

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Building a Greener, Safer and More Sustainable Planet for Wildlife & Humanity to Thrive

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ABOUT VoNat

Voice of Nature (VoNat) is a Cameroon community-based biodiversity conservation and sustainable development non-profit organization dedicated to building a greener, safer and more sustainable planet for both wildlife and humanity to thrive. VoNat was 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, while engaging other kids, young adults and their communities to do same. The idea was that through this, a sustainable and healthy planet will be created that all will enjoy 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.I/SASC to operate as an apolitical, non-denominational and non-profit organization.

Message from the Executive Director

Building a Greener & Safer Planet for All; Reflections on 2024

As we reflect on 2024 and preview into 2025, I am filled with hope and gratitude for the inspiring and sacrificial work of our staff, volunteers and interns, and the unwavering supports of our donors (individuals, foundations and organizations), collaborators and members. Your priceless sacrifices and high sense of assiduity contributed significantly in deepening our organization's commitment and strive to building a greener server and more sustainable planet for wildlife and humanity to thrive. I am honoured to share what the sacrifice of your finances, time and other tangible and intangible resources help ed us to accomplish as far as species conservation, climate action and landscape restorations are concerned in this 2024 Annual Report.

In 2024, we continued to leverage our skills, experience and limited resources to contribute solutions to the triple planetary crises of species loss, climate change and environmental pollution in Cameroon. Our initiative for the conservation of the world's largest frog, the Goliath frog and other endangered amphibians in Cameroon reached new heights, educating close to 100 more community kids and engaging them to sensitize their parents against the depletion of this emblematic species. We also extended our Species Conservation Programme to the newly created Mount Muanenguba Herpeto-ornithological Sanctuary, reaching out to over 2000 community members and 40 local & indigenous leaders in all the conservation clusters of the protected area with sensitization messages about the new status of Mount Muanengouba.

We mentored and grew the impact of Eco-Warriors (a network of Kids for Environmental Protection in the Mount Cameroon Area, which we created in 2023); educating over 3000 community members about the endangered species of Mount Cameroon, growing and donating threatened tree species to locals for domestication and taking scores of local farmers and students through experiential sessions on regenerative agriculture practices.

In our climate action programme, we mentored and engaged over 250 community kids and youths in Buea and Douala of the South West and Littoral regions of Cameroon in contributing solutions to climate impacts in their communities. The youngsters in both regions planted over 300 trees in public spaces, sensitized thousands to adapt their lives and livelihoods to climate impacts, and donated trash cans and plastic cages for sustainable waste management.

Our landscape restoration team made significant strides in restoring degraded areas in the town of Buea through the planting and protecting of trees and establishing a-1000-capacity nursery for continuous restoration actions. Besides these, our staff and volunteers had the opportunity to attend different national and international workshops to build their capacity for increased productivity and efficiency. Our volunteering Youth Mentorship programme impacted the lives of hundreds of young people in and out of Cameroon. Meanwhile, our non-profit environmental news organ remained a reference for environmental information to thousands in Cameroon and beyond. These accomplishments were made possible thanks to the confidence, collaboration, assiduity and generosity of our donors, staff, funders, and community/local institutions and leaders.

As we look to the future, we remain committed to our vision for a planet where every individual intentionally treats nature with love and respect, understanding that their existence and that of generations is dependent on the environment. We will continue to strengthen our capacity, create stronger partnerships and mobilize support to research, educate, sensitize, mentor and engage young people and their communities in building a greener, safer and more sustainable planet for wildlife and humanity to thrive.

With heartfelt gratitude,



*Ndimuh B. Shancho
Executive Director,
Voice of Nature (VoNat)*



OUR MISSION

Building a greener, safer and more sustainable planet for wildlife and humanity to thrive



OUR VISION

VoNat envisions a planet where every individual intentionally treats nature with love and respect, understanding that their existence and that of generations is dependent on the environment.

OUR 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 protect the environment, create a healthy planet for all.

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.



WHAT WE DO

Species Conservation

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

Landscape Restoration

Restoring important but degraded landscapes, and their ecosystems functions, while improving community livelihoods.

Climate Action: Educating and building human and institutional capacity of local communities on climate change mitigation, adaptation and impact reduction.

Environmental Reporting & Communication

Raising awareness on environmental issues, promoting responsible natural resource management

Volunteering & Youth Mentorship

Providing conservationists the opportunity to contribute to building a better planet.



SPECIES CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

Conservation of Goliath Frog & Other Amphibians in Cameroon



95+

Community kids and youths demonstrated adequate understanding of the conservation importance of the world's largest frog goliath frogs and other amphibians in the Mount Nlonako Area, with a strong commitment to advocate for the conservation of the species in their communities.

