



ABOYERD

ANNUAL REPORT

AGRICULTURE AND BIO-CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION FOR YOUTH
EMPOWERMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (ABOYERD)



2024

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2024, ABOYERD experienced significant growth and impact across its conservation and community development efforts in the Mbam Djerem and Campo Ma'an landscapes. Guided by its mission to protect biodiversity and enhance human well-being through scientific research, conservation education, sustainable livelihoods, and climate action, ABOYERD delivered transformative programs with measurable results.

Under the **Ngouroumoutou Program**, pangolin conservation efforts expanded with a behavior change campaign reaching over 3,000 individuals, leading to a reduction in pangolin meat consumption. School-based Pangolin Clubs engaged 168 students through educational and outreach activities. The opening of an Environmental Education Center in Ngoum further strengthened local conservation education.

The **CAMGAEPP** (Campo Ma'an Great Apes and Elephants Protection Program) targeted Human-Elephant Conflict by engaging communities in beekeeping, constructing over 430 beehives and planting over 15,000 trees for habitat restoration. Sixty individuals were trained, promoting ecological resilience and sustainable deterrents.

While the **Field Conservation Heroes Program** rather prepared to welcome two students from France in 2025, related activities trained 13 eco-guards in wildlife crime scene management, en-

hancing local capacity and aligning with updated national legislation. Meanwhile, ABOYERD's scientific work included bio-monitoring, human-wildlife conflict studies, and participatory land mapping to inform adaptive strategies.

Livelihood support advanced through strengthened apiculture, njangsang, and honey value chains, benefiting over 210 forest users. Pilot projects in potato, poultry, and fish farming showed promise in improving food security and reducing forest dependency. Community cooperatives were also supported for long-term governance and sustainability.

Despite challenges such as funding instability, logistical hurdles, and community skepticism, ABOYERD's participatory, trust-based approach allowed for continued progress. Financial transparency and investments in community infrastructure remained a priority.

Looking to 2025, ABOYERD plans to scale successful initiatives, expand environmental education, launch ecogardens, and introduce plantain farming. Strengthening local governance and formalizing land rights will be key priorities.

ABOYERD remains grateful to its partners, donors, and the communities it serves, working together toward a future where people and nature thrive in harmony.

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I. INTRODUCTION

a) Purpose and Scope of the Report

This annual technical report presents a detailed account of ABOYERD's activities, achievements, and challenges during the calendar year 2023. It aims to provide stakeholders-including partners, donors, government agencies, community members, and the general public-with a transparent and comprehensive overview of our conservation efforts. The report covers all major programs and projects implemented within the reporting period, highlighting their outcomes, impacts, and lessons learned.

b) About ABOYERD

Officially recognized as an Association with the registration number 96B/ARDA/F.34/SAAJP under the law number 90/053 of 19/12/1990, in the Republic of Cameroon, ABOYERD stands as a beacon of hope in Cameroon's conservation landscape. This grassroots nonprofit is dedicated to bridging the gap between environmental sustainability and community livelihoods, emphasizing the vital role of indigenous populations in preserving the nation's rich biodiversity. By fostering conservation awareness, designing and implementing nature-based solutions to devastating conservation problems such as human-wildlife conflicts and habitat destruction, and providing sustainable livelihood alternatives, ABOYERD empowers local communities to actively participate in protecting their natural resources while improving their socio-economic conditions.

With a mission rooted in scientific research, awareness and behavioural change, community livelihood development and habitat conservation, ABOYERD aims to create a harmonious coexistence between wildlife and human communities. Their innovative approach not only addresses immediate environmental challenges but also promotes long-term sustainable development strategies that benefit both people and ecosystems. Through collaborative efforts, ABOYERD is committed to ensuring that the voices of local communities are heard and that their needs are met in the fight against biodiversity loss.

c) Mission

Our mission is to protect biodiversity and improve human well-being through scientific research, environmental education, livelihood improvement, and climate action for a sustainable human-wildlife coexistence.

d) Timeframe Covered

This report covers activities and results from January 1 to December 31, 2024. It reflects the progress made within this period and sets the stage for future planning and development.

e) Organizational Structure and Governance

ABOYERD is governed by a Board of Directors responsible for strategic oversight and policy guidance, ensuring that the organization remains aligned with its mission and long-term goals. The Board plays a crucial role in steering ABOYERD's direction, maintaining accountability, and fostering transparency across all levels of the organization. Operational activities at ABOYERD are managed by a dedicated and skilled team comprising conservation scientists, educators, community facilitators, and administrative staff. This diverse team collaboratively implements programs effectively and engage stakeholders meaningfully.

The organizational structure of ABOYERD is designed to promote collaboration, transparency, and accountability, which are essential for delivering impactful conservation and community development initiatives. At the core of this structure is the administration, headed by the Executive Director, who oversees the day-to-day management and coordination of the organization's activities.

ABOYERD is composed of five key departments, each specializing in critical areas to support the organization's mission:

- **Research Department:** Conducts scientific studies and data collection to inform conservation strategies and policy recommendations.
- **Environmental Education and Conservation Awareness Department:** Develops and implements educational programs to raise awareness about environmental stewardship within communities.
- **Livelihoods Department:** Focuses on sustainable livelihood initiatives that empower local communities while promoting conservation goals.
- **Finance Department:** Manages budgeting, financial planning, and resource allocation to ensure the organization's financial health and compliance.
- **Administration:** Oversees overall organizational management, human resources, and coordination among departments, led by the Executive Director.

Together, these departments work under the supervision of the administration to ensure cohesive program delivery, efficient resource utilization, and strong stakeholder engagement. This structured approach enables ABOYERD to effectively address environmental challenges while fostering community development and resilience.

I. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We gratefully acknowledge the support and collaboration of our partners, donors, government agencies, local communities, and volunteers whose commitment and contributions have been vital to the success of our programs. Special thanks go to Small Scale Initiatives Program (PPI), Noé, Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF), New England Biolabs Foundation (NEBF), African Wildlife Foundation (AWF), Prince Bernhard Nature fund (PBNF), Global Diversity Foundation (GDF), and Play for Nature, whose financial and technical support have enabled us to expand our impact and reach.

II. BACKGROUND

ABOYERD operates in regions of exceptional biodiversity, including the Mbam Djerem National Park and the Campo Ma'an landscape-areas that provide critical habitats for endangered species such as pangolins, great apes, and elephants. These ecosystems face escalating threats from habitat loss, poaching, and unsustainable resource exploitation, which not only endanger wildlife but also undermine the livelihoods and well-being of local communities.

At the time of ABOYERD's creation, it was evident that many ongoing conservation efforts by various actors in the field were falling short of their intended impact. A key reason for this was the lack of scientific data and research underpinning these interventions. Recognizing this gap, ABOYERD was established to change the narrative by placing scientific research and indigenous communities at the heart of its conservation strategies.

From its inception, ABOYERD has been committed to ensuring that every intervention is guided by robust scientific evidence and informed by the knowledge and priorities of local communities. This approach not only increases the effectiveness and sustainability of conservation actions but also

fosters genuine local ownership and participation. By integrating scientific research with community engagement, ABOYERD aims to create innovative, data-driven solutions that address both ecological and socio-economic challenges.

The 2023 reporting period builds upon this foundation, with a strong emphasis on behavioral change campaigns, participatory mapping, youth empowerment, and ongoing research and monitoring. This background underscores the rational and strategic direction of ABOYERD's work, highlighting our commitment to evidence-based, community-centered conservation.

I. OBJECTIVES

2.1. Main goal

In 2024, ABOYERD aimed at advancing its biodiversity protection/climate action efforts in the Campo Ma'an and Mbam Djerem National Parks by enhancing ecosystem restoration, improving local livelihoods, and mitigating human-wildlife conflicts, while promoting environmental awareness and closing wildlife knowledge gaps through scientific research and targeted sensitization campaigns in both sites.

2.2. Objectives for the reporting period

In the Campo Ma'an National Park, the specific objectives for 2024 were to:

- Advance restoration/climate action activities in degraded wildlife habitats and Park boundaries.
- Reinforce and expand on apiculture activities as one of ABOYERD's Nature-Based Approaches (NBAs) in mitigating Human Elephant Conflict in the Campo Ma'an landscape.

In the Mbam Djerem National Park, the specific objectives for 2024 were to:

- Advance the valorization of Nom-Timber Forest Products (njangsang and honey) across 8 target communities initiated in 2023.
- Advance behavior change campaigns across communities and schools.
- Improve on scientific research targeting biomonitoring and socio-economic surveys.

III. ABOYERD's APPROACH

To effectively meet the outlined objectives for 2024 in both Campo Ma'an and Mbam Djerem National Parks, a multi-faceted and participatory approach was adopted. This approach integrated ecological restoration, community engagement, scientific research, and sustainable livelihood promotion, with a strong emphasis on nature-based and community-led strategies.

3.1. Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Action (Campo Ma'an +Mbam Djerem)

- **Methodology:** Applied restoration techniques, including both ecological and fruit tree planting through nursery creation and Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) in degraded wildlife habitats, individual farmlands and buffer zones.
- **Strategy:** Established a 15,000-capacity nursery and engaged local communities and eco-guards in the introduction of indigenous tree species (paid service) rather than contracting external experts, its management and accompanied restoration efforts to foster ownership and ensure sustainability, while aligning with broader climate resilience goals. The fruits trees were introduced as one of the incentives to not only fight Human Elephant Conflict, but also, bolster active community engagement in tree planting and other conservation related activities.

3.2. Nature-Based Solutions for Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation (Campo Ma'an)

- **Methodology:** Promoted and scaled up apiculture (beekeeping) initiatives in elephant-prone zones as a non-lethal, nature-based deterrent to human-elephant conflict.
- **Strategy:** Provided training, equipment, and technical support to local beekeepers, while integrating the activity into conservation awareness campaigns to strengthen coexistence between wildlife and communities.

3.3. Non-Timber Forest Product (NTFP) Valorization (Mbam Djerem)

- **Methodology:** Built on 2023 groundwork/trainings by expanding market access, value-addition, and cooperative organization for njangsang and honey production.
- **Strategy:** Conducted capacity-building workshops, facilitated linkages between local producers/beneficiaries and the external markets, and supported community-based enterprise development to boost income while reducing reliance

on unsustainable forest exploitation within the landscape.

3.4. Behavior Change and Environmental Education (Mbam Djerem)

- **Methodology:** Implemented targeted behavior change campaigns using posters, radio broadcasts, school clubs, and interactive community sessions.
- **Strategy:** Focused on fostering conservation-friendly attitudes and practices among youth and adults by integrating local cultural values and success stories.

3.5. Scientific Research and Monitoring (Mbam Djerem)

- **Methodology:** Carried out systematic biomonitoring using camera traps, transect surveys, and species inventories, alongside participatory socio-economic surveys.
- **Strategy:** Collaborated with academic institutions and local researchers to generate data that informs adaptive park management, community development interventions, and biodiversity conservation efforts.

