

31/10/2014

Mous les Baka de Ndongo veulent que WWF
des arrête de donner l'argent aux brigades
d'antibracconage

Hgeli Alphonse (Defao) ~~Defao~~

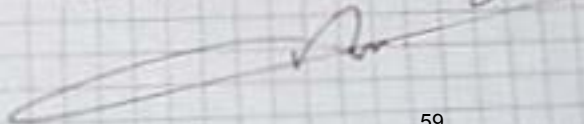
Monyaka Rene ~~Defao~~

Hguide Laurent ~~Defao~~

Enyorpha Sophie ~~Defao~~

Monigie Albert ~~Defao~~

Rapporteur
N'borali Charles-June





PROMOTION DES DROITS LEGAUX ET HUMAINS DES PEUPLES DE LA FORET

Email : associationokani@gmail.com

N° 063/RDA/B15/A2/BAPP/2 : s/c BP 14 Bertoua tel. Bureau : + (237) 22 07 92 23

Bertoua, le 08 Décembre 2015

A Monsieur le Directeur National
de WWF/Cameroun à Yaoundé

Objet : Transmission officielle des documents.

Monsieur,

Nous venons par la présente solliciter l'obtention des documents ci-après :

- Les plans d'aménagement actuels des parcs de Bumba-Bek, Nki et Lobéké ;
- Le décret de création du parc de Lobéké ;
- Le rapport de l'enquête menée par le WWF sur l'impact de son travail sur les Baka ;
- L'accord de partenariat WWF et Minfof (2006) ;
- Le rapport « Joris D.V. 2001, intitulé : la question des pygmées dans le processus de gestion participative des aires protégées, projet Jengi/WWF, Sud-Est Cameroun, WWF Cameroon Programme, 45 p ;
- Le rapport « Kenrick Justin, 1992, Is a culturally and Ecologically Sustainable Future possible for the Baka ;
- Their Neighbors and the Forest, Report produced for WWF Cameroun.

S'il vous plait, ces documents nous permettront de mieux assoir notre collaboration tant recherchée.

Sincèrement vôtre.

ASSOCIATION OKANI
COURRIER DEPART LE 08/12/2015
ENREGISTRE S / N° 084/064/2015



ASSOCIATION OKANI

Messé Venant
COORDINATEUR GENERAL
Pour Okani,

Le Coordonnateur

Venant Messé

08 DEC 2015

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND CONSERVATION: WWF STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES



A WWF Position Paper



Please cite this publication as: WWF International 2008. *Indigenous Peoples and Conservation: WWF Statement of Principles*. Gland, Switzerland: WWF International.

© 2008 WWF International. All rights reserved. Reproduction of this publication for education and other noncommercial purposes is authorized without prior permission of the copyright holder. However, WWF does request advance written notification and appropriate acknowledgement. WWF does not require payment for the noncommercial use of this published work. Reproduction or other use of photographs that appear in this publication is prohibited.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND CONSERVATION: WWF STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

A WWF Position Paper

CONTENTS

Foreword iii

Preamble 1

I. Rights and Interests of Indigenous Peoples. 2

II. Conservation Objectives. 4

III. Principles of Partnership. 5

FOREWORD

Indigenous peoples inhabit nearly 20 per cent of the planet, mainly in areas where they have lived for thousands of years. Indigenous peoples are among the earth's most important stewards, as evidenced by the high degree of correspondence between the lands, waters and territories of indigenous peoples and the remaining high-biodiversity regions of the world.

