





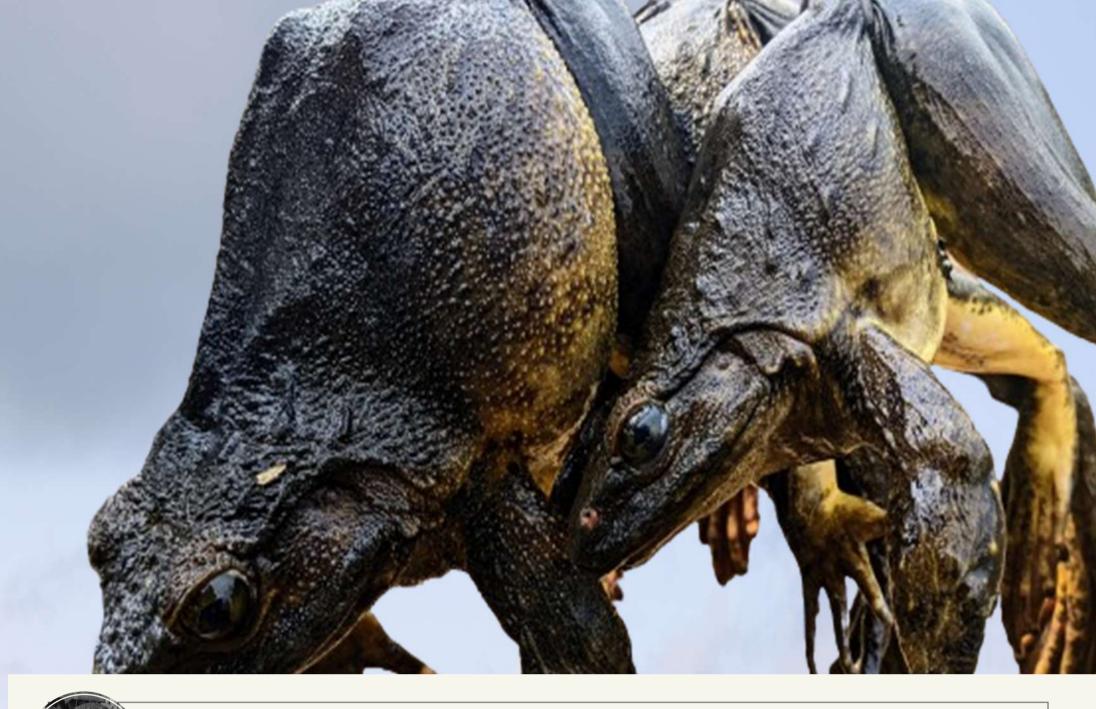


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Contents	
Message from the Executive Director	03
Who we are	04
Our Vision	04
Our Mission	04
Our Values	04
What we do	04
2023 Key highlights	04
Achievements per programme	05
Achievements per programme Species Conservation	05
· · ·	
Species Conservation	05
Species Conservation Landscape Restorations	05 07
Species Conservation Landscape Restorations Climate Actions	05 07 08
Species Conservation Landscape Restorations Climate Actions Upcycling and Waste Management	05 07 08 08
Species Conservation Landscape Restorations Climate Actions Upcycling and Waste Management Environmental Reporting	05 07 08 08 09





Tackling Conservation & Climate Challenges Using Intergenerational Approach

Cameroon boasts of a rich heritage of biodiversity and biological resources including an estimated 409 species of mammals, 183 species of reptiles, 849 species of birds, 190 species of amphibians and over 9000 plant species. The country ranks fourth in Africa in terms of floral diversity and fifth in terms of faunal diversity, an ecosystem representative of 92% of Africa's, earning it the name: "Africa in miniature". Recent events shows that these biodiversity species a declining at a disturbing rate, with up to 630 species listed as threated on the IUCN Red List. This has been largely due to continuous pressure and demand for vast areas of biodiversity rich forest for plantation agriculture and logging, hunting, trapping, climate change and others.

We at Voice of Nature (VoNat) have since 2019 been engaged in carrying out actions geared towards bringing back endangered great apes, amphibians, elephants and birds from the brink of extinction. Our focus has equally been educating and building the human and institutional capacity of local communities on climate change mitigation, adaptation and impact reduction. Within the past 4 years, our focus has been educating and engaging children and youths in conservation, restoration and climate actions. Our reason for targeting kids and young adults has been because of the belief that they hold to the future sustainability of the planet and will be the ones to take decisions and enact laws regarding natural resource management in the future. Though this generated enormous success, the experience and wisdom of the older folks, which are indispensable for a much bigger and sustainable conservation impact was lacking.