VoNat collaborated with the Network of Kids for Endangered Amphibians Conservation, which it created in 2022, to sensitize close to 100 school kids from communities in the Mount Nlonako Muanengouba landscape about the conservation of the world's largest frog in Cameroon, the Goliath frog and other endangered amphibians in the area. The organization used a documentary, charts, posters, roll ups etc. to further raise awareness on plight of this frog amongst school

The children produced short conservation messages, which were used to educate their peers about the goliath frog and the need for conservation. The conservation ambassadors promised to continue educating their parents and community members to limit the wonton depletion of these frogs. Goliath frog (*Conraua goliath*) is a giant slippery frog, about 32 centimeters long, that lives in secondary forests and beside swift flowing rivers. The frog feeds on insects, fish and other smaller amphibians. Through this, they contribute to limiting the spread of malaria and yellow fever, which are deadly diseases in Cameroon and other parts of Africa. Unfortunately, about 20,000 of them are hunted every peak season (between November and February) for pet trade and food, despite the fact that it is classified as endangered on the IUCN Red List and is found only in Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea.



SPECIES CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Extension of Conservation Actions to Newly Created Mount Muanengouba Herpeto-ornithological Sanctuary

08 Sensitization sign posts installed for community awareness about the new Mount Muanengouba Herpeto-ornithological Sanctuary.



As part of our ongoing efforts to promote conservation and community engagement, we (VoNat) leveraged a grant from Crowder-Messersmith Conservation Fund of Nature Forward to collaborate with the Mount Muanengouba Herpeto-ornithological Sanctuary Service and local community leaders in installing 8 (eight) sensitization sign posts and posters in all the four conservation clusters of the new protected area. This initiative aims to educate local communities, visitors, and stakeholders about the new status and rules governing the protected area. The sign posts and posters were installed in the Ekante, Nshong, Mborouko, Mbororo 1, Muabi and Mbororo 2 communities of the new protected area.

The sign posts and posters carried sensitization messages like: “Mount Muanengouba is now a protected area” and “hunting and trapping of birds, reptiles and amphibians are prohibited”. The sensitization signposts are contributing to improving community engagement and participation in conservation efforts in the Mount Muanengouba Area, while also enhanced visibility and recognition of the protected area. The Mount Muanengouba Herpeto-ornithological Sanctuary is a 4696-hectare protected area that cuts across the South West and Littoral regions of Cameroon. It plays host to about 100 species of amphibians, 89 species of reptiles and 270 bird species, with up to 60% of them said to be endemic to the area.

40+ traditional and indigenous leaders from six communities educated about the new conservation status of Mount Muanengouba.



VoNat and Mount Muanengouba Herpeto-ornithological Sanctuary Service leveraged a grant from Crowder-Messersmith Conservation Fund of Nature Forward to educate 40 traditional and indigenous leaders from six communities about the new conservation status of Mount Muanengouba. In a series of sensitization meetings that took place in the Ekante, Nshong, Mborouko, Mbororo 1, Muabi and Mbororo 2 communities of the four conservation clusters of the new protected area, the VoNat and Sanctuary service team handed over copies of the Prime Ministerial Decree to the local leaders and indigenous leaders. It was the first time over 70% of the leaders were hearing about the new conservation status of the Mountain, as well as seeing/having access to the Prime Ministerial Decree that spells out the objectives and geographical boundaries of the protected area. The excitement and support from the leaders were far above expectation.

2000+ Educated about the new conservation status of Mount Muenengouba through micro radio programmes

With the support of Crowder-Messersmith Conservation Fund of Nature Forward, VoNat organized micro radio sensitization programs on Mount Muanengouba FM in Nkongsamba and the Ultimate Radio and Television in Bangem. Through these radio programs, the joint VoNat team and staff of the Mount Muanengouba Herpeto-ornithological Sanctuary Service educated thousands of persons in the Mount Muanengouba Area about Prime Ministerial Decree creating the Sanctuary. “We educated them on the permissible and non-permissible activities within the newly created herpeto-ornithological sanctuary, and some species protected/endangered species in consonance with the new status of the mountain,” Kihkishiy Delphine, Species Conservation Programme Coordinator at VoNat said.



3000+ Sensitized about threatened species of Mount Cameroon and the legal implication of killing or destroying or being in possession of them.



YOUTHS AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY THE SUCCESS STORY OF THE ECO WARRIORS
SMS/WHATSAPP: +237 682678410 **LIVE**



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Under the mentorship of Voice of Nature (VoNat), a network of kids for species conservation in the Mount Cameroon Area, Eco-Warriors used a micro TV program to raise community consciousness about endangered species in Mount Cameroon and the legal implications of killing and or being in possession of any of the species. This initiative was carried out in collaboration with GHS Buea Rural-Bokova, with funds from New England Biolabs Foundation.

Sensitization About Endangered Species of Mount Cameroon

300+ gained fresh consciousness about legally protected and endangered species in the Mount Cameroon Area.

on the legal implications of killing and or being in possession of any of the species. Eco-Warriors is the brain Child of Voice of Nature (VoNat), initiated as part of its programme to mentor and put kids and young adults on the frontline of species conservation and environmental sustainability, implemented in collaboration with GHS Buea Rural-Bokova, with funds from New England Biolabs Foundation.



