



ACTION FOR CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY (ACES)

BIANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022



ADDRESSING THE ROOT CAUSES OF SPECIES EXTINCTION AND HABITAT DEGRADATION.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge the support we recieved from all our partners and funders. A very big thank you to our board members for their endless sacrifices and technical support to all our projects and program development. We also thank the park management service and the conservator of the Deng Deng National Park for their collaboration in the successful implementation of our projects. we appreciate the school delegate for their cooperation without leaving out the traditional rulers and communities for their warm reception and collaboration. To all ACES Staffs, volunteers and well-wishers we say thank you for your support.



ABOUT ACES

Action for Conservation of Endangered Species Now Action for Conservation and Environmental Sustainability (ACES) was established by a group of passionate conservationists with a deep commitment to protecting biodiversity and uplifting marginalized communities. Inspired by the urgent need to address environmental challenges and the recognition of the interconnectedness between ecosystems and human well-being. ACES is a grass-root non-profit organization established in 2021 to, address the root causes of species extinction and habitat degradation with the aim of creating a harmonious and sustainable relationship between humans, animals, and the environment.

The organisation, is dedicated to the conservation and protection of the environment, wildlife, and the rights of local communities. We strive to support community livelihoods, advocate for climate justice, and conduct research that promotes the sustainable coexistence of humans and nature.



ANGWA GWENDOLINE
CONSERVATION BIOLOGIST
FOUNDING
MEMBER/COORDINATOR ACES

Our Unique Approach

What sets ACES apart is its community-driven approach to conservation. ACES recognizes that sustainable solutions can only be achieved by engaging and empowering indigenous people and local communities who have a deep understanding of their ecosystems. By valuing and integrating community knowledge and interests, ACES ensures that conservation efforts are rooted in the needs, interests and aspirations of the people who depend on the land and resources.

ACES MISSION

ACES is committed to the conservation and protection of the environment, wildlife, and the rights of indigenous people and local communities through research, training, advocacy and community engagement.

ACES VISSION

ACES strives to foster a future where wildlife, habitats, and communities coexist in harmony. We envision a world where all species thrive in their natural habitats, and where indigenous people and local communities play an integral role in the conservation and sustainable management of their ecosystems.



ACES VALUES

Transparency

ACES operates openly, providing clear, accurate information about its activities, impacts, and decision-making processes

Accountability

ACES takes responsibilities for its actions, holds itself to high ethical standards, is accountable to its stakeholders, including local communities and indigenous peoples, and nature itself

Inclusivity

We respect diversity and includes all voices, particularly those often marginalized in environmental discussions, such as women, youths, indigenous peoples and local communities

Justice

ACES aims to achieve environmental justice, ensuring fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people in environmental decisions

Resilience

we emphasize on the importance of building resilience in ecosystems, communities, and its own operation to adapt to environmental changes



OBJECTIVES OF ACES

- 1. Conservation and Restoration:** ACES aims to protect and restore critical habitats, safeguarding the biodiversity within them. This includes the preservation of endangered species and the rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems.
- 2. Community Empowerment:** ACES recognizes the importance of local knowledge and community engagement in conservation efforts. By actively involving indigenous people and local communities, ACES ensures that their voices are heard, their rights are respected, and their livelihoods are supported.
- 3. Climate Justice and Policy Advocacy:** ACES advocates for the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, ecosystems, and natural resources threatened by large extractive companies including dams. ACES also support climate justice, highlighting the disproportionate impacts of climate change on vulnerable communities and advocating for policies that prioritize environmental sustainability and social equity. We also engage in policy discussions, promoting the inclusion of community knowledge and opinions to shape effective conservation strategies.
- 4. Sustainable Livelihoods:** ACES recognizes that providing alternative livelihood opportunities is crucial for empowering communities and reducing pressures on natural resources. Through initiatives such as agroforestry, agroecology, and community enterprises, ACES supports sustainable economic activities that promote both conservation and community well-being.



PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

1 STRENGTHENING COLLABORATIVE MANAGEMENT FOR THE CONSERVATION OF GREAT APES IN THE DENG DENG NATIONAL PARK, EAST REGION CAMEROON FUNDED BY RUFFORD FOUNDATION

Recent park report shows an increase in the trade of wildlife products and insufficient skills of ecoguards to effectively carryout patrols and forest surveillance.

To ensure the effective conservation of great apes and other wildlife species in the Deng Deng National Park, we reinforced the capacity of ecoguards and community field guides on effective-patrols and use of surveillance equipments. Market patterns, supply chains, and quantity of apes harvested per season were conducted to informed lawmakers and park managers for effective decision making and policy formulation. Sensitisation and awareness raising was carryout in indeginous and local communities around the park on the importance of conservation.

RESULTS ACHIEVED

Sustainability of bushmeat offtake around the Deng Deng National Park:

A total of One thousand three hundred and thirty carcasses were recorded - 728 in the rainy season and 602 in the dry season from 11 hunters. The fresh and dry weight of the carcass was approximately 9989.5 kg (5115 kg in the rainy season and 4874.5 kg in the dry season). Three Gorillas were killed in the area within the period. The results shows that more species are hunted in the raining season than in the dry season. The park is very acessable either through the rail way, pipeline, roads, and water, making the illegal transportation of wildlife product easier. There are open bush meat market within the area located in Yaounde, Bertoua and Belabo



Community sensitisation and awareness raising

10 communities were sensitized and 500 brochures on wildlife conservation distributed during sensitisation, approximately 1000 people were reach during the project.

