

# 2021 Annual Activity Report

A Leap in Building a Greener, Safer and More Sustainable Planet



**VoNat**

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# CONTENTS

At a Glance	2
Message From Executive Director	3
Introduction	4
Vision & Mission	4
Values	4
Objectives & Programmes	4
Achievements By Programmes	5
Key Targets for 2022	8

## 2021 at a Glance

**53**

youths and kids from Mount Cameroon National Park adjacent communities gained knowledge about the fauna and flora species and Conservation.

**300+**

men, women and youths in Buea, South West Region of Cameroon enlightened on the need to conserve the biodiversity in a street-to-street sensitization campaign

**3000+**

Reached via online campaigns aimed at deterring biodiversity depletion and environmental pollution.

**120+**

Community kids educated on climate change and how they can contribute to solving climate change challenges in their communities

**10000+**

Reached with environmental news in and out of Cameroon

**120+**

Community kids engaged in planting trees in public spaces in North and South West regions of Cameroon

**2000+**

educated to shun activities that deplete natural resources and the environment via radio sensitization.

**70**

kids in Ndongo community -Buea sensitized about ecosystems, conservation importance, and conservation actions they can take.

**5000+**

in South West and North West Cameroon sensitized about climate change.

**70+**

implored to take up actions that contribute to conserving species and fighting against climate change via folktales.

# A Leap in Building a Greener, Safer & More Sustainable Planet

After getting our authorization from the Cameroon Ministry of Territorial Administration (MINAT) and creating a bank account amongst other exploits in 2020, we got into 2021 with a strong determination to start making our mission of building a greener, safer, and more sustainable planet with community kids and youths a reality. Our desire was to plant at least 20 trees in public spaces, educate and engage at least 30 community kids in biodiversity conservation, and the fight against climate change. We also intended to extend our biodiversity conservation and sustainable development activities to the North West Region of Cameroon for a much wider impact amongst others.

Many regarded these as unrealistic, considering the deteriorating nature of the Anglophone crises in the two regions where project activities were envisaged, the adverse effects of COVID-19 and the non-availability of funds. They were certainly correct but the passion for a healthier planet was stronger than these challenges!

We were able to put our wit intact and weaved in pragmatic actions that culminated in the achievement of results at the end of 2021 that were far beyond our expectations. We reached out to hundreds in the Buea Municipality with biodiversity conservation messages through a street-to-street biodiversity conservation sensitization campaign organized by the South West regional delegation of the Ministry of Environment Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED) and that of the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF). We also stirred up a fresh desire in species conservation in 53 kids from adjacent communities in the Mount Cam-

eroon, initiated a project to conserve the great ape of Mount Cameroon, and launched the Green School Kids Initiative in Government Primary school Ndongo. This launch culminated in the planting of some 10 trees around the school and the education of 70 kids on environmental issues.

We also educated and engaged over 120 community kids and youths in the North West and South West regions of Cameroon in climate actions thanks to the Ecolids project jointly implemented with Meg Wah, with funds from Earth Rising Foundation. We mentored over 15 young graduates and approved one international volunteering application under the VoNat Volunteering and Youth Mentorship Programme. Apart from these, the Organization successfully got an office space, created a website, and established partnership with up to 8 national and international organizations. We consider these results as a big leap in our mission of building a greener, safer and more sustainable planet.

With many more kids & youths, communities, national and international organizations gaining interest in programmes and activities in the field, we are getting unto the third year our existence with a fresh desire and determination to mobilize more financial and human resources, and to expand our geographical scope for benefit of humanity and planet earth, our only home.