The overall approach combined **science-based conservation** with **community-driven development**, emphasizing **nature-based solutions**, **sustainable resource use**, and inclusive stakeholder participation. By intertwining ecological goals with socio-economic benefits, the strategy aimed to enhance biodiversity protection while empowering local populations of the Mbam Djerem and Campo sectors to become stewards of their environment.

IV. PROGRAMS

4.1. OVERVIEW OF PROGRAM NGOUROUMOUTOU PROGRAM

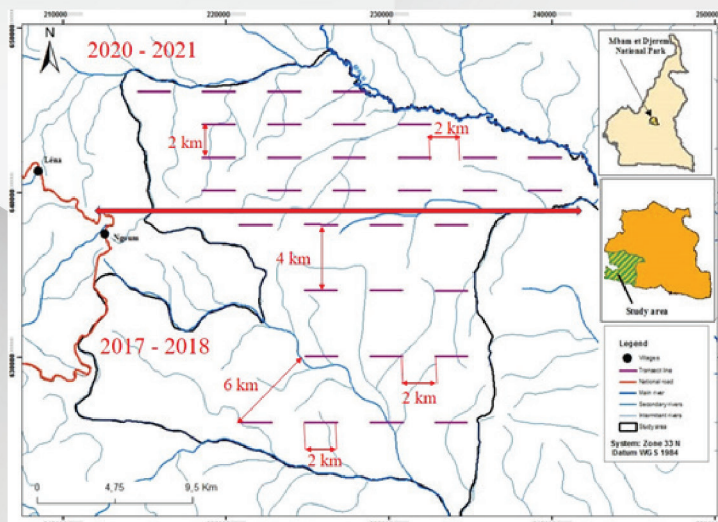
A. RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

4.1.1. Summary of major research activities undertaken

a. Wildlife Monitoring Using Innovative Research Techniques

Ecological monitoring is crucial for understanding and preserving biodiversity, as it provides essential data to protect vulnerable species and their habitats from environmental threats. Regarding ecological monitoring, ABOYERD has employed innovative research techniques to track population dynamics and threats to pangolins and other animal species, as well as their associated wildlife habitats

in MDNP. The designated area for ecological monitoring consists of twenty 2-km transects, with the possibility of expanding to 34 depending on available resources.



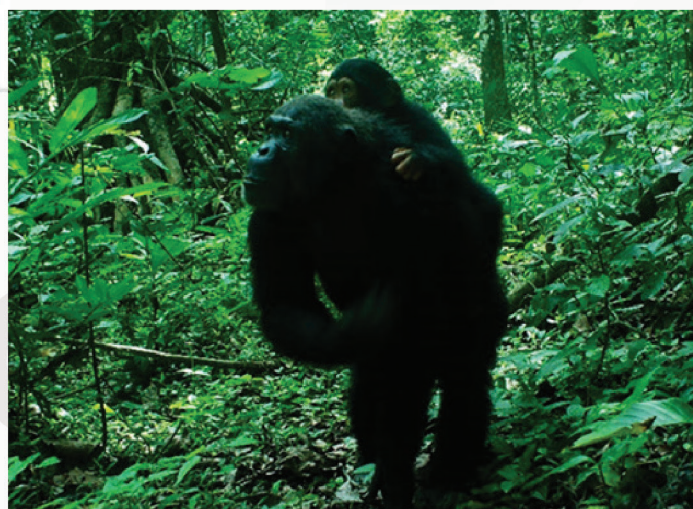
Bio-monitoring design for data collection in Mbam et Djerem National Park

ABOYERD utilizes linear transects and camera traps as the primary methods for data collection within the MDNP. Linear transects, which involve walking predetermined 2-km paths, allow for systematic observation of the landscape, while camera traps provide continuous, non-invasive monitoring of wildlife activity in the absence of the researcher. These techniques were used to gather critical indicators of pangolins and other species' presences, including footprints, scats, direct sightings, camera trap footage vocalizations, and evidence of human activity, such as tracks or signs of encroachment.

Data collection was conducted on a quarterly basis in partnership with the conservation service, ensuring consistent monitoring and collaboration to support the protection of pangolins and their habitats.



Wildlife species footages from ABOYERD's



camera traps in MDNP: red river hog (upper left), elephant (upper right), chimpanzees (bottom left) and the Giant pangolin (bottom right).



Theoretical training (a), practical demonstration of crime scenes and evidence management (b and c), and trainers and trainees with their certificates of completion.

To disseminate the results obtained from all these studies, a bunch of publications have so far been made, and many are under preparation:

- Mouafo et al., (2021). Local Knowledge and Use of Pangolins by Culturally Diverse Communities in the Forest-Savannah Transition Area of Cameroon. *Tropical Conservation Science*, 14:1-14, <https://doi.org/10.1177/19400829211028138>
- Mouafo et al., (2021). Confirmed presence of African golden cat in Mbam et Djerem National Park, Cameroon. *CATnews* 74, 8-9, Winter 2021
- Mouafo et al., (2022). Not Just an Issue in Forested Regions: Investigating the Consumption and Trade of Pangolins in a Forest-Savannah Mosaic Area of Cameroon. *Tropical Conservation Science*, 15(2):1-13, doi.org/10.1177/19400829221114845
- Mouafo et al., (2023). Maximum entropy modeling of giant pangolin *Smutsia gigantea* (Illiger, 1815) habitat suitability in a protected forest-savannah transition area of central Cameroon. *Global Ecology and Conservation* 43(8): e02395.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gecco.2023.e02395>.

b. Capacity-Building Workshops for Rangers

Strengthening the capacity of eco-guards is essential for effective wildlife conservation, as it equips them with the skills and knowledge needed to combat illegal activities and enforce environmental laws, thereby protecting vulnerable species and their habitats. ABOYERD also organized capacity-building workshops with eco-guards from the conservation service to enhance their skills in managing wildlife crime scenes, handling evidence, and understanding the recently enacted wildlife and forestry law.

These workshops trained 13 eco-guards in wildlife crime scene management and evidence handling, equipping them with updated knowledge of Law No. 2024/008, enacted on July 24, 2024, concern-

ing forests and wildlife. These workshops enhanced the legal and technical knowledge of the rangers, empowering them to combat wildlife crime more effectively.

d. Assessment of human wildlife conflict in Mbam et Djerem National Park Landscape

In 2024, a study, motivated by the limited conservation attention previously given to this region was carried out with the aim to identify the types and extent of conflicts, the animal species involved, the annual losses incurred by affected populations, and the mitigation measures in place. Data were collected through semi-structured interviews with 282 villagers (58.5% men, 41.5% women), selected using a stratified random sampling and snowball approach to ensure representation across all vegetation types and to access knowledgeable respondents. Over 98% of participants acknowledged experiencing conflicts with wildlife, with crop destruction (98.15%) and attacks on livestock (58.7%) being the most prevalent issues, while direct attacks on

humans or property were rare. The principal animal species implicated included cane rats, porcupines, squirrels, and hedgehogs, with cassava being the most frequently targeted crop (85.9%). Crop losses occurred year-round, peaking in May, and predominantly affected mature plants and underground parts such as roots and tubers. The average annual loss per household was estimated at 0.87 hectares of crops (valued at approximately 454,999 FCFA) and 21 livestock animals (valued at 105,285.3 FCFA), with poultry, goats, and sheep most commonly affected by predators such as hawks and civets. Respondents reported that these conflicts have intensified over the past decade. Local mitigation strategies primarily involved lethal methods such as traps and firearms for crop protection, and surveillance or wire cages for livestock, though these were generally rated as only moderately effective and contributed to passive poaching. Overall, escalating human-wildlife conflicts threaten both local livelihoods and wildlife populations, and it is recommended to establish monitoring and intervention mechanisms, promoting non-lethal deterrents



(e.g., beehive fences), implementing compensation schemes, and clearly demarcating buffer zones, to foster coexistence and effective conservation benefits.

B. EDUCATION

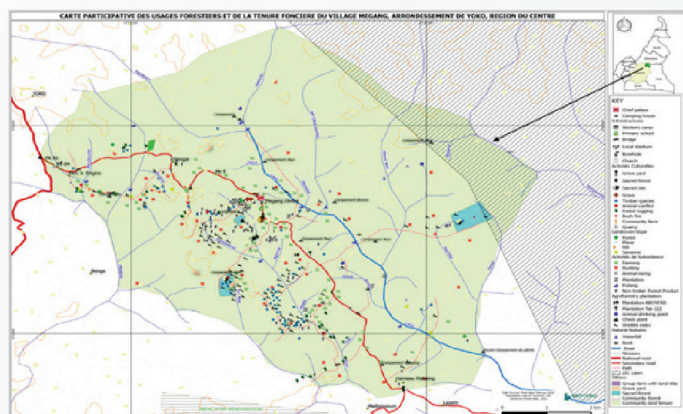
4.1.2. Summary of major education/sensitization activities undertaken

Based on data from the research department, ABOYERD has been actively engaging local communities surrounding the Mbam and Djerem National Park in various environmental education activities. These initiatives are designed to foster community support for the conservation of pangolins and other protected wildlife species within the Park. The main activities carried out within 2024 included the organisations of resource management workshops with local forest users, follow-up of pangolin clubs, implementing behavior change campaigns, organizing sensitization workshops and cultural events, and the establishment of an environmental education center.

a. Community Empowerment in Resource Governance.

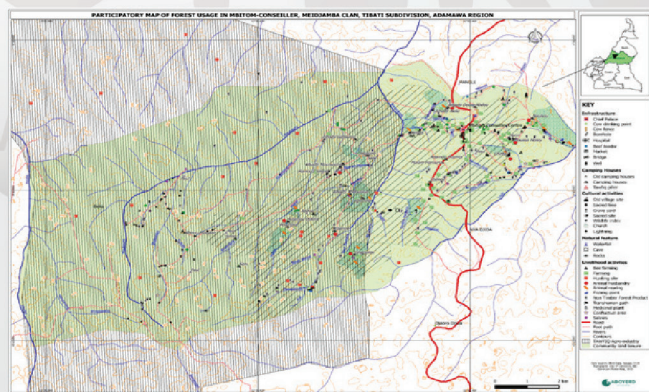
Participatory mapping is a vital tool for documenting customary land rights and enhancing local governance, particularly in areas adjacent to protected zones such as the MDNP in Cameroon. In line with this, ABOYERD conducted a participatory mapping exercise with two pilot communities in MDNP: Megang and Mbitom-Conseiller.

The participatory mapping exercise conducted in Megang village), highlighted the critical role of customary land tenure and traditional governance in natural resource management. Through a community-driven process involving training local mappers and employing tools such as ground maps, seasonal calendars, Venn diagrams, and problem trees, the study documented spatial land use, livelihood activities, cultural sites, and conflict zones. Key findings reveal that farming, non-timber forest product collection, hunting, and livestock rearing are central to community livelihoods, yet these activities face challenges from land tenure conflicts, resource overexploitation, and limited recognition of customary rights.