During almost five decades of conservation work, WWF has collaborated with many indigenous peoples and their organizations on activities such as conservation area management, sustainable use of natural resources and policy advocacy on issues of shared concern. These initiatives include work with the Candoshi and Achuar of Peru, the Mapuche of Chile, the Awa and Embera of Colombia, the Yup'ik and Chu'pik of Alaska, the Inuit of Canada, the Ewenk of Siberia, the San of Namibia, the Bagyeli of Cameroon, the Karen of Thailand, the Rai, Lumba and Sherpas of Nepal, the Dayak peoples of Borneo, the Sibuyan Mangyan Tababukid of the Philippines, diverse peoples of New Guinea and the South Pacific and many others across the globe. Currently, WWF is working with indigenous peoples in all regions of the world: in Europe, South, Central and North America, Asia, the Pacific and Africa.

WWF's Statement of Principles on Indigenous Peoples and Conservation was first developed in 1996, making WWF the first major conservation organization to formally adopt a policy recognizing the rights of indigenous peoples. We undertook this commitment to help rectify what historically has been an erosion of the rights of indigenous peoples and establish safeguards to ensure that our conservation actions would not contribute to erosion of these rights. We undertook it also because of the enormous contribution indigenous peoples have made to the maintenance of many of the earth's most fragile ecosystems and our belief that partnership with indigenous peoples is central to achieving our conservation goals.

Since 1996, WWF has sought periodically to learn from our experiences working with indigenous peoples and share information and lessons with broader audiences. In 2000 WWF published a series of case studies on *Indigenous Peoples and Conservation Organizations: Experiences in Collaboration*. WWF and Terralingua's *Indigenous and Traditional Peoples of the World and Ecoregion Conservation*, also published in 2000, highlighted the high degree of overlap between priority conservation regions and the lands of indigenous and traditional peoples. In 2007 we published a review and recommendations on measures for *Strengthening WWF Partnerships with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities*, including a reaffirmation of the basic guiding principles of this policy and identification of actions to strengthen its implementation and monitoring.

We are now reissuing the WWF Statement of Principles, both to include new developments in international standards as well as to reaffirm our commitment to this policy and its consistent application across WWF programme areas. WWF is also undertaking actions to strengthen policy implementation and monitoring, based on our review recommendations and lessons learned. We are increasing policy support capacities at international and national levels, and have issued new policy implementation guidance as part of WWF's programme management standards. Recognizing the significant growth and development of indigenous institutions and representative organizations over time, WWF is committed to continuing to expand our partnerships with these organizations in local, national, regional and international settings.

We believe that the principles of partnership articulated in this statement are critical to the just and effective realization of our mission to conserve nature. We also recognize that as an organization we are still learning and that the statement will need to remain a living document over time. Therefore, we would be pleased to receive comment and criticism from readers of this statement, to enable us to continue to improve our approach and contribution in this field.

James P. Leape
Director General
WWF-International

Guillermo Castilleja
Executive Director, Conservation
WWF-International

Gland, Switzerland

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES¹ AND CONSERVATION:

WWF Statement of Principles

Principles for partnership between WWF and indigenous peoples' organizations in conserving biodiversity within indigenous peoples' lands and territories, and in promoting sustainable use of natural resources

Preamble

1. Most of the remaining significant areas of high natural value on earth are inhabited by indigenous peoples. This testifies to the efficacy of indigenous resource management systems. Indigenous peoples, their representative institutions and conservation organizations should be natural allies in the struggle to conserve both a healthy natural world and healthy human societies. Regrettably, the goals of conserving biodiversity and protecting and securing indigenous cultures and livelihoods have sometimes been perceived as contradictory rather than mutually reinforcing.
2. The principles for partnership outlined in this statement arise from WWF's mission to conserve biodiversity, combined with recognition that indigenous peoples are key stewards and protectors of nature. Their knowledge, social, and livelihood systems — their cultures — are closely attuned to the natural laws operating in local ecosystems. Unfortunately, such nature-attuned cultures have become highly vulnerable to destructive forces related to unsustainable use of resources, population expansion, and the global economy.
3. WWF recognizes that industrialized societies bear a heavy responsibility for the creation of these destructive forces. WWF believes that environmental and other non-governmental organizations, together with other institutions worldwide, should adopt strategies with indigenous peoples, both to correct the national and international political, economic, social, and legal imbalances giving rise to these destructive forces, and to address their local effects. The following principles aim to provide guidance in formulating and implementing such strategies.

