Mbam et Djerem National Park Landscape
Campo Ma'an National Park Landscape
West, Centre and South Regions,

ABOYERD
(Agriculture and Bio-conservation Organisation for Youth Empowerment and Rural Development)

Bridging wildlife conservation and community livelihoods for a safer future



ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT

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Republic of Cameroon
CAMPOST Building, Dschang, West Region
www.aboyerd.org
info@aboyerd.org
+237 675 802 634 / 679 203 801

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Executive Summary 3
2. Organizational Overview 5
2.1. Vision 5
2.2. Mission 5
2.3. Our Approach 5
2.4. Our Three Flagship Programmes 6
2.4.1. The Ngouroumoutou Programme 6
2.4.2. The Campo Ma'an Great Apes and Elephants Protection Programme (CAMGAEPP) 6
2.4.3. The Field Conservation Heroes Programme (FCHP) 7
2.5. Geographic Focus 7
2.6. Strategic Objectives (2025–2030 Strategic Plan) 8
3. Context and Problem Statement 8
3.1. Human-wildlife conflict 8
3.2. Illegal hunting, poaching, and wildlife trafficking 9
3.3. Deforestation and land degradation 9
3.4. Weak natural resource governance 10
4. Programmes and Activities Implemented 10
4.1 The Ngouroumoutou Programme 11
a) Research 11
b) Environmental education and conservation awareness 14
c) Community livelihoods 15
d) Habitat restoration and climate action 17
4.2. The Campo Ma'an Great Apes and Elephants Protection Programme (CAMGAEPP) 18
a) Research 18
b) Environmental education and conservation awareness 19
c) Community livelihoods 20
4.3 The Field Conservation Heroes Programme (FCHP) 22
4.4 Institutional Strengthening 23
5. Results and Key Achievements 24
5.1. Environmental education and conservation awareness 25
5.2. Selected outcome highlights 26
6. Impact Assessment 27
6.1. Community level 27
6.2. Household and livelihood level 28
6.3. Environmental level 28
6.4. Policy and institutional level 29
7. Partnerships and Collaboration 29
7.1. Government partners 29

7.2. Donors and technical partners 29
7.3. Research and academic partners 30
7.4. Communities 30
8. Challenges and Lessons Learned 30
8.1. Challenges encountered 30
8.2. Lessons learned 31
9. Financial Overview 32
10. Communication and Visibility 33
11. Sustainability and Future Directions 34
11.1. Institutional sustainability 34
11.2. Programmatic sustainability 34
11.3. Financial sustainability 35
11.4. Priorities for 2026 : Where new investment will have the greatest leverage 35
12. Conclusion 36
13. Annexes 39

1. Executive Summary

Cameroon's forests hold some of the last strongholds of the giant pangolin, the forest elephant, and the great apes of the Congo Basin - and some of the clearest evidence anywhere that community-led conservation works. In 2025, the Agriculture and Bioconservation Organisation for Youth Empowerment and Rural Development (**ABOYERD**) turned that evidence into results: double-digit reductions in wildlife crop-raiding, the restoration of community trust in a landscape where conservation had all but lost its social license, and the most rigorous evidence base the organisation has ever produced to guide its next phase of growth. For donors and partners seeking a proven, cost-effective route to biodiversity outcomes that also lift rural incomes, 2025 is the strongest case **ABOYERD** has made yet.

ABOYERD delivers its mission through three complementary, mutually reinforcing programmes: the Ngouroumoutou Programme, protecting giant pangolins and their habitat in the Mbam et Djerem National Park (MDNP) landscape since 2020 and formally upscaled in 2025 into the wider Yoko commune; the Campo Ma'an Great Apes and Elephants Protection Programme (CAMGAEPP), safeguarding great apes and forest elephants around the Campo Ma'an National Park (CMNP) since 2019; and the Field Conservation Heroes Programme (FCHP), ABOYERD's investment in Cameroon's next generation of conservation leaders. In 2025, ABOYERD deepened its long-running work in the Mbam et Djerem landscape, extended into the Yoko cocoa landscape through a strategic new partnership with Barry Callebaut, invested decisively in rebuilding community trust, and diversifying livelihoods under CAMGAEPP after years of unresolved human-elephant conflict, and adopted its first-ever 2025–2030 Strategic Plan - a clear, evidence-based roadmap for scaling what already works.

The results speak to both breadth and depth of impact. Across its intervention landscapes, ABOYERD directly engaged more than 700 individual beneficiaries through structured training, livelihood support, and school-based conservation education, while its research and consultation activities reached well over 2,700 community members and households through surveys, participatory mapping, sensitization campaigns, and stakeholder dialogue — evidence of an organisation that grounds every intervention in the people it serves. ABOYERD brought an estimated 18 hectares of degraded wildlife habitat and forest landscape under active restoration, nursed and distributed approximately 45,000 tree seedlings of ecological and economic value, and proved that nature-based and technology-assisted human-wildlife conflict solutions can cut crop-raiding by up to 31% in a single agricultural cycle — a fast, tangible return on investment that converts scepticism into partnership at the community level.

700+ Direct beneficiaries trained/supported	**45,000** Tree seedlings produced	**18 ha** Habitat/forest under restoration	**≈31%** Reduction in HWC crop-raiding (pilot sites)
3 Landscapes of intervention	**1,325+** Households/community members consulted	**94.8%** Average seedling survival rate	**181.8M** FCFA total revenue mobilised in 2025

Three milestones anchor the year. First, ABOYERD restored community trust and social license for CAMGAEPP in the Campo Ma'an landscape (a landscape where years of unresolved elephant crop-raiding had left communities openly hostile to conservation actors) through a deliberate, community-led engagement process with eight communities and government and technical partners, translating that renewed trust directly into three community-chosen livelihood enterprises now on the ground. Second, ABOYERD completed a rigorous socio-ecological diagnostic of the cocoa sector and deforestation drivers across the newly incorporated Yoko commune landscape, surveying close to 2,000 respondents across 43 villages and hamlets to build the evidence base for a scalable, EUDR-ready forest-protection model. Third, ABOYERD finalised its formal partnership with Cameroon's Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) - a milestone pursued since 2021 that materially expands the organisation's mandate to operate within government-protected areas.

ABOYERD closed the financial year with total revenue of 181,831,390 FCFA and functional expenditure of 181,946,944 FCFA - a near break-even position, with the marginal deficit of 115,554 FCFA fully absorbed by retained reserves, as confirmed in independently audited financial statements. Revenue nearly doubled year-on-year, driven by a deliberate diversification strategy that added major new partners including Barry Callebaut and the Fondation Audemars-Watkins alongside sustained core support from Noé, the Agence Française de Développement, and the Pangolin Crisis Fund - evidence of growing confidence among international funders in ABOYERD's delivery model.

ABOYERD enters 2026 in its strongest position yet: a validated six-year Strategic Plan, an expanded and diversified partner base, and field-tested, replicable models for community-based natural resource governance, livelihood diversification, and human-wildlife conflict mitigation that are ready for the kind of sustained investment that turns pilots into landscape-scale, lasting

impact. This report sets out, in full, the context, activities, results, lessons, and forward strategy that define ABOYERD's 2025 performance — and the case for partnering with ABOYERD as it scales.

2. Organizational Overview

ABOYERD (Agriculture and Bioconservation Organisation for Youth Empowerment and Rural Development) is Cameroonian grassroots, not-for-profit association, officially registered under registration number 96B/ARDA/F.34/SAAJP pursuant to Law No. 90/053 of 19 December 1990. Headquartered in Dschang, West Region, ABOYERD occupies a distinctive niche in Cameroon's conservation landscape: a locally rooted, community-embedded organisation with the technical rigour and institutional discipline to be a credible partner for international donors, government, and global conservation networks alike. Its work sits squarely at the interface of biodiversity conservation and community development, with a particular focus on indigenous and forest-dependent communities living around Cameroon's priority protected areas - the communities whose choices, day to day, determine the survival of these landscapes.