Participatory map of land use in Megang village.

Key findings in Mbitom-Conseiller revealed that the community's livelihoods are primarily based on farming, non-timber forest product (NTFP) collection, hunting, and livestock rearing, with 97% of households engaged in agriculture and 65% participating in NTFP collection. Despite this dependence, the community faces significant challenges, including land tenure conflicts, unsustainable resource exploitation, and insufficient recognition of customary rights. The mapping exercise identified critical livelihood and cultural sites, conflict zones, and areas of resource use, providing a foundation for more inclusive land governance.



Participatory map of forest usage of Mbitom-Conseiller

The study highlighted the importance of empowering local communities by integrating their knowledge and governance structures into broader conservation frameworks. As a recommendation, sustainable management of natural resources around MDNP will require strengthening community capacities, resolving conflicts through participatory approaches, and formalizing customary land rights to ensure both biodiversity conservation and improved socio-economic outcomes for the Megang and Mbitom-Conseiller people.

b. Creation and running of school Pangolin Clubs.



Lessons/activities carried out under these clubs included the following:

To promote conservation among young people, ABOYERD established three Pangolin Clubs in schools located around the MDNP namely:

- Lycée de Yoko
- Government Primary School Yoko Group II
- Government Primary School Megang

Created in 2021, these clubs are serving as platforms for educating and engaging youths on wildlife conservation in the landscape. Through the instrumentality of comic books, outdoor sensitization activities in communities during the celebration of national days, pangolin day celebration, and interactive lessons, a sense of empathy is built in young persons, ultimately leading to the protection of these unique creatures. Youths are becoming more engaged in conservation activities and pangolin meat consumption has reduced drastically in homes and communities around the Mbam Djerem National Park, as young persons are bearing the message of pangolin conservation into the nooks and crannies of communities around the park.

Number of Clubs: 3 (Ecole Publique Yoko, Ecole Publique Megang, and Lycee de Yoko)

Total No. of Club Members in all 3 clubs: 168 (91 Females; 77 Males).



Lessons in school pangolin clubs throughout the year touched on deforestation: the importance of forests to wildlife, the dimensions and causes of deforestation, the effects of deforestation on wildlife, especially the pangolin, consequences of deforestation with a stress on the effects of deforestation on pangolin extinction, and measures to combat deforestation. These lessons were conveyed to club members through the use of didactic materials like comic books, charts, and pictures, as well as outdoor nature observation. Volume 2 of our comic series *Les Aventures de Ngourou le Pangolin* was introduced.



Pangolin Club members during conservation lessons. (Indoor and outdoor lessons).

ii. Art/ Calligraphy

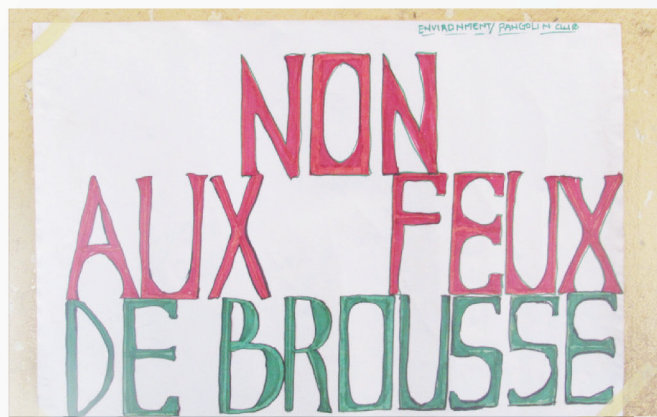
Club members were as well engaged in art activities. Art in all its forms has the ability to move individuals, awaken imaginations and raise a unique awareness as it connects the artist with omnipresent environmental issues in a way that words never can. Art energizes human compassion in a way that few other activities/things can. Club members were engaged in art/calligraphy as a means of deepening their connection and kindling their love for the environment and conservation.

Arts/calligraphy touched on deforestation and poaching and the arts/calligraphs realized were used as sensitization tools during Match Past sensitization on Youth Day (11th February).

Art and Calligraph on Deforestation produced by Pangolin Club Members of Lycee de Yoko.



Pangolin Club Members of Lycee de Yoko during Debate Session on Deforestation



iii. Debates on Conservation topics

Debates on heated topics around conservation formed an integral part of club activities. Debates were used to encourage discussions on conservation topics, motivate students to learn more issues surrounding conservation, and effect more meaningful understanding of the concept of conservation in general. Club members were made to debate on topics like the Utility of Conservation, Deforestation (advantages and disadvantages) and at the end of the day, students have a better perspective on debate topics; knowledge which enables them to carry out outdoor sensitization smoothly.



Pangolin Club Members of Lycee de Yoko during Debate Session on Deforestation

iv. Outdoor Sensitization

Outdoor sensitization remains one of the main activities of pangolin clubs. Pangolin club members carried out monthly sensitization within local communities on pressing issues surrounding biodiversity conservation. Club members were equipped with brochures and other sensitization material to carry out sensitization in communities around the Park. Sensitization was carried out in Yoko and its environs (Yoko Village, Quartier Tikar, Quartier Doux, and Yoko Centre). A total of about 949 persons were sensitized (588 females, 250 males, and 111 children) by club members throughout the year.



Pangolin Club Members of Lycee Yoko sensitizing inhabitants of Yoko on the effects of Deforestation on Pangolins.

ty for the Conservation of Pangolins”. The main aim of this event is to raise awareness on the plight of pangolins and the need for urgent actions to conserve the remaining populations of pangolins left in the wild. The occasion took place in Yoko under the auspices of administrative authorities and featured innovative and impactful activities like a peace walk, door-to-door sensitization, and town clean-up, all aimed at raising awareness on the need for continued efforts in the conservation of pangolins.

c. Celebration of World Pangolin Day

Celebrated every third Saturday of February each year, World Pangolin Day was celebrated this year on the 17th of February 2024 under the theme “Uni-

The following activities were carried out on World Pangolin Day



i. Peace Match

The match was hosted by Pangolin Club Members of Ecole Publique Yoko Group 1 and Lycee de Yoko and led by administrative authorities of Yoko subdivision (the Assistant Mayor of Yoko Centre, Agents of Public Security, the Commissioner of the

Special branch, some community officers). About 120 persons participated in the match wearing t-shirts and jackets bearing conservation messages and chanting songs calling on the need for pangolin conservation throughout the town of Yoko.



Highlights of the Peace Walk in Yoko to raise awareness on the need for unity in pangolin conservation

i. Community-targeted sensitization

Sensitization was equally carried out as participants walked through the town of Yoko. Individuals, restaurant owners and bush meat vendors were sensitized in Quartier Doux, Quartier Mbam et Kim, Yoko Village and at Yoko Centre (including the Market).



Highlights of sensitization on World Pangolin Day in Yoko.

iii. Town Clean-up

Led by administrative authorities, participants carried out cleanup activities around Yoko Centre as a way of raising more awareness and garnering support for pangolin conservation. Cleanup activities were specifically carried out at the Yoko roundabout, the Market, and the road leading to Yoko Village. This cleanup activity paved the way for sensitization in Yoko and its environs.

Highlights of participants cleaning strategic spots throughout Yoko as a means of raising awareness on the need for continued efforts in pangolin conservation on World Pangolin Day in Yoko.



Testimonial



“Pangolin meat used to be a delicacy in my home and every member of my family enjoyed eating pangolin meat. However, after my two little daughters became members of the Pangolin Club of Ecole Publique Group 1 Yoko in 2023, things have become really different back at home. Whenever my spouse cooks pangolin meat, my daughters refuse to eat, and keep saying they taught them in school that the pangolin (Ngourou) is their friend, and they cannot eat their friend. At some point, as the head of the home, I decided that pangolins won't be consumed in my home again. This is because not only is it the right thing to do, but I would want my daughters to belief in their education system. They cannot be tutored in school and I rebut it at home. Pangolin meat is not consumed in my home due to sensitization from Pangolin Clubs”.

*EBALE Pierre Brice
Bursar, Lycee de Yoko*

d. Development of Engaging and Relevant Educational Content for Social Media

Engaging educational content on social media serves as a foundation for effective conservation education. By utilizing a variety of media formats such as Pictures, videos, Facebook live sessions, we raised awareness on actual problems in nature conservation. In addition to awareness raising, posts/content also served as a tool to increase the organization's visibility on the social media space and drive traffic.



increase the organization's visibility on the social media space and drive traffic. Statistics of our social media performance presented in the table below.

Summary of posts on Facebook and LinkedIn page from January to December 2024.

Portal	# of posts	# of Likes	Comments	# of Shares	# of New Pages Likes
Facebook	208	2537	458	114	103
LinkedIn	25	243	10	21	57

e. Development and Implementation of Behavior Change Campaigns.

We developed and implemented a behavior change campaign as a follow-up of the Ngouroumoutou Campaign that was carried out in 2023, aimed at steering shifts in local perceptions on pangolin conservation and the reduction of pangolin meat consumption in six target communities around the Mbam Djerem National Park.



- Campaign Objective

The Campaign aimed at sensitizing interurban transport vehicle drivers, commercial bike riders, restaurant/bar owners, and individuals on the legal implications of the transportation and consumption of pangolin meat, and other protected wildlife species. The campaign yielded positive outcomes significantly reducing pangolin meat consumption and transportation. Post campaign surveys revealed a decrease in the demand of pangolin meat, a shift in perceptions from regarding pangolins and other threatened species as good meat and lucrative trade commodities to recognizing their ecological importance and intrinsic value.

- Campaign Strategy

One-on-one sensitization of Inter-urban public transport drivers and commercial motorbike riders and restaurant/bar owners.



Sensitization of public transporters and restaurant owners in Tibati and Ndjolle



Distribution of Key holders to public transporters and pasting of stickers bearing campaign messages on bikes and transport vehicles in Yoko and Tibati





Campaign Posters pasted in Interurban travel agencies in Yoko and Restaurant in Ntui

Results

of Motor bike riders sensitized = 289

of Auto drivers sensitized= 81

of Restaurant owners sensitized = 41

Campaign Statistics

Community	Average No. of Persons reached
Yoko	1084
Tibati	588
Ndjolle	307
Ntui	1091
Total # of persons reached by campaign	3070

TESTIMONIAL



“When I see drivers make a jest of the sensitization ABOYERD is doing, I am worried because I got to learn the hard way. I have four cars that ply the Tibati-Yaounde highway. One of my drivers got into trouble early this year because he carried a passenger who had buffalo and pangolin meat. By then we were ignorant of the fact that a driver who transports the carcasses of protected species is considered as an accomplice to crime. The passenger was taken in and my vehicle was confiscated and a fine of six hundred thousand francs was levied. When I got to the state council, I was told that the fine of only six hundred thousand francs was levied because the driver of the car was a first-time offender and showed remorse, failing which the sanction would have been more rigorous. I almost lost my car. I am particularly grateful for this initiative that ABOYERD is taking to sensitize drivers on the legal implications of transporting bush meat in general. I have currently barred my drivers from transporting any type of meat in my vehicles and cautioned them to check every luggage they carry to ensure that they do not get into trouble.”