We therefore, got into 2023 determined to change the narrative. This led us to introduce the intergenerational approach to our species conservation, landscape restoration and climate actions. With this approach, engaged all age groups; kids, youths and the older generation in co-designing and co-implementing conservation, restoration and climate action programmes in their communities, with kids and youths on the frontline. Through this approach, the kids and young adults are able to combine the wisdom and experience of the elders, with their energy and sense of innovation for a much bigger and sustainable impact.

Together with our partners, we reignited amphibians conservation consciousness in over 100 kids, young adults and adults in the Mount Nlonako

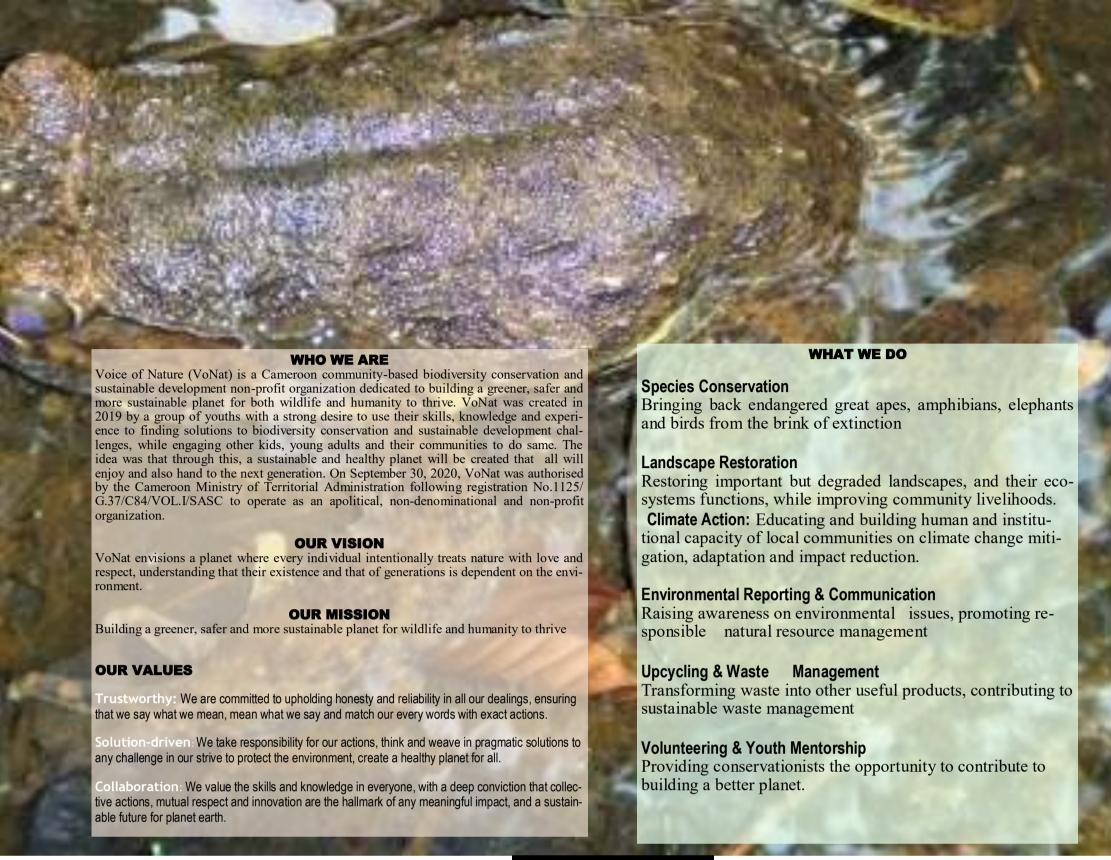
Area, Littoral Region of Cameroon, who raised conservation conscious for the world's largest frog, the goliath frog, amongst over 3000 community members. In the South West Region of Cameroon, VoNat rebaited over 76 bee hives along the West Coast Cluster of the Mount Cameroon National Park and carryout elephant conservation education in schools and communities and produced five bee hives to limit human-elephant conflict. VoNat also guided over 70 kids and youths from communities in the Mount Cameron Area to form a network of kids for endangered species conservation dubbed Ecowarriors who are being supported to develop and implement independent actions to deter species depletion in the area. Meantime, over 30 children and youth in Tiko gain fresh knowledge and zeal for mangrove conservation and were able to raise mangrove conservation consciousness among about 500 community members through outreach and sensitization. A climate action and justice programme was also introduced targeting over 50 children, alongside other environmental sustainability actions including but not limited to plastic clean up and donation of five trash cans.