2.1. Vision

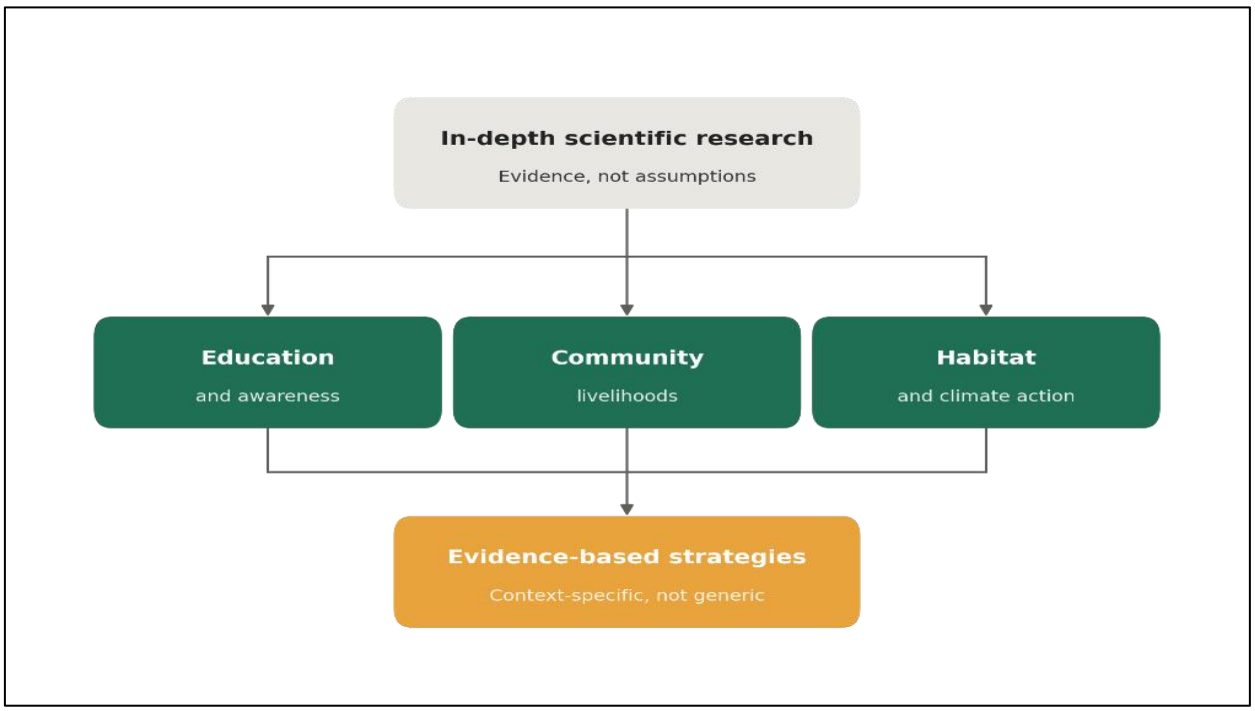
A sustainable world where humans and wildlife enjoy a mutually beneficial coexistence.

2.2. Mission

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

2.3. Our Approach

At ABOYERD, conservation action begins with evidence, not assumption. Before designing any intervention, we first conduct in-depth scientific research (socio-economic studies, market surveys, participatory mapping, and ecological assessments) to build a rigorous understanding of the specific conservation problem at hand in each landscape. The findings from this research phase then directly inform the design of context-specific strategies, organised under three complementary axes: environmental education and conservation awareness, community livelihoods development, and habitat restoration and climate action. This research-first approach ensures that every ABOYERD intervention is grounded in verifiable data and local reality, rather than general assumptions - giving our conservation actions a stronger evidence base, greater relevance to the communities we serve, and a higher likelihood of lasting impact.



2.4. Our Three Flagship Programmes

ABOYERD delivers its mission through three complementary, long-running programmes, each anchored in a specific landscape or mandate and designed to be mutually reinforcing rather than standalone - evidence generated under one programme routinely informs design decisions in another, and FCHP trains the next generation of staff who will one day lead them:

2.4.1. The Ngouroumoutou Programme

Active in the Mbam et Djerem National Park (MDNP) landscape since 2019 and progressively upscaled since, the Ngouroumoutou Programme's core objective is to support the protection of pangolins, their habitats, and associated wildlife species in and around the MDNP, while improving the livelihoods of the indigenous communities that surround the park. In 2025, the programme's geographic scope was formally extended beyond the MDNP and its immediate peripheries to encompass the wider Yoko commune landscape, a strategic expansion that positions ABOYERD to address deforestation, cocoa-driven land-use change, and wildlife poaching as a single, connected problem rather than three separate ones.

2.4.2. The Campo Ma'an Great Apes and Elephants Protection Programme (CAMGAEPP)

Running in the Campo Ma'an National Park (CMNP) landscape since 2019, CAMGAEPP's objective is to support the protection of great apes and forest elephants in and around the CMNP, while improving the livelihoods of the indigenous communities living around the park. Now in its

seventh year, CAMGAEPP has matured from an initial single-species great-ape and elephant conservation initiative into a broader ecosystem-based approach - one that recognises that safeguarding these flagship species depends on the health of the wider forest landscape and the well-being of the communities who share it. This shift has shaped the programme into a comprehensive, multi-community initiative combining human-wildlife conflict mitigation, community-chosen livelihood enterprises, agroforestry-based habitat restoration, and school-based conservation education.

2.4.3. The Field Conservation Heroes Programme (FCHP)

FCHP is ABOYERD's investment in its own future and Cameroon's: a dedicated talent pipeline for the conservation sector, designed to contribute to the building of a new generation of young conservation enthusiasts, in direct fulfilment of Objective 6 of the 2025–2030 Strategic Plan. Through internships, university research partnerships, hands-on field training, and the provision of research equipment and seed funding, FCHP identifies and empowers motivated young people (particularly students) to plan and execute conservation research, assess environmental challenges, and develop practical conservation solutions, ensuring that ABOYERD's technical capacity, and Cameroon's broader conservation workforce, continues to grow.

2.5. Geographic Focus

In 2025, ABOYERD's operations spanned two priority landscapes, delivered through its three programmes: the Mbam et Djerem National Park landscape and, as an extension of the same Ngouroumoutou Programme, the wider Yoko commune (villages including Ngoum, Lena, Doumé, Megang, Makouri, Guere, Gwasabe, Mbitom-Conseiller, and several additional villages and hamlets across Yoko council); and the Campo Ma'an National Park landscape under CAMGAEPP (communities including Mabiogo, Nazareth, Mintom, Afan-Essokye, Aka'ak, Nko'elon, Kouajab, Mvini, and Campo town). FCHP operates transversally across both landscapes and through academic partnerships based in Dschang.

2.6. Strategic Objectives (2025–2030 Strategic Plan)



3. Context and Problem Statement

Cameroon is one of the most biodiverse countries in the Congo Basin, hosting globally significant populations of forest elephants, great apes, giant pangolins, and other threatened species within a mosaic of national parks and community-managed landscapes. Yet the communities that live closest to this biodiversity (and whose customary livelihoods have long depended on it) are frequently among the poorest, least serviced, and most exposed to the compounding pressures of poverty, unemployment, and weak natural resource governance. This is the paradox at the heart of the conservation challenge in Cameroon, and the one ABOYERD's programming is built to solve: communities cannot be expected to protect biodiversity at the cost of their livelihoods, and biodiversity cannot survive without the active stewardship of the people who live alongside it. Four interlocking pressures define the scale of that challenge.

3.1. Human-wildlife conflict

In both the Mbam et Djerem and Campo Ma'an landscapes, ABOYERD's 2025 research confirmed that human-wildlife conflict (HWC) remains a first-order driver of hostility toward

conservation. In Lena village alone (around the MDNP), 100% of surveyed households reported crop destruction by wildlife, 85.71% reported not feeling safe around wildlife, and average annual losses from crop damage reached approximately 150,000 FCFA per household - a substantial share of household income in a subsistence economy. In the Campo Ma'an landscape, years of unaddressed crop-raiding, mainly by forest elephants, had left communities “openly hostile to conservation authorities,” with trust in conservation initiatives at a critically low point at the start of the year. Left unaddressed, this hostility translates directly into retaliatory killing of wildlife and withdrawal of community cooperation - making HWC not a peripheral welfare issue but a direct threat to conservation outcomes.

3.2. Illegal hunting, poaching, and wildlife trafficking

Illegal hunting and wildlife trafficking remain among the most direct threats to the species ABOYERD works to protect. Independent wildlife-trade monitoring bodies consistently identify Cameroon, alongside the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, and Uganda, as one of the principal source countries supplying pangolin scales to markets in East and Southeast Asia, and past multi-tonne seizures traced to Cameroon (including consignments intercepted in Hong Kong and China in 2016–2017 estimated to represent the scales of between 10,000 and 20,000 individual pangolins) illustrate the historic scale of a trade that has since shifted from local bushmeat consumption toward more organised, scale-oriented trafficking networks. Research on pangolin hunting in Cameroon's forest–savannah transition zone likewise documents an active trafficking chain running from rural hunting communities to regional trading hubs, with the capital Yaoundé identified as a major domestic market for pangolin meat and scales despite the species' full legal protection. Forest elephants face a comparable, if better documented, threat: independent analyses have recorded Central African forest elephant populations declining by over 60% between roughly 2002 and 2013, driven overwhelmingly by ivory poaching - a trend ABOYERD's own biomonitoring and community-level HWC data suggest continues to shape both wildlife behaviour and community attitudes in its intervention landscapes today. Locally, ABOYERD's field research confirms that subsistence hunting of pangolins, antelopes, porcupines, and monkeys (practised by 7–12.5% of surveyed households around Mbam et Djerem largely for household consumption or informal sale) coexists with, and can mask, the more organised trafficking described above. This is precisely why ABOYERD pairs community sensitization and livelihood alternatives with biomonitoring, camera-trap surveillance, and support to law-enforcement partners: no single intervention, alone, can break a trade that operates at both the subsistence and the transnational level.