We engaged Eco-Warriors, a network of Kids for environmental protection in the Mount Cameroon Area in sensitizing adjacent communities to the Mount Cameroon National Park about the conservation of endangered species in the protected area. They used the calendars to raise community consciousness



Traditional Storytelling for Biodiversity Conservation in Mount Cameroon Area

200+ Sensitized on the negative effects of forest and biodiversity depletion amongst in the Mount Cameroon Area through a traditional storytelling session.



Voice of Nature (VoNat), collaborated with the Eco-Warriors of Government High School (GHS) Buea Rural, to raise awareness on the negative effects of forest and biodiversity depletion amongst over 200 young people in the Mount Cameroon Area through a traditional storytelling session. VoNat and Eco-Warriors organized the traditional storytelling session at GHS Buea Rural which mark the 2024 International Day of Forests commemorated on the theme: Forests and Innovation: New Solutions for a Better World. Traditional authorities from the Mount Cameroon Area including the Chief of Bonakanda, Chief Emmanuel Ndongo Molongo, and a notable of the Bokova Village, Mr. Njonje David Ikome, led the story telling session with inspiration from their traditional belief systems. Members of Eco-Warriors spiced the event, organized in a typical traditional fashion, with traditional music and dances to the admiration of their friends and community members, and the Principal and staff of GHS Buea Rural. New England Biolabs Foundation funded this initiative.



SPECIES CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

Conservation of Threatened Trees of Mount Cameroon



100+ threatened trees raised and donated to 20 households in Mount Cameroon for domestication as a way to conserve the species.

The threatened tree species including mahogany (*Moringa oleifera*) and prunus (*Prunus Africana*) were donated and planted on May 22, 2024, as part of activities to mark the International Day for Biological Diversity, celebrated under the theme: "Be part of the Plan". The donation and planting of these tree species aims to promote threatened trees domestication and to limit the depletion of these species in the Mount Cameroon National Park.

Over 50 threatened tree species were donated to some 10 households as one of the five micro-projects of the Eco-warriors. This generated a lot of interest amongst community members, with many households indicating interest in the domestication of these threatened trees which are highly harvested for furniture and traditional medicine. "I am very happy that you gave us these trees to plant. They are of great value to us but are only available in the forest. Even if I am not still alive when the trees get matured, my children will grow up to use them without having to go to the forest," Matthew Dede, a Bokova resident said shortly after receiving and planting the trees.

Regenerative Agriculture for Conservation in Mount Cameroon Area

70+ children, youth and parents in the Mount Cameroon Area received experiential trainings on organic liquid fertilizer production to boost farm yields and retreat from forest depletion



VoNat collaborated with Regenerative Agriculture Hub and Eco-Warriors to promote regenerative to sensitize over 25 households in the Mount Cameroon Area on regenerative agriculture. They also provided hands-on training to some 70 farmers and community children/young adults on liquid fertilizer production. The initiative, carried out with funds from New England Biolabs Foundation, was aimed at building resilient farm systems, with the hope of limiting the conversion of wildlife habitat into farmlands commonly practiced by adjacent communities to the Mount Cameroon National Park.

"We usually buy artificial fertilizer to boost crop yield but I think this natural fertilizer is very good. I am going to use the knowledge gained here to produce my own organic manure and increase my agricultural output," Said Mr. Matthew David, a yam farmer in Bokova village.

100+ Mentored to establish a regenerative vegetable garden to serve as a site for the training of local farmers to adopt regenerative agriculture.

We guided the Eco-Warriors to establish a regenerative vegetable garden in Bokova, South West Cameroon as a demonstration site for the training of farmers in adjacent communities to the Mount Cameroon National Park on regenerative agriculture. This was aimed at increasing the agricultural production of the farmers as a strategy to limit their encroachment into the biodiversity hotspot in search of arable lands. The establishment of the regenerative agriculture garden was also a great learning opportunity for the community children. It was the first time many of them were hearing about regenerative vegetable garden.



Climate Literacy and Children/Youth Engagement

60+

Kids and young adults in Buea gained new knowledge about climate change and climate justice, with many pledging to take actions for climate solutions.



Voice of Nature (VoNat) engaged over 60 kids and young adults in Buea-Cameroon in climate education sessions. VoNat organized this climate literacy programme in collaboration with Praise Academy-Ndongo as part its climate justice project. The session aims to enhance the understanding of the youngsters about climate change while preparing them to take action for climate justice. McGinnity Family Foundation and Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) are providing funds for the project, implemented as part of VoNat's Climate Action Programme.

100+

Kids in Douala Littoral Region of Cameroon educated about climate change and impact following separate indoor & outdoor education sessions.

VoNat collaborated with Meg Wah to educate over 100 community kids and youths on climate change and its impacts in their communities and on the global scale. We organized separate indoor and outdoor education and storytelling sessions in Ndobo and the Mabanda mangroves on climate change and the contributions of human activities to the changing climate and its impacts amongst others. This was part of our EcoKids Programme funded by Earth Rising Foundation.