***Ndimuh B. Shanchu,***  
***Executive Director***



## Introduction

Voice of Nature (VoNat) is a Cameroon community-based biodiversity conservation and sustainable development non-profit organization created in 2019 by a group of youths with a strong desire to use their skills, knowledge and experience to finding solutions to biodiversity conservation and sustainable development challenges in their communities while engaging other community kids and youths to do same. The idea was that through this, a sustainable and healthy planet will be created that we will all enjoy as adults and also hand to the next generation. On September 30, 2020, VoNat was authorised by the Cameroon Ministry of Territorial Administration following registration No.1125/G.37/C84/VOL.II/SASC to operate as an apolitical, nondenominational and non-profit organization

### Vision

A planet where everyone intentionally treats nature with love and respect, understanding that their very existence and that of generations is dependent on the environment.

### Mission

Building a greener, safer and more sustainable planet with community kids and youths through media & arts, livelihoods supports, capacity building, research, outreach and community engagement.

### Objectives

- ⇒ To deter biodiversity depletion and environmental pollution
- ⇒ To contribute to finding solutions to global climate change challenges
- ⇒ To raise awareness on environment and sustainable development issues, while grooming future environmental journalists.
- ⇒ To enhance food security and improve on the incomes and basic needs of poor-resource farmers of rural communities
- ⇒ To provide livelihood support and alternative sustainability strategies to underprivileged/vulnerable community children, youths and women in forest communities.
- ⇒ To groom young graduates into refined professionals for the job market, while providing passionate environmental advocates the opportunity to contribute to building a greener, safer and more sustainable planet.

### Values

**Trustworthy.** We are committed to upholding honesty and reliability in all our dealings, ensuring that we say what we mean, mean what we say and match our every words with exact actions.

**Solution-driven.** We take responsibility for our actions, think and weave in pragmatic solutions to any challenge in our strive to build a greener, safer and more sustainable planet..

**Collaboration.** We value the skills and knowledge in everyone, with a deep conviction that collective actions, mutual respect and innovation are the hallmark of any meaningful impact, and a sustainable future for planet earth.

### Programmes

-  **Species Conservation & Environmental Sustainability**
-  **Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation**
-  **Sustainable Agriculture & Community Development**
-  **Environmental Reporting**
-  **Outreach & Livelihood Support**
-  **Volunteering & Youth Mentorship**

# Achievements by Programmes

## Species Conservation & Environmental Sustainability

### Conservation Education

53

youths and kids from Mount Cameroon National Park adjacent communities gained knowledge about the fauna and flora species within the Mount Cameroon National Park and Conservation importance.



Within the framework of the Endangered Species Day, we educated 53 kids from Bokova, Bwintigi, Bwiteva and Bokwai villages in the Mount Cameroon Area on the endangered fauna and flora species within the Mount Cameroon National Park and their conservation importance. "I have been seeing the Mount Cameroon National Park, but have never known it has this kind of plants and animal species in it. I think we really need to conserve them," Mousa Sharon from Bokova said after our conservation education session. This activity was used to officially launch our Conservation Education Programme in Government High School (GHS) Buea Rural-Bokova, South West Region

### Street-to-Street Sensitization Campaign

300+

men, women and youths in Buea, South West Region of Cameroon enlightened on the need to conserve the biodiversity in a street-to-street sensitization VoNat took part in.



Voice of Nature joined the South West Regional Delegation of Environment Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED-SW), the South West Regional Delegation of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF-SW), and other environmental non-profit organizations and student associations in the South West Region in a street-to-street biodiversity organized to commemorate the International Day of Biodiversity. Through this initiative, hundreds of youths, men and women in the streets of Buea were educated about the biodiversity of Cameroon and how they can contribute to solving the problem of biodiversity loss in the country. Using flyers, posters and charts, Buea denizens were implored to fight against pollution through proper waste management, and to plant trees amongst others.

### Radio Sensitization on Environmental Sustainability

2000+

educated to shun activities that deplete natural resources and the environment via radio sensitization.



We were sensitized about 2000 Cameroonians in and out of the South West Region of Cameroon through the CBC Radio. Via the Station's flagship programme "Living an Excellent Live", the VoNat team educated the public on some actions and lifestyles that can be observed to enhance environmental sustainability.