3.3. Deforestation and land degradation

Deforestation and forest degradation compound the threat to biodiversity. ABOYERD's 30-year satellite time-series analysis of the Yoko Council area found that dense forest cover declined from 72.7% (11,383 km²) in 1995 to 62.8% (9,832 km²) in 2025, a net loss of 13.6% (1,553 km²), while agricultural land increased thirteen-fold over the same period. Rural poverty (72.1% of surveyed households earn less than 100,000 FCFA per month), in-migration pressure (affecting 80.9% of households), and cocoa market incentives were identified as the principal underlying drivers, consistent with the broader national pattern in which forest loss is tightly linked to smallholder agricultural expansion and weak land-use planning. With the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) set to reshape market access for Cameroonian cocoa, this landscape sits at a genuine inflection point — one where early, well-targeted investment can determine whether smallholders are locked out of premium markets or positioned to lead a deforestation-free transition.

3.4. Weak natural resource governance

Poor natural resource governance further compounds these pressures. ABOYERD's 2025 participatory assessments in Doumé, Lena, and Ngoum found that, despite strong traditional governance structures, community-managed resources such as community forests and hunting zones (ZICs) suffer from opaque revenue management, elite capture, and unresolved inter-village boundary disputes, while critical social infrastructure (health centres, schools, water, and electricity) remains largely absent. These governance gaps limit the ability of communities to translate their natural resource wealth into durable, equitable development, and they create fertile ground for the illegal exploitation of forest and wildlife resources described above.

Biodiversity of global significance, communities bearing a disproportionate cost of coexistence with wildlife, persistent poaching and trafficking pressure, accelerating deforestation, and natural resource governance systems under strain: this is the landscape ABOYERD works in, and the scale of challenge that its 2025 programming (combining rigorous applied research, direct livelihood support, human-wildlife conflict mitigation, environmental education, and institutional strengthening of community and government partners) was designed to meet. The results set out in the sections that follow demonstrate that, with the right combination of trust, evidence, and sustained follow-up, this paradox can be resolved.

4. Programmes and Activities Implemented

ABOYERD's field delivery in 2025 was organised around three programmes (the Ngouroumoutou Programme, the Campo Ma'an Great Apes and Elephants Protection Programme

(CAMGAEPP), and the Field Conservation Heroes Programme (FCHP)) each combining research, environmental education, community livelihoods, and habitat restoration and climate action in pursuit of a distinct, measurable, species-specific objective. What unites them is a common operating principle, hard-won over years of field experience: conservation outcomes follow trust, trust follows evidence and delivery, and delivery must be sustained rather than one-off. The sections that follow present 2025 activities under each programme, classified accordingly, with results reported wherever available.

4.1 The Ngouroumoutou Programme

Objective: to support the protection of giant pangolins, their habitats, and associated wildlife species in and around the Mbam et Djerem National Park (MDNP), while improving the livelihoods of the indigenous communities surrounding the park — a mandate formally extended in 2025 to the wider Yoko commune landscape, positioning ABOYERD at the forefront of one of Central Africa's most pressing pangolin-conservation and deforestation fronts. The programme is implemented in Ngoum, Lena, Doumé, Megang, Gwasabe, Mbitom-Conseiller, and, following the 2025 upscaling, across 42–43 additional villages and hamlets of Yoko council, with financial and technical support from Noé, the Pangolin Crisis Fund, the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), and Barry Callebaut.

a) Research

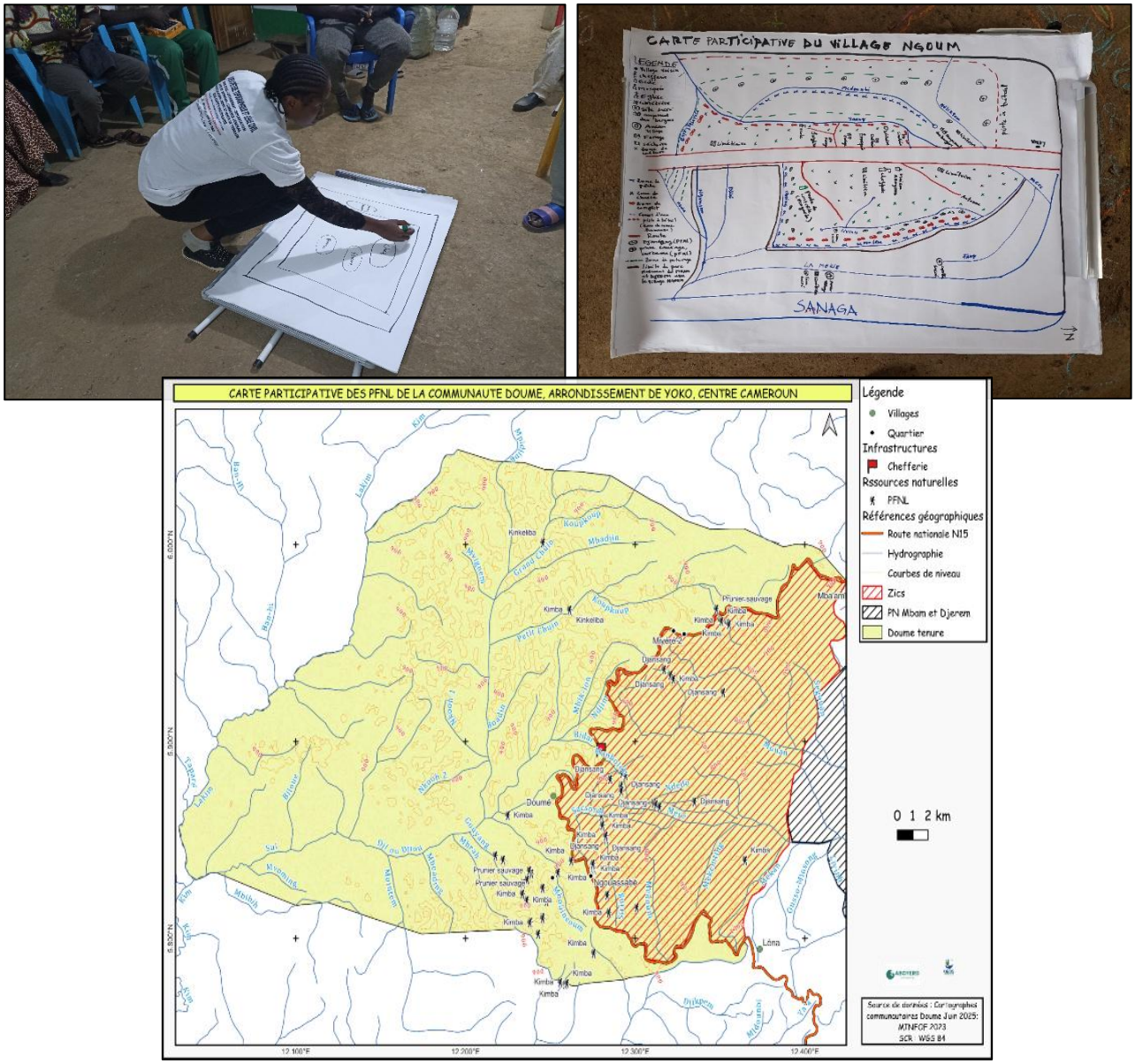
ABOYERD conducted regular biomonitoring missions across the south-western part of the MDNP landscape, combining systematic line transect surveys for indirect signs with targeted camera-trap deployment on high-use microhabitats such as fallen logs and burrows. These standardized, non-invasive surveys track the distribution, relative abundance, and habitat use of the giant pangolin and white-bellied pangolin across the landscape's dense forest, savannah, and ecotone habitats, with regular, repeated data collection designed to build a growing dataset from which meaningful population trends can be established over time - not a one-off baseline. The 2025 missions confirmed continued populations of pangolins, forest elephants, chimpanzees, and several other key species, hard evidence that the species at the heart of the programme's mandate remain present and monitorable, while also underscoring the need for stronger biomonitoring protocol, more equipment, and a more consistent data collection and management system to sustain this trend analysis going forward.



Some wildlife images from our biomonitoring camera traps.