Mr. Xxxx

Owner of Transport Vehicles, Tibati

f. Capacity building of indigenous communities on pangolin ecological knowledge and other threatened wildlife and conservation laws through intensive workshops.



In collaboration with the conservation service, ABOYERD has been organized sensitization workshops in communities around the Mbam et Djerem National Park (Guerre, Makouri, Megang, Ngoum, Lena, Gongotoua and Mbitom Conseiller) aimed at educating local forest users on the ecological importance of pangolins and relevant wildlife laws. Partnering with the conservation service enhances workshop credibility, ensures that workshop messages and activities are in line with the general conservation plan of the Park, and amplifies the impact and effectiveness of workshops as it creates the opportunity to leverage on the conservation service's vast knowledge and experience. A total of 231 persons (109 Females, and 122 Males) were reached through sensitization workshops. Workshops have increased community awareness about the ecological importance of pangolins and improved understanding of wildlife laws.

Workshops adopted a participative approach infused with focus group discussions that enabled participants to;

Understand the roles of living organisms within the ecosystem with particular emphasis on the role of the pangolin.

Through this approach, workshop participants in most communities demonstrated sound knowledge of the role of the pangolin in the ecosystem as they cited the roles as follows;

- Pangolins are guardians of the forest as they protect the forest from destruction by pests like termites and ants by eating them.
- Pangolins through their pest control function, protect crop and property from destruction.
- Pangolins borrow the soil which permits oxygen

to penetrate making life possible for soil microorganisms which thereby boost soil fertility.

- Pangolins boost soil fertility through their faecal matter.



Workshop session on Ecological Knowledge of Pangolins in Ngoum Village

On the aspect of capacity building in conservation laws, we are now certain that;

- Local communities are abreast with the classification of animals into different classes of protection as per the 2021 Decree repartitioning species into different classes of protection, the exceptional instances where the law permits the killing of class A species and the corresponding time interval within which an individual must report to the competent authority (72hrs).
- Local communities are Knowledgeable in the exercise of their hunting rights within the ambits of the law. The law does not prohibit hunting but rather prohibits the exercise of certain types of hunting without the acquisition of a hunting permit. Every other type of hunting apart from traditional hunting is subject to the acquisition of a hunting permit, and the conditions for the obtaining of such permits as stipulated by the 1995 Decree of implementation discussed altogether.
- Local communities are aware of the types of arms prohibited by law in the exercise of hunting rights (Article 78 of the 1994 Law).
- Local communities are aware that the circulation of wildlife and their trophy is subject to the acquisition of a certificate of Origin, failing which legal sanctions accrue as per Article 155 of the 1994 Law (fine and/or imprisonment).
- Local communities are now aware of the legal implication (fine and/or imprisonment) of bush burning as per Article 154 and 156 of the 1994 law.
- Communities are now knowledgeable on who incurs legal responsibility for the killing of a protected species, and the fact that accomplices bear the same sanctions as the principal offender (Article 150 of the 1994 law).



Workshop session on Ecological Knowledge of Pangolins in Ngoum Village

g. Organization of Pro-biodiversity Cultural Events in 4 target Communities.

2024 saw the celebration of pro-biodiversity cultural events in communities around the Mbam et Djerem National Park. No matter how crude indigenous cultures might be, they possess aspects that can be relied on to aid conservation efforts. It has been proven over time that a major benefit of traditional beliefs and practices in any subject, especially when related to nature, is the holistic approach it brings to solutions, which mostly encompass spiritual, cultural, and practical elements that promote a harmonious relationship between humans and nature.

It was a special moment for communities around the Mbam et Djerem National Park as they got educated through entertainment. Communities had to dig deep into their “cultural banks” to bring up interesting group and individual presentations cutting across: traditional dances and songs like the Ngoia, Makungo, Wainbani and Nganne presented in Ngoum and Makouri, and the Indolmba and Mbang dances presented in Lena and Megang; riddles; and traditional tales. All content presented during the event had aspects of tradition in them that call for the conservation of biodiversity. Presentations were crowned with the award of prizes. These events gave community dwellers the opportunity to savor the rich display of pro-biodiversity cultural

dances, drums rhythms, songs, games and folklore, and as well resurrected long forgotten dances, drum rhythms, and riddles that are pro-biodiversity. Even though the events were marked by merrymaking and celebration, it has strengthened cultural connection to nature and reignited the consciousness of community dwellers that the duty to protect biodiversity is an inherent responsibility passed on from generations past.



Participants gathered around camp fire telling pro-biodiversity cultural Tales and riddles

Achievement

Events Held = 4

Communities = 4 (Makouri, Megang, Ngoum, Lena)

Participants = 429 (183 Females, 155 Males, 131 Children)

h. Creation of Environmental Center

To further support conservation learning, ABOYERD constructed an Environmental **Education Center in Ngoum**. Community members of Ngoum were fascinated when ABOYERD shared its vision of creating an environmental center in their community. Upon learning of the rationale for the creation of the center and its clear goals, undeveloped land was made available for the construction of the center by a community member, while other community members joined efforts in clearing up the land and preparing it for the laying of the foundation stone. In addition to serving as a base for ABOYERD staff while on the field, this facility will provide interactive learning experiences for school children, local residents, tourists, and other visitors, emphasizing the importance of the park's biodiversity and the need for its protection. The structure is currently in a habitable state, furnished with a conference table, beds, and kitchen equipment.

CONCLUSION

ABOYERD is making significant strides in conservation education and community engagement in Campo. Through its school wildlife clubs, over 130 students annually are trained in environmental stewardship and hands-on conservation activities. Two smart Eco gardens and the planting of more than 210 trees have enhanced experiential learning and beautified local spaces. Additionally, community workshops in over six villages reach more than 350 forest users each year, promoting wildlife laws and sustainable practices. This multifaceted approach is cultivating a new generation of eco-conscious individuals and fostering a culture of conservation throughout the Campo landscape.

Conservation education Plans for 2025

- Create and run school wildlife clubs in primary and secondary schools in Campo
- Introduce technology-enabled learning for school wildlife clubs. We intend to reach at least 150



Around the Center, there is equally a nursery composed of ecological and economic tree species and a fish pond with over 1,500 fingerings introduced. Looking forward, the center will eventually be furnished with a library and reading section for visitors. Externally, demonstration farms will be established, income from which will be used to support the running of the activities of the center. We strongly believe that this center will gradually strengthen community systems in sustainably utilizing nature to meet their social and economic needs and will improve their engagement in pro-biodiversity activities.

through innovative conservation lessons.

- Create eco-gardens to foster environmental stewardship amongst students in schools in Campo.
- Organize field trips with school wildlife clubs to wildlife sanctuaries or conservation areas to observe and learn about different species and ecosystems.
- Organize regular community workshops to raise awareness on national wildlife laws and the rights and duties of local forest users.
- Organize annual community festivals to celebrate local wildlife and ecosystems, promoting awareness and community involvement in conservation.

C. LIVELIHOODS

4.1.3. Summary of major livelihood activities undertaken

a) Capacity Building in Beeswax Processing and Candle Production.

In response to the increasing demand for beeswax essential for baiting new beehives, ABOYERD implemented a comprehensive capacity-building program in apiculture across five target communities (Ngoum, Lena, Mba'am, Gongotoua, and Mbitom Conseiller) between 2022 and 2023. Initially reliant on externally sourced beeswax supplied by ABOYERD, the communities were trained to locally process and utilize beekeeping by-products, thereby enhancing autonomy and sustainability.

Two core skillsets were transferred:

1. Beeswax Processing: To reduce dependency on external support by equipping producers with the knowledge to extract and process beeswax for hive baiting.



2. Candle Production: Offering an alternative lighting solution in these off-grid communities, addressing basic energy needs while adding value to a by-product of honey harvesting.

This initiative reached and empowered over 35 active honey producers, fostering self-reliance and adding economic value to local apiculture chain

b) Group governance Reinforcement and Entrepreneurship Development

Following the successful valorization of honey and njangsang, ABOYERD prioritized the reinforcement of community group structures to ensure long-term sustainability and accountability. In 2023, democratic elections were facilitated in all five honey-producing communities to revitalize local leadership within producer groups.

Key interventions included:

- Training on **group sales mechanisms, cooperative management, and basic entrepreneurship** to enhance operational efficiency.



Group reinforcement at ABOYERD center, Ngoum.

- **Linkage facilitation** between producers and buyers, effectively bypassing intermediaries and improving pricing transparency—based on insights from a 2023 market assessment.

The initiative also introduced best practices in record-keeping and collective management, significantly strengthening the organizational capacity for scaling group-led production and marketing of njangsang.

c) Distribution of Equipment to Support Njangsang Valorization (2023–2024)

To address logistical bottlenecks in njangsang value chains, ABOYERD distributed essential equipment to three strategic production hubs—Megang, Guere, and Makouri. The distribution aimed at improving the efficiency of collection, transportation, and primary processing.



Contract signed with the Director of Muyang Group, Douala for the supply of honey

S/N	Material	Qty/Community	Total Qty	Purpose
1	Reinforced Push Trucks	1	3	Community-level transport of njangsang
2	Reinforced Wheelbarrows	1	3	Individual-level collection transport
4	Nails (kg)	2	6	Nut cracking (faster and safer than knives)
5	Protective Gloves	25	75	Hand protection during processing
6	50kg Collection Bags	25	75	Transportation of raw njangsang
7	Storage Packaging Bags	5	15	Safe and hygienic storage of processed njangsang
8	Hand Pumps	1	3	Maintenance of tyre pressure in transport carts

Per village material/equipment distribution across njangsang valorization communities.

Simultaneously with the distribution, refresher training was delivered on sustainable collection and processing techniques, accompanied by the deployment of visually adapted posters for low-literacy users. Additionally, quality control protocols were introduced through on-site demonstrations.

d) Production and sales monitoring.

Since the inception of training activities in 2022, ABOYERD has maintained a robust follow-up framework to assess and enhance outcomes across eight target communities. Key milestones in 2024 included:

- Targeted **refresher training sessions** to address identified knowledge gaps.
- **On-site inspections** to assess the fidelity of processing techniques.
- **Production monitoring** to track progress and identify emerging constraints.
- Analysis of **sales data and value chain bottlenecks**.



Distribution of support materials to facilitate njangsang production in Megang.

