

# ANNUAL REPORT 2025

**Conserving Species, Empowering  
Communities, Shaping the Future**

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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 where wildlife and people thrive together. Established in 2019 and formally registered with the Cameroon Ministry of Territorial Administration, under registration No.1125/G.37/C84/VOL.I/SASC, VoNat works at the intersection of species conservation, climate resilience, ecosystem restoration, and community empowerment. We are also an official partner of the Cameroon Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOW), working collaboratively to advance national conservation priorities and strengthen on-the-ground conservation of biodiversity. Headquartered in Buea, South West Region of Cameroon, in the Central African subregion, we combine field research, participatory mapping, ecological monitoring, and community training to ensure that conservation and restoration efforts are locally led and lasting. Guided by values of integrity, inclusiveness, transparency, and respect for nature, VoNat believes that healthy ecosystems and thriving communities go hand in hand.

# Message from the Executive Director

## VoNat 2025: Conserving Species, Empowering Communities, Shaping the Future

Reflecting on 2025, Voice of Nature (VoNat) is proud of a year defined by impact, collaboration, and innovation. Across Cameroon, our community-driven approach to conservation and sustainable development demonstrated that lasting environmental change begins when people, especially youth, are empowered to take ownership of their landscapes. ***From degraded mountains to threatened wetlands, our work reinforced a simple truth: protecting nature protects communities, livelihoods, and the future.***

Species Conservation remained a cornerstone of our mission. At Mount Nlonako, we collaborated with 15 communities and over 50 local leaders to map the habitats of the endangered Goliath Frog. Participatory conservation plans, grounded in local knowledge, have fostered community stewardship and suggested tangible community solutions to conserve these unique amphibians. On Mount Cameroon, amphibian surveys confirmed the presence of the African Common Toad, underscoring the ecological value of wetlands. ***Our fieldwork at Mount Mbam also highlighted critical primate habitats: although we sighted velvet monkeys, the remaining forest patches along streams were identified as vital refuges for these species, underlining the urgency of protecting and restoring these ecosystems.*** Educational sessions in schools emphasized the importance of primates for biodiversity and forest regeneration, fostering a culture of coexistence between humans and wildlife. Beyond wildlife, our threatened tree domestication initiative raised and distributed 1,000 seedlings of Mahogany and *Prunus africana* to households, that will reduce pressure on wild populations and promoting sustainable forestry practices.

Community Engagement and Landscape Restoration amplified our impact. Over several weeks in the Mount Mbam landscape, VoNat conducted detailed surveys and participatory mapping with 60+ community members and local leaders. These assessments revealed extensive deforestation, bush burning, and soil degradation. Workshops empowered leaders and villagers to co-create land-use plans emphasizing reforestation, regenerative agriculture, and agroforestry. Women played a pivotal role, designing sustainable firewood harvesting practices to protect biodiversity. ***In total, 3,870 agroforestry trees and 1,300 fruit and medicinal trees were planted, improving soil health, supporting sustainable farming, and increasing green cover in schools and households in the Mount Cameroon Area.***

Along Cameroon's coast, mangrove community conservation solutions mapping marked a major milestone. In the Tiko mangroves, VoNat engaged over 30 traditional leaders, community members, and mangrove harvesters in participatory mapping exercises to identify degraded areas, unsustainable harvesting zones, and priority sites for restoration. These consultations led to the development of community-led mangrove conservation solutions, that will

balance ecosystem protection with sustainable livelihoods. This initiative strengthened local governance, improved awareness of mangroves' role in fisheries and climate resilience, and laid the foundation for long-term coastal ecosystem restoration.

Youth Engagement and Climate Action continued to inspire change. Over 120 young people led EcoKids campaigns promoting tree planting, forest protection, water conservation, and community clean-ups, reaching more than 1,000 residents. Hands-on waste management training equipped students with practical skills in recycling and reuse, linking urban stewardship to broader ecosystem and climate resilience. ***More than 300 youths gained leadership and conservation skills through internships, volunteer programs, and mentorship initiatives, preparing them to become the next generation of environmental champions.***

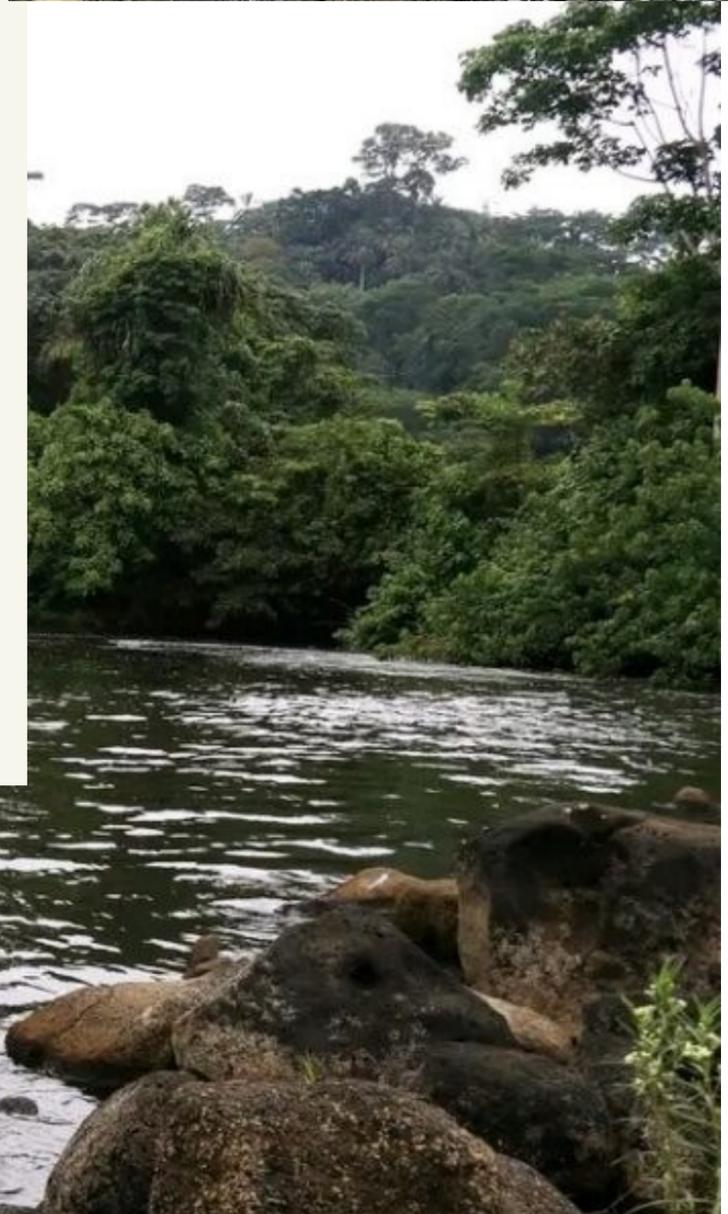
Environmental Communication and Strategic Partnerships extended VoNat's reach. Our media campaigns reached over 50,000 people online and 5,000 via radio and television, raising awareness about biodiversity and sustainable resource management. Communications Officer, Jabi Katy Chale, was recognized as a 2025 National Geographic Young Explorer, and ***VoNat became an official partner of the the Cameroon Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) and Amphibian Survival Alliance (ASA), cementing our position in national and global conservation networks.*** Executive Director, Ndimuh Bertrand Shanchó, was honored by the Climate and Development Knowledge Network as one of 12 remarkable African youth for transformative climate action, highlighting the organization's leadership in community-led conservation.

Our achievements in 2025 were made possible through collaboration with local communities, schools, government agencies, and international partners. We extend our sincere gratitude to Earth Rising Foundation, National Geographic Society, Re:wild, GEF, GDF, New England Biolabs Foundation, CDKN, MINEPDED, and countless local stakeholders whose support has been invaluable.

As we look to the future, VoNat remains committed to restoring degraded landscapes, conserving endangered species, empowering youth, & women, and fostering sustainable communities. ***Together, we are building a greener, safer, and more resilient Cameroon, one tree, one habitat, and one community at a time.***



Ndimuh Bertrand Shanchó  
Executive Director, Voice of Nature (VoNat)



## OUR MISSION

Building a greener, safer and more sustainable planet for wildlife and people 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

### Ecosystem 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:

## Conservation of Goliath Frog & Other Amphibians in Cameroon



### Participatory Mapping of Ecological Threats & Community Conservation Solutions for Goliath Frog in Mount Nlonako

#### 15 Communities engaged in mapping goliath frog sites and conservation threats in Mount Nlonako

Voice of Nature (VoNat) partnered with traditional leaders and local communities in 15 communities across the Mount Nlonako landscape to map Goliath frog habitats and conservation threats. Using participatory mapping, community storytelling, and mobile data tools, local knowledge was documented and integrated into scientific research for the first time in this area. Supported by Re:wild, the initiative generated critical data to guide con-

servation planning while strengthening community ownership, leadership, Voice of Nature (VoNat) partnered with traditional leaders and local communities in 15 communities across the Mount Nlonako landscape to map Goliath frog habitats and conservation threats. Using participatory mapping, community storytelling, and mobile data tools, local knowledge was documented and integrated into scientific research for the first time in this area. Supported by Re:wild, the initiative generated critical data to guide conservation planning while strengthening community ownership, leadership, and long-term stewardship of habitats essential for the survival of the world's largest frog.