In the North West regions, some 50 climate action kids, who have been working with us since 2023, developed five micro projects. The implementation of these microprojects culminated in replanting over 400 trees at four water catchments and some public spaces in Bamenda, establishing a nursery for continuous replanting, education on climate smart agriculture, donation of trash cans and general outreach and sensitization amongst others.

VoNat in 2023, equally produced the third edition of VoN Magazine, a biannual production born out of the desire to in 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. Issues were made available to thousands both as hard copies and electronically.

All these interventions culminated in preferring solutions to local conservation challenges in Cameroon, while also giving us fresh perspectives on the different conservation gaps in our areas of intervention. As we get into our fifth year of existence, our priority will be mobilizing financial and human resources to fill in these conservation gaps, as we strive to make the strides of the later year better than the former. We remain grateful to British Ecological Society New England Biolabs Foundation, Lush Charity, National Geographic Society, CDKN, Meginnity Family Foundation, Earth Rising Foundation, Omprakash, Chezuba, Meg Wah, GHS Buea Rural, MINDEPDED-NW, GBHS Ebone, Mount Cameroon National Park Service and other donors and stakeholders for accompanying us in our efforts to build a greener, safer and more sustainable planet over the years.

Ndimuh B. Shancho



2023

20000+

persons reached with environmental news via Voice of Nature (VoN) News website and VoN Magazine

1000+

Kids, youths, women and men in adjacent communities in Tiko reached with mangrove conservation messages.

76+

bee hives at Mount Cameroon National Park rebaited to enhance colonization rate, as a means of limiting elephant incursion into the community that often lead to conflict.

3000+

Men, women and children reached with amphibians conservation messages in the Mount Nlonako Area.

300+

Indigenous trees planted for the restoration of watersheds and degraded areas in Bamenda.

70+

Mentored and constituted into a network to take independent actions for endangered species conservation and environmental sustainability. 3000+

liters of plastic bottles taken off the streets of Buea for recycling

200+

Trees planted in public spaces in Bamenda to mitigate climate change and its impacts.

50+

registered for VoNat 2024 Climate Justice Programme in Buea, South West Cameroon.

1000+

Educated in Bamenda on local actions they should take to contribute to mitigating climate change and its impacts.

100+

Kids gained conservation consciousness about the world's largest frog goliath frogs and a strong passion for the conservation of the species.

45+

Volunteers/Youths mentored to contribute solutions to the increasing environmental challenges in Cameroon.

Amphibians & Mangrove Conservation Education

100+

Kids and young adults gained fresh conservation consciousness about the world's largest frog goliath frogs and other amphibians in the Mount Nlonako Area, and a strong passion for the conservation of the species.



Cognizant of role of children in community conservation of amphibians in the Mount Nlonako Area-Littoral Region of Cameroon, VoNat, with funds from the National Geographic Society educated over 100 kids and youths from five communities in the Mount Nlonako Area on the conservation of the world's largest frog in Cameroon, the Goliath frog and other endangered amphibians in the area. . "We belief that educating and engaging the children in fighting against the wanton depletion of the goliath frog will ensure sustainability. This is because they are the leaders of tomorrow and will be the ones to take decisions and enact laws regarding the conservation of the species. Also, they will be able to take the conservation message to their parents, who will belief more in them than strangers," Mr. Nkede Henry Nkede, VoNat's Amphibians Conservation Programme Field Coordinator said.

kids and youths from communities in the Tiko Mangrove estuary, South West Region of Cameroon gained new knowledge about mangroves conservation importance and their conservation roles



Boosting the interest of community kids and young adults in mangroves conservation and restoration is important as attitudes about the earth's natural resources begin at an early age. In the project; "Unearthing Tiko Mangrove Estuary with Community Kids", funded by British Ecological Society, VoNat instilled in over 30 kids and young adults in Tiko a fresh zeal to get engaged in conserving mangroves and the biodiversity species therein. The conservation education sessions changed the mindset of many kids about mangrove depletion "In our community, our sole interest is using the mangroves for fuel wood and selling some to make ends meet. I did not know that it was a bad practice or something that can affect us in the future given that they play a vital role in sustaining the ecosystem," 12 year-old Fontan Simon from Upper Costain in Tiko said. These youngsters will grow up as proactive adults concerned about mangroves and the species there in.