Impact:

- **Honey Sector:** Over 5,000 liters harvested and sold collectively. While market linkage is under negotiation, ABOYERD currently intermediates in branding and distribution to urban markets, ensuring financial flow and trust-building with buyers.
 - **Njangsang Sector:** Steady growth noted in 2024 with an estimated 130L produced in 2024 over 35L produced in 2022, with an increasing number of households selling independently in local markets such as Yoko, significantly reducing dependence on distant supply centers like Yaoundé.
- Njangsang Production rack record:**
- **2017–2021:** No production recorded (no intervention yet).
 - **2022:** Training commenced; first production cycle initiated.
 - **2023:** No yield due to non-bearing year.
 - **2024:** Production levels surpassed those of 2022, confirming the resilience and viability.



Honey bulk purchase in target communities



Honey retail packaging for sale



Follow-up on honey and njangsang production across target communities



Njangsang production, quality control and sales



e) Habitat Restoration and Climate Action

ABOYERD launched a reforestation and climate resilience initiative in 2024 in response to critical environmental degradation in and around the Mbam Djerem National Park (MDNP). Two nurseries were established in Ngoum and Megang, managed entirely by local residents and comprising a strategic mix of ecological and livelihood-supporting tree species:

• Ecological & Agroforestry Species:

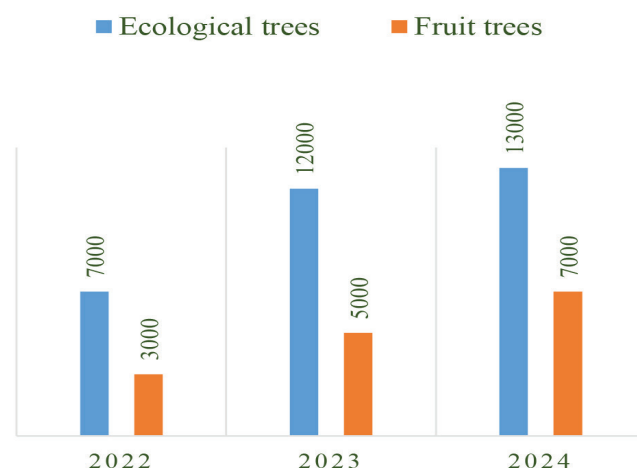
- o *Ricinus communis* (Cashew)
- o *Irvingia gabonensis* (Bush mango)
- o *Psidium guajava* (Guava)
- o *Persea americana* (Avocado)
- o *Dacryodes edulis* (Safou)
- o *Annona muricata* (Soursop)

Achievements:

- Over **10,000 ecological trees** planted in degraded pangolin habitats.
- More than **5,000 fruit/NTFP seedlings** distributed for integration into local agroforestry systems.
- **Community-based implementation:** Local actors received training in nursery management, wildfire control, and sustainable agriculture. This intervention has reinforced community stewardship of natural resources while contributing to biodiversity conservation and climate resilience.



Number Of Trees Planted Between 2022 And 2024



OTHER DIVERSIFIED LIVELIHOODS: PILOT PROJECTS FOR SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC ALTERNATIVES

To reduce unsustainable exploitation of forest resources, ABOYERD piloted three alternative livelihood initiatives between 2023 and 2024. These projects were tailored to the socio-ecological context of indigenous forest users and designed to enhance resilience through low-impact, income-generating ventures.

- Irish Potato Cultivation

- Villages: Ngoum, Megang
- **2023:** Low initial yield (5 buckets) due to limited technical skills.
- **2024:** Yield improved to 15 buckets following technical adjustments. Five buckets preserved for seed stock, supporting continuity.

- Poultry Farming

- Pilot Village: Ngoum
- **2024 Results:**
 - o First production cycle successfully completed.
 - o Generated over **500,000 CFA francs**.
 - o Strong community engagement and market demand observed.
 - o Plans for second cycle and potential scale-up in 2025.

- Fish Farming

- Location: Ngoum
- **2024 Milestones:**
 - o Pond constructed; 1,500 fingerlings introduced.
 - o Zero mortality rate recorded despite feed-related challenges.
 - o Innovative local feed trials ongoing to improve cost-effectiveness and sustainability.



Community Irish potato cultivation, Megang



Community Poultry farm, Ngoum



Construction process of natural fish pond with over 1,600 fingerlings introduced, Ngoum

Conclusion and Way Forward for livelihoods activities under NGOUROUMOUTOU

The pilot livelihood initiatives launched by ABOYERD in the MDNP represent an important step toward community-based conservation. While still at early stages, activities such as Irish potato cultivation, poultry farming, and fish farming have demonstrated potential to generate income, enhance food security, and reduce dependency on forest resources.

Next Steps:

- Expand successful activities to new villages.
- Strengthen training and technical support.
- Enhance monitoring and documentation to inform best practices and policy development.
- Introduce plantain cultivation in Ngoum, Lena and Guasabe by 2025

(www.aboyerd.org)

4.2. OVERVIEW OF THE CAMGAEPP

A. RESEARCH

4.1.4. Summary of major education/sensitization activities undertaken

a) Baseline survey



In 2024, to re-launch the CAMGAEPP that was halted during the Corona era due to lack of continued funding, ABOYERD launched a survey with objectives to:

- Assess the initial socio-economic and ecological conditions of six riverine communities.
- Understand the prevalence and impact of Human-Elephant Conflicts (HECs).
- Gauge local knowledge and practices in apiculture.
- Inform future interventions and measure project impact.

Methodology

- **Preparatory meeting:** with project coordinators and administrators to clarify the Kobo Collect questionnaire tool.
- **Community engagement:** Chiefs were informed and involved in scheduling the survey around key local events.
- **Data collection:** Semi-structured interviews with 98 villagers (68 men, 30 women) across 6 communities.
- **Tools used:** Kobo Collect for digital data collection, with printed backups.

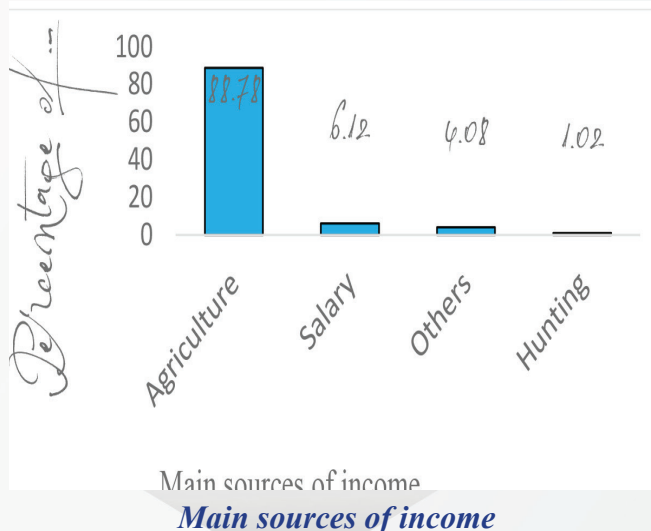
Demographics

- **Respondents' Age:** 30–79 years (mean = 49.74 years).
- **Education:** Mostly secondary (56.12%), followed by primary/basic (39.80%).
- **Occupation:** Majority are farmers (56.11%); others include housewives, masons, carpenters, etc.
- **Village Representation:** Highest in Messama III

(21.43%), lowest in Nazareth (12.24%).

Socio-Economic Status

- 93.88% owned farms (1–20 hectares).
- Agriculture was the main income source.
- Monthly income typically around 50,000 FCFA.
- Main expenditures: Education (51.01%), Feeding (30.65%), Health (16.31%).



Investment Plans (2024)

- 73.49% had plans (mostly in agriculture or home construction).
- 26.51% lacked plans due to financial constraints, poor health, or discouragement from HECs.

Situation of Human-Elephant Conflicts (HECs)

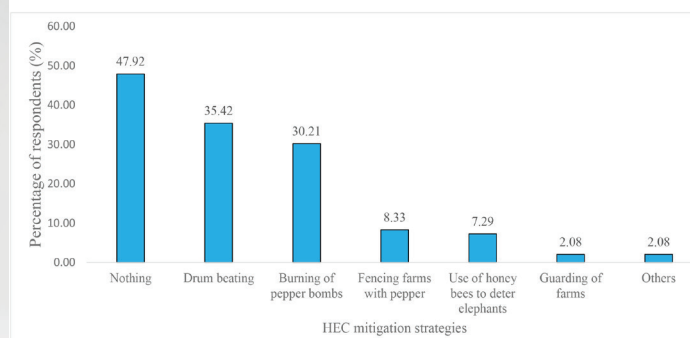
- 97.96% reported ongoing HECs; 100% of these involved elephants.
- 77.55% had been direct victims (crop destruction).
- HEC frequency has increased in 86.46% of communities over the past 2 years.
- Most recent attacks: within the past 3 months (51.31%).

Frequency of Human-Elephant conflicts in the surveyed villages and their percentages.

Most recent HEC	Number of respondents	Percentage (%)
Less than one month	11	14.47
1-3 months	39	51.31
4-6 months	13	17.11
More than 6 months	13	17.11
Total	76	100.00

Mitigation Strategies

- 47.92% of respondents felt helpless with no mitigation options.
- Others used:
 - o Drum beating (35.42%)
 - o Burning pepper (30.21%)
 - o Pepper fencing (8.33%)
 - o Honey bees (7.29%)
- 63% believed honey bees could be an effective mitigation method.
- 92.86% were willing to be trained in apiculture.



Human-Elephant Conflicts (HEC) mitigation strategies used by respondents and their percentages.

Apiculture Knowledge

- Only 20.41% had prior apiculture experience.
- Of those:
 - o 45% practiced it for HEC mitigation.
 - o 40% for subsistence.
 - o 15% for both.
- Success rates were higher among subsistence apiculturists (72.73%) than those focused on HECs (16.67%).
- Challenges: Poor hive colonization and lack of expertise.
- 91.84% expressed interest in training and support for apiculture.

Key Observations

- Elephant raids are perceived to be worsening, partly due to habitat loss.
- Communities feel powerless and some resent government protection of elephants, referring to them as “government’s children.”
- There is a strong willingness among villagers to adopt alternative, nature-based solutions like apiculture.



Questionnaire development and the introduction of the use of Kobo Collect to administrators. (ABOYERD main Office-Dschang)



Questionnaire administration in Fan Essokie (to the left) and Nko'elon (to the right).



Questionnaire administration team

B. EDUCATION

4.1.5. Summary of major education/sensitization activities undertaken

b) Community engagement meetings

Due to the delicate nature of Human-Elephant Conflict (HEC) in the Campo Ma'an National Park, ABOYERD, in partnership with the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) and the park's conservation service, launched a community behavioral change campaign through a series of community engagement meetings. The aim was to promote community involvement, awareness, and sustainable solutions to HEC while improving livelihoods. Key activities included the following:

- Development of support documents and team organisation

In preparation for community engagement meetings, a series of important activities were undertaken to ensure the smooth implementation of the planned activities. One of the key tasks involved the development and assembly of support documents that would serve as valuable resources during these meetings.