### Online Conservation Campaigns

3000+

Reached via online campaigns aimed at deterring biodiversity depletion and environmental pollution.



We launched up to six online campaigns reaching out to over 3000 persons through Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube, Twitter and Instagram with different environmental messages. The messages were geared towards educating and engaging the global community in taking actions that will culminate in proffering solutions to the increasing environmental challenges.

### Green School Kids Initiative

70

kids in and around the Ndongo community in Buea, South West Cameroon, sensitized about ecosystems, conservation importance, and actions they can take to restore different ecosystems for environmental sustainability.



Beside educating the 70 kids in the Ndongo Community-Buea on ecosystems importance and restoration measures, we took the youngsters through an experiential lesson on tree planting techniques, importance and sustainable management measures. This lesson culminated in the planting of different tree species in the Government Primary School Ndongo campus. These activities were carried out to commemorate the World Environment Day. It was also an opportunity for us to launch our Green School Kids Initiative.

### Keep the Apes Alive (KAA)

50

Kids selected to participate in project to conserve endangered apes and other biodiversity species of the Mount Cameroon Area with community kids.



These kids were selected within the frame of the project: Conserving Endangered Ape of Mount Cameroon with Community Kids, dubbed Keep the Apes Alive, funded by the New England Biolabs Foundation, with additional support from Idea Wild. The Project start in November 2021 to end in August 2022. It is hoped that this project will reconnect the youngsters to nature, boost their appetite in conservation and willingness to take action against the depletion of endangered species in their communities amongst others

# Achievements by Programmes

## Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

### Climate Education

120+

Community kids educated on climate change and how they can contribute to solving climate change challenges in their communities



As part of the Ekokids Project jointly implemented by VoNat and Meg Wah with funds from Earth Rising Foundation, charts, power point presentations, storytelling, photos, and videos were used to instill in the youngsters the appetite to act against climate change. The youngsters in Bamenda and Buea gained understanding on the causes, impacts and future risks of climate change, and how they can tackle and or adapt to this global crisis and the challenges it is posing in their communities. "The program has inspired me and other kids to think about the climate and the role we can play; to think about nature in our actions," Che Bianka Victory said after seating through different climate education sessions.

### Tree Planting

120

Community kids engaged in planting fruit trees and ornamentals in North and South West regions of Cameroon.



Still within the context of the Ekokids project implemented with Meg Wah with funds from Earth Rising Foundation, 120 were drilled on seed selection, nursery management, transplanting and maintenance. In Buea, the kids established an orchard of indigenous trees, while those in Bamenda planted trees in public spaces. "We are very grateful to you for choosing our environment to carry out such a laudable activity. These children will grow knowing the various procedures involved in planting a tree and the importance of trees in our environment," Camille Paul, a Bamenda-based religious leader said.

### Recognition for Climate Actions

Kids in

15

South West and North West Cameroon recognized for distinguishing themselves in climate actions.



Kids who distinguished themselves in taking different climate actions during the Ekokids program in Bamenda and Buea, were offered prizes. This was in a closing ceremony where the children also exhibited some of the activities carried out to the admiration of their parents and other environmental actors.

### Folktales for Climate Actions

70

Implored to take up actions that contribute to conserving species and fighting against climate change via folktales.



Meg Wah and VoNat mimicked this age-old pro-conservation practice in the Ekokids project. In a typical traditional setting at the Limbe Botanical Garden-South West Cameroon dubbed the jungle village, the kids, dressed in different traditional regalia, sat around the three-stone fire site eating freshly boiled groundnuts, corn and plump while listening to age-old tales about biodiversity species and the changes in the climatic conditions from old folks. Fai Ella Pauline from Buea, like many youngsters at the Ekokids Programme said she was happy being reconnected to nature and understanding the underlying importance of trees and animals in fighting against climate from the folktales.

