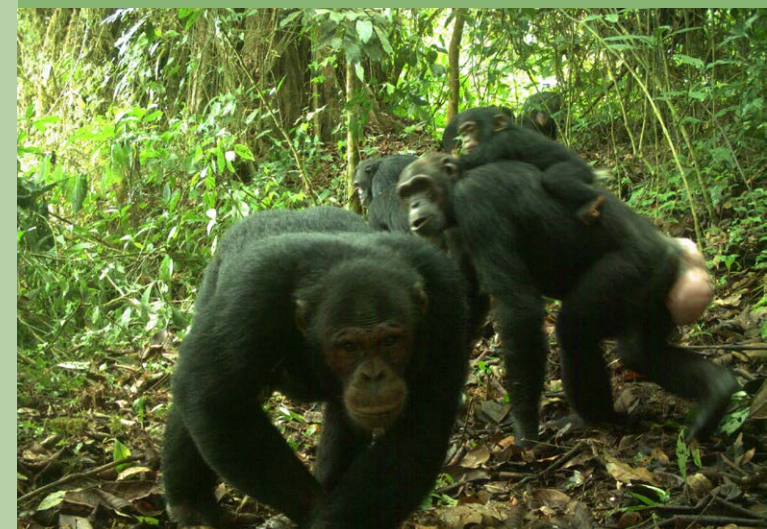
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MT CAMEROON NATIONAL PARK



Our objectives

- To safeguard the animal and plant species as well as their habitats.
- To regulate the hydro geographical regime of the area.
- To explore the potential sources of revenue through ecotourism.
- To safeguard the montane forest.
- To contribute to the amelioration of the livelihoods and the socio-economic conditions of the surrounding populations.



Background and History

- Efforts to protect forests on Mt. Cameroon started in 1927, which culminated to the final classification of the Bomboko Native Authority Forest Reserve in 1939. Since then, several expeditions and research missions to the mountain have confirmed the uniqueness of the ecosystem in the region and the need for further protection recommended. In 1988, United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) launched the Mount Cameroon Project (MCP) to encourage the conservation and sustainable use of forests, which was later supported by German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and German Development Service (DED).
- Finally in 2006, The Programme for the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources, South West Region (PSMNR-SWR) supported the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife in the creation of the Mt Cameroon National Park in process of intensive sensitization and consultation of the local communities. Following the MINFOF classification procedure for PAs and in agreement with all stakeholders, the Mt Cameroon National Park (58,178 ha) was created by Prime ministerial decree No. 2009/2272/PM of 18th December 2009.

Biodiversity

The park is biodiversity hotspot with many endemic flora and fauna species.

Vegetation and Flora

The western slope of the Mt Cameroon is probably the most diverse and richest area of the mountain and appears to be the only area in West and Central Africa where there is an unbroken vegetation gradient from evergreen lowland rainforest at sea-level, through sub-montane forest, to montane grassland and alpine grassland near its summit. This link between ecosystems largely accounts for the biological diversity of the region.

Mount Cameroon is known for its exceptional plant diversity and high number of endemic species. Evidence of this richness is that over 2,435 species of plants in more than 800 genera and 210 families, 49 plant taxa (species, subspecies, and varieties) are strictly endemic (only occurring on Mount Cameroon) and 50 near endemic plant species are found in the area. Of the 49 endemic species, 11 occur in lower montane (also referred to as "submontane" or "cloud") forest between 800 and 1,800 m, and 29 in lowland forest.

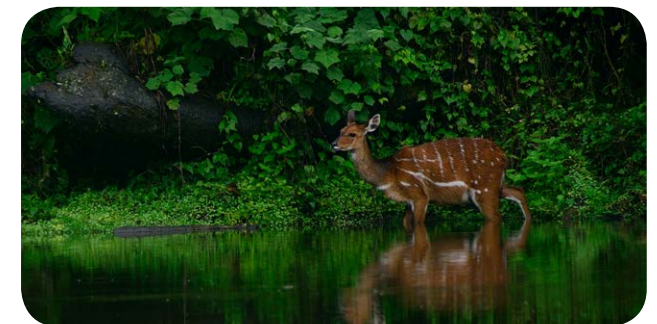
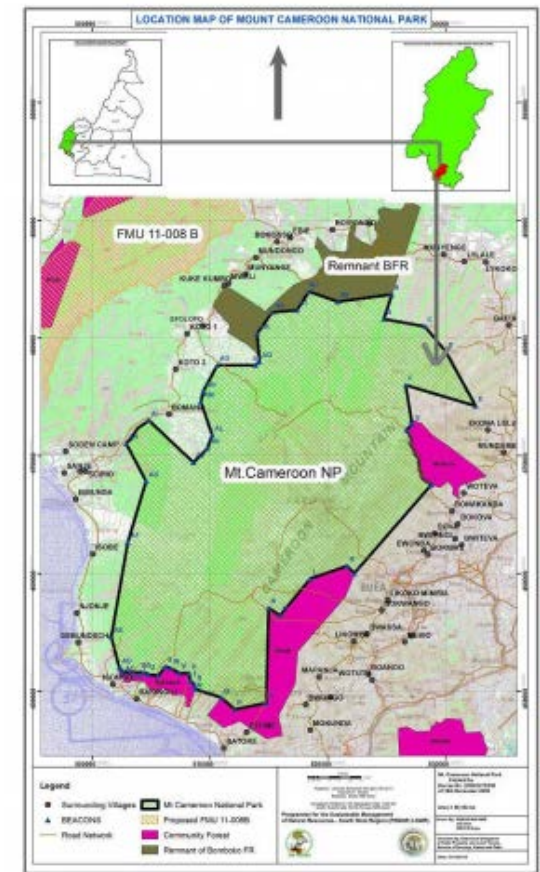
Fauna



The forest elephant (*Loxodonta cyclotis*) is one of the flagship species of the MCNP, probably one of the highest ranging elephant population (reaching 2000 m asl).

Mt Cameroon hosts a number of endangered and threatened primates species such as drill (*Papio leucophaeus*), chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*), putty-nosed mon-key (*Cercopithecus nictitans*), mona monkey (*Cercopithecus mona*), red-eared monkey (*Cercopithecus erythrotis*), red-cap mangabey (*Cercocebus torquatus*), Preuss' guenon (*Cercopithecus preussii*) and crowned guenon monkey (*Cercopithecus pogonias*). The forest elephant (*Loxodonta cyclotis*) is one of the flagship species of the MCNP. Considering small mammals, there are at least 22 species of bats present.

Where we work



Bush buck at crater lake.