These support documents encompassed various elements, such as PowerPoint presentations, meeting agendas, attendance lists, and more. These materials were carefully crafted to provide clear and concise information to all participants, enabling effective communication and collaboration throughout the engagement process.

In addition to creating these essential documents, other preparatory activities were carried out such as printing adapted jotters and other writing materials to facilitate note-taking during the meetings, bottling of honey (product of ABOYERD's 3-year running apiculture activities in the Mbam Djerem National Park) in advance for use as a demonstration during meeting sessions.

To ensure accuracy and credibility, the developed documents were shared with relevant stakeholders such as the AWF (African Wildlife Foundation) for validation. This step aimed at incorporating expert insights and aligning with best practices in community engagement.



Lastly, an important aspect of preparation involved assembling a dedicated team capable of executing all necessary tasks leading up to the meetings. This team was responsible for coordinating logistics, ensuring all materials were ready on time, and providing any additional support

required for a successful event. One key resource person that was added to the team is **Mr. Nzitoua Urbain**, former ecoguards and ABOYERD's focal point in the CMNP, presently the Conservator for the Santchou Wildlife Reserve in the West Region of Cameroon. ABOYERD has worked with Urbain for over 4 years, and he has a good mastery of the site and the current situation of HEC in the landscape. Additionally, he recently conducted a study that identified elephant hubs, migratory patterns and more. For these reasons, Urbain was instrumental in being part of the engagement team and played a great role indeed.

Overall, by investing time and effort into these prior activities including document development, printing jotters, bottling honey for demonstrations, sharing documents with AWF for validation and preparing a competent team; ABOYERD had in return, a productive community engagement meeting that fostered meaningful interactions between stake-

holders and communities.

-Information dissemination and meeting with AWF team

In order to effectively disseminate information and coordinate with the AWF team and conservation service, various steps were taken. Firstly, letters were meticulously prepared and distributed to the chiefs across all six target villages. This ensured that the message reached key stakeholders in a timely manner.

To further enhance community engagement, a brief meeting was held with the AWF team in Campo. This meeting served as an opportunity to better organize efforts and align strategies for maximum impact. By collaborating closely, all three parties (ABOYERD, AWF and MNIFOF) were able to leverage their expertise and resources more effectively.

In addition to the meeting, support materials such as jotters, agendas, and bottled honey were distributed to relevant offices. These materials not only served as practical tools but also symbolized the commitment towards fostering positive relationships and supporting local initiatives.

By combining effective communication through letter distribution, strategic meetings with the AWF team, and providing tangible support materials, the aim of information dissemination and community engagement was successfully achieved.



Family photo with ABOYERD staff and AWF prior to community engagement activities.

- Engagement meetings proper

The community engagement plays a crucial role in the successful implementation of projects, especially when dealing with sensitive issues such as human-elephant conflicts. In the case of the Campo Ma'an National Park, engagement activities were paramount if a smooth execution of project activities in six riverine communities is to be ensured.

Basically, meetings were organized and specifically targeted these communities, with an impressive reach of over 120 individuals, averaging around 20 people per community. These meetings delved into highly sensitive aspects related to human-elephant conflicts, aiming to address and resolve any existing conflicts.

The significance of these engagements was not only in conflict resolution but also in fully engaging the indigenous people in understanding and actively participating in the project's activities. By involving them from the outset, their perspectives, experiences, and concerns were taken into account. This clearly fostered amongst the indigenous people, a sense of ownership and collaboration. For each village, key activities carried out during engagements included the following.



The strategy used PowerPoint presentations to:

- Highlight the HEC situation and its impact.
- Share case studies from Kenya and Cameroon.
- Promote apiculture as a nature-based solution.
- Present scientific studies on elephant movements and entry points.
- Outline planned project activities and baseline surveys

- Community Involvement:

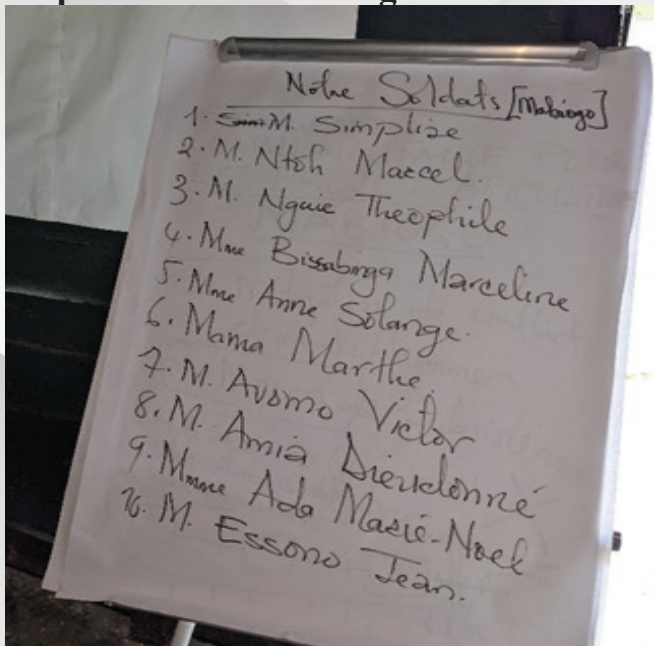
- Facilitated the community-led selection of “Front-line Soldiers” (beneficiaries).
 - o Conducted open dialogue sessions to address grievances and build trust.
- Fostered local ownership, empowerment, and optimism for the project.

- Feedback & Lessons:

- Communities were initially skeptical due to past failed projects and distrust in conservation services.
 - Messama 3 showed the highest engagement, attributed to fewer previous interventions.
- A significant shift in perception occurred after the meetings, with communities showing renewed hope.
- Emphasis on the need for consistent follow-up, visible results, and emergency response (e.g., food support during crises).
 - Recommendations included integrating apiculture with other deterrents like chili and citrus farming.



- Open session for dialogue:



Lastly, a dialogue session was opened in each community during which exchanges were made between community members and stakeholders. This session served more as a restitution meeting during which grievances were resolved and a common ground sought for both stakeholders and the local communities. The conservation service played a great role in resolving problems raised by the communities.

Overall, through engaging presentations using PPTs, these key activities informed stakeholders about the current status of HEC through a non-formal approach, presented successful mitigation



Mintom Center



Messama 3



Community engagement, Nazareth



Conservation service



Community engagement, Mabiogo

Remarks made during engagement meetings

- During the engagements, several remarks were made that shed light on the prevailing sentiment within the communities in the Campo Sector. One recurring theme was that many viewed the project as just another failed endeavor/project among numerous others which usually lacks follow-up. This came as an even greater challenge to the ABOYERD team. Clearly, in order to truly make a difference and eventually engage more and more people into adopting this approach, it has become clear to the ABOYERD team that success must be guaranteed.
- Furthermore, it was noted that Messama 3 in the Ma'an sector demonstrated the highest level of engagement. This could possibly be attributed to the limited number of projects in that particular area, leading to a greater sense of anticipation and eagerness for positive change.
- However, it is important to acknowledge that prior to these engagements, there existed a significant loss of confidence in the conservation service. The people had experienced multiple instances of broken promises and felt let down by their inability to effectively resolve ongoing crises. Most said the conservation service cared more about elephants than them. They referred to elephants as the "cherished babies" of the government.

Nevertheless, following each session across all the communities, a remarkable shift in perception was observed throughout. The attendees eagerly awaited the commencement of activities with renewed hope and optimism. This serves as a testament to both the effectiveness of these engagements and their potential for positive impact on community attitudes and expectations.

Lessons learnt and recommendations

- During engagement meetings with communities, it was crucial to address the specific challenges and concerns that arose. One common issue in the Campo sector was the overwhelming number of conservation projects they have had from many different organizations, which has led to a lack of awareness about the true value of these projects especially when they are not executed to the latter. To ensure the success of the on-going HEC-mitigation project, it is essential to not only execute it differently and emphasize the tangible benefits that will be achieved but to ensure results are clearly seen by the people.
- Secondly, it was observed that consistency in

follow-up is another key aspect that should be ensured. By maintaining regular communication and monitoring progress, the project will not only build trust and accountability within these communities but will definitely ensure colonisation and thus, success. This will go a long way to reinforce their commitment and ensure long-term sustainability.

- In emergency situations such as Human-Elephant Conflict (HEC) mitigation, it was realised it is important to provide immediate assistance to affected communities/victims. This could include provisions of basic food supplies while the process of mitigation is ongoing. By addressing their immediate needs, we can foster goodwill and cooperation from the community during these challenging times.
- To further enhance our project's impact, blending apiculture lightly with other approaches like chili pepper and citrus fruit cultivation through agroforestry should be considered. This integrated approach not only diversifies income sources for communities but also promotes sustainable land use practices and renders the approach more efficient.

Where possible, by incorporating these remarks and recommendations into our future activities with these communities, we are sure that our project stands out from others in terms of its effectiveness, consistency, emergency response capabilities, and innovative approaches for supporting livelihoods while mitigating the unprecedented HEC situation in the CMNP.

OTHER INDIRECT ACTIVITIES (FUNERAL SERVICE IN NKO'ELON)

In the midst of community engagement activities in the Campo Landscape, there were as usual, unexpected events that required a shift in focus. One major event was the unfortunate loss of a son from Nko'elon village, which deeply impacted the entire Campo community. As fate would have it, the scheduled meeting coincided with the burial date, necessitating a rescheduling.

However, despite this unforeseen circumstance, the staff from ABOYERD displayed remarkable empathy and compassion by paying a condolence visit to the bereaved family and the entire community. This gesture of solidarity demonstrated ABOYERD's (and its represented partners-AWF and the conservation service), genuine concern for community well-being and commitment to standing together

during challenging times.

The ABOYERD staff's act of offering condolences and support was met with immense appreciation from the people. It not only showcased ABOYERD's dedication to community engagement but also highlighted their understanding that true progress is built on unity and compassion.



Simply put, ABOYERD demonstrated through this unfortunate event that community engagement goes beyond just accomplishing planned tasks.

Conclusion

Overall, the engagement meetings with the 5 communities from the Campo Sector and one from the Ma'an sector have been highly successful. The project acceptance and support from all six communities have been assured, which is a significant achievement.

With these communities, the major plans for the future have been detailed with immediate plans being finalizing the list of potential beneficiaries (community frontline warriors).

Throughout these engagement meetings, interesting discoveries were made, highlighting the importance of community involvement in decision-making processes. The overall activity has been a great success in terms of gathering valuable insights and feedback from the communities involved.

Moving forward, our next steps will be to assemble raw materials required for implementation and initiate trainings for selected individuals. These

trainings will equip them with necessary skills to become warriors of change within their respective communities.

With such promising progress made during these engagement meetings, ABOYERD is confident that this project will thrive especially if all details are considered; by considering every detail into our future activities with these communities, we are sure that our project will stand out in terms of its effectiveness, consistency, emergency response capabilities, and innovative approaches for supporting livelihoods while mitigating the unprecedented HEC situation in the CMNP.