### Climate Information Gathering



The kids also moved round their communities, identified, and took images of the impact of climate change while interviewing locals on how climate change is affecting them. This stimulated in the youngsters the desire to be part of the solutions to climate change. "The water volume is very low because of the cutting down of trees. I will nurse and plant trees in our compound and sensitize my friends and neighbors to do same. I will also sensitize my community not to dump plastics and refuse in the river." Helga wafa said.

### Media & Arts for Environment

5000+

in South West and North West Cameroon sensitized about climate change



The youngsters translated the lessons learned into dramas, articles, stories, debates, songs, drawings, and paintings with great environmental lessons and a call to shun actions that contributes to climate change. These were presented to their parents, friends, and key environmental stakeholders. They were also broadcast on CBC Radio, STV, Legacy TV and others for a community-wide sensitization against climate change and environmental pollution.

## Environmental Reporting

**10,000+** Persons reached with environmental news



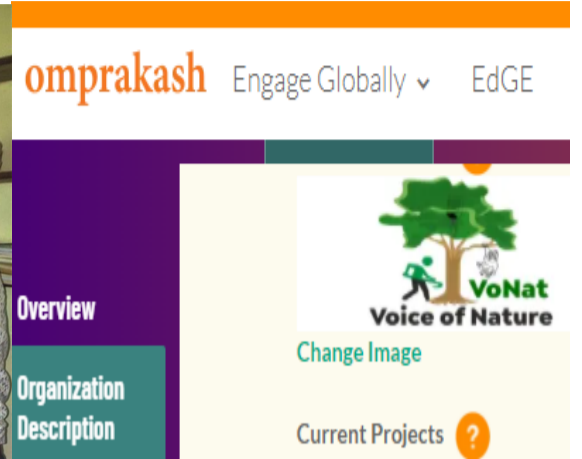
These persons were sensitised, educated and informed about species/ecosystem, climate change and other environment and societal issues via the website and other online media sites of VoNat's media arm dubbed Voice of Nature (VoN) News. This was through news briefs, detail write ups and editorials published periodically on VoN News' site social media platforms. Some of these stories generate debates further enlightening public understanding on natural resources management and climate change issues.

- 12+ articles published on Voice of Nature News site
- 53 kids trained on environmental information gathering, article writing and reporting
- Maiden edition of Voice of Nature Magazine Production initiated

## Administration & Coordination

**11**

partnerships created or initiated with national and international institutions; 6 international and 5 national.



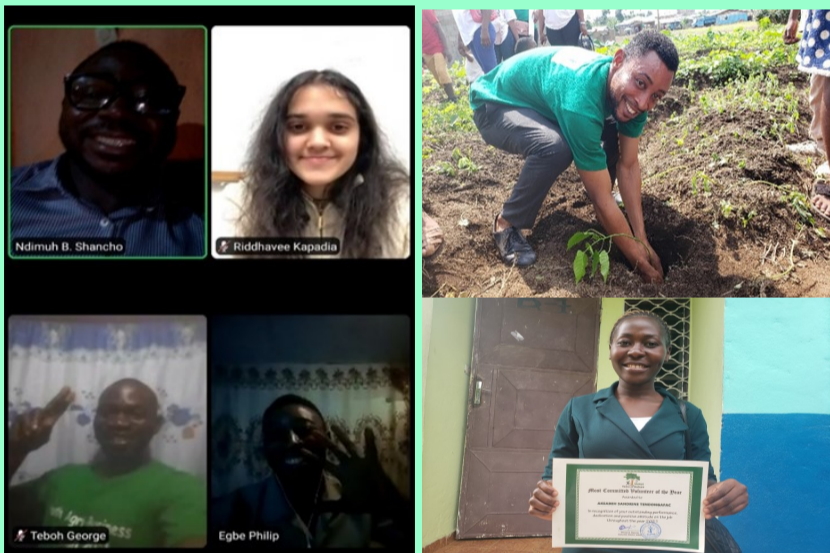
Erath Rising Foundation, New England Biolabs Foundation, Idea Wild and Omprakash partnered with us in carrying out species conservation, climate change and other sustainable development activities in Cameroon through the provision of financial, material and or human resources. Meanwhile, discussions were being finalized with Voice for Nature Foundation and British Ecological Society to support our projects as well.