Biomonitoring & Ecological Study of Amphibians & Mangroves

70+ kids and youth engaged in ecological studies of goliath frog and other amphibians in Mt. Nlonako Area



Over 70 kids and young adults were engaged in ecological studies of amphibians and other species in their range habitats using mobile apps, both during the day and in the night. Over 62 observations are made with up to 22 species identified including amphibians species, fish, reptiles and insects, during these sessions. These observations included but not limited to direct observation of species in their habitats (dead and alive), feeding signs, dungs, threats, vocalization and others.

"I can see feces of the goliath frog, something I have never seen before. I can also see a snake, though it is not alive," Ebude Christabel from Ntolo community says during the ecology study. Marie Therese from Nkongnine and her friends are particularly thrilled seeing the goliath frog in its natural habitat for the first time. "This is my first time seeing the Goliath frog and other species in their natural habitat. I am so happy because not everyone is given this kind of opportunity," Marie Therese said.

30+ kids and youth were engaged in ecological studies of the Tiko Mangrove Estuary



Some 30 kids and young adults from communities in Tiko, South West Cameroon Mangrove Estuary were taken in to the mangrove estuary to discover the biodiversity species therein and conservation threats. Using mobile apps, the 30 youngsters made 30 observations with up to 15 species identified including amphibians species, fish, reptiles, crabs and other species.

"I saw different types of crabs, frogs, snails, and fish living in the area which I do not know their names yet. All the mangroves here are young and serving as home to these living things," Makoukang Elvera Marissa from Upper Costain community said. She expressed love for the mangroves, promising to share her love for mangroves with her friends and families and the need for conservation.





SPECIES CONSERVATION:

Bringing back endangered great apes, amphibians, elephants and birds from the brink of extinction

Community-Wide Sensitization for Mangrove & Amphibians Conservation

1000+

Kids, youths, women and men in adjacent communities in Tiko reached with mangrove conservation messages.

Media and Arts are a powerful tool with a high propensity



to communicate and transform the way people think and act. The interplay and creative use of these tools can change dynamics in the perception and promotion of species conservation. In a bid to foster the conservation of the Tiko mangroves, community kids and youths leveraged on the hands-on training on media and arts to produce short articles/stories, songs, drawings, poems and a magazine on the biodiversity species of the Tiko mangroves and the need to conserve the ecosystem. These media arts tools were also used for online sensitization.

Contributing to Human-Elephant Conflict Mitigation at Mt. Cameroon

bee hives at Mount Cameroon National Park rebaited to enhance colonization rate, as a means of limiting elephant incursion into the community that often lead to conflict.



With funding support from Lush Charity, Voice of Nature (VoNat) collaborated with the Mount Cameroon National Park Service to monitor and evaluate the status of 100 hives earlier installed at the Park border to limit elephant incursion into the community. VoNat also leveraged the result of the monitoring and evaluation exercise to rebait over 76 bee hives along the West Coast Cluster of the Park to enhance their colonization rate, as a means of limiting elephant incursion into the community that often lead to conflict. The organization also produced five new bee hives to reinforce the bee hives earlier installed along the West Coast Cluster as a human-elephant conflict mitigation tool.

Reached with elephant conservation education messages in schools to neutralize the ardent hate and negative perception of elephants by Mount Cameroon adjacent communities



VoNat carried out conservation education in schools to neutralize the ardent hate and negative perception of elephants by Mount Cameroon adjacent communities including over 50 kids and youths, who hold the key to the future sustainability of the species in the area. The organization believes that education and sensitization can be successful in changing the negative attitudes of communities of the West Coast Cluster conservation zone of the Mount Cameroon towards elephants conservation, and getting them engaged in conservation efforts.

3000+

Men, women and children reached with amphibians conservation messages in the Mount Nlonako Area.