Climate Impact Information Gathering for Community-wide Sensitization

70+

Kids in Buea, South West Region of Cameroon recorded information about the impacts of Climate Change for increased sensitization.



Voice of Nature (VoNat), engaged some 70 kids (10 to 15 years) in Buea, South West Region of Cameroon in gathering the impacts of climate change in their communities. This was aimed at boosting the understanding of these youngsters about the climate crisis and igniting in them the passion for climate action and climate justice. The children from Bulu Village, Ndongo, Molyko, and Boduma moved to water catchments, farms and rivers; identifying and recording vital data on the effect of climate change. They interviewed local community members and recorded information about the impacts of climate change on agricultural production, portable water sources like water catchments and volume of rivers.

The data collected, reinforced the climate change education lessons earlier given to the youngsters and birthed in them a fresh passion for climate action. They also translated the information gathered into media arts tools that were used for a community-wide sensitization about climate change and for climate justice advocacy. This activity was carried out as part of VoNat's Climate Action Programme implemented with funds from McGinnity Family Foundation and Climate and Development Knowledge Network.

100+

Kids and young adults in Douala gathered information about climate change impact in Douala-Cameroon for community sensitization.

Within the framework of the EcoKids Project team implemented by both VoNat and Meg Wah, community kids and youths from over five communities in Douala, moved to flood-prone communities identifying and recording vital data about the effects of floods on the lives and livelihoods of the residents in different parts of Douala. They young climate ambassadors also gathered information from locals on the effect of excessive use of inorganic fertilizers on food quality and health of the population of Douala. The data collected, reinforced the climate change education lessons earlier given to the youngsters and further enlightened them on the need to prioritize the use of organic fertilizers.



CLIMATE ACTION PROGRAM

Outreach & Sensitization Campaigns for Climate Action, Climate Justice & Resilience

600+ Environmental civil society organizations and indigenous groups including VoNat advocated for climate justice in Yaounde-Cameroon.



VoNat joined over 600 environmental civil society organizations, indigenous groups and young environmental activists in a grand sensitization march in Yaounde-Cameroon to mark the 2024 World Environment Day. Greenpeace Africa organized the sensitization march, which culminated in a visit to the Ministry of Environment Protection of Nature, and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED). Special advocacy messages for climate action, environmental protection and biodiversity conservation were delivered to the MINEPDED boss, Hélé Pierre, who appreciated all stakeholders and pledged his support.

3000+ Sensitized in Douala-Cameroon to better adapt their lives and livelihoods to climate change and its impacts

A group of kids and youths taking part in the Voice of Nature (VoNat) and Meg Wah (My Earth)'s EcoKids Programme in Douala-Cameroon, were recently engaged in a community-wide education & sensitization to help communities better adapt their lives and livelihoods to climate change and its impacts. Using a talk-show and micro-radio programme, the youngsters raised fresh consciousness on floods management, waste management, mangroves conservation and climate smart agriculture amongst others. This was funded by Earth Rising Foundation.



1000+ Local leaders and community members in South West Cameroon reached with messages on climate impacts and local actions they can take to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change



Under the mentorship of Voice of Nature (VoNat), with the support of CDKN and McGinnity Family Foundation, kids and young adults in Buea used media arts tools to educate thousands of Cameroonians in South West Cameroon about climate change, calling for greater actions/response from local leaders. In one of the special climate change radio programmes, some kids and young adults from five communities within the Buea municipality, also students of Praise Academy, educated their communities on local actions they can take to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change.

In the over 30 minutes radio programme on the Cameroon Radio and Television (CRTV) Buea, the youngsters used songs, poems, articles and open letters to raise their voices against some injustices identified in the climate change crisis, making some palpable recommendations to the mayor and other local leaders, the govern-

Tree Planting in Public Spaces for Climate Change & Impacts Mitigation

100+ Planted in schools, health centers and watersheds in Buea to fight against climate change and its deleterious effects.

VoNat partnered with Ministry of Environment and Environmental Science Students Association to Fight Climate Change and its impacts in Buea

We partnered with the South West Regional Delegation of Environment Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development and the Environmental Science Students Association of the University of Buea (ESSA) to raise awareness and plant trees in the University of Buea to fight climate change. We also organized an environmental quiz session about crucial environmental issues and current events, and offered prizes to those who presented the correct answers.



After over 6 months of experiential learning sessions about climate change and its impacts on water sources, agricultural production, human health etc., over 70 children in Buea engaged in a tree planting campaign to fight against climate change and its deleterious effects. Fruit trees, medicinal and ornamentals trees like apple (*Malus domestica*), soursop (*Annona muricata*), royal palms (*Roystonea regia*) and Calistermon (*Calistermon viminalis*) were planted in Government Primary School Ndong-Buea and the Molyko-Buea Integrated Health Center. Meanwhile, timber and medicinal tree species like mahogany (*Moringa oleifera*) and prunus (*Prunus Africana*) were planted along parts of the Ndongo river in Buea, South West Cameroon.