We successfully created partnership with two schools; GHS Buea Rural-Bokova and Government Primary School, Ndongo-Buea in the South West Region for environmental education and species conservation activities. We also initiated partnership with the Mount Cameroon National Park Service, the North West Regional Delegation of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development and the Bamenda City Council that will permit us carry out species conservation and environmental protection activities in both parts of Cameroon.

## Youth Volunteering & Mentorship

### Volunteering

**10** National and international volunteers recruited to contribute in building a greener, safer and more sustainable planet.



Some 10 youths and other individuals, passionate about building a greener, safer and more sustainable planet participated in our Volunteering and Youth Mentorship Programme; one from USA, two from India and 12 from Cameroon. They were oriented and engaged in the implementation of activities across different programmes of the organization including; Species Conservation and Environmental Sustainability, Climate Change, Environmental Reporting & Communication and General Administration and Management. After volunteering for a period ranging from 1 to 6 months, the volunteers were awarded attestation of service.

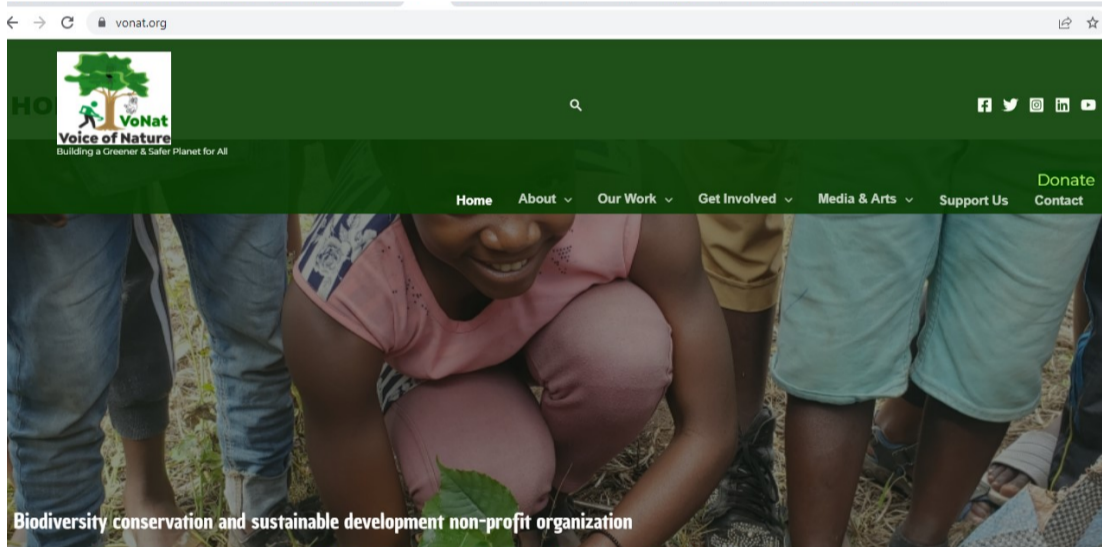
### Youth Mentorship

**12** Youths mentored to identify and solve increasing environment and societal challenges



Some 12 students and young graduates in Buea were engaged in a training that to identify and provide solutions to the increasing environment and sustainable development challenges in their communities.

**VoNat website was launched with institutional email addresses created.**



We created a website for the Organization accessible at: <https://vonat.org/>. Two institutional email address: [info@vonat.org](mailto:info@vonat.org) and [nbshanco@vonat.org](mailto:nbshanco@vonat.org) were also creation. The website came to supplement our blog: <https://vonatcm.wordpress.com/>, which has been serving the Organization since creation.

**An Office Space Was Secured**



We successfully secured an office space beside Sosoliso, Molyko-Buea, South West Region of Cameroon for effective coordination and efficient implementation of project activities.