## SPECIES CONSERVATION:

# Mapping of Conservation Solutions for the World Largest Frog - the Goliath frog in Mount Nlonako

**50** Community Leaders from 15 Villages in Mount Nlonako Area Unite to Suggest Local Solutions to Conserve World's Largest Frog in Cameroon



Voice of Nature (VoNat) brought together nearly 50 traditional leaders, community members, and frog hunters from 15 communities around Mount Nlonako to collaboratively map conservation solutions for the Goliath frog, an endangered, emblematic, and endemic species. By centering local knowledge, the process identified key habitats, threats, and practical, community-driven actions to safeguard the species. Supported by Re:wild and the Global Environment Facility

(GEF), this participatory approach strengthened trust, ownership, and cooperation between communities and local authorities. The initiative produced mapped priority sites, locally agreed conservation measures, and a shared commitment to protect Goliath frog habitats, reinforcing the critical role of communities in conserving Cameroon's unique biodiversity.

# VoNat Extends Amphibians Conservation Initiative to Mount Cameroon Area

**60+** Children Engage in Amphibians Conservation Education in Mount Cameroon



As part of the extension of its amphibians conservation programme to the Mount Cameroon area, Voice of Nature (VoNat) educated over 60 community children on the frogs of the Western Highlands of Cameroon during commemorative activities for Save the Frogs Day 2025.

Through a fun drawing exercise, the children brought their imagination of frogs to life, followed by an interactive educational session on the ecological importance of frogs, the threats they face, and practical ways to protect them. This activity introduced many of the youngsters to amphibian conservation for the first time, nurturing environmental awareness and empowering future conservation leaders. It forms a key component of VoNat's Endangered Amphibians Conservation Initiative, promoting long-term stewardship of amphibians and their habitats.

## Test Survey Confirms Endangered Amphibian Presence in Mount Cameroon

Voice of Nature (VoNat) conducted a test amphibian survey at a wetland site in the Mount Cameroon area, marking an important step in extending its amphibian conservation programme beyond Mount Nlonako. The survey led to the confirmed presence of the African Common Toad (*Sclerophrys regularis*), highlighting the ecological value of wetlands in the Mount Cameroon landscape. Often overlooked due to its familiarity, the African Common Toad is one of Africa's most widespread and resilient amphibians. Its occurrence underscores the richness of local amphibian diversity and signals healthy ecological conditions. This finding strengthens the case for expanding VoNat's amphibian conservation efforts to Mount Cameroon, emphasizing the need to protect wetlands and other habitats critical for sustaining amphibian populations.



## IUCN Amphibian Specialist Group Co-Chair Visits VoNat's Amphibian Conservation Program



Professor Amaël Borzée, Co-Chair of the IUCN Amphibian Specialist Group, paid a working visit to Voice of Nature's (VoNat) amphibian conservation programme in the Mount Nlonako landscape, home to the endangered Goliath Frog. The visit elevated local conservation efforts to the global stage, strengthening scientific credibility and international visibility for community-led initiatives. By engaging with VoNat's team, local authorities, traditional leaders, and frog hunters, the visit reinforced the importance of local knowledge in amphibian conservation and helped align grassroots action with global priorities, opening pathways for stronger collaboration, improved research, and long-term protection of threatened amphibians in Cameroon.

# SPECIES CONSERVATION: Conservation of Primates in Cameroon



## Primate Conservation Education in Mount Mbam & Mount Cameroon areas

**90+** Sensitized on biodiversity conservation with focus on species in the Mount Cameroon Landscape

Voice of Nature (VoNat) conducted school-based conservation education sessions in the Mount Cameroon area, reaching nearly 100 students. The interactive sessions introduced learners to the region's rich wildlife, the threats species face, and the importance of protecting natural habitats. Pupils explored practical conservation actions they could adopt at home, in school, and in their communities, reinforcing youth engagement in biodiversity protection. This initiative reflects VoNat's commitment to nurturing the next generation of environmental stewards and highlights the critical role of early education in building a sustainable, wildlife-friendly future for Cameroon.

**70+** gained fresh consciousness about the biodiversity species in the Mount Mbam landscape, their conservation importance and existing threats.



As part of its mission to nurture the next generation of environmental stewards, Voice of Nature (VoNat) conducted a conservation education session at Government Bilingual High School (GBHS) Bangourain in the Mount Mbam area, West Region of Cameroon. The session aimed to raise awareness among students, the future custodians of the region's natural heritage, about the unique biodiversity of Mount Mbam.

Drawing on preliminary findings from VoNat's baseline studies, the students learned about local species, their ecological importance, the threats they face, and practical conservation actions they can undertake with their communities. This engagement strengthened conservation consciousness among young learners, emphasizing the critical role of environmental education in fostering long-term stewardship in a region where human pressures, habitat degradation, and climate change increasingly threaten ecosystems. By empowering youth with knowledge and practical strategies, VoNat ensures that conservation becomes a shared, community-led responsibility, laying the foundation for sustainable biodiversity protection in Mount Mbam.



**SPECIES CONSERVATION:****Community Education About Mount Cameroon National Park Boundaries & Primate Conservation**

**100+** Residents of Mount Cameroon Gain Awareness about Primate Conservation and Mount Cameroon Boundaries

Voice of Nature (VoNat) delivered community-based conservation education that reached over 100 men, women, and youth living around Mount Cameroon National Park. The sessions strengthened awareness of primate conservation, clarified park boundaries, and deepened un-

derstanding of Cameroon's 1994 Forestry Law. Participants explored the negative impacts of deforestation and forest encroachment on wildlife, livelihoods, and climate resilience, while learning practical, sustainable alternatives to reduce forest conversion. Through participatory workshops and follow-up mentorship, the initiative generated strong conservation consciousness and engagement that exceeded initial expectations, reinforcing community responsibility and collective action for long-term protection of primates and forest ecosystems.

**Conservation of Threatened Trees of Mount Cameroon**

**1000+** Threatened Trees Raised and Donated to 100 households in Mount Cameroon Area for Domestication to Limit Depletion of those in the Wild.

Voice of Nature (VoNat) advanced community-led conservation in the Mount Cameroon landscape by raising and donating 1,000 seedlings of threatened tree species to 100 households across five communities, Bwitingi, CEAC, Bokova, Bonakanda, and Bova. The initiative engaged farmers, women, youth groups, and community leaders through hands-on training on the planting, care, and sustainable management of high-value species, notably Mahogany (*Khaya* spp.) and *Prunus africana*.

Beyond seedling distribution, targeted sensitization strengthened community understanding of the ecological, medicinal, and economic importance of these threatened trees. By promoting on-farm and communal cultivation, the initiative reduced harvesting pressure on wild populations within Mount Cameroon National Park, where overexploitation for timber and traditional medicine remains a key threat.

"Mahogany is almost finished. People cut it for beds and chairs. If we plant it in our farms, we will stop going into the forest to look for the few that remain. We may not benefit now, but in 25 years our children will use it to build their houses without buying planks," a community member said.

Strong community uptake and expressed interest in further domestication reflect growing local ownership of conservation actions. Overall, the initiative will contribute to forest restoration, conservation of threatened species, and supported sustainable livelihood opportunities, demonstrating how community-based solutions can effectively align conservation and development goals.



## Climate Literacy in Schools within the Mount Mbam Area

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



Voice of Nature (VoNat), in partnership with MEG WAH (My Earth), strengthened climate change awareness and action among over 120 children and youths in the Mount Mbam landscape through the EcoKids Youth Climate Advocacy Programme. The initiative equipped young participants with practical knowledge of climate change, its local impacts, and community-level solutions relevant to their daily lives. Beyond learning, the programme

inspired action, with youths committing to lead tree planting and creative climate advocacy within their communities. By empowering young people to become informed and proactive climate advocates, the initiative is building a new generation of climate-conscious leaders capable of driving lasting environmental change in the Mount Mbam area.

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

**120+** Kids in Bangourain, West Region of Cameroon engaged in Community Climate Action Sensitization Campaign.

**120+** Raise Voices for Climate Actions in Mt. Mbam



Over 120 children and youths led a community-wide climate change sensitization campaign in Bangourain, within the Mount Mbam Area, as part of Voice of Nature (VoNat) and Me Wah (My Earth)'s EcoKids Programme. Equipped through climate education sessions, the youths carried out door-to-door outreach using a co-created annual calendar featuring practical climate messages. The campaign promoted actions such as tree planting, protection of water sources, reduced slash-and-burn farming, improved air quality, and forest regeneration. By reaching households directly, the initiative raised community awareness while strengthening youth leadership and ownership of local climate action. Supported by the Earth Rising Foundation, it empowered young people as visible agents of climate resilience.

Over 120 children and youths from communities around the Mount Mbam area sparked renewed climate consciousness among local leaders and policymakers by courageously presenting the environmental challenges affecting their lives. Through open letters, articles, drawings, rhymes, and poetry dramatization, the EcoKids highlighted pressing threats including drying water sources, deforestation, bush burning, pollution, and the excessive use of chemical fertilizers. Their voices reached and engaged key decision-makers—local administrators, municipal authorities, traditional rulers, forestry officials, and community leaders—who listened, exchanged, and reflected with the children. Organized by Voice of Nature (VoNat) and MEG WAH with support from the Earth Rising Foundation, the initiative strengthened youth participation in dialogue and nurtured a new generation of confident climate ambassadors shaping local climate action.