C. LIVELIHOODS

4.1.6. Summary of major livelihood initiatives undertaken

Since 2019, ABOYERD has been at the forefront of ecological conservation and community resilience efforts in the Campo Ma'an National Park (CMNP). The organization's multifaceted approach focuses on three key pillars: biodiversity restoration, human-wildlife conflict mitigation, and sustainable livelihood improvement, all underpinned by deep community engagement and nature-based solutions. Central to these efforts, 2024 has been the mitigation of human-elephant conflict (HEC), a persistent and complex challenge in the region. ABOYERD's intervention combined environmental stewardship with social empowerment, reaching over 230 beneficiaries across seven communities: Nko'elon, Afan Esoke, Mintom, Aka'ak, Mabiogo, Nazareth (Campo Sector), and Mssama II (Ma'an Sector). The detailed activities are as follows.

a) Habitat Restoration & Climate Action

Campo Ma'an National Park is a biodiversity hotspot, home to critically endangered species and a rich ecosystem that requires ongoing protection. In 2024, ABOYERD developed and maintained a robust habitat restoration program designed to rehabilitate degraded elephant habitats, and demarcate park boundaries while also enhancing the livelihoods of local populations.

- ABOYERD established and managed a **15,000-capacity nurseries**, co-managed by community members and the conservation service.

- The nursery supplied **5,000 fruit trees** (for planting in individual farmlands and property) and **10,000 ecological trees** (planted in degraded wildlife areas and along park boundaries) to restore for-

est cover and create a clear demarcation between protected and community lands.

- Ecological trees targeted were bush mango, njangsang, and cashew nut – selected for their ecological value and potential to enrich forest structure.
- Fruit trees included avocado (improved breed), guava, plum, citrus fruits and papaya; selected for their income-generating potential and quick returns.

These reforestation efforts not only bolster biodiversity but also align with national climate action priorities. Fruit trees already planted in 2020, particularly orange trees,



15,000 capacity nursery at Conservation service, Campo



Njangsang trees transported to Mvini (closest village to the Park) and community-tree planting along park boundaries.

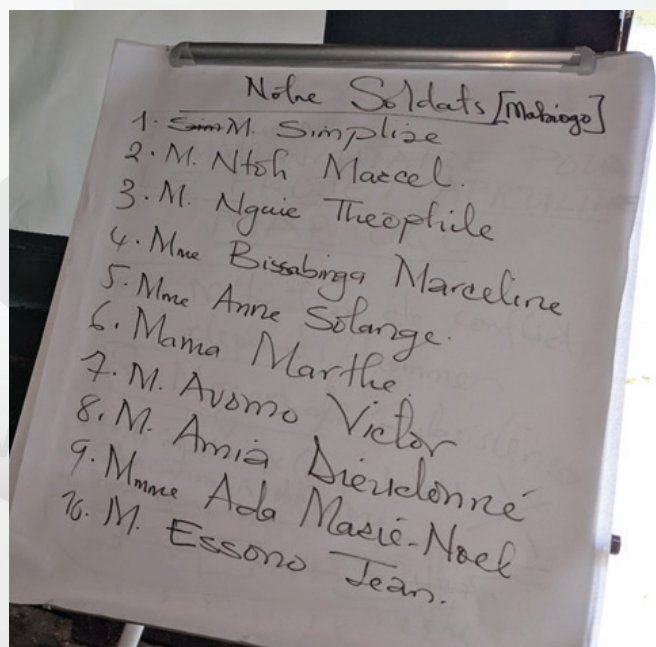


b) Practical Human-Elephant Conflict Mitigation (HEC)

To address escalating Human Elephant Conflicts, ABOYERD implemented a multi-layered, nature-based strategy. Drawing on successful models from across Africa, particularly Kenya, the approach integrates four complementary deterrence methods: Two key activities were carried out:

• Selection of Beneficiaries

Per village, beneficiaries were selected based on questionnaire and direct recommendations from community leaders and Wthe conservation service. Section criteria included age, gender (with gender equity consideration), occupation, longevity in the community, ownership of farmland, residency stability, experience with Human-Elephant Conflict (HEC), and willingness to participate.



Recommended beneficiaries in Mabiogo.

Aside recommendations, a detailed list of affected individuals and the damage to their crops was compile; a combined approach that yielded an unbiased list of beneficiaries across all 6 target communities.

No	Names	Localities	Devastated crops	Area
1	AKABA Marthe	Mintom Ville	Cassava, Banana, Plantain	0.863 ha
2	AKOULABANG Angeline	Nkoelon	Plantain	0.39 ha
3	BAYOKOLAK Joseph	Nkoéléon	Maize, Plantains, Cucumber, Cassava	0.36 ha
4	BELOW Marie	Nazareth	Corn, Cucumber, Cassava	0.15 ha
5	His Majesty BILLI	NAZARETH	Corn, Cucumber, Cassava, Plantain	0.31 ha
6	GIGLA Silas	Mvas	Cassava, Plantain, Maize	0.53 ha
7	KEUZIE Stéphane	Mintom Center	Maize, Plantain, Cassava	0.98 ha
8	MABILY	Afan Essokié	Cassava, Maize	0.58 ha
9	MBA Jeremy	Afan-Essokié	Plantain, Banana, Palm trees, Cassava	1.16 ha
10	MBIDA	Afan-Essokié	Plantain, Cassava	0.15 ha
11	MEBENGA Jean	Mvass	Cassava, Plantain, Cocoa, Papaya	1.61 ha
12	MENGUE Catherine	Afan-Essokié	Plantain, Cassava	0.02 ha
13	NANYABO Aurelien	Mabiogo	Buti, Plantain, Bananas	0.60 ha
14	Ndo Mireille	Afan-Essokié	Cassava, Plantain	0.12 ha
15	NGONE Ze	Afan-Essokié	Cassava, Maize	0.30 ha
16	NGONO MARCELINE	Nkoelon	Cassava, Maize, Plantain	0.30 ha
17	NKO'O Basile	Nazareth	Plantain, Bananas, Maize	1.82 ha
18	OBAM Joseph	Afan-Essokié	Cassava	0.10 ha
19	OTCHA'A David	Afan-Essokié	Plantain, Cucumber, Cassava	0.64 ha
20	MEDJO Rodrigue	Nkoe'lon	Plantain, Cassava	0.27 ha
21	SOUAYA Marthe	Mabiogo	Plantain	0.16 ha
22	CHAPDA Simplicie	Mabiogo	Plantain, Coconut, Lemon, Safou	4.44 ha
23	TJOMB Marthe	Mintom City	Plantain, Cassava	0.57 ha
TOTAL				16.42 ha

Summary table of victims by locality and areas of devastated plantations.

Source: Extracted from MINFOF's Emergency report (June 2023).

Outcome: 58 participants selected (42 men, 16 women) across the six communities as below.

S/N	Community	Number of males selected	Number of females selected	Total number selected
1	Mabiogo	06	04	10
2	Nazareth	09	01	10
3	Mintom	08	01	09
4	Afan Essokie	06	04	10
5	Nkoe'lon	07	03	10
6	Messama 3	06	03	09
Totals	06	42	16	58

Demographics of beneficiaries per village

• Apiculture Training

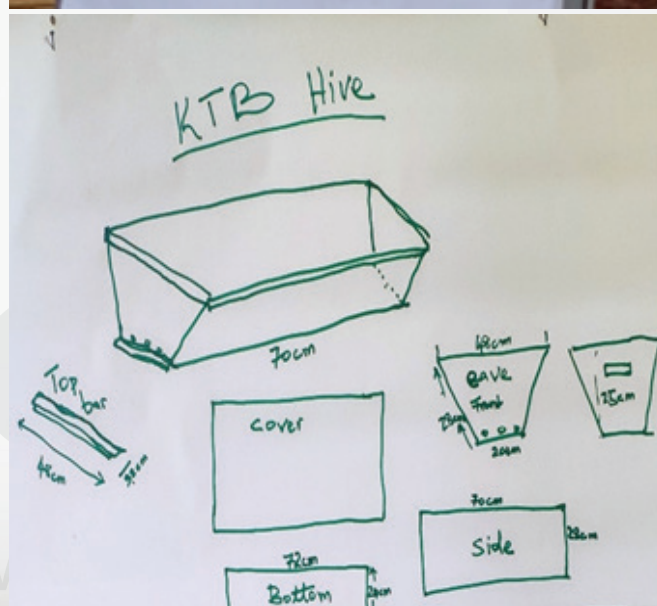
Six separate trainings were carried out within the 6 different target communities. Two days before each training, a team from ABOYERD visited each training unit/village to further sensitize on the training and ascertain the availability of the selected beneficiaries and the training team on the chosen dates. This gave the community members enough time to prepare in anticipation for the training and also ensure the availability of bamboo (which was identified as the local material required for training on traditional hive construction). Per village, the training lasted averagely 6 days. The following points were emphasized during the training proper.

Topics Covered:

- o Bee biology and ecological importance
- o HEC mitigation through bee farming
- o Construction of modern (312 units) and traditional (120 units) beehives
- o Hive disinfection and baiting (using physical methods and bee wax)
- o Hive installation best practices (e.g., distance from homes, sunlight, wind barriers)
- o Sustainable honey extraction techniques (contrasted with traditional, harmful practices).

In each village, demonstration plots were strategically located along historic elephant migration corridors in four sites and are developed with direct community participation. By 2027, this living laboratory approach aims to generate a locally adapted, evidence-based HEC mitigation framework that is scalable across the region.

Theoretical lessons, Messama 3



Training on hive construction



Bloc installation within cocoa farm

Results

- 60 trained beneficiaries (target: 59)
- 6 communities fully engaged
- 312 modern and 120 traditional hives constructed
- 6 structured and equipped apiculture groups

Follow-up and Impact

- Initial follow-up visit in December showed:
 - 234 hives installed
 - 63 colonized
 - Progress towards using bee farming to mitigate HEC and improve livelihoods

V. Conclusion and way forward for activities under CAMGAEPP

The year 2024 was a pivotal period for ABOYERD, characterized by remarkable growth, deepened community partnerships, and the successful implementation of nature-based, community-led conservation and livelihood initiatives across the Mbam Djerem and Campo Ma'an landscapes. Across all programs, ABOYERD registered several notable achievements:

- **Biodiversity Conservation:** The Ngouroumoutou Program made history with the first pangolin-focused behavior change campaign, directly influencing over 3,000 individuals and leading to a demonstrable decline in pangolin meat consumption.
- **Community Empowerment:** Over 210 forest users across seven communities were empowered through apiculture, njangsang valorization, poultry farming, and fish farming initiatives. Local capacity was further reinforced through technical workshops, participatory mapping, and group governance training.
- **Education and Awareness:** Conservation education reached unprecedented levels. School-based Pangolin Clubs and pro-biodiversity cultural events engaged hundreds of students and community members, fostering youth leadership in conservation and reviving indigenous cultural knowledge for biodiversity protection.
- **Climate Action and Habitat Restoration:** Over 15,000 tree seedlings were planted or distributed through community-managed nurseries in both Campo and Mbam Djerem, integrating ecological and income-generating species to restore degraded habitats and demarcate park boundaries.
- **Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation:** The CAMGAEPP program's revival through apiculture-based deterrents in elephant-prone communi-

ties introduced an innovative and scalable model for HEC mitigation, supported by strong community buy-in.

