



KORUP NATIONAL PARK

ONE OF AFRICA'S OLDEST AND RICHEST
RAINFOREST



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Background and History

The Korup National Park was created as the Korup Native Administration Forest Reserve by Order No 25 of 14th October 1937. Later modified by the Kumba Western Council to Korup Forest Reserve by Order of 27th January 1962. It was upgraded to a National Park by Presidential Decree on 30th October 1986.

First Rainforest National Park in Cameroon with a surface area of 1260 km², Korup shares contiguous border with Cross-River National Park in Nigeria. Korup is at the centre of other protected areas such as Rumpi Hills, community and Council forests and FMUs.

Korup National Park covers 3 administrative Divisions: Ndian, Manyu and Kupe Muanenguba. There are 32 villages in and around the park. 05 villages are in the park (Erat, Ekon 1, Akpasang, Ikenge and Ikondo kondo).

Activities and investments in Korup National park are co-financed since 2006 by the Programme for the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources, South West Region (PSMNR-SWR), a development project of the Government of Cameroon co-funded by the Federal Republic of Germany.

Korup National Park is proposed as "Korup rainforest Biosphere Reserve" and "Korup-Oban Rainforest" Transboundary Biosphere Reserve under UNESCO.

Approach

PSMNR-SWR has implemented since 2011 a collaborative management approach. All 32 villages in and around the KORUP National Park grouped in six clusters are participating in park management and work regularly with the park service.

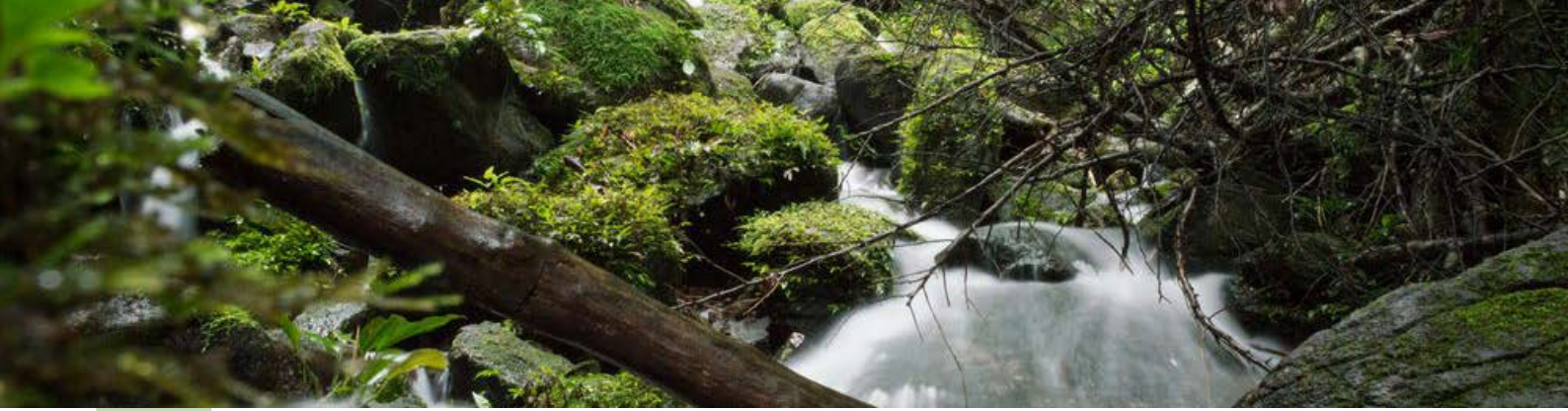
Achievements with the Programme for the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the South West Region (PSMNR-SWR)

With funding from PSMNR-SWR, Korup National Park has been able to carry out a number of activities towards protecting the rich biodiversity and improving livelihoods of local communities :

- Support of park services in law enforcement with training and equipment and financing of patrols.
- Support in other park management activities as bio-monitoring, boundary opening.



Over the hanging bridge entering Korup National Park.



- Implementation of income generating projects (improved cocoa and cassava farming, multi-purpose nurseries, cassava processing) and creation of socio-economic infrastructure (motorbike farm-to-market roads and water supply systems).
- Creation of Permanent User Zones (PUZ) in a participatory process in the negotiation of PUZ limits, sector limits and management prescriptions for each sector (settlement, farm expansion, reserved land, communal land and community farm). PSMNR supported the villages in the implementation of a land management plan and with support projects (infrastructure/agriculture).

In the framework of PSMNR-SWR phase IV in particular hunters but also other target groups are identified and engaged in a strategy aimed to change their livelihood options. The following activities have been carried out in Korup National Park :

- **Gun surrender and trap removal :** After engagement, the hunters of various villages handed over 37 guns and thousands of traps were removed in collaboration with them.
- **Vocational Training :** 21 former hunters and enablers of illegal timber exploitation have undergone vocational training in a training centre in Buea (in auto mechanic, metal works, ICT, woodwork , construction).
- **Improved agriculture/livestock :** Other former hunters have been trained on improved agricultural practices and livestock farming (piggery and poultry). They created nurseries of high value indigenous fruit trees and medicinal plants which they are now integrating into their farming systems. They are also benefitting from seedlings of improved cocoa and many of them have created farms.
- **Scholarship scheme :** Eight young people from six village have benefitted from a fully funded scholarship scheme and are currently being trained on forestry and wildlife related fields.



Community members surrender their dane guns to Korup official.



Community nurseries exist in many villages with improved cocoa, bush mango and palm seedlings.



Repentant poachers undergoing vocational training in Buea.

For more information

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