## CLIMATE ACTION :

# Tree Planting for Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation

**300+** Ornamental and Medicinal trees planted across schools, hospitals, administrative areas and other public places to limit climate impact in Bangourain.



Children and youths in Bangourain, within the Mount Mbam Area of Cameroon's West Region, launched a hands-on tree-planting initiative aimed at strengthening climate adaptation and reducing the impacts of climate change at the community level. Implemented under the auspices of the Divisional Officer of Bangourain, Mr. Ndi Jules Patrick, the initiative involved the planting of over 300 ornamental and medicinal tree seedlings across schools, hospitals, administrative premises, and other public spaces. The activity contributed to enhancing green cover, improving local microclimates, and promoting environmental stewardship among young people.

The tree-planting exercise formed part of the annual EcoKids Programme jointly implemented by Voice of Nature (VoNat) and MEG WAH (My Earth), with support from the Earth Rising Foundation. Through this programme, children and youths were empowered to translate climate knowledge into practical action while contributing to long-term environmental resilience in the Mount Mbam landscape.



## Upcycling and Waste Management for Climate Change & Impacts Mitigation

**60+** Young Minds empowered on Sustainable Waste Management in Praise Baptist Academy in Buea.



Voice of Nature (VoNat) provided experiential training on sustainable waste management to 60 pupils at Praise Baptist Academy Ndongo-Buea in Cameroon's South West Region. The training, aimed to strengthen community resilience to climate change and its impacts while enhancing local adaptive capacity. During the session, VoNat's technical team facilitated a hands-on learning exercise on waste sorting for recycling and reuse, enabling students to acquire practical skills for responsible waste management. At the end of the training, the young participants committed to sharing the knowledge gained with their parents, peers, and friends, thereby contributing to efforts to address the growing waste management challenges facing major towns and cities in Cameroon.

**1000+** Receive awareness on the dangers of plastic pollution and some sustainable management measures

Over 1,000 residents of Buea were reached with practical messages on the dangers of plastic pollution and sustainable waste partnership management through a large-scale environmental awareness and action campaign led by Voice of Nature (VoNat) in with the South West Regional Delegation of the Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED-SW), alongside other environmental civil society organizations (CSOs). The campaign focused on promoting responsible environmental behavior, reducing plastic waste, and encouraging community participation in environmental protection efforts. Community members were sensitized on the environmental and health impacts of plastic pollution, as well as sustainable practices such as waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and proper disposal.

A key highlight of the campaign was an Eco Walk from Checkpoint to Mile 17, which served as a powerful platform for public engagement and visibility. Participants interacted with pedestrians, motorists, and traders, sharing awareness messages and calling for collective action to end plastic pollution. The walk sparked conversations on individual responsibility and the role of communities in addressing environmental challenges. This was followed by a community clean-up exercise at the Mile 17 bus station, one of the busiest public areas in Buea. Volunteers collected plastic waste and improved the cleanliness of the space, demonstrating practical steps that communities can take to maintain healthier and more sustainable environments.



The campaign concluded with a tree-planting activity at the Government Teachers' Training College (GTTC) Buea, reinforcing the link between sustainable waste management, ecosystem restoration, and climate resilience. Implemented in alignment with the World Environment Day theme, "Ending Global Plastic Pollution," the activities strengthened collaboration among environmental CSOs and public institutions while reinforcing VoNat's commitment to community-driven solutions for environmental sustainability.



## Agroforestry for Soil Health Restoration in the Mount Cameroon Area

**3871+** agroforestry trees planted on farmers' fields across the Mount Cameroon Area, contributing to reduced soil erosion and improved soil fertility.

Voice of Nature (VoNat) has donated over 3,870 agroforestry trees to 100 community members across Bonakanda, Bova, Bokova, CEAC, Bwitingi, and neighboring villages to restore soil health and promote sustainable farming. This initiative strengthens soil fertility, reduces erosion, improves moisture retention, and supports climate-resilient agricultural practices. The trees,

including Acacia and Soursop, deliver both environmental and livelihood benefits. Acacia enriches the soil through nitrogen fixation, while Soursop provides fruit and income opportunities, helping farmers achieve productive and sustainable farms.

Beyond individual farms, the program reduces pressure on Mount Cameroon National Park, a globally significant biodiversity hotspot. By planting trees for fuelwood, fruit, and soil improvement, communities adopt alternatives to forest exploitation, supporting biodiversity protection and endangered species conservation.



## Training and Application of Organic Fertilizer for Improved Crop Yields

**100+** community members across Bonakanda, Bova, Bokova, CEAC, Bwitingi, and neighboring villages have been trained and engaged in the production and application of organic liquid fertilizer to enhance soil fertility and boost crop productivity.



Over 100 community members across Bonakanda, Bova, Bokova, CEAC, Bwitingi, and neighboring villages were trained and engaged in the production and application of organic liquid fertilizer to enhance soil fertility and boost crop productivity. Farmers received both the fertilizer and hands-on training on its application, equipping them with practical skills to improve their farm yields.

This initiative, led by Voice of Nature (VoNat) in partnership with the Regenerative Agriculture Hub of Nkwa4Change Solutions, builds on earlier training in agroforestry, regenerative agriculture, and organic fertilizer production. The participating smallholder farmers are expected to apply these regenerative practices to their farms, improving soil health while reducing pressure on Mount Cameroon National Park.

A structured Monitoring and Evaluation process will follow in the coming weeks to guide farmers in fertilizer application, address challenges, and ensure effective adoption of regenerative practices for sustainable agriculture.



## ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION:

### Community-Led Mapping for Restoration, Conservation, and Livelihoods in Mount Mbam

**50+** community members and local leaders engaged in mapping priority conservation, restoration, and livelihood sites in Mount Mbam



In 2025, Voice of Nature (VoNat) strengthened community-led conservation planning in the Mount Mbam landscape by convening a participatory mapping and dialogue workshop that brought together nearly 50 community representatives and local leaders. The workshop was organized under VoNat's Community First Conservation, Restoration & Livelihoods Development Initiative, which prioritizes inclusive decision-making and locally driven solutions for ecosystem restoration and sustainable livelihoods.

Chaired by the Divisional Officer (DO) of Bangourain, reflecting strong collaboration between local authorities, traditional leaders, and civil society, participants collectively identified restoration priority sites, assessed land-use pressures, and discussed viable restoration and livelihood options suited to local ecological and socio-economic conditions.

The information generated through this participatory process is now guiding VoNat's conservation and restoration planning in the Mount Mbam area. It will directly inform site selection, restoration strategies, and the integration of livelihood activities that reduce pressure on natural resources while supporting community resilience. The initiative was made possible with the generous support of CO2balance and the Global Diversity Foundation (GDF), whose partnership continues to enable inclusive, evidence-based conservation action in Mount Mbam.

### Restoring Urban and Peri-Urban Landscapes in Mount Cameroon and Mount Mbam

**1,300+** fruit and medicinal trees distributed to schools and community members across the Mount Cameroon and Mount Mbam landscapes

Voice of Nature (VoNat) raised and donated 1,300 fruit and medicinal tree seedlings to schools and community members in the Mount Cameroon and Mount Mbam landscapes as part of an urban and peri-urban restoration initiative. These areas face increasing pressure from land degradation, deforestation, and unplanned urban expansion, which threaten biodiversity, soil stability, and local livelihoods.

The tree donation targeted schools and households to encourage long-term stewardship, environmental education, and community ownership of restoration efforts. Fruit trees contribute directly to household nutrition and income, while medicinal trees help preserve traditional knowledge and improve access to primary healthcare re-

sources. In schools, the trees serve as living learning tools, helping students understand ecosystem restoration, climate change, and sustainable land management.

Beyond their immediate benefits, these plantings support urban landscape restoration by improving microclimates, enhancing soil fertility, increasing

green cover, and strengthening resilience to climate-related impacts such as erosion and heat stress. This initiative demonstrates how community-led, nature-based solutions can simultaneously address environmental degradation, food security, health, and education, while fostering a culture of conservation among young people and local communities.



### Community-Led Mapping for Restoration & Conservation Solutions for Tiko Mangroves

**30+** traditional leaders, community members, and mangrove harvesters engaged in mapping community-driven solutions



Voice of Nature (VoNat) advanced community-driven mangrove conservation by convening a participatory workshop that brought together over 30 traditional leaders, community members, and mangrove harvesters from communities surrounding the Tiko Mangroves. The workshop was held at the Motombolombo Traditional Council Hall, ensuring a culturally ap-

propriate and inclusive space for dialogue and decision-making. With support from the Global Diversity Foundation (GDF), VoNat presented key findings from gray literature scoping and land-cover change mapping conducted between September and November 2025.

These analyses highlighted critical conservation threats to the Tiko Mangroves, including habitat degradation, unsustainable harvesting practices, and land-use change, as well as the associated socio-economic impacts on local livelihoods. Building on this evidence, participants engaged in facilitated discussions to identify locally appropriate, community-driven so-

lutions for mangrove conservation and restoration. The process emphasized traditional knowledge, sustainable resource use, and shared responsibility for ecosystem stewardship.

This collaborative engagement is leading to the development of a community-led conservation action plan, which will serve as a practical roadmap for the long-term protection, restoration, and sustainable management of the Tiko Mangroves. The initiative strengthens local ownership, aligns conservation goals with livelihood needs, and lays the foundation for resilient coastal ecosystems and communities.



