

PROJECT REPORT

a. Project title

African Elephant Survey/Conservation Mpem and Djim National Park, Cameroon

b. Date of the report

23/10/2022

c. Note if this is an interim or final report

Interim Report

d. Names of investigators, affiliations and contact information

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e. Project starting date

February 22 2022

f. Anticipated completion date. If date has changed from what was originally proposed, please provide an explanation.

November 22, 2022

2. In 500 words or less, describe the conservation needs this project addressed and summarize the progress and results.

The project sought to achieve the following conservation needs:

- Unknown species of elephant population size in the Mpem and Djim National Park (MDNP);
- Unknown conservation status of the elephant species in the MDNP;
- Unknown socio-economic status of the forest-dependent communities;
- No sustainable alternative income sources for forest users especially hunters

The following results are gradually being realized

1. Four areas of the park have been surveyed with the assistance of Park guards with the Elephants being discovered monitored. Many seem to be Forest Elephants. The final results on this data shall be made available during our end of project report come November 2022
2. The elephants are under serious threat with no severe measures taken. Results of our survey through and ecological monitoring of elephants proof that the elephants are mainly threatened through Deforestation, Bushfires, hunting /poaching as hunter tracks are found almost in all sections of the forest studied
3. According to our household survey results, households are continually carry out abusive deforestation mainly for cultivation of food crops and cocoa which remains their mainstay with no alternative sources of income. Hunting remains a profession in over 70 out of the 150 households already
4. Wildlife–Elephant conflicts abound with few cases reported. They include crop raids. We shall next be introducing beekeeping as a deterrent for elephants and income generation for forest-dependent peoples.

3. Summarize the goals and objectives. For each objective, describe the specific actions taken to achieve it.

Project Goal

To main goal is to determine the population status of African Elephants species, identify their main conservation threats, estimate the extent of human-elephant conflicts and promote their conservation/Protection through community actions in the Mpem and Djim National Park (MDNP).

Goal1: Various species of elephant and their population estimates in the Mpem and Djim National Park (MDNP) are known;

Goal 2: The conservation statuses of the elephants’ species of the MDNP are made known;

Goal 3: A socio-economic survey report on the main conservation threats on African elephant species is produced;

Goal 4: Bee keeping is introduced as a deterrent for elephants and a pilot sustainable alternative source of income for few selected hunters

Project Objectives:

- **To identify various species of elephants and estimate the population size in the Mpem and Djim National Park (MDNP):** Surveys were carried out in some parts of the forest with African Elephant populations discovered which happen to mostly be Forest Elephants;
- **To establish the conservation status of the African elephants in the MDNP:** Surveys were

carried out and hunting, bushfires, logging were main threats to the habitat of the Elephants in the Park. Sensitization in five communities was carried out right now over 400 people out of 5000 have been reached. By November the targeted 5000 beneficiaries shall be reached

- **To carry out a socio-economic survey in 10 communities for at least 200 households:** Under this objective, one activity has already been carried out being the administration of 150 structured and semi-structured questionnaires which have already proved that the locals depend on the forest for livelihoods though most activities are abusively carried out. School clubs shall be created this September while wildlife reinforcement shall be carried out between September and October as well.
- **To initiate bee keeping as a deterrent for elephants and alternative sources of income for hunters:** Training has already been done for bee keeping using local materials but construction of low cost bee keeping materials shall be done between August and October

5. Describe any activities that differ from the original proposal and explain the reason for the change.

NA

6. Describe the conservation outcomes for elephants, other wildlife, habitat and human communities, and list major findings and accomplishments to date.

We shall update at the end of the project

7. Approximately how many humans/communities are/were impacted by your project? Approximately how many elephants are/were impacted by your project?

200 members of the community

7. Describe any problems discovered or that occurred during this grant period.

No major problems but we had several projects on the filed which delayed our mid-term report submission

8. Was your project successful? State short and long-term goals that you are using to evaluate your accomplishments.

Our project was successful; however we hope to realize all the short term goals by November 2022.

Short Term Goals:

1- Various species of elephant and their population estimates in the Mpem and Djim National Park (MDNP) are known;

- 2- The conservation statuses of the elephants' species of the MDNP are made known;
- 3- A socio-economic survey report on the main conservation threats on African elephant species is produced;
- 4- Bee keeping is introduced as a deterrent for elephants and a pilot sustainable alternative source of income for few selected hunters

Long-term Goal:

1. A long term research on elephants in the Mpem and Djim National Park;
2. Poaching and hunting, farming and logging becomes history in the Park
3. Habitat of the Elephants is restored;
4. Alternative livelihood activities carried out by locals with least pressure exerted on the Park and elephant populations;
5. Zero or few human/elephant conflicts;

9. Based on this Project, what is the “next step” for this project and does it have implications for future conservation actions?

Yes, the project will arouse international interest on local research on elephants in the MDNP;

It will also create an international and national corridor and even trans-boundary conservation of elephants and other mega-fauna and charismatic mammals;

More international cooperation and synergies amongst local and international non-Governmental organizations shall be created to benefit Elephant within and without Cameroon

10. Provide at least one human interest story. This story should enable the reader to identify with the people, a problem, day-to-day situations, achievements or a funny or strange occurrence during the course of the project.

It was the First time Nelson Tohndohs, our field staff and the second assistant PI watched the elephants in a herd of three and couldn't resist the fact that a baby elephant was taller and huger than any mega Fauna species he has seen before. He screamed and wanted us to remain on the sports for others.

10. List all organizations associated with this project and their roles in the project.

NA

11. Include an itemized financial report of IEF funds spent as a separate page of the report. The final report must include an itemized final budget clearly demonstrating the expenditure of IEF Funds. Unexpended funds must be returned to IEF at the

time of the submission of the final report unless Recipient provides a budget for the remainder of funds to be approved by IEF.

See attached

13. Submit at least five high resolution digital images (500 dpi or over) representative of the Project as separate individual files for each 6 month and final report. Do not send the same photos for multiple reports. If possible, please include at least one photo with an elephant in the frame that demonstrates your project activities.

Attached

14. Submit at least one video clip least 2 minutes in length for each 6 month and final report. Do not send the same video for multiple reports. The video can cover anything you think IEF and/or the general public might find interesting as long as it relates to the project funded by IEF and conservation story.

(See Attached Videos)

15. Do you intend to publish and/or present your findings at a conference or symposia? Please provide us information about the journal/conference/symposia and a timeframe.

We are willing to present the results of our work in symposiums which we are yet to identify. We also intend to publish the results in the International Journal of Biodiversity and Conservation (IJBC)

16. Has your project received any media coverage? If so, provide copies of the articles, videos, etc complete with web links if the coverage was online.

We are yet to receive media files from various TV stations and newspapers. These shall be submitted in our next report.

17. Please list all websites, blogs, social media accounts, etc associated with the project, its investigators, and organizations (this includes Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc)

www.surduev.org

<https://web.facebook.com/Sustainable-Run-for-Development-542106952517505>