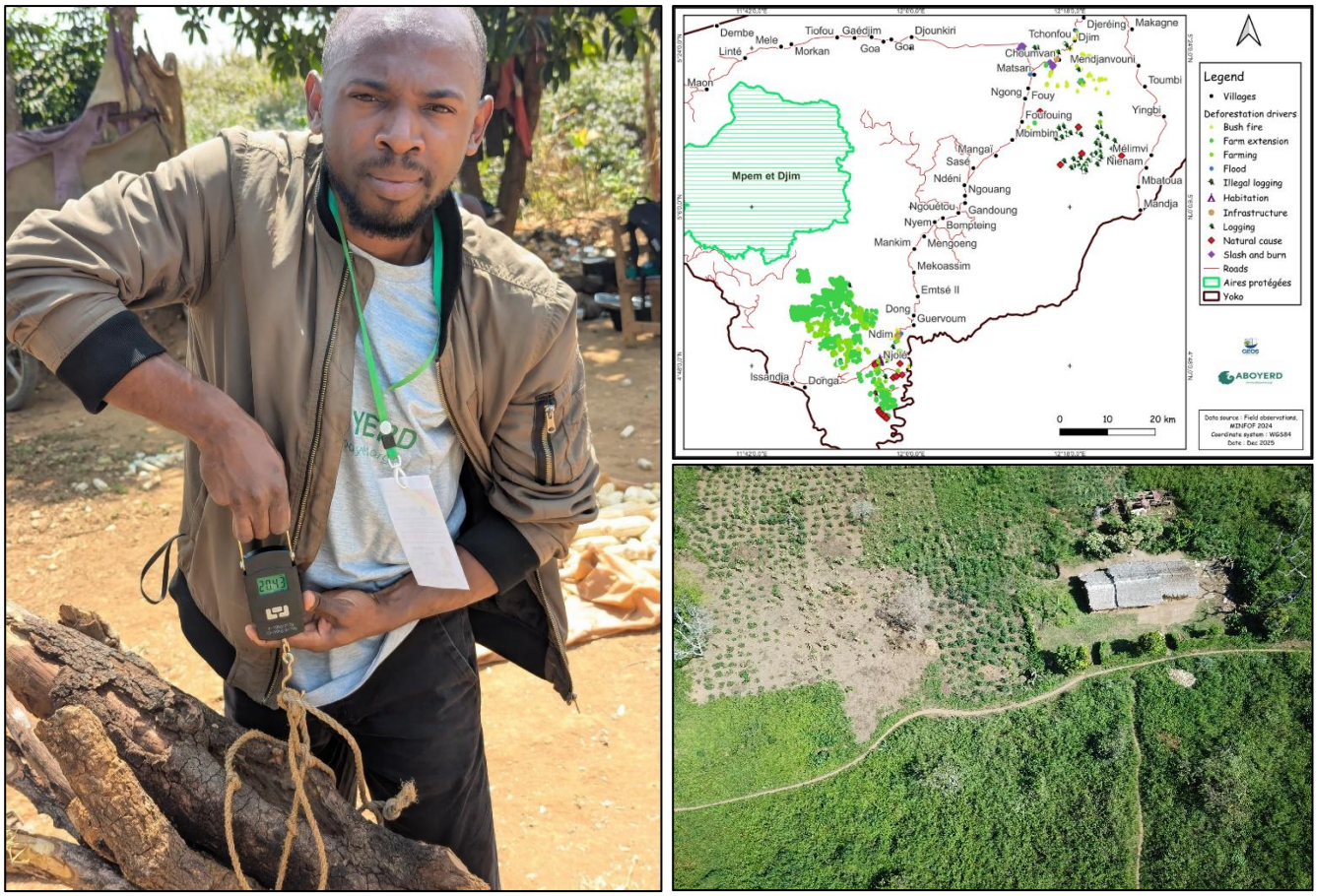
In parallel, ABOYERD carried out a participatory natural resource assessment across Doumé, Lena, and Ngoum, combining community mapping, household surveys, and satellite land-use analysis to build a shared, evidence-based understanding of governance, land use, and livelihoods in the landscape. Findings were formally shared back with communities and local authorities, directly informing the design of the livelihood and habitat restoration activities described below - ensuring that ABOYERD's interventions respond to the landscape as it actually

is, not as it is assumed to be.



Participatory mapping in key villages around the MDNP

Following the 2025 upscaling into Yoko commune, ABOYERD undertook a major evidence-generation phase in partnership with Barry Callebaut, combining a cocoa value chain and EUDR-readiness study with a 30-year deforestation-drivers assessment and a pilot forest surveillance mechanism. Together, these established the first rigorous, landscape-scale evidence base for the programme's expansion - confirming both the scale of deforestation pressure in Yoko and a validated, technically credible pathway for near-real-time forest monitoring that can inform a future EUDR-compliant, deforestation-free cocoa initiative.



Assessing the drivers of deforestation in the Yoko Commune Landscape

b) Environmental education and conservation awareness

Construction and equipping of the Environmental Education Centre in Ngoum village (the intended anchor for the programme's environmental education activities) continued through 2025 under the close follow-up of ABOYERD's administrative unit, ahead of a planned expansion of formal school and community education activities once the Centre is fully operational. In September 2025, the dissemination of participatory mapping reports to five communities was accompanied by structured presentations and discussions with community members on the practical use of the findings for land-use, resource-governance, and livelihood decision-making, strengthening local data literacy alongside the programme's more formal education infrastructure.



Presentation of results from our community participatory mapping activities around the MDNP

c) Community livelihoods

I. Short-Cycle crop demonstration and Improved agronomic practices:

Two short-cycle crop demonstration farms (0.5 ha each, 1 ha total) were established in Ngoum and Lena, planted with 800 plantain suckers and 102 kg of Irish potato seed; a planned third site in Gwasabe was suspended due to an unresolved inter-village land dispute, though 19 residents there still received Irish potato seed for individual cultivation. Thirty-seven beneficiaries (20 men, 17 women) were trained in improved agronomic practices. Follow-up monitoring found plantain survival at approximately 97%, while the Irish potato harvest fell short of target (≈1.2 bags against a target of 6) due to late planting and an early dry season — a result that nonetheless confirmed the crop's viability and generated concrete recommendations for the next cycle.



Community empowerment in cultivation of short-cycle crops such as irish potatoes

ii. Non-Lethal Human-Wildlife Conflict mitigation through repellent devices:

To protect these same livelihoods from wildlife damage — and to demonstrate, quickly and visibly, that conservation can pay for itself in reduced losses rather than imposed costs — ABOYERD piloted non-lethal, sound- and light-based repellent devices in Lena and Ngoum: seven households in Lena received 28 solar/electric devices (four per household), with two further units in Ngoum, while a parallel training reached 21 forest users across Ngoum, Lena, and Gwasabe (seven per village), each household receiving four devices. A follow-up mission (30 October–4 November 2025) recorded reductions in wildlife crop-raiding of 28% in Ngoum, 31% in Lena, and 30% in Gwasabe, with farm health and yields improving by approximately 30%

across all three sites — devices combining audio, ultrasound, and red-light signals proving roughly 40% more effective than ultrasound-only models. Results of this kind, delivered within a single season, are precisely what converts sceptical communities into willing conservation partners.



Installation of sonic devices by indigenous farmers in Lena village around the MDNP to deter wildlife from farmlands

iii. Strengthening NTFP value chains and community ownership:

Continued support to non-timber forest product (NTFP) value chains saw beekeepers produce over 3000 liters of honey, while njangsang processing became a largely self-reliant household enterprise (spanning production, storage, processing, and marketing) across target communities, a genuine marker of graduation from donor dependency toward durable local enterprise. In Ngoum and Lena, ABOYERD rolled out its newly developed Community Structuration and Operations Manual, establishing defined leadership roles, task allocation, functional sub-units, and accountability mechanisms to strengthen community ownership of these



Developing the honey value chain as a livelihood alternative to bushmeat hunting in villages around the MDNP

livelihood assets.

d) Habitat restoration and climate action

Three community-managed agroforestry nurseries (Ngoum, Gwasabe, Lena; 5,000-seedling capacity each) produced 15,000 seedlings (9,000 ecological species — njangsang, bush mango, pachy — and 6,000 improved fruit trees), achieving an overall 84.5% survival rate (95.5% for ecological species, 74.0% for fruit trees) a survival performance well above typical benchmarks for community-managed nurseries in the region. Approximately 6,000 ecological tree seedlings were planted along the degraded Yoko–Tibati road corridor by May 2025, restoring an estimated 4 hectares of pangolin habitat and improving wildlife connectivity, while an additional 1,600 fruit trees were distributed to 61 households (36 men, 25 women) for agroforestry, with a further 1,200 seedlings reserved for neighbouring communities, schools, and public institutions.



Community engagement in tree nursery creation, management and tree planting for habitat restoration and climate action

4.2. The Campo Ma'an Great Apes and Elephants Protection Programme (CAMGAEPP)

Objective: to support the protection of great apes and forest elephants in and around the Campo Ma'an National Park (CMNP), while improving the livelihoods of the indigenous communities living around the park. Active since 2019, CAMGAEPP is implemented across eight communities (Nko'elon, Afan-Essokye, Mintom, Nazareth, Mabiogo, Aka'ak, Mvini, and Kouajab) with support from the Fondation Audemars-Watkins (FAW), the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF), and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). By early 2025, years of unresolved crop destruction by elephants had left several communities deeply distrustful of conservation actors, following the collapse of earlier, poorly followed-up livelihood interventions; restoring that trust became the defining priority of the year, alongside continued delivery of the programme's established biomonitoring, livelihoods, and restoration activities. What follows is the story of how a landscape on the brink of losing its social license for conservation was brought back — deliberately, and with results to show for it.

a) Research

Rebuilding social license began with a stakeholder coordination meeting (postponed from January to 21 February 2025) convening traditional chiefs from eight communities, MINFOF's decentralised Conservation Service, the Divisional Officer for Campo, the Mayor of Campo Municipality, the Delegate for Agriculture, technical partners AWF and WWF, and two schools. The meeting secured consensus on the year's action plan, formal community consent through chiefs and representatives, jointly defined priority intervention areas, and institutional commitments of technical support — and included a site visit to ABOYERD's community nursery, which the Divisional Officer publicly described as “the first of its kind that I have ever set eyes on.” This was followed by community engagement meetings in six core villages, reaching 127 participants (107 men, 20 women), which surfaced deep scepticism rooted in previous failed projects but closed, every time, with a measurable shift toward renewed hope.