Kids and youth in Douala-Cameroon planted tree across many communities to fostering climate adaptation and climate impact mitigation. Ornamental, fruit and medicinal tree species planted in schools, hospitals, churches and other public spaces as part of Voice of Nature (VoNat) and Meg Wah(My Earth)'s annual EcoKids programme. The EcoKids programme, implemented with funds from Earth Rising Foundation, aims to raise young climate ambassadors in Cameroon.

LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PROGRAM

Establishment & Sustainable Management of Indigenous Tree Nursery

1000+

seeds of indigenous tree species nursed at our central nursery in Buea-Cameroon, marking a significant milestone in its urban landscape restoration actions in Cameroon.



a 1000-capacity tree nursery was established in Buea-Cameroon to produce indigenous trees for our urban landscape restoration initiative. The nursery has indigenous fruit trees including sour sop, Pawpaw, mango and avocado. There are also ornamental and medicinal/timber species like callistemon, Prunus Africana and Mahogany.

50+

Kids gained new knowledge about nursery management following experiential learning sessions on nursery management and monitoring.

Over 50 children in Ndongo-Buea, Cameroon were guided to remove weeds from the indigenous tree nursery established by VoNat, while receiving lectures on the different tree species at the nursery and best nursery management techniques. Since VoNat came, I have been learning many things. I am happy that I now know how to create and take care of a nursery," Said Robert, a kid in Ndongo-Buea



Planting & Protection of Indigenous Trees at Degraded Landscapes

100+

Indigenous trees planted for the restoration of degraded areas in the Mount Cameroon Area, South West Region of Cameroon



Construction of house, furniture and the increasing demands for fuel wood as a kitchen energy source has driven wanton depletion of trees in Buea-Cameroon. This has further exposed the local population to the adverse effects of climate change, with children bearing the greatest brunt.

In a bid to salvage this, Voice of Nature (VoNat) collaborated a network of kids for the conservation of endangered species of the Mount Cameroon Area dubbed Eco-Warriors to replant 100 indigenous trees.. The tree species planted include mahogany (*Moringa oleifera*) and prunus (*Prunus Africana*) were planted on May 22, 2024, as part of activities to mark the International Day for Biological Diversity, celebrated under the theme: "Be part of the Plan".

100+

Indigenous trees planted for the restoration of degraded areas in Buea-Cameroon monitored and protected to enhance survival rate

Planting trees is very crucial in this era of climate change and land degradation but ensuring the survival of planted trees is even more paramount. Voice of Nature (VoNat), monitored and protected trees planted in the course of the year in Buea-Cameroon to enhance their survival rate.

"We conducted a monitoring and evaluation of the trees we planted a few months ago and noticed that strayed animals had destroyed many of them. This is why we decided to protect the trees. We are using local material to fence round the tree. We are committed to creating a greener, healthier, and more sustainable urban environment," VoNat's Climate Action Programme Coordinator, Dr. Dongang Cerephine said. Tree survival rates are crucial for maintaining healthy urban landscapes and mitigating climate change. Effective monitoring and protection strategies are, therefore, essential to ensure the long-term health and survival of trees.

The tree monitoring and protection action, was carried out as part of VoNat's climate justice initiative funded by Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN).



SUSTAINABLE WASTE MANAGEMENT IN URBAN AREAS OF CAMEROON

Contribution to Sustainable Waste Management in Cameroon

1000+ Litres of plastic bottles picked up from the street of Buea with 300 sensitized on the dangers of plastic pollution



VoNat educated and engaged scores of kids and youths in the Mount Cameroon Area under the canopy of Eco-Warriors in picking up over 1000 litres of plastic bottles from the streets of Buea. The youngsters also sensitized over 300 community members on the danger of plastic pollution and the need to sustainably manage their wastes.

05 Plastic cage donated to promote sustainable waste management in urban centres in Cameroon

Street littering is a lifestyle in 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. Plastic cages where denizens could drop plastic bottles for re-use or recycling are absent in most parts of Douala and Buea. Voice of Nature (VoNat) donated plastic cages in Buea and Douala to fight against plastic pollution and to contribute to sustainable waste management in towns of the south West and Littoral regions of Cameroon. The plastic cages in Douala, were donated in collaboration with Meg Wah.