# Media Outreach & Sensitization

## Engaging Communities on Tiko Mangrove Conservation through Micro-Radio Outreach

**2000+** local leaders and community members educated on key threats and benefits of mangroves



VoNat reached 2,000+ local leaders and community members in and around the Tiko Mangroves with targeted conservation messages through a micro-radio sensitization program on Tiko Council Community Radio. This initiative formed part of VoNat's broader efforts to raise awareness about the ecological, economic, and climate-related importance of mangrove ecosystems.

The broadcast educated listeners on the critical role of mangroves in supporting local livelihoods, protecting coastlines, enhancing climate resilience, and conserving biodiversity. It also highlighted the major threats facing the Tiko Mangroves, including unsustainable resource extraction and habitat degradation, while emphasizing practical steps communities can take to safeguard this vital ecosystem.

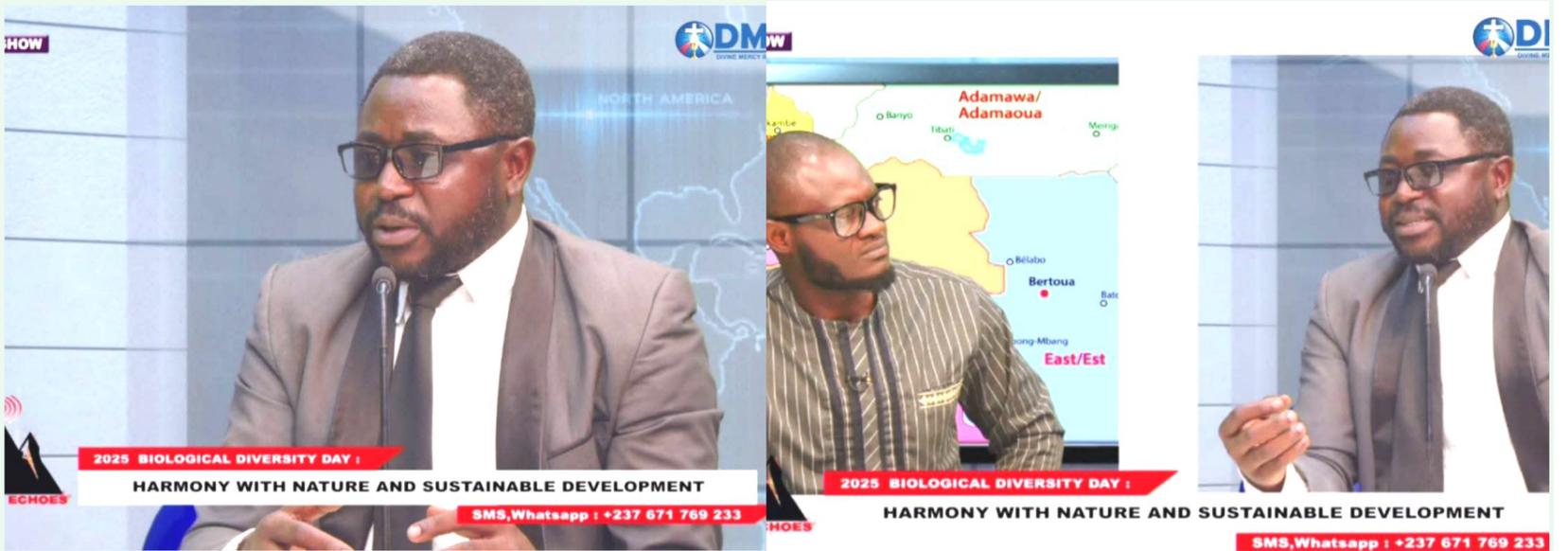
Through this radio engagement, VoNat strengthened community awareness, knowledge, and stewardship, fostering local participation in mangrove conservation initiatives. The program exemplifies how mass communication and community-driven outreach can mobilize stakeholders, enhance understanding of ecosystem services, and encourage collective action for sustainable environmental management.

## Raising Public Awareness on Biodiversity through Media Engagement

**5000+** individuals in Buea and beyond reached through TV show, increasing awareness of biodiversity, ecosystem health, and climate resilience.

Voice of Nature (VoNat) sensitized and educated over 5,000 individuals in Buea and surrounding areas on the critical importance of biodiversity for ecosystem health, human well-being, and climate resilience. Through participation in the Mountain Echoes talk show, broadcast by Divine Mercy Radio and Television (DMRTV), VoNat's Executive Director highlighted the key threats to biodiversity species, including habitat loss, pollution, and climate change, while emphasizing practical actions that individuals and communities can take to protect and conserve biological resources.

This media engagement provides an effective platform for raising public awareness, promoting community responsibility, and encouraging sustainable practices. By reaching a broad audience, VoNat reinforces its commitment to biodiversity education and advocacy, empowering citizens to become active stewards of their environment and supporting long-term conservation efforts.



## Inspiring Youth Action for Restoration on World Forestry Day

**200+** students and community leaders aligned on promoting forest restoration through education, advocacy, and tree planting.

Voice of Nature (VoNat) joined the South West Regional Delegation of the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF), civil society organizations, and students to commemorate World Forestry Day at Bilingual Grammar School Buea. The event aimed to promote forest conservation, environmental sustainability, and climate action, with a strong focus on youth engagement.

As part of the commemoration, over 500 participants took part in a tree-planting exercise, reaffirming their collective commitment to building a greener and more sustainable future. The celebration also featured student-led presentations that highlighted the vital role forests play in sustaining

life, regulating the climate, and combating climate change.

Through speeches and advocacy messages, young participants called for the sustainable management and protection of forest resources, demonstrating strong environmental awareness and leadership.

VoNat's participation in the event underscored the organization's commitment to nurturing environmental consciousness among the younger generation as a foundation for long-term sustainable development and community-driven conservation.



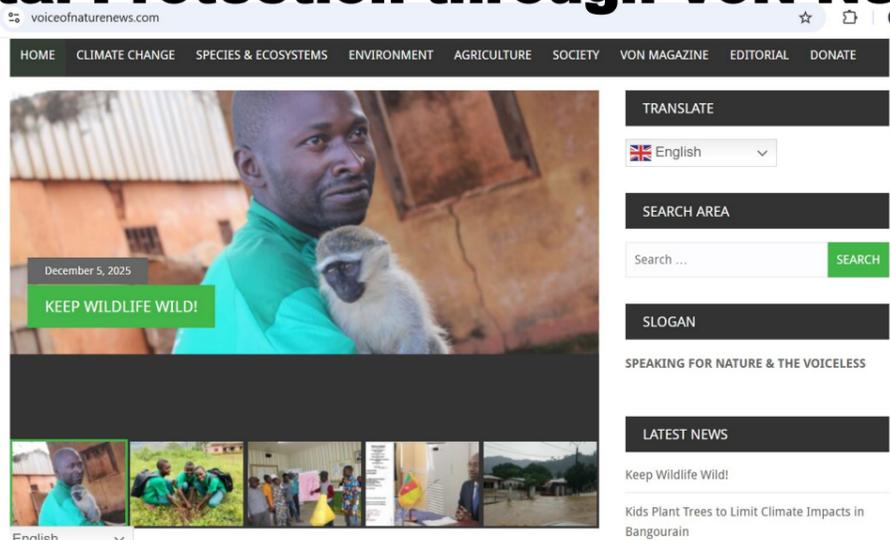
# COMMUNICATIONS & ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING

## Engaging People on Environmental Protection through VoN News

**50000+** persons reached with environmental news via VoN News website



VoNat sensitized over 20,000 individuals on environmental protection and sustainable natural resource management through its media arm, Voice of Nature (VoN) News. Using the website and social media platforms, VoNat shared news briefs, detailed write-ups, and editorials covering species, ecosystems, climate change, and other environment-related societal issues. Many of these stories sparked public debates, further enhancing



community understanding of natural resource management and climate action. Through VoN News, VoNat also promoted youth engagement by training 100 children in environmental information gathering, article writing, and reporting. Additionally, 15+ articles were published on the platform, creating accessible and timely resources for diverse audiences and strengthening the organization's outreach and advocacy.

This initiative highlights VoNat's commitment to leveraging digital media for environmental education, empowering communities and young people to actively participate in the sustainable management of natural resources and climate action initiatives. [Read More Environmental News Here](#)

## Expanding Outreach through Print Media Partnerships

To reach interior communities and key environmental stakeholders with limited access to online platforms, Voice of Nature (VoNat) partnered with local newspapers to publish select articles from its online platform, Voice of Nature (VoN) News. These hard-copy publications complemented the online news service by bringing timely environmental and conservation information directly to communities.

The print articles highlighted local biodiversity conservation challenges, sustainable development issues, and community-driven solutions, ensuring that critical information reaches audiences beyond the digital space. This initiative strengthened VoNat's mission of promoting environmental awareness, inclusive knowledge-sharing, and community engagement in conservation and sustainable natural resource management. Read some extracts of the articles below:

### Hippopotamus Sighted At Bambalang Lake

A few weeks ago, a hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*) was sighted in Bambalang Lake, a man-made lake located in the Northwest Region of Cameroon, an eloquent reminder of the ecological importance of this freshwater body and a call to action for the conservation of the lake's biodiversity.