Stakeholders' engagement. Left: Divisional officer visiting ABOYERD tree nursery after official meeting represented on the right

A structured livelihoods diagnostic study (gender-separated focus group discussions with 45 participants across Afan-Essokye, Mabiogo, and Mintom) then examined the causes of past livelihood project failures and community preferences for future support. The consistent finding across all three communities was that previous piggery, pisciculture, and apiculture interventions had failed principally because technical follow-up was absent, not because the chosen activity was unsuitable (a finding with direct implications for donor design choices well beyond Campo Ma'an. This evidence led ABOYERD to replace its originally planned uniform livelihood package (poultry, in all villages) with one distinct, community-chosen activity per village) the single most consequential design decision of the programme year.



Data collection during diagnostic study to assess locally relevant and more lucrative livelihood alternatives

b) Environmental education and conservation awareness

Two school Eco/Wildlife Clubs were established — Lycée Moderne de Campo (36 students) and École Publique Inclusive de Campo (45 pupils) — reaching 81 students in total, with elected executives, weekly meetings, and lessons on ecosystems, food chains, and ecosystem services. Club members took part in the 59th National Youth Day celebration (11 February 2025), staging a branded march-past and door-to-door outreach that reached 178 persons. ABOYERD also launched a 20 m × 13 m agro-ecological garden and nursery at Lycée Technique de Campo, whose first cucumber harvest (≈500 fruits, the first of its kind in the Campo area) generated 35,000 FCFA for the club fund — tangible proof, for students and teachers alike, that conservation-linked enterprise can be self-sustaining. A community sensitization campaign on Cameroon's 2024 Forest and Wildlife Laws, delivered jointly with eco-guards across Afan-Essokye, Aka'ak, and Mintom Ville, reached 40 community members.



11 School wildlife club members being trained in creation and management of agroecological gardens as both a livelihood and nature protection activity

c) Community livelihoods

Guided directly by the livelihoods diagnostic, ABOYERD constructed community piggeries in Mintom and Afan-Essokye to a purpose-built design (15 m × 3 m per pen, with a feed-storage magazine, six compartments with automatic drinkers and feeders, a 250-litre raised water tank, and raised floors for hygiene). Beneficiary communities donated construction timber and worked alongside ABOYERD staff and a contracted technician throughout; each piggery was stocked with two improved-breed females at different stages of maturity, with a male to be introduced only once breeding-ready, avoiding the cost of feeding a boar year-round.



Community-constructed piggery pens in Mintom and Afan-Essokye (CMNP landscape), currently managed and maintained by local community members.

As a dual livelihood and human-elephant-conflict mitigation strategy, apiculture plots were established along elephant migratory routes in Aka'ak and Afan-Essokye. Sixty Kenyan Top Bar beehives were constructed by 54 trained participants, with 30 hives per community installed in block formation on 1-metre metal stands — replacing wooden stands that had decayed and collapsed, in direct response to a 2024 field recommendation — alongside safety signposts that also discourage bushfires. Chili pepper and citrus live barriers were additionally established in Aka'ak, though chili-bomb production was limited by poor-quality seed, since replaced with higher-quality local stock.



Women of Aka'ak and Afan-Essokye (CMNP landscape) being trained in beekeeping, from hive construction using locally sourced materials to hive management and harvesting.
Right: *ABOYERD partners having a taste of freshly harvested honey.*

d) Habitat restoration and climate action

Two 15,000-seedling-capacity semi-modern nurseries were constructed at the Conservation Service site in Campo and at Aka'ak, upgrading the previous design with improved netting and weed control for at least five years of service. Fifty-three forest users (23 women) were trained hands-on in nursery establishment and management, nursing seedlings across seven species and achieving an overall survival rate of 94.83% (98.56% ecological, 87.38% fruit) as of September 2025 - a strong signal of the technical quality now embedded in community-run nurseries after years of iterative ABOYERD support. Ecological tree planting by ABOYERD, the Conservation Service, and community members established an estimated 20,000 trees in the Mvini area, restoring approximately 8 hectares, while an estimated 10,000 fruit trees were distributed across seven communities for individual-farm agroforestry, with beneficiaries trained to avoid species that attract elephants near farm edges. Follow-up survival assessment recorded ≈95% survival for fruit trees and ≈85% for ecological trees, notwithstanding over 120 njangsang seedlings uprooted by elephants moving through the restoration area — a frustrating loss for the nursery teams, but also unmistakable evidence that wildlife has returned to a corridor ABOYERD helped bring back to life.



Indigenous forest users around CMNP being trained and engaged in tree nursery creation, nursery management and tree planting for habitat restoration and climate action

4.3 The Field Conservation Heroes Programme (FCHP)

Objective: to contribute to the building of a new generation of young conservation enthusiasts, as set out in the organisation's 2025–2030 Strategic Plan (Objective 6) — ABOYERD's recognition that a conservation movement is only as strong as the pipeline of talent behind it. FCHP identifies highly motivated young people, provides them with theoretical and hands-on field training, and supports them with research equipment and seed funding so that they can independently plan and execute conservation research, assess environmental challenges, and develop practical solutions.

In 2025, ABOYERD hosted five interns from vocational training centres in Dschang and supported two students from the Faculty of Agronomy and Agricultural Sciences (FASA) of the University of Dschang with dedicated research equipment for their fieldwork, embedding both cohorts directly within ongoing Ngouroumoutou and CAMGAEPP field activities to maximise practical learning. ABOYERD also represented Cameroon's grassroots conservation sector, and by extension the aspirations of its young conservationists, at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi, using the platform to align its youth-development approach with international

conservation standards and to open new academic and professional partnerships for future FCHP cohorts.

Consistent with its transversal mandate, FCHP draws its participants and placements from across both flagship landscapes, ensuring that the pipeline of future conservation professionals is trained on the same real-world challenges — human-wildlife conflict mitigation, community-based natural resource governance, livelihood diversification, and habitat restoration — that define ABOYERD's core programming, and that Cameroon's next generation of conservation leaders is being built from within, not imported from outside.

4.4 Institutional Strengthening

Behind ABOYERD's three programmes sits an administrative function that donors rarely see but that determines whether field results are delivered reliably, accounted for transparently, and sustained over time. 2025 saw ABOYERD invest deliberately in that foundation. Achievements included digital capacity-building of staff by Afritech Institute, with the organisation adopting Google Drive for file management and ClickUp for task management; completion of a full fixed-asset inventory, uploaded to Google Drive; finalisation of ABOYERD's long-sought formal partnership with the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF), communicated through an official letter signed by the Minister; recruitment of a dedicated accountant for the Finance Department; installation of stable office internet connectivity in October 2025; and completion of staff contract signing across the organisation by 16 June 2025. The unit also coordinated planning and logistics for all official field missions across both landscapes, maintained a constant supply of office consumables, and continued to follow up and monitor the ongoing construction and equipping of the Environmental Education Centre in Ngoum village, alongside routine institutional purchases such as office stationery and safety equipment, including a fire extinguisher for the Dschang office.



ABOYERD Office and environmental education center in Ngoum village, MDNP landscape

ABOYERD's administrative team also represented the organisation in key coordination and evaluation forums, including all MDNP trimestral coordination meetings held by park authorities in 2025, the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi, and a joint field evaluation mission with the Director of the Pangolin Crisis Fund to assess Ngouroumoutou Programme activities in the MDNP landscape and plan their sustainment and upscale. The unit further organised the successful December 2025 launch of ABOYERD's 2025–2030 Strategic Plan, notwithstanding the absence of a number of invited partners on the day — a reminder of the ongoing work still required to fully embed ABOYERD's strategic vision among its partner



ABOYERD representatives together with the MINFOF park conservation service, WCS and other key actors of the MDNP landscape

network.

5. Results and Key Achievements

Numbers alone do not make the case for conservation investment — but they are where that case starts. ABOYERD's 2025 results are best understood at two levels: the outputs directly delivered by each programme, and the outcomes those outputs are already beginning to generate

for communities, wildlife, and forest landscapes. The table below summarises headline indicators across ABOYERD's three programmes; the narrative that follows explains why they matter.