Donation of Trash Cans for Sustainable Waste Management in Public Institutions



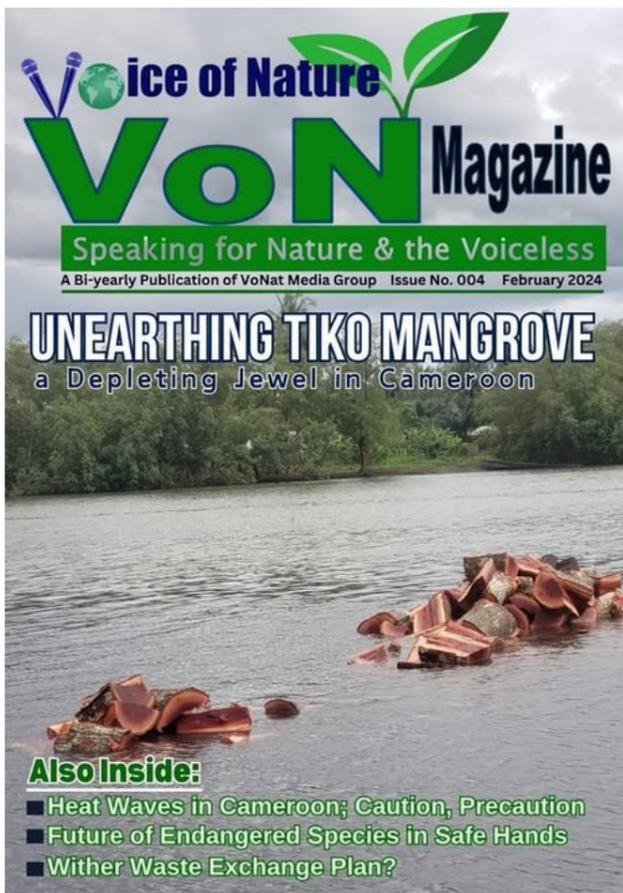
22 Trash cans donated to schools, hospitals, churches etc. to promotes sustainable waste management

We donated 22 trash cans to public institutions in the South West and Littoral regions of Cameroon including schools, hospitals, health centres and churches to promote sustainable waste management. In the South West Region, the trash can donations were made to Government High School Buea Rural and the Bokova Integrated Health Center, as part of a project funded by New England Biolabs Foundation. Meanwhile in the Littoral Region, the donations were made as part of the EcoKids project developed and jointly implement with Meg Wah, with funding from Earth Rising Foundation.

By providing easily accessible and clearly labeled trash cans, the donation encourages individuals to dispose of their waste properly, reducing the risk of vermin infestations and the spread of diseases. This move is particularly important in densely populated urban areas like Douala where inadequate waste management can lead to significant environmental and health issues. By promoting sustainable waste management practices, the donation of trash cans contributes to a cleaner, healthier, and more livable environment for residents and visitors alike.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING

Publication of one of Cameroon's Pioneer Environmental Magazines



We produced the fourth 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 Magazine’](#). 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

- **100** kids trained on environmental information gathering, article writing and reporting

Read more about VoN News [Here](#)



VOLUNTEERING & YOUTH MENTORSHIP



10+ Volunteers recruited to contribute to building a greener, safer and more

Some 10 youths and other individuals, passionate about building a greener, safer and more sustainable planet participated in our Volunteering and Youth Mentorship Programme. 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](#)

300+ Youths mentored to identify and contribute solutions to environment and societal challenges



Some 300 students and young graduates in Buea were engaged in a training to identify and provide solutions to the increasing environment and sustainable development challenges in their communities. Over

"I Acquired Communication & Project Management Skills at VoNat "



"My stay at Voice of Nature (VoNat) was a time to learn and acquire new skills. I particularly gathered so much experience and new skills in project development, business communication, public speaking, project management and reporting amongst others. I am happy I joined VoNat. It is indeed a training ground for those who want to go far in their career and professional life. I also gained skills in community mobilization, photography, grant writing, curriculum development, graphic designing and more. I these are additional skills from what I envisaged", Azofah Lennin Ngufor, Climate Action Programme Coordinator and former volunteer at Voice of Nature (VoNat) said while presenting her end-of-volunteering report at the organization's Head Office in Buea-Cameroon.

SUCCESS STORIES FROM INTERNS & VOLUNTEERS

“VoNat Provided me Valuable Knowledge in Environmental Protection and Community Engagement”



"My my at VoNat provided valuable knowledge in environmental protection and community engagement. I contributed to many projects including the establishment of a tree nursery at Government School Ndongu. I developed new skills and gained insight of the professional world. These will contribute to adanving my career in forestry and conservation, and inspire me to continue making a positive impact," Chick Terry Tah said during his end-of-internship presentation at Voice of Nature (VoNat) Head Office in Buea.

“I gained Significant Skills in Managing Environmental Project”

Nso Che Brian from the Department of Environmental Science of the University of Buea, who interned from August 1 to 31, 2024, acquired comprehensive skills and hands-on experience in differnt aspect of environmental conservation. “I gained significant skills in environmental project management. I participated in trees protection activities and collaborated with other interns and staff to achieve different project objectives. I also gained basic skills in grant writing, research, photographer and business communication,” he said.