Hippopotamus, which is one of Africa's most emblematic species, is classified as vulnerable on the IUCN Red List, but is drastically declining in population due to habitat loss, poaching, water pollution and human-wildlife conflict.

Its presence in the Bambalang Lake attests to the fact that the lake has adequate water depth, aquatic vegetation, and relatively undisturbed zones, which are suitable conditions for hippopotamus habitation.

The recent sighting of this iconic species at Bambalang Lake has sparked excitement and a deep sense of pride among the indigenous people of Bambalang. "Mbaw-Yakum (Bambalang) is a land of plenty, including some important species like this Hippopotamus, which we saw grazing along the shore of Kroh (one of the islands in Mbaw-Yakum). I am proud to be part of this beautiful village," said Robert Nashong, a Bambalang denizen.

Other people of Bambalang see the presence of a hippopotamus in their ancestral waters as a symbol of ecological richness and a reminder of their natural heritage.

"It was very beautiful to watch. The last time I saw this animal was in 1973. Our people MUST NOT HUNT them for any reason," Kwenui Andreas Ngunjoh, a Bambalang elite cautioned.

To Dr. Fongong Rapheal Fonsi and some Bambalang people, it is the first time seeing a live image of hippopotamus in the village. "It gave me the impression that our village could be a great tourist destination," Dr. Fongong noted.

He cautioned that "though this hippopotamus moved freely without harming any one, those living around the lake, especially the fishermen must be cautious to avoid any confrontation with the animal that may bring about any casualty".

#### Hippopotamus in an Artificial Lake?

The Bambalang Lake was formed in 1974 following the construction of the Baminjim Dam in Noun Division, West Region of Cameroon, for hydro-electric power and water supply. The presence of a hippopotamus in the Bambalang Lake, despite it being a man-made lake, raises interesting ecological and historical questions about



An Amateur image of Hippopotamus captured at the Bambalang Lake

its origin and movement.

While more research is required to ascertain its origin, it is possible that, as the dam was constructed, water levels rose and created an expanded water body, the Bambalang Lake, and hippopotamuses that were already living in the Noun River naturally followed the rising waters into their new, expanded home in Bambalang.

While artificial, the lake has developed a dynamic freshwater ecosystem over the decades and is now home to numerous species of fish, birds, am-

phibians, and aquatic plants. If protected and managed well, the lake can serve as a safe haven for not just this species but for a wide range of aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity. Conservation efforts now will ensure ecological balance, sustainable livelihoods, and a living legacy for future generations.

By Ndimuh B. Shancheo\*  
Conservationist/Journalist  
Executive Director, Voice of Nature (VoNat)

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### Cameroon's 2025 presidential election: The missing environmental agenda

By Ndimuh Bertrand Shancheo

As Cameroon approaches its 2025 presidential election, aspirants are unveiling visions for the future, promising jobs, education, security, and governance reform. Yet one crucial issue remains glaringly absent from most manifestos: the environment. This silence is deeply troubling because environmental degradation is not a peripheral concern, it is a national crisis that threatens public health, food security, economic stability, and the well-being of future generations.

Over the years, Cameroonian political campaigns have paid little attention to environmental sustainability. In both the 2011 and 2018 elections, party manifestos were dominated by pledges on infrastructure, decentralisation, and poverty reduction, with only passing references to natural resources. Even when conservation was mentioned, it was framed narrowly in terms of tourism potential or resource exploitation, rather than as part of a comprehensive strategy for climate resilience, species conservation, and community well-being.

This trend continues in 2025. Among the 12 approved presidential aspirants for the October 12 election, Akere Muna stands out with a somewhat articulated, though largely economically

driven, with emphasis on renewable energy and value-added resource processing. President Paul Biya's manifesto appears largely silent on environmental matters, even indirectly, based on current coverage. For most of the other candidates, environmental policy does not appear prominently, or at all, in their publicly reported manifestos.

Meanwhile, Cameroon's forests, which are part of the Congo Basin, the world's sec-

ond-largest rainforest, are disappearing at alarming rates due to illegal logging, mining, bush burning, and poorly planned infrastructure. Flagship species such as the Cross River Gorilla, the Nigeria-Cameroon Chimpanzee, and Preuss's Monkey are being pushed to the brink of extinction.

Communities are experiencing worsening floods, drying water

sources, declining soil fertility, and growing conflicts over increasingly scarce resources. Leaders of prominent environmental organisations warn that this neglect is dangerous. "There are three major issues I want the presidential aspirants to address: scale restoration efforts to meet the 12 million restoration commitment target, increase the national budget to respond to adaptation and resilience strengthening efforts, and foster youth empowerment

and meaningful inclusion in climate diplomacy and policy development," says Sunday Geoffrey, Coordinator of Support Humanity Cameroon (SUHUCAM).

Similarly, the Executive Director of Ecological Balance Cameroon (EBC), Limbi Blessing Tata, insists that candidates must prioritize "efficient carbon capture, regenerative

agriculture, and clean energy." The urgency is clear. In cities like Douala and Yaoundé, air and water pollution are daily realities, while rural communities grapple with the devastating impacts of deforestation and climate variability. Unlike much of the political class, young people are increasingly vocal, demanding green jobs, climate justice, and sustainable farming solutions.

With official campaigns set to kick off on September 27,

tial candidate must understand and embrace environmental stewardship as the foundation of economic progress, peace, and resilience. Any leader who fails to integrate environmental and sustainability concerns into their vision, risks being out of touch with the lived realities of the people. Clean air, fertile soils, stable weather, thriving species, and intact ecosystems are not luxuries, they are the very basis of life itself. If Cameroon is to build a prosper-



Environmental concerns neglect by presidential aspirants?



Presidential aspirants: time to take the environmental agenda from the margin to the center

The Sun Website: [www.thesunnewspaper.cm](http://www.thesunnewspaper.cm)

### FROM NORTH TO WEST: Rising Desertification Threatens Livelihoods

On June 17, 2025, Cameroon joined the global community in commemorating World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought. The commemoration of this day comes at a critical moment, as the country faces an escalating environmental crisis: desertification.

Once largely confined to the country's northernmost regions, this crisis is now steadily advancing into the Northwest, West, and East Regions, posing a grave threat to livelihoods, food systems, and ecological stability.

Decades of deforestation, overgrazing, and unsustainable agricultural practices have transformed once fertile lands in the Far North, North, and Adamawa Regions into arid, cracked expanses. These problems are being intensified by rapid population growth and climate change, leading to widespread soil degradation, compromised water supplies, and increasing food insecurity, putting millions at risk.

Dr. Ibrahim Maloum, a seasoned

ecologist and environmental researcher based in Garoua, reports that natural vegetation cover in parts of the northern region has declined by up to 60 percent over the past two decades. "Entire communities are being displaced by failing farmlands and dwindling water sources," he warns.

In response to the growing crisis, both international and local NGOs have launched initiatives, including reforestation projects, the promotion of zai pit farming techniques, and community sensitisation campaigns. However, the scale and speed of land degradation continue to outpace current solutions, underscoring the urgent need for more robust and coordinated interventions.

Northwest, West Regions Feeling the 'Heat'

What were once considered high-land safe zones are now showing worrying signs of environmental stress. The Northwest and West regions are experiencing rising levels of soil erosion, deforestation, and the loss of key

water catchments.

"The overuse of eucalyptus and the destruction of wetlands for farming have left the land fragile," explains Tantoh Derick, Chief of Service at the Northwest Regional Delegation of the Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development, MINEPDED.

"We are seeing more floods during the rainy season, and then total dryness when we need water the most," he adds.

In the West Region, the once-forested Mount Mbam landscape, which spanned over 12,000 hectares, has been severely degraded. Unchecked farming, deforestation, bush burning, and intensive fuelwood harvesting have transforming the area into a bare land. The Divisional Officer, DO, of Bangourain Subdivision, Ndi Jules Patrick, underscores the urgent need for collective actions against environmental degradation in the Mount Mbam area.

"Bush burning and deforestation are becoming more frequent, further

degrading the land and water sources. Let us collaborate and support Voice of Nature (VoNat)'s plans to restore this degraded landscape, our soil, and the water sources that are drying up every day," the DO recommends.

Cameroon stands at a critical crossroads. As desertification creeps southward from the Sahelian north into the country's once green highlands and forests, it threatens not only ecosystems but also the stability of agriculture, rural livelihoods, and peace. Land restoration must be placed at the heart of national climate resilience strategies. It is not merely an environmental issue, it is central to food security, sustainable development, and the long-term well-being of communities across the country. The time for action is now.

By Ndimuh Bertrand Shancheo,  
Conservationist/Journalist  
Executive Director, Voice of Nature (VoNat)

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**8+ Volunteers & interns recruited to contribute to 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 Voice of Nature's Volunteering and Youth Mentorship Programme . The program provided participants with structured orientation and hands-on engagement across key areas of the organization's work, including Species Conservation and Environmental Sustainability, Climate Change, Environmental Reporting and Communication, and General Administration and Management .

Volunteers actively contributed to program implementation, community outreach, research support, and communication activities, gaining practical experience while supporting VoNat's mission. The mentorship component emphasized skills development, environmental leadership, teamwork, and ethical conservation practice, helping participants strengthen both technical and professional competencies.