Indicator	Ngouroumoutou Programme (MDNP + Yoko)	CAMGAEPP (CMNP)	FCHP
Households / individuals directly consulted or surveyed	325 (participatory mapping) + 875 (deforestation study) + 1,002 (cocoa study)	127 (community engagement) + 45 (livelihoods diagnostic)	—
Beneficiaries trained / directly supported	37 (agronomic training) + 21 (HWC devices) + 9 (Lena/Ngoum repellents) + 2 (forest-surveillance guides)	54 (apiculture) + community piggery groups in 2 villages	5 interns + 2 university researchers
Students / community members reached through environmental education and awareness	—	81 students (2 Eco/Wildlife Clubs) + 178 (National Youth Day outreach) + 40 (Forest and Wildlife Law sensitization)	—
Tree seedlings produced	15,000	15,000 – 30,000	—
Estimated habitat/forest area restored	4 ha (Yoko–Tibati corridor)	≈30 ha (Mvini)	—
Reduction in wildlife crop-raiding	28–31% (Ngoum, Lena, Gwasabe)	Piloting underway (apiculture/HEC barriers)	—
Seedling survival rate	84.5%	94.83%	—

5.1. Environmental education and conservation awareness

Beyond the biomonitoring, livelihoods, and restoration results captured in the table above, 2025 saw ABOYERD substantially build out its environmental education and conservation awareness work under CAMGAEPP, laying a foundation of conservation literacy and behaviour change alongside its more technical field interventions.

81	178	500	40
Students enrolled in 2 new school	People reached via National Youth Day	Cucumbers harvested, first-ever school	Community members sensitized on 2024

Eco/Wildlife Clubs	outreach	garden crop	wildlife laws

Two school Eco/Wildlife Clubs (at Lycée Moderne de Campo (36 students) and École Publique Inclusive de Campo (45 pupils)) were established with elected student executives and weekly lessons on ecosystems, food chains, and ecosystem services, bringing total enrolment to 81 students. Club members carried this learning into the community during the 59th National Youth Day celebration on 11 February 2025, staging a branded march-past and conducting door-to-door outreach that reached 178 people (62 women, 39 men, 77 of them young people). ABOYERD then translated this classroom engagement into hands-on practice by launching a 20 m × 13 m agro-ecological garden and nursery at Lycée Technique de Campo, equipping students with 35 pairs of boots and a full set of gardening tools; the garden's first harvest (approximately 500 cucumbers after seven weeks, a first for the Campo area) generated 35,000 FCFA in independent income for the club fund after produce was shared with members, teachers, and local authorities. In parallel, ABOYERD and eco-guards jointly delivered a community sensitization campaign on Cameroon's 2024 Forest and Wildlife Laws across Afan-Essokye, Aka'ak, and Mintom Ville, reaching 40 community members (26 men, 14 women) with printed banners, branded T-shirts, roll-ups, and adapted notebooks, and directly supporting group structuration with the Conservation Service in Aka'ak.

5.2. Selected outcome highlights

Seven results from 2025 stand out as the clearest markers of ABOYERD's return on donor investment — the moments where field activity translated into measurable change in behaviour, trust, or biodiversity outcomes:

- Human-wildlife conflict mitigation: nature-based and sonic deterrent pilots in Ngoum, Lena, and Gwasabe (Ngouroumoutou Programme) reduced wildlife crop-raiding by 28–31% and lifted farm health and yields by approximately 30% within a single agricultural cycle — among the most immediate and measurable results of the year, and evidence that technology-assisted, community-managed HWC solutions can deliver rapid, tangible benefit.
- Restored social license in Campo Ma'an: the CAMGAEPP stakeholder and community engagement process converted years of open hostility toward conservation authorities into formal, chief-endorsed community consent across eight villages, unlocking the community-based piggery, apiculture, and agroforestry activities that followed — arguably the programme's single most important achievement of the year, six years into its implementation.

- Livelihood diversification: three community-chosen livelihood enterprises — piggery, apiculture, and agroforestry/NTFP value chains — are now operating across the two flagship landscapes, informed directly by community diagnostic evidence rather than externally imposed models, addressing the single most common cause of past project failure identified by communities themselves: absence of follow-up.
- Habitat restoration and connectivity: an estimated 18 hectares of degraded forest and wildlife habitat were brought under active restoration in 2025 across the Yoko–Tibati corridor and the Mvini area of Campo Ma'an, with early evidence of renewed elephant activity in the restored Mvini site.
- Evidence base for the Ngouroumoutou Programme's Yoko upscaling: the cocoa and deforestation studies (nearly 1,900 respondents combined) generated the first rigorous, landscape-scale evidence base to guide a future EUDR-compliant, deforestation-free cocoa and forest-protection component of the programme, while the piloted forest surveillance mechanism demonstrated a credible, technically validated model for near-real-time deforestation detection and response.
- Youth and school engagement: 81 students in two newly established Eco/Wildlife Clubs, and a first-of-its-kind school agro-ecological garden generating independent income for club activities, are building a durable next generation of conservation-literate youth in the Campo Ma'an landscape.
- A growing conservation talent pipeline: FCHP placed five vocational interns and two university researchers directly within active field programmes in 2025, embedding the organisation's youth-development objective within, rather than alongside, its core conservation delivery.

6. Impact Assessment

Outputs show what ABOYERD did in 2025; impact shows what changed because of it. This section looks past activity counts to the deeper shifts (in trust, income, ecosystem health, and institutional standing) that determine whether 2025's results will compound into lasting conservation gains or fade without follow-up.

6.1. Community level

The most consequential shift observed in 2025 was relational rather than purely material: in the Campo Ma'an landscape, six years into CAMGAEPP's implementation, communities that began the year in open hostility toward conservation authorities (the accumulated result of

unresolved crop-raiding and previous unsupported livelihood projects) ended it with formally documented, chief-endorsed consent to participate in the programme, and with functioning livelihood assets (piggeries, beehives, nurseries) that they had themselves selected and helped to build. This shift in trust is a precondition for CAMGAEPP's longer-term conservation objectives, and its durability will depend on ABOYERD sustaining the visible, responsive follow-up that communities identified as the decisive factor distinguishing this programme from past failed interventions. In the Mbam et Djerem landscape, the community structuration process in Ngoum and Lena, and the disaggregated (325-household) understanding of governance, land use, and livelihoods now available for Doumé, Lena, and Ngoum, have similarly strengthened the foundation for community-led natural resource management under the Ngouroumoutou Programme going forward.

6.2. Household and livelihood level

Early evidence from the HWC device pilots — a reported 30% increase in maize yield attributed by one Lena beneficiary directly to reduced crop-raiding, and farm yield gains of approximately 30% recorded across Ngoum, Lena, and Gwasabe in follow-up monitoring — indicates that ABOYERD's conflict-mitigation interventions are beginning to translate into measurable household income protection, not merely reduced conflict incidents. The near-complete self-reliance now achieved by njangsang producers across the entire value chain (production, storage, processing, and marketing) in the Ngouroumoutou landscape is a strong signal of sustainable livelihood transition, while the school garden's independent generation of 35,000 FCFA in its first harvest demonstrates early proof-of-concept for youth-led, self-sustaining conservation enterprises.

6.3. Environmental level

Biomonitoring data confirm the continued presence of globally significant, threatened species — giant pangolins, elephants, chimpanzees, and aardvarks — in the Mbam et Djerem landscape, providing an essential baseline against which future conservation gains can be measured. The observation of elephants uprooting recently planted njangsang seedlings in the restored Mvini corridor, while representing a short-term agroforestry setback, is itself indicative of renewed wildlife movement through a landscape under active restoration. At the same time, the Yoko deforestation assessment provides sobering confirmation that, absent intervention, the broader landscape continues to lose forest cover at a rate that threatens both biodiversity and the long-term viability of smallholder cocoa livelihoods — reinforcing the urgency of ABOYERD's emerging forest-protection and sustainable-cocoa programming in that landscape.

6.4. Policy and institutional level

2025 marked a significant institutional milestone with the finalisation of ABOYERD's formal partnership with the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF), communicated through an official letter signed by the Minister — a goal the organisation had pursued since at least 2021 and one that materially expands ABOYERD's legitimacy and scope to operate within government-protected areas. ABOYERD's continued participation in MDNP trimestral coordination meetings, and its endorsement by the Divisional Officer for Campo, the Mayor of Campo Municipality, and the Delegate for Agriculture during the CAMGAEPP launch, further consolidate its institutional standing as a trusted implementing partner at both national and local administrative levels.

7. Partnerships and Collaboration

No single organisation can deliver landscape-scale conservation alone, and ABOYERD does not attempt to. Its model depends on close, deliberately cultivated collaboration with government authorities, international and national NGOs, research institutions, and — most fundamentally — the communities themselves. 2025 saw both the deepening of long-standing relationships and the establishment of significant new ones, further evidence of ABOYERD's growing credibility as a delivery partner of choice in Cameroon's conservation sector.

7.1. Government partners

ABOYERD finalised its long-sought formal partnership with the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) in 2025, and worked closely throughout the year with the Campo Ma'an and Mbam et Djerem Conservation Services, the Divisional Officer for Campo, the Mayor of Campo Municipality, and the Delegate for Agriculture, all of whom participated directly in programme launch and coordination activities. ABOYERD also maintained regular engagement with local administrative authorities across its Ngouroumoutou landscape communities, including the Yoko City Council with whom they are currently working on establishing an MoU.