I. Rights and Interests of Indigenous Peoples

4. WWF acknowledges that, without recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples, no constructive agreements can be drawn up between conservation organizations and indigenous peoples and their representative organisations.
5. Since indigenous peoples are often discriminated against and politically marginalized, WWF is committed to make special efforts to respect, protect, and comply with their collective and individual rights, including customary as well as resource rights, in the context of conservation initiatives. This includes, but is not limited to, those set out in national and international law, and in other international instruments.

In particular, WWF fully endorses the provisions about indigenous peoples contained in the following international instruments:

- Agenda 21
 - Convention on Biological Diversity
 - ILO Convention 169 (Convention Concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries)²
 - UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples³
6. WWF appreciates the enormous contributions indigenous peoples have made to the maintenance of many of the earth's most fragile ecosystems. It recognizes the importance of indigenous resource rights and knowledge for the conservation of these areas.
 7. WWF recognizes indigenous peoples as rightful architects of and partners for conservation and development strategies that affect their territories.
 8. WWF recognizes that indigenous peoples have the rights to the lands, territories, and resources that they have traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used, and that those rights must be recognized and effectively protected, as laid out in the ILO Convention 169 and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
 9. WWF recognizes the right of indigenous peoples to exert control over their lands, territories, and resources, and establish on them the management and governance systems that best suit their cultures and social needs, whilst respecting national sovereignty and conforming to national conservation and development objectives.
 10. WWF recognizes, respects, and promotes the collective rights of indigenous peoples to maintain and enjoy their cultural and intellectual heritage.

11. Consistent with Article 7 of the ILO Convention 169, WWF recognizes indigenous peoples' right to decide on issues such as technologies and management systems to be used on their lands, and supports their application insofar as they are environmentally sustainable and contribute to the conservation of nature.
12. WWF recognizes that indigenous peoples have the right to determine priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands, territories, and other resources, including the right to require that States obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting those lands, territories, and resources.
13. WWF recognizes and supports the rights of indigenous peoples to improve the quality of their lives, and to benefit directly and equitably from the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources within their territories.
14. In instances where multiple local groups claim rights to resources in indigenous territories, WWF recognizes the primary rights of indigenous peoples based on historical claims and long-term presence, with due regard for the rights and welfare of other legitimate stakeholders.
15. WWF respects the rights of indigenous peoples to enjoy an equitable share in any economic or other benefits realized from their intellectual property and traditional knowledge, building on the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
16. In conformity with the provisions of the ILO Convention 169 and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, WWF recognizes the right of indigenous peoples not to be removed from the territories they occupy. Where their relocation is considered necessary as an exceptional measure, it shall take place only with their free, prior informed consent, and in full respect of national and international laws and conventions which guarantee the rights of indigenous peoples.
17. In accordance with IUCN RESWCC3.056, WWF recognizes the right of indigenous peoples living in voluntary isolation and/or initial contact to their lives, lands and territories, and to freely decide to remain in isolation, maintain their cultural values, and freely decide if, when and how they wish to contact and/or integrate with the outside world.

II. Conservation Objectives

18. At the heart of WWF's work is the belief that the earth's natural systems, resources, and life forms should be conserved for their intrinsic value and for the benefit of future generations.