Volunteer placements lasted between one and six months , depending on individual availability and program needs. Upon completion of their service, participants were awarded attestations of service in recognition of their contributions and commitment. Through this programme, VoNat continues to empower young people, build local capacity, and nurture the next generation of environmental stewards. [Here](#)

**300+ Youths mentored to promote youth-led innovations for climate action and biodiversity conservation**



Some 300 students and young graduates in Buea were engaged in a capacity-building training focused on promoting youth-led innovation for climate action and biodiversity conservation . During the session, the Executive Director of Voice of Nature (VoNat) highlighted the impacts of biodiversity loss and the climate crisis on young

people, underscoring the urgent need for inclusive, youth-driven, and innovative solutions. The training emphasized the role of young people as key agents of change and explored practical, technology-driven and innovative approaches that participants can leverage to contribute meaningfully to biodiversity conservation and climate

action. Through this engagement, VoNat strengthened youth awareness, built capacity for action, and inspired young people to apply creativity, technology, and leadership in addressing pressing environmental challenges.

**A Life-Changing Experience at Environmental Journalism Intern at VoNat**



The supportive and jovial leadership of the Executive Director, Mr. Ndimuh Bertrand Shanchu, made my experience smooth and inspiring. Through one-on-one seminars and mentoring sessions, I gained practical skills in project writing, article writing, and time management—skills that have strengthened my confidence and prepared me for the professional world. One of the most valuable lessons for me was learning how to write and send professional emails, a simple but essential skill I had never acquired before joining VoNat.

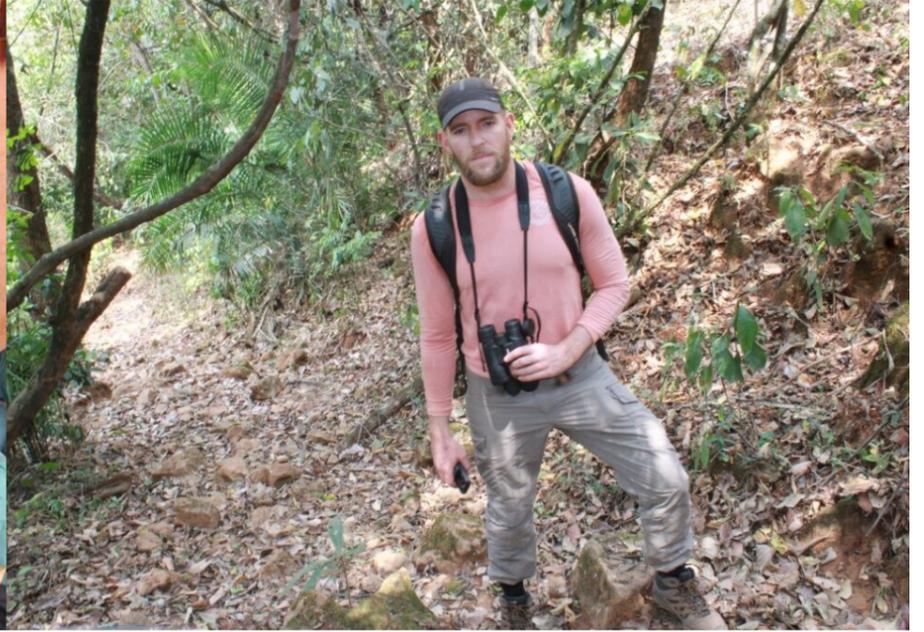
Under the guidance of my supervisor, Miss Jabi Katy, I developed practical skills in photography and visual storytelling. I learned how to identify a clear subject, position the character at the center of a story, and carefully consider the setting to communicate powerful environmental messages.

This internship exposed me to real-world professional standards while nurturing my creativity and self-belief. I leave VoNat more knowledgeable, skilled, and confident, with a clearer sense of direction and a renewed commitment to contributing meaningfully to conservation and sustainable development.

my internship at Voice of Nature (VoNat) was truly time well spent and deeply enriching. From my very first day, I was welcomed and treated as a full member of the team, which motivated me to learn, grow, and give my best throughout the internship.

## SUCCESS STORIES FROM INTERNS & VOLUNTEERS

### “An Eye-opening Internship Experience at VoNat, Something I will Never Forget”



My Internship at VoNat began in February 2025, when I took the long flight from Barcelona, through Istanbul to Douala, Cameroon. My first couple of days were spent in a hotel in Douala, working with Shanchu and some of his colleagues on a plan for our activities out in the field. My focus was to work with VoNat to collect baseline data in the Mount Mbam Area for their initial stage of a 20-year restoration plan that had been envisioned. We gathered various maps on land use and habitat

#### Data Collection & Preliminary Discoveries

The first step of our visit to Bangourain was to introduce ourselves to the Village Chief, who oversees the Bangourain community, including the smaller settlements that surround the mountainside. Shanchu had already introduced the project to him, and the chief's authorisation had been given. We conducted our first community leader interview to understand what challenges the community faces regarding land degradation and how the land is being used. We discovered lots of interesting information about the local wildlife that could be found and some of the key issues that people faced, such as reduced crop yields, drought, poor soil quality, etc.

We continued to interview some other key leaders in the community, including the mayor, who was very receptive to the restoration project. He had studied environmental issues before and was very aware of the issues faced at Mount Mbam and the reasons behind them. We met with the local government official

too, the Divisional Officer of Bangourain Subdivision, who was also very interested in the project and wanted to see restorative activities implemented across the landscape. This was very encouraging to see community leaders not only being very aware of the situation but also appreciative of the efforts VoNat was making to help them. This made us feel very welcome, and meant we did not face many challenges to convince community leaders of the need for our research. We were also put in contact with community experts who could assist us with speaking to the various traditional chiefs in the smaller communities nearby and who had knowledge of the mountain.

We also concluded that education and awareness of the importance of conservation are needed. People often hunt bushmeat indiscriminately, not necessarily realising the adverse impact this is having on wildlife. On two of the days, we visited local schools to give a session on biodiversity conservation, and I was surprised to see how little awareness there was of the species that can be found around Mount Mbam, and the risk of them being made locally extinct.

#### Community Engagement in Mapping Restoration Sites & Options

Once we had collected all of the questionnaire data and had explored the mountain, I analysed the results to summarise the key findings. I created maps from

the GPS points we collected to demonstrate the scale of the problem we had found from bush burning and land degradation. A workshop was then planned, where over 50 community leaders attended to be briefed on our preliminary findings. This was a great opportunity for me, where I created and presented a PowerPoint on our findings. I discussed the main issues we had been informed about, including fertiliser and chemical overuse, reduced yields, bush burning and longer droughts. I also summarised some key opportunities that had been identified. The vast majority of participants were in favour of restorative action, including the restoration of farmlands and reforestation. At the end of the workshop, people worked in groups according to which village they lived in, to devise some initial land use plans for their communities. These outlined areas for reforestation, regenerative agriculture and agroforestry land for grazing livestock.

All in all, the trip was an eye-opening experience and something I will never forget. I met incredible people who were trying to improve the livelihoods of local people and protect the environment. The passion, and willingness to participate in the restoration project was heart-warming, and I see there is a real opportunity here to work with the community and make some amazing improvements. I am hopeful to continue to support the project in the future and see some of the changes implemented for the benefit of the people who live in Bangourain and to protect the landscape for its biodiversity and natural beauty.

### “From Learning to Impact: My Transformational Internship with VoNat”



fieldwork with meaningful community engagement across the South West and West Regions of Cameroon. I strengthened practical skills in tree nursery management and seedling potting, while gaining valuable knowledge on threatened and endangered tree species around the Mount Cameroon National Park. Most importantly, I learned that effective biodiversity conservation depends on strong community participation and locally driven solutions.

A major highlight was coordinating the EcoKids Project in Bangourain, West Region. As Project Coordinator, I facilitated training on regenerative agriculture, focusing on organic liquid fertilizer production. Over 50 rural women participated, and I was proud to see that more than 60% began producing their own organic fertilizers afterward, an empowering step toward sustainable farming and improved livelihoods.

Beyond field activities, I participated at the 10th Anniversary Celebration of Laudato Si' in the Diocese of Buea, engaging with civil society actors under the theme “Care for Our Common Home represented.” The experience strengthened my commitment to environmental stewardship and collaboration.

I am deeply grateful to the VoNat team for their mentorship, professionalism, and unwavering support. I leave this internship more confident, skilled, and motivated to continue advancing conservation and sustainability wherever I go.

I had the privilege of completing a three-month internship with Voice of Nature (VoNat), based at Tarré Malingo, opposite Press Hostel—an experience that was immersive, inspiring, and truly transformative. Though it lasted three months, the journey felt incredibly short because every day was filled with learning, action, and purpose. My internship blended hands-on

## PUBLICATIONS

## VoNat Article Featured in Leading Global Amphibian Journal



Voice of Nature (VoNat) has been featured in the December 2025 issue of *FrogLog*, the flagship publication of the IUCN Amphibian Specialist Group, with an article titled “Empowering the Next Generation to Conserve the World’s Largest Frog.” *FrogLog* is recognized worldwide as the amphibian conservation community’s leading news source, publishing research findings, conservation actions, and field stories from scientists and practitioners across the globe. The inclusion of VoNat’s work highlights growing international interest in community-driven and youth-centered amphibians conservation approaches in Cameroon.

The published article documents how VoNat’s environmental education and youth mentorship initiatives are helping children understand the ecological importance of amphibians, particularly the world’s largest frog, and empowering them to take action in their communities. Through classroom lessons, storytelling, field visits, and advocacy activities, young people are gaining both knowledge and confidence to become future conservation leaders.