7.2. Donors and technical partners

ABOYERD's 2025 portfolio was financed by a diversified group of donors and technical partners, including Noé and the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), the Pangolin Crisis Fund (PCF), Barry Callebaut, the Fondation Audemars-Watkins (FAW), UP2Green, Ciel d'Azur, the British Ecological Society, the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF), Play for Nature, and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), alongside continued engagement with longstanding partners

such as the Small-Scale Initiatives Programme (PPI/IUCN), and the New England Biolabs Foundation.

7.3. Research and academic partners

ABOYERD continued to build its research partnerships, hosting five interns from vocational training centres in Dschang and supporting two students from the Faculty of Agronomy and Agricultural Sciences (FASA) of the University of Dschang with research equipment and field training, under its Field Conservation Heroes Programme (FCHP). The organisation also represented Cameroon's grassroots conservation sector at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi, using the opportunity to align ABOYERD's plans with international conservation targets and to establish new partnerships and professional relationships.

7.4. Communities

Communities remain ABOYERD's most fundamental partner. Across both flagship programmes, 2025 activities were designed and, where possible, co-implemented with traditional chiefs, community development committees, women's and youth representatives, and locally recruited data collectors and forest-surveillance guides — a design principle that proved decisive in rebuilding trust in Campo Ma'an and in generating locally owned, high-quality data across all research activities.

8. Challenges and Lessons Learned

ABOYERD reports its challenges as openly as its achievements, in the conviction that credible partners are built on transparency, not a flawless record. What matters is not that difficulties arose in 2025 — in landscapes this complex, they always will — but that each one was analysed, documented, and converted into a concrete change in how ABOYERD designs and delivers its programmes. The lessons below are now embedded in ABOYERD's operating practice, not simply noted and set aside.

8.1. Challenges encountered

- Land and boundary disputes: an unresolved land ownership dispute between Lena and Doumé forced the suspension of a planned demonstration farm in Gwasabe, illustrating how inter-community boundary conflicts (already flagged as a governance weakness in ABOYERD's own participatory assessments) can directly constrain field implementation.

- Climatic variability: an early dry season and unavoidable late planting reduced the Irish potato harvest in Ngoum and Lena to roughly one-fifth of target, reinforcing the importance of strict adherence to planting calendars and possibly a shift toward household-level rather than communal cultivation.

- Legacy distrust and “project fatigue”: after several years of CAMGAEPP implementation, community engagement meetings in the Campo Ma'an landscape still surfaced deep skepticism rooted in previous failed conservation and livelihood interventions (a collapsed piggery, an abandoned pisciculture venture), requiring ABOYERD to invest significant time in trust-building before any further technical activity could proceed.

- Input quality constraints: poor-quality chili seed limited chili-bomb production for elephant deterrence in Aka'ak, requiring a switch to locally sourced seed for the next planting cycle.

- Institutional and administrative bottlenecks: centralisation of government decision-making and cumbersome administrative procedures continued to delay the formal Memorandum of Understanding process with MINFOF for several years before its resolution in 2025, and Cameroon's evolving tax code (requiring bank transfers for payments above 100,000 FCFA) continues to complicate remuneration of community members without bank accounts.

- Wildlife pressure on restoration sites: elephants moving through the restored Mvini corridor uprooted more than 120 recently planted njangsang seedlings, a reminder that habitat restoration in active wildlife corridors must anticipate and plan around continued animal movement.

8.2. Lessons learned

- Follow-up, not activity choice, determines livelihood project success. The single most consistent finding from the Campo Ma'an livelihoods diagnostic was that past interventions failed principally due to absent technical follow-up rather than an inherently unsuitable activity — a lesson now embedded as a binding design rule across all CAMGAEPP livelihood activities.

- Trust-building must precede — and be sequenced deliberately ahead of — technical delivery in landscapes with a history of unresolved human-wildlife conflict or failed projects; ABOYERD's decision to open CAMGAEPP with a stakeholder and community trust-building phase, rather than immediate technical activity, proved foundational to everything that followed.

- Community-chosen, rather than uniform, livelihood models generate stronger ownership: replacing a single organisation-wide poultry model with three distinct, community-selected enterprises (piggery, apiculture, agroforestry) was the most consequential adaptive management decision of the year.

- Integrated technology (satellite, drone, and community ground-reporting) can overcome the monitoring limitations of any single tool, but requires parallel investment in livelihoods to be sustainable — technical surveillance alone will not halt deforestation without addressing the underlying poverty and land-use drivers identified in Yoko.
- Equipment design must be field-tested and adapted iteratively: the switch from wooden to metal beehive stands, made in direct response to a 2024 field recommendation, and the introduction of plastic ground-covering in nurseries to reduce weeding labour, both demonstrate the value of ABOYERD's continuous monitoring-and-adaptation cycle.

9. Financial Overview

Trust in a conservation partner is built on evidence in the field and discipline in the books. ABOYERD's 2025 financial statements were independently audited by MTA Consultants (Bamenda), a Chartered Certified Public Accountant firm, in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) as accepted in Cameroon. The audit opinion, issued 8 February 2026, confirms that the financial statements give a true and fair view of ABOYERD's state of affairs for the period 1 January to 31 December 2025. The full audited statements, including detailed revenue and expenditure schedules, are provided as Annex B; a summary is presented here.

181.8M Total revenue (FCFA)	**181.9M** Total functional expenditure (FCFA)	**-115,554** Net result (FCFA)	**86.2%** Of expenditure spent directly on project activities

Total revenue for 2025 reached 181,831,390 FCFA, nearly double the 92,204,819 FCFA recorded in 2024, reflecting substantial growth and diversification of ABOYERD's funding base — in particular the addition of major new partners Barry Callebaut and the Fondation Audemars-Watkins, alongside continued core support from Noé, the Agence Française de Développement, and the Pangolin Crisis Fund. Membership dues also grew more than threefold to 6,745,100 FCFA, reflecting strengthened internal resource mobilisation and a genuine base of local ownership beyond donor funding.

Total functional expenditure for the year was 181,946,944 FCFA, of which 86.2% (156,804,521 FCFA) was directed straight to project activities across the Ngouroumoutou, CAMGAEPP, and Yoko programmes, with staff salaries and related social charges accounting for

roughly 9% — a ratio that compares favourably with sector norms and reflects a lean, cost-effective staffing model paired with a firm commitment to field delivery over overhead. The year closed with a modest operating deficit of 115,554 FCFA, fully absorbed by retained reserves of 5,809,546 FCFA in total equity, consistent with ABOYERD's project-fund accounting model in which surplus balances are carried forward to finance new project cycles. The independent auditor's recommendations for 2026 include strengthening fixed-asset registers, adopting more frequent internal audits and cash counts, and ensuring statutory tax filings are completed within the 15 March deadline — recommendations ABOYERD has accepted in full and will report against in its 2026 statements.

10. Communication and Visibility

ABOYERD invested in visibility and communication throughout 2025 as a deliberate tool for both community trust-building and donor accountability, recognising that credibility with communities and credibility with partners are built through the same disciplined, consistent presence. Branded materials (T-shirts, banners, roll-ups, safety vests, and adapted notebooks) were used consistently across community sensitization campaigns, training sessions, and school programmes, reinforcing ABOYERD's institutional identity in every landscape of intervention. The organisation's participation in the 59th National Youth Day celebration in Campo, where Eco Club students conducted a branded march-past and door-to-door outreach reaching 178 community members, exemplified this approach at the grassroots level.

At the institutional level, ABOYERD's participation in the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi provided an international platform to showcase its field results and forge new partnerships, while the December 2025 launch of the 2025–2030 Strategic Plan — attended by staff, board members, and a number of key partners — marked a significant public milestone for the organisation, notwithstanding the absence of some invited partners. ABOYERD maintains an active organisational website (www.aboyerd.org) and social media presence (@ABOYERD) as core channels for donor and public communication, and field teams routinely document activities photographically to support both internal monitoring and external reporting, as reflected throughout this report.

Looking ahead, ABOYERD recognises an opportunity to further strengthen its communication function in 2026, including through a more structured content calendar, closer collaboration with local and international media outlets, and systematic collection of beneficiary testimonials and case studies to complement quantitative reporting — priorities already identified

in the organisation's own sustainability action plan, and a direct investment in making ABOYERD's results more visible to the partners who make them possible.

11. Sustainability and Future Directions

Sustainability is the test every conservation investment must ultimately pass: will the gains persist once external support tapers, or evaporate with it? ABOYERD's 2025 results, and the institutional discipline behind them, offer a genuinely encouraging answer across all three dimensions that matter most to partners - institutional, programmatic, and financial.