“My Experience at VoNat has been Instrumental to my Professional Growth”



On June 15, 2024, a young graduate awaiting his master’s thesis defense at the Department of Geography in the University of Buea-Cameroon, Stanely Kum, applied to join Voice of Nature (VoNat)’s Volunteering and Youth Mentorship Programme. On Tuesday July 2, 2024, he was recruited to serve as VoNat’s Landscape Restoration Coordinator, in consonance with the Organization’s strive to groom the next generation of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development leaders. The youngster, who backed an MSc in Geography shortly after joining the Organization, served the organization up to November 30, 2024. Shortly after leaving VoNat, the former volunteer sent a message to the organization, recognizing its role in helping him land his first job and career as a whole:

“I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for your invaluable advice, support, guidance, and patience in my career development. My experience with Voice of Nature (VoNat), has been instrumental in my professional growth. I am pleased to announce that I have accepted a position as Monitoring and Evaluation Officer with ICODESSE Buea. Your mentorship has been, and will continue to be an invaluable asset. Thank you for the opportunity to work with VoNat and for your guidance in shaping my career. I remain sincerely grateful.”

“I acquired Many Skills Out of my Area of Interest at VoNat ”

Kang Brital Ebude from the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication in the University of Buea interned at Communications Assistant from July 10 to August 9, 2024. She attested acquiring both journalistic and other related skills during her stay at VoNat. “I learned how to craft good headlines, proof-reading, the different ways of writing braking news and feature news stories, and how to use a camera for the first time. I also acquire skills in website management, e-Newsletter production and project communications. Besides these, the internship taught me how to use power points and some basic knowledge about using a computer, and how to write professional e-mails, which seems very simple but very important,” she said.



STAFF CAPACITY BUILDING & WORKSHOPS FOR IMPROVED PRODUCTIVITY

The Executive Director of VoNat participated at the Restoration Academy in Tanzania



The Executive Director VoNat, Ndimuh Bertrand Shanchu, participated at the Restoration Academy in Tanzania. The Restoration Academy is a tailor-made and engaging workshop format that enables restoration implementers to contribute to and benefit from the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (UN Decade) and regional initiatives like the AFR100.

The Restoration Academy covered a range of topics crucial to the success of ecosystem restoration and forest landscape restoration including communication, networking, sharing of best practices, gender, monitoring and access to funding. “It was inspiring learning, sharing, and connecting with world class leaders and experts on ecosystem restoration and forest landscape restoration. I had the honor to convene a parallel session on: Initiating & Upscaling Large Scale Restoration Programmes, and to present on the conservation and restoration actions of my organization,” Shanchu said.

VoNat’s Species Conservation Coordinator Trained on Project Management

The Species Conservation Programme Coordinator of Voice of Nature (VoNat), Delphine Kihkishiy, acquired new skills in (MEAL), project management best practices, monitoring and evaluation techniques, and strategies for ensuring effective project outcomes. This was the outcome of a 2-day workshop organised in Yaounde by Cameroon Center for Peace Research and Initiative (CAMPEACI). The workshop was aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of project implementation in Cameroon

According to Madam Kihkishiy, the training provided her and other participants hands-on experience on Theory of Change (TOC), Log Framework, and Performance Management Plan (PMP), which gave her a comprehensive understanding of how to strategically plan, monitor, and evaluate projects for success.

“By leveraging the tools and frameworks I acquired, I am confident in my ability to develop robust monitoring plans, track progress against key milestones, and adapt our strategies as needed to ensure project success,” she said.



VoNat’s ED, Participant at the 18th ISE Congress in Morocco



from May 15 to 20, 2024, took place at Université Cadi Ayyad Marrakech-Morocco, under the theme: Biodiversity & Cultural Landscapes: Decolonial, Indigenous and Local Perspectives. The ISE Congress juxtaposed biodiversity and cultural landscapes, evoking the intimate relationships of animals, plants and other forms of life that are embedded in environments shaped by people.

Besides keynote speeches, the Congress featured interactive and innovative sessions that delved into biodiversity and cultural landscapes as conceptualised and contested by De colonial, indigenous and local practitioners and scholars. The Executive Director of VoNat Co-convened one of the Congress’ session titled: “Unweaving the Fabric of Colonial Conservation: Local Narratives, Indigenous Methods and Plural Perspectives” and also presented on: Intergenerational Approach to Species Conservation; VoNat’s Experience in Cameroon”.



The Executive Director of VoNat, Ndimuh B. Shanchu, participated at the 18th International Society of Ethnobiology (ISE) Congress that brought together over 500 academics, activists, practitioners, and visionaries from over 60 countries. The 6-day international congress,

STAFF CAPACITY BUILDING & WORKSHOPS FOR IMPROVED PRODUCTIVITY

VoNat's Kihkishiy Delphine Became Green Institute Fellow!

Voice of Nature Species Conservation Programme Coordinator, Kihkishiy Delphine, was selected as The Green Institute's 2024 Green Fellow! The VoNat Conservation Programme Lead was selected recently alongside other young people.

As a Fellow, Delphine is participating in leadership and professional development training sessions that will build her skills and knowledge for the advancement of her career. She is also connected with leading experts and professionals in the field of sustainability and equity, who will be mentoring and providing her with the guidance and support needed to help her better navigate her career path. VoNat remains committed to enhancing the professional development of its staff and volunteers as the organization strives to build a greener, safer and more sustainable planet for wildlife and humanity to thrive.