WWF bases all of its conservation work on the principles contained in its Mission: to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

In addition, WWF fully endorses the provisions about biodiversity conservation and sustainable development contained in the following documents:

- Agenda 21
 - Convention on Biological Diversity
 - Convention on Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES)
 - Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention)
 - Caring for the Earth
19. WWF encourages and supports ecologically sound development activities, particularly those that link conservation and human needs. WWF may choose not to support, and may actively oppose, activities it judges unsustainable from the standpoint of species or ecosystems, or which are inconsistent with WWF policies on endangered or threatened species or with international agreements protecting wildlife and other natural resources, even if those activities are carried out by indigenous communities.
 20. WWF seeks out partnerships with local communities, grass roots groups, non-governmental organizations, governments, corporations, international funding institutions, and other groups, including indigenous communities and indigenous peoples' organizations, who share WWF's commitment to the following conservation objectives:
 - i) conserving the world's biological diversity
 - ii) ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable
 - iii) promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption

III. Principles of Partnership

21. The following principles will govern: (i) WWF conservation activities within indigenous peoples' lands and territories; (ii) WWF partnerships with indigenous peoples' organizations; (iii) WWF partnerships with other organizations whose activities may impact upon indigenous peoples.
22. Whenever it promotes conservation objectives, and in the context of its involvement in conservation activities affecting indigenous peoples' lands and territories, WWF will encourage governments to "take steps as necessary ... to guarantee effective protection of [indigenous peoples'] rights of ownership and possession" of those lands and territories, as determined by the ILO Convention 169 (Art. 14).
23. Prior to initiating conservation activities in an area, WWF will exercise due diligence to:
 - seek out information about the historic claims and current exercise of customary rights of indigenous peoples in that area; and
 - inform itself about relevant constitutional provisions, legislation, and administrative practices affecting such rights and claims in the national context.
24. When WWF conservation activities impinge on areas where historic claims and/or current exercise of customary resource rights of indigenous peoples are present, WWF will assume an obligation to:
 - identify, seek out, and consult with legitimate representatives of relevant indigenous peoples' organizations at the earliest stages of programme development; and
 - provide fora for consultation between WWF and affected peoples, so that information can be shared on an ongoing basis, and problems, grievances, and disputes related to the partnership can be resolved in a timely manner.
25. In addition, consistent with the relevance and significance of the proposed activities to the achievement of conservation objectives, WWF will be ready to:
 - assist indigenous peoples' organizations in the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of conservation activities, and to invest in strengthening such organizations and in developing relevant human resources in the respective indigenous communities;
 - assist them in gaining access to other sources of technical and financial support to advance those development objectives that fall outside WWF's mission.

26. In the context of its involvement in conservation activities affecting areas inhabited by indigenous peoples living in voluntary isolation and/or initial contact, WWF will:
 - not seek contact, nor promote actions which will affect the peace and tranquillity of these peoples and their chosen rights to remain in voluntary isolation and/or initial contact;
 - consult with and work through appropriate institutional channels including responsible agencies and representative indigenous organisations;
 - promote and support policy and practical measures to protect the rights, livelihoods, lands and natural resources of indigenous peoples living in voluntary isolation and/or in initial contact, consonant with WWF conservation priorities.
27. In instances where states or other stakeholders, including long-term residents, contest the rights of indigenous peoples, WWF will be ready to assist indigenous peoples to protect, through legally accepted mechanisms, their natural resource base, consistent with the achievement of WWF's Mission and subject to availability of resources.
28. Where the resource rights of indigenous peoples are challenged by national governments, private corporations, and/or other groups, and the defence of those rights are deemed relevant and significant to the achievement of its Mission, WWF will, in coordination and consultation with indigenous peoples' organizations and subject to availability of resources:
 - seek out and/or invest in the development of legitimate and transparent mechanisms to resolve conflicts at local, regional, national, and international levels, as appropriate;
 - seek to ensure that the primary rights and interests of indigenous peoples are well represented in such fora, including investment to inform and prepare indigenous peoples' representatives to take part in negotiations.
29. Consistent with WWF conservation priorities, WWF will promote and advocate for the implementation of Article 29 of the UN Declaration the Rights of Indigenous Peoples calling on States to establish programmes to fulfil "the right of indigenous peoples to conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources"; and Article 7 of the ILO Convention 169 calling on governments to take measures, in co-operation with the peoples concerned, to protect and preserve the environment of indigenous territories.