Capacity Building

15 ecoguards apt with the skills required for effective patrol and forest surveillance through training on the use and manipulation of GPS, Camera traps and survey methods.



2 Improving the Conservation of Elephants and other Wildlife Species in the Deng Deng National Park through Research, Education and Community Outreach.

The project aimed to improve on the conservation of the critically endangered African forest elephant and the western lowland gorillas by, evaluating the perception and effectiveness of indigenous knowledge in managing human elephant conflict, engaged 250 youths and student in 5 schools around the Deng Deng National park on the conservation of wildlife through the establishment of environmental clubs and lastly to sensitized 500 people in 10 communities on the importance of conservation through the printing and distribution of brochures.

RESULTS

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

5 environmental clubs successfully established in five secondary schools around the park and 390 Students engaged in outdoor conservation education to reduce pressure on wildlife and curb consumption behavior of wildlife products around the Deng Deng National Park, East Region of Cameroon. while mitigating the effect of climate change through the introduction of agroecology



Perception of local communities towards conservation

85% of the respondent(100) shows a negative altitude towards restrictions on wildlife harvest (hunting) and this was directly related to their custom and tradition. The communities base on their believe as forest dwellers says the consumption of wildlife is inbuilt as they claim bush meat taste better than any other community domesticated animal. The reasons associated to commercial hunting based on the respondent was a fast way to raise income for their day-to-day life.



3 Mitigating the effect of human wildlife conflict through youth engagement and community outreach

Environmental education program was elaborated and community consultation workshops conducted in 3 communities to gauge communities in conservation of wildlife and to encourage community conservation. They also express their dissatisfaction in the management and conservation authorities. The communities expressed concerns of being trapped between conservation and their well being. We aimed at creating a balance and that local communities live in harmony alongside wildlife in and around the Deng Deng National Park, ensuring more effort be place on supporting community livelihoods and education.



4 BUILDING STEWARDS OF BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE

ACES in Collaboration with NAPCOD engaged some 500 kids in 3 primary schools to enhance on conservation and environmental protection in and around the Deng Deng National Park. The project funded by The New England Biolaps Foundation (NEBF) engaged young people in practical outdoor conservation activities and trained trainers for conservation education in primary schools around the Deng Deng National Park. 100 Native tree species were also planted by the pupils of the schools as their contribution to combat climate change. Community mobilisation and sensitisation on climate action were equally carried out.



5 SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

A five hectare cassava farm was established to demonstrate good agricultural practices and equally to increase food production, and generate income to support our conservation intervention. 100 tricycles of Casava were produced in the farm, equivalent to 100 tons or rather 100,000 kg of cassava produced in 2022.

5 community members were engaged in the project. Cassava stems distributed to 50 farmers in Bertoua



5 NETWORKING AND ADVOCACY

ACES participated in workshop organised by Green Development Advocates (GDA) that mobilized youths, women and local community movements to strengthen actions to combat climate change. During this workshop, women's capacities were build on the Right to Say No or Yes for projects that affects them. At the end of the workshop, a final communique was prepared and shared with delegates and other actors attending the COP 27 in Egypt as the Cameroonian civil society contribution in the fight against climate change.

ACES is a member of the IFI Synergy Group, a Cameroonian civil society platform which ensures that the rights of local communities and indigenous peoples are respected in the implementation of projects financed by international financial institutions in Cameroon such as the World Bank, AfDB.

Through this platform, ACES and other civil society organisation has developed policy document to strengthen Wildlife management in the Cameroonian forestry and wildlife law under revision since 2008.

Demand justice for communities affected by large industrial oil palm projects in Cameroon such as the SOCAPALM, CAMVERT by proposing the adoption of a National Palm Oil Strategy



INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Income	Amount (CFA)	Amount (USD)
Proceeds from demonstration farm	1,700,000	2833
Bank Interest	62424	107
Donations	1,600,000	2660
Local support from NAPCOD	760,000	1260
GRANTS		
Rufford small grants	4,400,000	7190
Ideawild	780,000	1300
Elephant Managers Association	950,000	1490
Alongside Wildlife Foundation	1,200,000	1950
Total	11,452,424	18,790
EXPENDITURE		
Staff cost	2,400,000	4000
administrative cost	360,000	600
Direct cost for project implementation	7,350,000	12250
Total EXPENDITURE	10,110,000	16850
Left over from 2022.	1,342,424	2, 237

STAFF MEMBERS



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Coordinator ACES
(MSc Biodiversity Conservation)



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Social Scientist ACES
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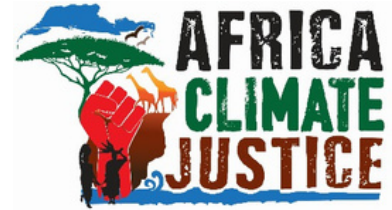
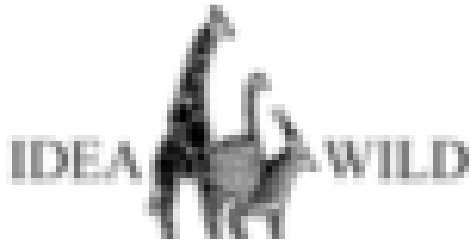


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VOLUNTEER Book keeper/ ACES
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Board Members

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- 2) Seino Richard Akwanjoh (Professor Genetics), Lecturer university of Bamenda
- 3) Philip Tem Dia (MSc Biodiversity Conservation and Landscape Manager of South Sudan, Flora and Fauna International.
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FUNDERS AND PARTNERS



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