“Our goal is not only to protect species, but to raise a generation that understands why conservation matters. When children learn early that their forests, rivers, and wildlife are part of their identity, they grow up ready to defend them,” said Ndimuh Bertrand Shanchó, Executive Director of VoNat

At Voice of Nature (VoNat), the team believes that sustained conservation success begins with awareness, participation, and local leadership. The article illustrates how collaborations with schools, traditional authorities, and community groups are transforming children from passive observers into

active environmental stewards. By sharing lessons learned from Cameroon with practitioners around the world, VoNat hopes to inspire broader adoption of inclusive, youth-driven conservation models. The article appears in the December 2025 edition of *FrogLog* and can be accessed through the IUCN Amphibian Specialist Group’s online resource library available here.

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## VoNat Features on PANORAMA for Empowering Children as Conservation, Climate Champions

**PANORAMA**  
SOLUTIONS FOR A HEALTHY PLANET

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## Empowering Children as Community Conservation and Climate Action Champions in Cameroon

Full Solution

by **Ndimuh Bertrand Shanchó**, Voice of Nature (VoNat)



Children and youth engage in reforestation actions in the Bamenda Highlands of

Voice of Nature (VoNat) featured on PANORAMA – Solutions for a Healthy Planet for its innovative program, Empowering Children as Community Conservation and Climate Action

Champions in Cameroon, highlighting a scalable model for inclusive conservation and climate engagement. The published solution showcases how VoNat is equipping children

aged 10–18 across four regions of Cameroon with environmental knowledge, ecological skills, and leadership opportunities to become active agents of change. [Read More](#)

## STAFF CAPACITY BUILDING & WORKSHOPS FOR IMPROVED PRODUCTIVITY

### The Executive Director of VoNat participated at the Cameroon Civil Society Conference in Buea



The Executive Director of Voice of Nature (VoNat), Ndimuh Bertrand Shanchó, participated in the Cameroon Civil Society Conference held in Buea, convened by Mr. Ngang God'swill of Royalty World. The conference brought together representatives from over 20 civil society organizations from across Cameroon under the theme *"Humanitarian and Development Work as Catalysts for Peace and Development."*

The event provided an important platform for reflection, dialogue, and shared learning on the role of civil society organizations in promoting peace, sustainable development, and social cohesion. Through active participation, VoNat strengthened collaboration with peer CSOs, exchanged experiences and best practices, and gained valuable insights into cross-sector approaches for impact. The knowledge and networks gained through the conference will help inform VoNat's strategic direction and enhance collective action toward inclusive development and long-term environmental and social resilience.

### VoNat's Climate Action Programme Coordinator Trained on Plastic Pollution Governance

The Climate Action Programme Coordinator of Voice of Nature (VoNat), Nwanja Jane-Lena, acquired new skills in plastic pollution laws, policies and waste management specifically a strengthened understanding of national and international plastic-related laws and policies integrated with practical plastic waste management approaches. This was the outcome of a 2-day capacity-building workshop organized in Buea by Foundation for Environment and Development (FEDEV) and partners, under the auspices of Cameroon's Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED). The workshop was aimed to strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations (CSOs) on national and international plastic-related laws, policies, and sustainable waste management practices.

According to Madam Nwanja, the training provided her and other participants knowledge and tools to enhance their role in addressing plastic pollution and advancing a transition towards a plastic-free society in Cameroon. "By leveraging the tools and frameworks I acquired, I am confident in my ability to engage in collective CSO action and support Cameroon's contribution to global plastic treaty processes," she said.



### VoNat's ED Participated at CJM Strategic Action Plan Dev't Workshop



The Executive Director of VoNat, participated in a two-day strategic planning workshop held in Yaoundé for the development of the 2025 Strategic Action Plan of the Cameroon Climate Justice Movement (CJM). The workshop was convened under the auspices of Greenpeace Africa and brought together representatives of approximately 40 environmental civil society organizations from all ten regions of Cameroon.

Through plenary discussions and group work, participants jointly identified urgent climate and environmental injustices affecting vulnerable communities. Participants co-developed a comprehensive 2025 Strategic Action Plan outlining priority advocacy are-

as, campaign strategies, and coordinated interventions to address climate change impacts and promote climate justice across Cameroon. In addition, a multi-stakeholder working group was established to elaborate the operational framework and guide the effective implementation of the action plan.

VoNat's participation strengthened its engagement in national climate justice advocacy and reinforced collaboration with other civil society actors. The initiative contributed to building a unified civil society voice aimed at influencing policy, promoting equitable climate solutions, and advancing community-centered responses to the climate crisis in Cameroon.

### VoNat's Communication Officer Got Trained on Storytelling in South Africa

Jabi Katy Chale, Communications Officer at Voice of Nature (VoNat), participated in the Nature Environment & Wildlife Filmmakers (NEWF) Fellows Summit and Congress held in Durban, South Africa, from March 31 to April 4, 2025. The summit brought together environmental politicians, storytellers, journalists, scientists, and conservation practitioners from across Africa for an intensive week of training, mentorship, and peer learning.

Through hands-on sessions and exchanges with experienced professionals, Jabi strengthened her skills in environmental sto-

rytelling, visual communication, and strategic media engagement. The summit also expanded her professional network, providing opportunities for collaboration and exposure to innovative storytelling approaches used in conservation and environmental advocacy.

rytelling, visual communication, and strategic media engagement. The summit also expanded her professional network, providing opportunities for collaboration and exposure to innovative storytelling approaches used in conservation and environmental advocacy.



### VoNat's ED Gained Leadership Skills at NatGeo Workshop in Kenya



Ndimuh Bertrand Shanchó, Executive Director of Voice of Nature (VoNat), participated in the National Geographic Explorer Workshop held in Nairobi, Kenya, from January 25-30, 2025, under the theme *"Building Community through Collaborative Leadership."* The workshop brought together National Geographic Explorers from across Africa to strengthen leadership skills, deepen collaboration, and build regional networks for conservation impact.

During the workshop, Ndimuh presented VoNat's Goliath frog and amphibian conservation initiative, sharing his personal conservation journey, the key threats facing the Goliath frog and other amphibians in Cameroon, and VoNat's

long-term vision for species protection through community-led conservation, research, and advocacy. The presentation provided a valuable opportunity for peer learning, feedback, and knowledge exchange.

Participation in the workshop strengthened Ndimuh's leadership capacity, expanded his professional network, and deepened his exposure to collaborative conservation approaches. The experience enhanced his confidence, strategic perspective, and ability to position VoNat's work within regional and global conservation dialogues, contributing to stronger leadership and institutional growth for the organization.

## RECOGNITION

### VoNat's ED Recognized for Transformative Leadership in Climate and Conservation



Voice of Nature's Executive Director, Ndimuh Bertrand Shanchó, received two significant recognitions highlighting his leadership in climate action and biodiversity conservation.

On International Youth Day 2025, he was honored as one of 12 remarkable African youth by the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) for leading transformative climate action projects. This recognition underscores his outstanding contributions to sustainable development initiatives in Cameroon and strengthens his commitment to advancing innovative, community-led climate solutions, promoting sustainable natural resource management, and engaging youth in environmental stewardship.

In addition, Ndimuh was featured among the pioneer Conservation & Communities Fellowship Alumni, representing Cameroon in a network of conservation leaders across Africa and the Global South. This fellowship offered opportunities for knowledge exchange, collaboration, and strategic learning, enhancing his capacity to lead community-focused conservation initiatives, deepen engagement with stakeholders.

Together, these honors reinforce VoNat's visibility and credibility on platforms international and highlight the organization's leadership in driving locally grounded, impactful solutions for climate, biodiversity, and community development challenges.

### VoNat's Communications Officer Became NatGeo Young Explorer

The Communications Officer of Voice of Nature (VoNat), Jabi Katy Chale, was selected as one of 15 outstanding changemakers worldwide for the 2025 National Geographic Young Explorers program. This prestigious international initiative recognizes and supports young leaders aged 18–25 who are making meaningful contributions in their communities through exploration, conservation, storytelling, education, and science. Jabi's selection reflects her growing impact as an environmental communicator and storyteller, using media to amplify conservation messages, engage young people, and promote sustainable natural resource management

in Cameroon. Her achievement marks a significant milestone for VoNat, increasing the organization's representation within the National Geographic Explorer community to two. The first is VoNat's Executive Director, Ndimuh Bertrand Shanchó, who became a National Geographic Explorer in 2022. Together, their recognition strengthens VoNat's visibility on global conservation platforms and reinforces the organization's commitment to nurturing young talent, advancing environmental journalism, and connecting local conservation efforts to international networks for greater impact.



### Celebrating Growth, Impact & New Beginnings of Interns & Volunteers



7 former interns and volunteers at Voice of Nature (VoNat), including graduate and undergraduate students, both national and international, successfully graduated, marking a key milestone in their academic and professional journeys. VoNat is proud to have contributed to their growth by providing hands-on experience, mentorship, and opportunities to engage in environmental conservation and community empowerment initiatives.

Through the internship and volunteer program, participants gained practical skills in conservation, community engagement, and sustainable development, while supporting VoNat's mission to build a greener, safer planet and empower vulnerable children and women in Cameroon's forest communities.