11.1. Institutional sustainability

2025 saw ABOYERD take deliberate steps to professionalise its institutional foundations, including the recruitment of a dedicated accountant for the Finance Department, the completion of staff contract signing across the organisation by June 2025, digital capacity-building of staff (notably in Google Drive-based file management and ClickUp-based task management, delivered by Afritech Institute), the completion of a full fixed-asset inventory, and the installation of stable office internet connectivity in October 2025. These investments, combined with the organisation's first-ever six-year Strategic Plan, its independently audited financial statements, and its finalised MINFOF partnership, position ABOYERD to engage in larger, longer-term partnerships with greater institutional confidence (and greater accountability to funders) than at any previous point in its history.

11.2. Programmatic sustainability

Several of ABOYERD's 2025 results carry strong sustainability signals in their own right: njangsang value-chain producers in the Ngouroumoutou landscape have become self-reliant across production, processing, and marketing without ongoing ABOYERD support; the school garden at Lycée Technique de Campo generated independent income in its very first harvest cycle; and the Community Structuration and Operations Manual rolled out in Ngoum and Lena is explicitly designed to transfer leadership, task allocation, and accountability functions to community structures. At the same time, ABOYERD's own diagnostic work makes clear that continuous, visible technical follow-up (rather than one-off delivery) is the decisive factor in whether livelihood interventions endure, and this principle will continue to anchor programme design going forward: sustainability, for ABOYERD, is not a phase that follows implementation, but a design constraint built in from day one.

11.3. Financial sustainability

ABOYERD's donor base diversified substantially in 2025, reducing reliance on any single funding partner and reflecting growing recognition of the organisation's field credibility. The organisation's near break-even 2025 financial result, achieved while nearly doubling total revenue and project delivery relative to 2024, demonstrates sound financial discipline at a scale of growth that would strain many young conservation organisations. Planned actions for 2026 include continued diversification of funding partners, development of internal income-generating initiatives (including the Livelihood Department's demonstration-farm-based income projects), and closer alignment of proposal development with donor priorities emphasising community-led, evidence-based conservation. A key point that has arisen repeatedly during discussions with partners is the creation of a social enterprise for ABOYERD. This has been highlighted as a potentially powerful sustainability strategy.

11.4. Priorities for 2026 : Where new investment will have the greatest leverage

- Consolidate and scale the community-based piggery, apiculture, and agroforestry livelihood models piloted under CAMGAEPP to additional Campo Ma'an communities, guided by the diagnostic principle of community-chosen activities with sustained technical follow-up. Initiate and develop the other livelihood activities identified in the remaining Campo Ma’an communities.

- Advance the Ngouroumoutou Programme's Barry Callebaut-supported forest-protection and sustainable cocoa component in Yoko from scoping to implementation, building on the 2025 cocoa value-chain and deforestation-driver evidence base and the validated forest surveillance mechanism — a landscape-scale opportunity to lead on EUDR-compliant, deforestation-free cocoa ahead of regulatory deadlines.

- Deepen natural resource governance support in Doumé, Lena, and Ngoum, translating the 2025 participatory assessment findings into transparent revenue-management systems for community forests and ZICs, and functional inter-village land-dispute resolution mechanisms.

- Scale nature-based and technology-assisted human-wildlife conflict mitigation, building on the proven 28–31% reduction in crop-raiding achieved in 2025 pilot sites, and extend HWC deterrent piloting to CAMGAEPP communities.

- Operationalise the MINFOF partnership to expand ABOYERD's direct access to activities within government-protected areas across both the Ngouroumoutou and CAMGAEPP landscapes.

- Expand FCHP's intern and university-research cohorts, deepening academic partnerships beyond the University of Dschang and formalising a structured curriculum linking placements to the specific research and field-management needs of both flagship programmes.
- Strengthen internal governance systems (including a formal theory of change, and an enhanced monitoring and evaluation system) as identified in ABOYERD's own SWOT analysis and the 2025–2030 Strategic Plan.

Each of these priorities builds directly on evidence generated in 2025, rather than starting from assumption — precisely the kind of low-risk, high-confidence investment case ABOYERD is now positioned to offer new and returning partners.

12. Conclusion

2025 was a pivotal year for ABOYERD — the year it proved, with evidence rather than aspiration, that its model works. The organisation not only sustained and deepened its long-standing work in the Mbam et Djerem landscape under the Ngouroumoutou Programme, but successfully rebuilt trust and consolidated a diversified set of community-chosen livelihood activities under CAMGAEPP after years of difficult conditions in Campo Ma'an, extended the Ngouroumoutou Programme into an entirely new landscape (Yoko) through a major evidence-generation partnership with Barry Callebaut, continued to grow the next generation of conservationists through FCHP, and adopted its first six-year Strategic Plan — all while nearly doubling total revenue and maintaining a near break-even, independently audited financial position.

Across every landscape, the results tell a consistent story: when communities are genuinely consulted, when livelihood activities are chosen rather than imposed, and when technical follow-up is sustained rather than one-off, conservation and community development reinforce rather than compete with one another. The 28–31% reduction in wildlife crop-raiding achieved through community-managed deterrent technology, the restoration of trust and consent across eight communities in Campo Ma'an, and the near-complete self-reliance of njangsang producers in the Ngouroumoutou landscape are all, at their core, evidence of the same underlying principle — and a model now ready to be replicated at greater scale, with the right partners behind it.

Significant challenges remain (land disputes, climatic variability, weak natural resource governance, and the sheer scale of deforestation pressure documented in Yoko chief among them)

and ABOYERD's own institutional systems, from governance policies to monitoring and evaluation, still require strengthening to match the scale of its ambition. Yet the organisation enters 2026 better equipped than ever to meet these challenges: with a validated strategic roadmap, an expanded and diversified partner base, field-tested models ready for scale, and, above all, a demonstrated ability to earn and hold the trust of the communities on whose stewardship the future of Cameroon's forests and wildlife ultimately depends. For donors weighing where a contribution to Congo Basin conservation will go furthest, ABOYERD offers a rare combination: proven field delivery, rigorous evidence, and a clear, costed roadmap for what comes next.

ABOYERD thanks its donors, government partners, technical collaborators, staff, and (most of all) the communities of Ngoum, Lena, Doumé, Megang, Gwasabe, Mbitom-Conseiller, Mabiogo, Nazareth, Mintom, Afan-Essokye, Aka'ak, Nko'elon, Campo, and the villages of Yoko Council, for their partnership and trust throughout 2025. The foundations are now in place; what ABOYERD builds on them next depends, in no small part, on the partners who choose to build alongside it. ABOYERD looks forward to continuing (and growing) this work together in the years ahead.

13. The Team-

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



DR. TAKU AWA II
BOARD CHAIR



MRS. AWENEG BELIBRANDY ANWI
BOARD MEMBER



MRS. NDAM AMIEH LIZZY
BOARD MEMBER



MRS. NENGANG CLAUDETTE NGUM
BOARD MEMBER



MR. AWENEG JOEL ANDOH
BOARD MEMBER



MR. WIHKOCHO NSESIH CHRISTIAN
BOARD MEMBER



MR. ATEGHE BONAVENTURE
BOARD MEMBER

EXECUTIVE TEAM



MR. AGHAH VALERY BINDA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



MR. TANTOH BAZIL TUME
LIVELIHOODS COORDINATOR



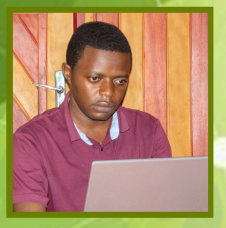
DR. MOUAFO TAKOUNE ALAIN D.
RESEARCH COORDINATOR



MR. AWENEG JOEL ANDOH
FINANCE MANAGER



DR. NTAIMA MALYSE
COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION OFFICER



DR. NFOR BRIAN
RESEARCH ASSISTANT



MR. NYANGANJI HUMPHREY
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



MR. WILSON NFOR GWEI
LIVELIHOODS ASSISTANT



MR.ASEKA LANCE BINDA
LIVELIHOODS ASSISTANT



MISS NFOR YVETTE BERI
ACCOUNTANT

14. Annexes

The following supporting materials are available on request and can be appended to this report as needed:

- Annex A - ABOYERD 2025–2030 Strategic Plan (full document).
- Annex B - Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025 (MTA Consultants); detailed revenue and expenditure tables reproduced below.
- Annex C - Departmental activity reports 2025: Research Department; Livelihoods Department (Technical Report); Environmental Education and Conservation Awareness; Annual Administrative Report.
- Annex D - Photo gallery of 2025 field activities (biomonitoring, participatory mapping, demonstration farms, piggery construction, beehive installation, nursery and tree-planting activities, school clubs, community and stakeholder meetings).
- Annex E - Beneficiary case study: HWC device adoption in Lena, where sonic and light-reflecting repellent devices reduced wildlife crop-raiding and enabled one beneficiary to increase maize yield by an estimated 30% compared to previous years.
- Annex F - List of ABOYERD's 2025 donors, technical partners, and government collaborators.

For any of the above, or for high-resolution photographs, additional data tables, or beneficiary quotes to accompany this report, please contact ABOYERD at info@aboyerd.org