Kids and young adults in the Mount Nlonako Area of the Littoral Region of Cameroon used media arts tools to raise awareness and enhance the understanding of local communities to save the goliath frog from extinction in an outreach and community-wide education and sensitization campaign. They reached out to over 2000 forest community members in the Mount Nlonako Area and other parts of Cameroon with goliath frog conservation messages and a call to action using micro radio, TV and radio programmes. The about 100 kids marched past in front of over 1000 community members including traditional authorities, policy makers and local administrators amongst others brandishing posters and drawings of the goliath frog and other endangered amphibians species they want protected.



Conserving Endangered Species of Mount Cameroon

70+

Mentored and constituted into a network to take independent actions for endangered species conservation and environmental sustainability.



Voice of Nature (VoNat), with the support of New England Biolabs Foundation to empower over 70 kids and young adults from communities in the Mount Cameroon Area, who are now grouped in a network known as "Eco-warriors". The organization mentored the youngsters to develop and pitch five micro-projects to solve different species conservation and environmental sustainability challenges in their communities. They will be provided funds and guided to independently implement their micro-projects under the canopy of their newly created network, Eco-warriors.



LANDSCAPES RESTORATION

Restoring degraded important ecosystems in Cameroon

Establishment & Sustainable Management of Indigenous Tree Nursery

10+

kids from the Bamenda I Council Area in North-West Region of Cameroon guided to establish indigenous tree nursery for replanting at Water Catchment



Over 10 kids from Mendakwe in the North West Region of Cameroon established an indigenous tree nursery for future replanting at the in Akum, Abumuchwi 1 and 2, and Ntamafe 1 and 2 and the Mukwehbuh Water Catchment in Mile 6 Mankon-Bamenda.

10+ Kids new knowledge about nursery management and tree monitoring following experiential learning sessions on nursery management and monitoring.

Over 10 children in Mendakwe-Bamenda were guided to remove weeds from the indigenous tree nursery established at the Abumuchwi Water Catchment, while receiving lectures on the different tree species at the nursery and best nursery management techniques. activity was carried out with the technical assistance of MINEPDED-NW.



Planting of Indigenous Trees at Degraded Landscapes & Watersheds

100+ Indigenous trees planted for the restoration of watersheds and degraded areas in Bamenda.



Climate Education & Community-Wide Sensitization

1000+

Educated in Bamenda on local actions they should take to contribute to mitigating climate change and its impacts.



Some kids and young adults from Bamenda I, II & III council area educated communities within the Bamenda Highlands on local actions they can take to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change. In a 1-hour special climate change radio programme on CRTV Bamenda and another on CBS Radio Bamenda, the youngsters reported some actions they are taking to fight against climate change, while recommending other actions that local authorities and policy makers should take to better fight against the global crisis.

Tree Planting in Public Spaces for Mitigation of Cliamte Change/Impact

200+ Trees planted in public spaces in Bamenda to mitigate climate change and its impacts



The adverse effect of climate change in the form of increase temperature and disasters like floods, landslides are felt today than ever before. Voice of Nature (VoNat) collaborated with MINEPDED-NW and Meg Wah to engage children in Bamenda in planting trees in public spaces and carrying out environmental protection radio sensitization campaigns. Within the framework of the EcoKids project implemented with funding from Earth Rising Foundation, over 200 trees were planted at Acha Eye Hospital Bamenda, Cameroon Radio and Television (CRTV) North West and CBS Radio Bamenda in Bamenda, South West Region of Cameroon.

Climate Justice Programme Extended to Buea, South West Region of Cameroon

registered for VoNat 2024 Climate Justice Programme in Buea, South West Cameroon.

Voice of Nature (VoNat) carried out preparatory works for the extension of its climate justice and environmental protection activities to Ndongo-Buea, South West Region of Cameroon. The technical team of the Organization visited Praise Baptist Academy, Ndongo; carried out feasibility studies and registered over 50 kids and young adults for the programme. This project is being carried out within the framework of a climate justice and environmental sustainability project funded by Climate and Development Knowledge Network and McGinnity Family Foundation.