**Office equipment including a conference table, a laptop computer, and two projector were gotten.**

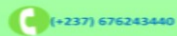


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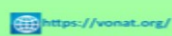


## Building a Greener, Safer and More Sustainable Planet With Community Kids & Youths

Through Media & Arts, Capacity Building, Research, Livelihood Supports, Outreach and Community Engagement



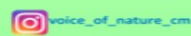
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Voice of Nature(VoNat)



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### Key Targets for 2022

Educate and engage 100 kids within the Mount Cameroon Area in great ape and other endangered species conservation. We hope to stir up the zeal for the conservation of the great ape and other endangered biodiversity species of the Mount Cameroon Area in the youngsters and actively engage in activities geared towards protecting wildlife.

Extend species conservation activities to the Littoral Region of Cameroon/launch the Young Amphibians Conservation Steward Programme. We hope to Boost the understanding of 50 children in amphibians ecology and engage them in the conservation of the world's largest frog (goliath frog) and other endangered amphibians of the Mount Nlonako Area .

Launch Save the Elephants project. We hope limit the incursion of African forest elephants to farmlands in the in the Mount Cameroon Area that often lead to crop raiding and property destruction, and limit the conversion of wildlife habitats to farmlands.

Engage 100 community kids and youths in climate actions. We hope to train and engage 100 community youths and kids in nursery establishment, tree planting, climate education and information sharing as solutions to climate change and related environmental challenges in their communities.

Offer scholarships to 30 arm conflict or COVID-19 induced orphans in forest communities of Cameroon. We hope sponsor orphan girls and boys whose parent(s) have been killed due to the arm conflict in the North West and South West regions of Cameroon or by COVID-19.

Produce two editions of one of Cameroon's pioneer environmental magazines. Through the VoNat Media Group, we hope to transcend the traditional workshop, township and politician-centered news and move to interior forest communities and bring to the limelight local biodiversity conservation and sustainable development challenges and community solutions (traditional knowledge), while reconnecting local communities to innovative solutions to global environmental challenges affecting them in at least two editions of the Voice of Nature Magazine.

Improve on the incomes and basic needs of landless IDP women and youths in forest communities of Cameroon. We hope to improve on the nutrition and income level of landless IDP youths and women by providing skills that will permit them establish vegetable micro-kitchen gardens using recycled plastic containers or within small rented spaces. Etc.

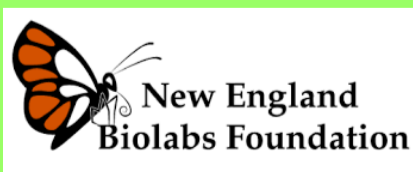
### Donate to Support Our Course

VoNat is a non-profit Organization that largely depends on grants from charitable organizations and individual donors to realize its mission of building a greener, safer and more sustainable planet with community kids and youths. Please support our strive towards saving worlds largess frog, last great apes, forest elephants etc. at the verge of extinction amongst others in Cameroon by donating to the account below:

Bank Name: Ecobank  
Branch: Buea  
Account Name: VOICE OF NATURE-VONAT  
Voice of Nature-VONAT'S ADDRESS: Biaka Street-Molyko-Buea  
Bank Code: 10029  
Branch Code: 26022  
Account Number: 31545011236  
RIB key: 88  
IBAN: CM2110029260223154501123688  
SWIFT Code: ECOCCMCX

### Partners & Collaborators

Special thank you Earth Rising Foundation, New England Biolabs Foundation, Omprakash, Meg Wah (My Earth) and Idea Wild for their material, financial, logistics and human resource support through out 2021. We are also grateful to the Management of Government High School Buea Rural-Bokova, Government Primary School Ndongo-Buea, Bamenda City Council, the North West and South West regional delegations of the Ministry of Environment Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development and the Mount Cameroon Park Service for their collaboration at this early stage of VoNat's history.



### VoNat

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