VoNat's ED Gained & Shared Knowledge at GLF Africa & Landscape Leadership Camp in Kenya

The Executive Director of VoNat, Ndimuh Bertrand Shanchu, participated at the Global Landscape Forum (GLF) Africa 2024 Hybrid Conference that brought together over 700 world environmental leaders, leading scientists, activists, Indigenous leaders, financiers, youths and policymakers at the CIFOR-ICRAF Head Quarter in Nairobi-Kenya. The 1-day international conference, September 17, 2024 took place under the theme: "Greening The African Horizon".

The Hybrid Conference was a unique avenue for the VoNat boss to join global environmental leaders in addressing sovereign solutions for Africa and how the continent can create a sustainable and prosperous future for Africa's land - and seascapes, powered by local solutions. It was also a great avenue to present the organization and its programmes.

He was also part of the Landscape Leadership Camp at Trademark Hotel in Nairobi-Kenya that brought landscape leaders from the Global South to exchange and get fresh insights about landscape restoration and landscape leadership amongst others. The Landscape Camp was organized by Global Landscape Forum in collaboration with Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN), Youth in Landscapes Initiative (YIL) and Youth4Nature.

The VoNat boss equally participated at a Climate Justice Workshop organized by CDKN of South South North. Here, he joined other young climate activists from the Global South in presenting climate justice projects. They equally identified ways of supporting one another for a much bigger and wider impact in our collective and individual strives for climate actions and climate justice.



RECOGNITION

VoNat's Executive Director Recognised for Impact in Nature Protection & Climate Change



One of Cameroon's leading national daily newspapers, *The Guardian Post*, recognized the Executive Director of Voice of Nature (VoNat), Ndimuh Bertrand Shancho and 32 other Anglophone civil society leaders in Cameroon for the tremendous impact they are making fostering nature protection, climate change, democracy, human rights and sustainable development amongst others.

"These are community actors who have either through multiform or uniform actions or area of activity changed the course of several issues affecting people daily and making the future of humanity uncertain. It is a network of persons with unique inspiration, stamina and charisma, who have ventured into as many areas of life as one can think of. They have done so diligently, oftentimes without any public applause but living in their various corners with a sense of satisfaction that, if it were a calling, they too have made and are still marking their marks in moving the nation forward," an article titled: "Anglophone Civil Society Shakers Movers", which chronicles some of the achievements of the leaders, reads in part..

As one of the 33 "movers and shakers" in Anglophone Cameroon, the Executive Director of VoNat is particularly recognized for the significant impact he has led the organization to achieve in species conservation and climate actions at the grassroots.

"Ndimuh stands out with his VoNat through inspiring engagement with young people to drum the need to protect the environment and endangered species. Through the VoNat Amphibians Conservation Initiative, he has, with support of other organizations, engaged hundreds of young people around the Mount Nlonako Area in the Littoral Region on the preservation of amphibians. When it comes to protecting the Goliath Frog and other endangered species, VoNat, under Ndimuh's leadership, has raised awareness among at least 10,000 Cameroonians. Outside conserving species, his organization is also into landscape restoration. It is particularly engaged with local communities to restore degraded land, wetlands and forests so as to keep the ecosystem functional".

VoNat's Executive Director's Amphibian Conservation Initiative Featured in "Explorers of the Month" Magazine!

The Executive Director of Voice of Nature (VoNat), Ndimuh B. Shancho, and his Goliath Frog/Amphibians Conservation Initiative featured on the National Geographic Kids "Explorer of the Month" Magazine. According to the Deputy Digital Editor of the Magazine, Annabel Lever, "The goal of these features is to inspire young readers through connecting them with real-life scientists, artists, changemakers and more".

With the support of British Ecological Society, Voice for Nature Foundation and National Geographic Society, the organization has mentored and engaged over 200 community kids and youths in the Mount Nlonako Area of Cameroon, a key amphibians hot spot, in carrying action amphibians conservation actions in their communities. Its amphibians conservation efforts over the years have raised conservation consciousness about goliath frog and other endangered amphibians amongst over 10000 persons in Cameroon, with more and more local leaders and hunters are pledging support for endangered amphibians conservation.

The organization is currently mobilizing resources and searching for partnerships for collaborative research and the development and implementation of projects that will deter the extinction risks for endangered amphibians in Cameroon mountains and increased amphibians population and diversity.





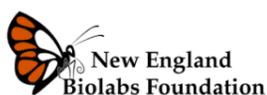
Donate to Support Our Course

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, Omprakash, Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN), Meg Wah (My Earth), Crowder-Messersmith Conservation Fund of Nature Forward, Make It Greener, Regenerative Agriculture Hub and Idea Wild for their material, financial, logistics and human resource support through out 2024. We are also grateful to the Management of Government High School Buea Rural-Bokova, GBHS Ebone, Praise Baptist Academy Ndongo-Buea, Government Primary School Ndongo, the North West and South West regional delegations of the Ministry of Environment Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development, the Mount Muanenguba Herpeto-ornithological Sanctuary Service and the Mount Cameroon Park Service for their collaboration through out 2024.





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