SUSTAINBLE WASTE MANAGEMENT IN URBAN AREAS OF CAMEROON

3000+ liters of plastic bottles taken off the streets of Buea for recycling



VoNat's participated in commemorative activities to mark the 2023 World Environment Day, with a plastic clean up campaign in Buea, South West Region of Cameroon. The organization alongside the MINEPDED SW team and other CSOs cleaned up thousands of plastic bottles from the streets of Buea town for recycling, while sensitization denizens of the area against

Trash cans donated in Buea and Bamenda to promote sustainable waste management

Street littering is a lifestyle in Buea, Bamenda and most cities of Cameroon with litters including but not limited to plastic bag, plastic bottles, construction waste, alcoholic beverages and fast food packaging, and plastic bottles. Trash cans where denizens could drop wastes for proper disposal are absent in most part of the Buea Municipality. Voice of Nature (VoNat) donated trash cans to fight against littering and to contribute to sustainable waste management in the Buea and Bamenda of south West and North West regions of Cameroon.



ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING

Raising awareness on environmental issues, promoting responsible natural resource management

Publication of one of Cameroon's Pioneer Environmental Magazines

Editions of Voice of Nature Magazines produced and distributed manually and electronically



We produced the third edition of the Voice of Nature (VoN) Magazine, which is dedicated to speaking for nature and the voiceless. The Voice of Nature Magazine is a biannual production of the media and publication unit of VoNat. In order to reach out to interior communities, and other key environmental stakeholders who may not be able to readily access our online platforms for timely environmental and conservation news, we kicked-started the production of 'Voice of Nature Maga-**<u>zine'</u>**. This publication has come to complement our online news platform "Voice of Nature News, in bringing to the limelight local biodiversity conservation and sustainable development challenges and community solutions. You can have access to the electronic versions of Voice of Nature Magazine here.

20000+

persons reached with environmental news via VoN News website









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.

- 15+ articles published on Voice of Nature News site
- 150 kids trained on environmental information gathering, article writing and reporting

Read more about VoN News Here

VOLUNTEERING & YOUTH MENTORSHIP

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



Some 15 youths and other individuals, passionate about building a greener, safer and more sustainable planet participated in our Volunteering and Youth Mentorship Programme; one from South Africa, four from India, eight from Germany and seven 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.

Read more about **Here**

Youths mentored to identify and solve increasing environment and societal challenges

Some 25 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.





Staff Capacity Building & Workshops for Improved Productivity

Voice of Nature (VoNat) was represented by its staff in several national and international workshops, training programmes and seminars both as participants and as resource persons. Some of these included the National Geographic Festival in London, the Green Day in Yaounde-Cameroon, World Environment Day workshops in Buea Cameroon, Global Landscape Forum, Landscape Leadership Workshop, Climate Justice Workshop in Nairobi-Kenya, Youth in Climate Change Workshop in Limbe Cameroon and many others.

At the National Geographic Festival at the Royal Institution in London for example, the Executive Director of VoNat,



Ndimuh B. Shancho, used his presentation to highlight the goliath frog and conservation threats, and actions which VoNat, is carrying out to conserve the species in the Mount Nlonako Area, Littoral Region of Cameroon. He also underscored the need for international support to save the world's largest frog from the brink of extinction. "The goliath is endangered on the IUCN Red List, and is found only in Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea. With the rate at which they are being harvested, this emblematic species may disappear in the near future if no urgent conservation actions are taken now," he stated.



Partnership & Collaboration for Better Impact

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

Global Diversity Foundation (GDF), Lush Charity, Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN), Center for Livelihoods and Support to sustainable Development (CLISSD), Mcginnity Family Foundation (MFF), Cameroon Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF), Praise Baptist Academy, Mendakwe Traditional Authority, Government Technical Col-

lege (GTC) Bakingikili and GrEEN Landscape Association are some of the national and international institutions we either established or initiated partnership with.

We successfully strengthened collaboration GHS Buea Rural-Bokova, and GBHS Ebone, in the South West and Littoral regions of Cameroon respectively for environmental education and species conservation activities. Collaboration with Mount Cameroon National Park Service, the North West Regional Delegation

of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development was also strengthened and or established to permit us carry out species conservation and environmental protection activities in both parts of Cameroon.





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, National Geographic Society, Mcginnity Family Foundation, British Ecological Society, Lush Caharity, Omprakash, Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN), Meg Wah (My Earth), Center for Livelihoods and Support to sustainable Development (CLISSD), and Idea Wild for their material, financial, logistics and human resource support through out 2023. We are also grateful to the Management of Government High School Buea Rural-Bokova, GBHS Ebone, Praise Baptist Academy Ndongo-Buea, GTC Bakingili, 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 through out 2023.





National Geographic Society



