ABOYERD made substantial progress toward its mission of fostering human-wildlife coexistence through conservation, education, sustainable livelihoods, and scientific research. The organization's emphasis on inclusivity, participatory planning, and integration of traditional knowledge into modern conservation practices yielded in 2024, strong local ownership and sustainability of interventions. 2024 also marked significant advancements in organizational capacity, including improved research methodologies (e.g., bio-monitoring, socio-economic surveys), strengthened internal governance, and enhanced visibility through strategic partnerships and digital outreach.

However, persistent challenges such as funding instability, logistical constraints in remote regions, and community fatigue from unfulfilled promises by past actors underscore the need for continuous engagement, transparent communication, and adaptive management.

Looking ahead, ABOYERD is focused on consolidating and expanding its impact with a strategic focus on:

- **Scaling Proven Initiatives:** Successful pilots in potato farming, poultry, and apiculture will be scaled to additional communities, while new interventions like plantain cultivation are set to begin in Ngoum, Lena, and Guasabe.
 - **Enhancing Youth Engagement:** Plans include the launch of new school wildlife clubs, introduction of technology-enabled learning tools, and educational field trips to further inspire the next generation of conservation leaders.
 - **Strengthening Community Systems:** Continued capacity building, improved documentation, and formalization of land rights will reinforce community governance and resilience.
 - **Innovation and Partnerships:** ABOYERD will deepen collaborations with academic institutions, government agencies, and donors to drive research, attract funding, and replicate successful models across similar landscapes in Cameroon.
- ABOYERD remains committed to its vision of a harmonious coexistence between humans and wildlife. With the unwavering support of stakeholders and the resilience of local communities, 2025 is set to be a year of deeper impact, stronger partnerships, and transformative change in conservation and community development.

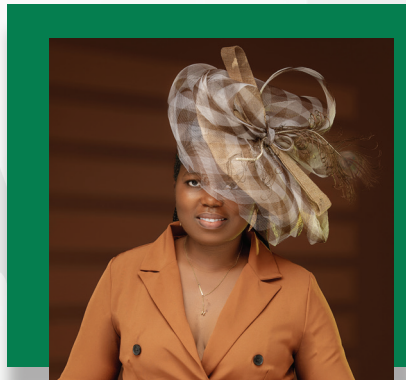
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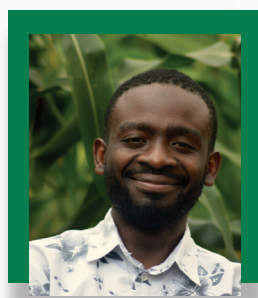
MR. ALAIN D.T. MOUAFO
RESEARCH COORDINATOR



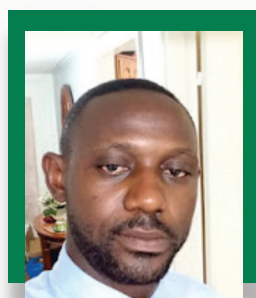
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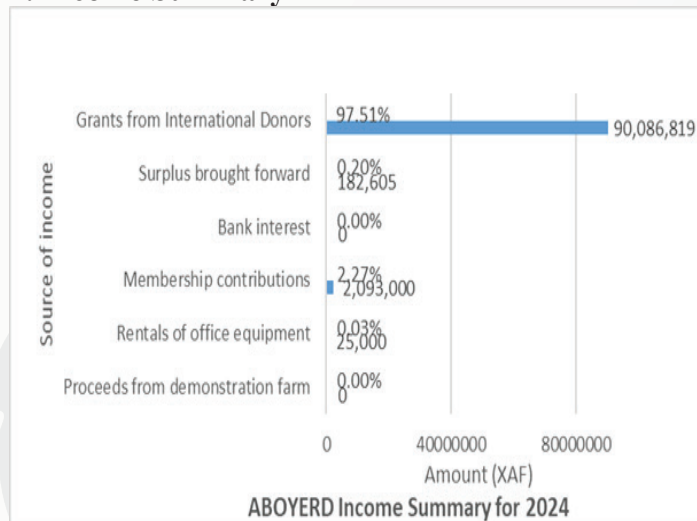
MR. ETIENNE GWEI
ACCOUNTANT

Financial Overview

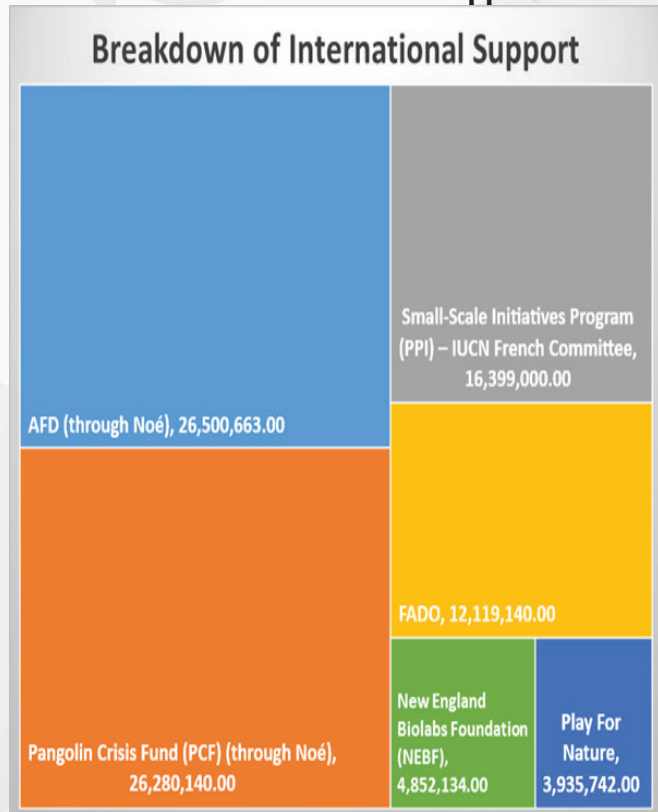
In 2024, ABOYERD managed a total income of 92,387,424 XAF, with 97.5% of this amount sourced from international donor support and 2.5% from internal sources. This reflects the organization's continued reliance on external partnerships to drive its conservation and development initiatives. Expenditures were closely aligned with income, resulting in a minor operational deficit of 50,100 XAF (0.05% of total income).

TASO Accounting, Management and Auditing Consultants (TAMAC) audited the accounts and confirmed they accurately represent the organization's financial position as of December 31, 2024.

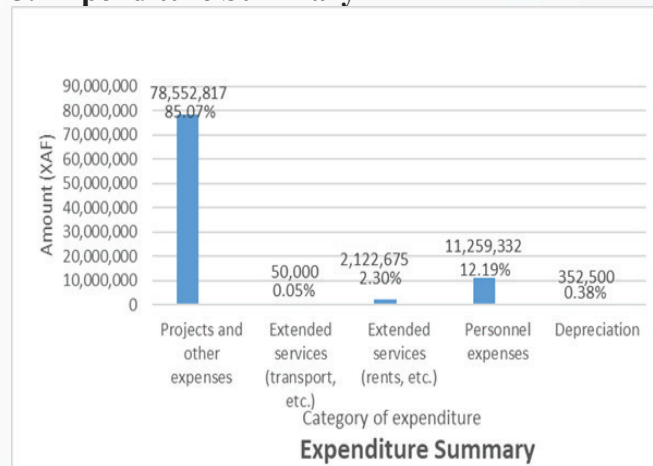
1. Income Summary



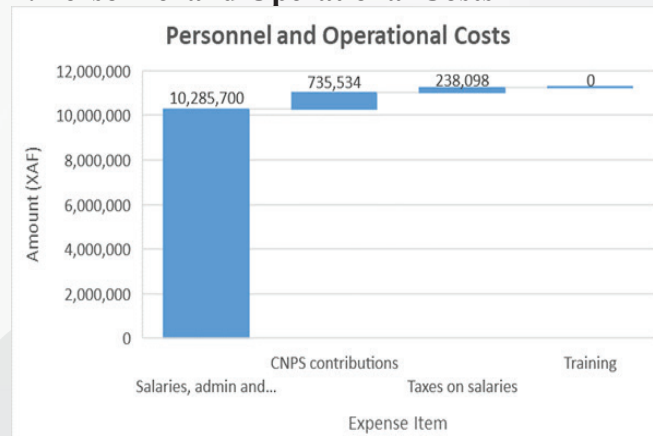
2. Breakdown of International Support



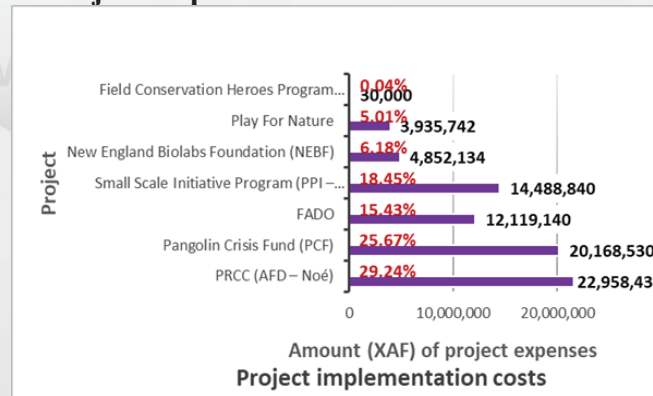
3. Expenditure Summary



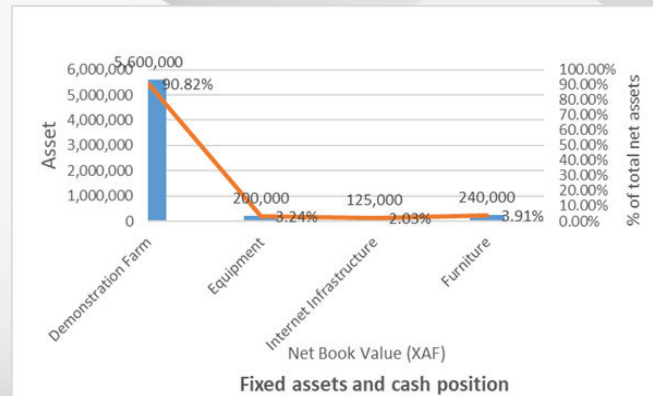
4. Personnel and Operational Costs



5. Project Implementation Costs



6.. Fixed Assets and Cash Position





2024

Annual Report



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