This achievement highlights VoNat's continued commitment to capacity building, youth empowerment, and nurturing the next generation of environmental leaders, ensuring that knowledge, skills, and passion for conservation are passed on to create lasting impact for communities and ecosystems.

## NEW STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

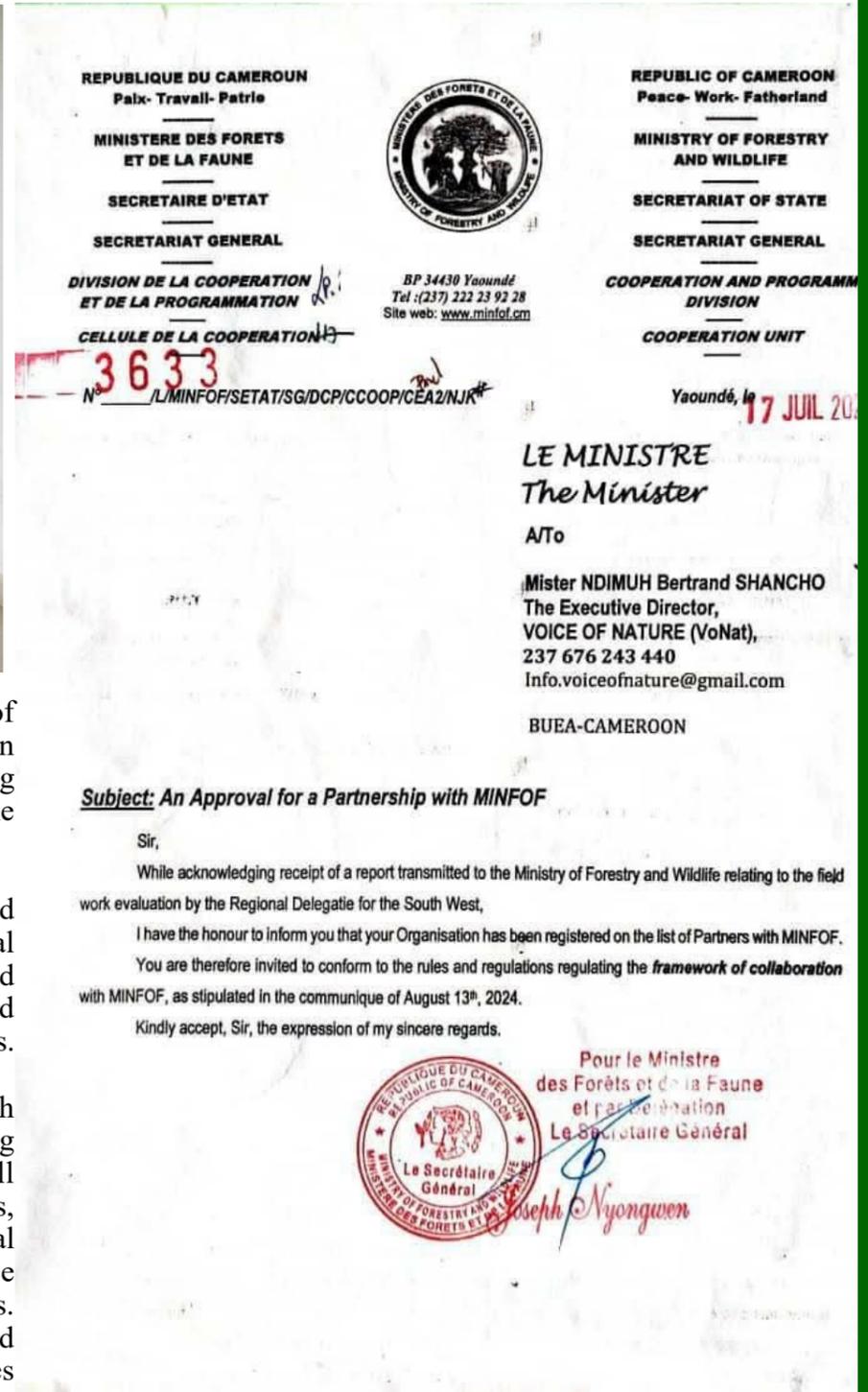
# VoNat Recognized as Official Partner of MINFOF



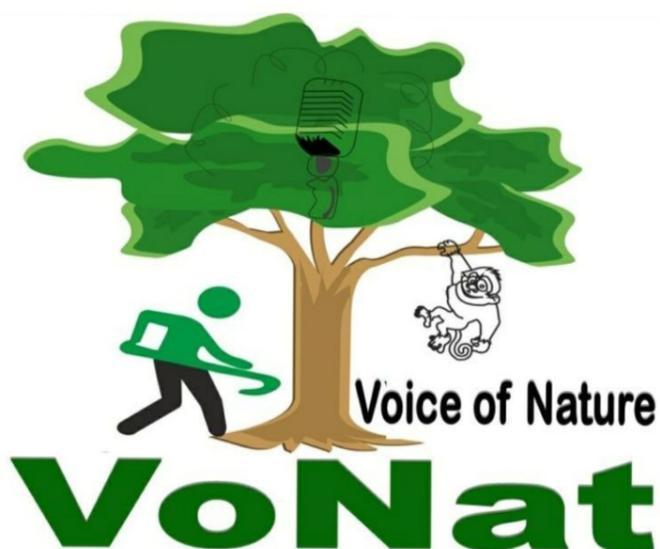
Voice of Nature (VoNat) was officially recognized as a strategic partner of Cameroon's Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF). This recognition represents a significant national acknowledgment of VoNat's long-standing commitment to biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, and the promotion of sustainable forest and wildlife management across Cameroon.

Being recognized by MINFOF underscores the credibility, impact, and relevance of VoNat's conservation work at both community and national levels. This partnership therefore strengthens institutional collaboration and ensures that conservation actions are better coordinated, scalable, and aligned with national priorities.

Through this partnership, VoNat will continue to work closely with MINFOF to deepen community-led conservation approaches, recognizing local communities as key custodians of forests and wildlife. Joint efforts will focus on protecting endangered species, restoring degraded ecosystems, reducing pressures on protected areas, and advancing environmental education and awareness to inspire responsible natural resource management, particularly among youth and local stakeholders. The Management of VoNat expresses deep appreciation to all past and present partners, donors, volunteers, staff, interns, and local communities whose dedication, trust, and collaboration have contributed to this important milestone.



## VoNat Becomes a Partner of the Amphibian Survival Alliance (ASA)



Voice of Nature (VoNat) officially became the latest partner of the Amphibian Survival Alliance (ASA), a global network dedicated to ensuring a sustainable future for amphibians. This partnership strengthens the organization's role within the international conservation

community. Through ASA, VoNat now has access to global resources, technical guidance, and collaboration opportunities, enabling the organization to enhance research, protection, and advocacy partnership efforts for amphibians in Cameroon and beyond. This not only validates VoNat's local conservation initia-

tives but also provides a platform to leverage international expertise, share best practices, and scale impact, reinforcing the organization's mission to conserve biodiversity and promote sustainable management of Cameroon's unique ecosystems.



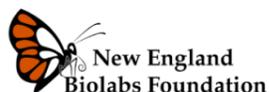
## Donate to Support Our Course

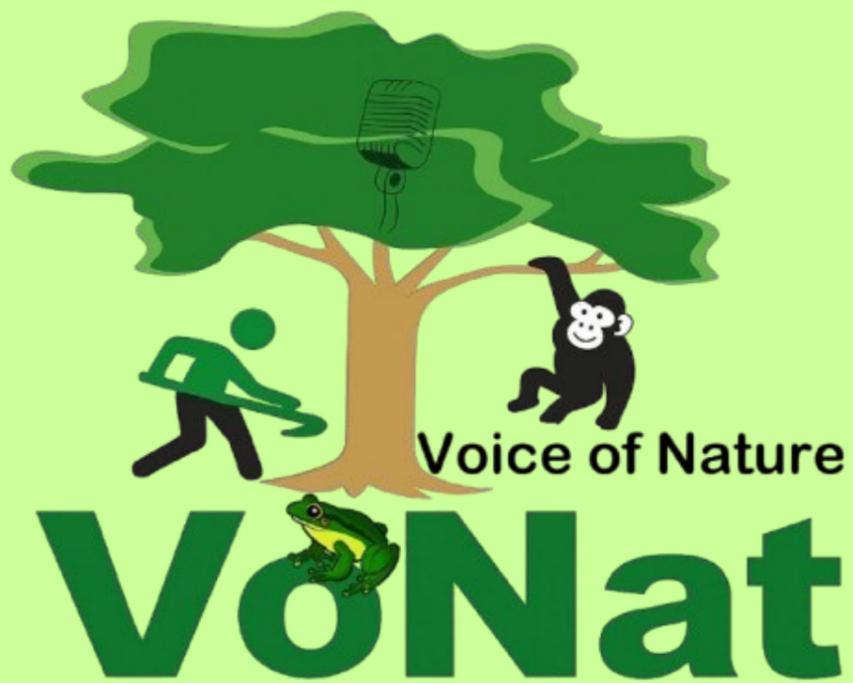
VoNat is a non-profit Organization that largely depends on grants from charitable organizations and individual donors to realize its mission of building a greener, safer and more sustainable planet with community kids and youths. Please support our strive towards saving worlds largess frog, last great 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**  
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## Partners & Collaborators

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