30. WWF will not promote or support, and may actively oppose, interventions which have not received the prior free and informed consent of affected indigenous communities, and/or would adversely impact - directly or indirectly - on the environment of indigenous peoples' territories, and/or would affect their rights.

This includes activities such as:

- economic or other development activities;
- natural resources exploitation;
- commercially oriented or academic research;
- resettlement of indigenous communities;
- creation of protected areas or imposition of restrictions on subsistence resource use;
- colonization within indigenous territories.

31. With respect to the existing knowledge of indigenous communities, prior to starting work in a particular area, WWF will establish agreements with the indigenous organizations representing local communities, to ensure that they are able to fully participate in decisions about the use of knowledge acquired in or about the area they inhabit, and equitably benefit from it. These agreements will explicitly determine the ways and conditions under which WWF will be allowed to use such knowledge.

32. In the context of its partnerships with organizations other than those specifically representing the interests of indigenous peoples (including national governments, donor agencies, private corporations, and non-governmental organizations), WWF will:

- ensure that such partnerships do not undermine, and if possible serve to actively promote, the basic human rights and customary resource rights of indigenous peoples;
- ensure that all relevant information developed through such partnerships and accessible to WWF, is shared with the appropriate representatives of indigenous peoples;
- ensure that any national or international advocacy or fundraising activity related to indigenous peoples will be undertaken in consultation with representatives of relevant indigenous peoples' organizations.

33. WWF recognizes that the resolution of problems related to indigenous peoples may require action in international fora, in addition to national interventions. In pursuit of the foregoing principles, and in order to enhance its own understanding of indigenous peoples' issues, and when consistent and relevant to its conservation objectives, WWF will:
- actively seek inclusion and engagement in relevant international, as well as national fora;
 - initiate an ongoing process of dialogue with indigenous peoples' groups on the principles for partnership proposed herein.
34. WWF commits itself to promoting nationally and internationally, whenever possible and appropriate, the implementation of all of these principles in the context of conservation actions within indigenous peoples' lands and territories.
35. WWF is committed to upholding the above principles, and the spirit that informs them, to the best of its abilities.

Notes

- 1 In this position statement, as well as in other institutional documents, WWF refers to indigenous and tribal peoples using the definition of the ILO Convention 169. Unless explicitly said otherwise, the term "indigenous peoples" includes both concepts, "indigenous" and "tribal".
- 2 Adopted by the General Conference of the International Labour Organization on 27 June 1989.
- 3 As adopted by the UN General Assembly at its sixty-first session, September 2007 (UN document A/RES/61/295).

Photo Credits:

Left to right, top to bottom Seri girl from the Comca'ac culture in Sonora, Gulf of California, Mexico © WWF-Canon / Gustavo Ybarra; Yakut woman and man, Siberian Coastal Tundra, Republic of Sakha, Russian Federation © WWF-Canon / Hartmut Jungius; Fisherman on a river shore hanging nets up to dry in the late sun, Morehead district, Western Province, Papua New Guinea © Brent Stirton / Getty Images / WWF-UK; BaAka woman, Central African Republic © WWF-Canon / Martin Harvey; Kenyah Dayak woman gathering medicinal plants, Kayan Mentarang East Kalimantan, Indonesia © WWF-Canon / Alain Compost; Amahuaca man and grandson, Ucayali, Peru © WWF-Canon / André Bärtschi.

Printing costs have been generously supported by the Ford Foundation.

Balmar Printing, Mary Memminger, 202.682.9825
Ellipse Design, Randy Cook, 703.289.9067



For further information, please contact
Jenny Springer at community.conservation@wwfus.org

Indigenous Peoples and Conservation

Indigenous peoples are among the Earth's most important stewards and are critical to WWF's mission to build a future where human needs are met in harmony with nature. WWF is committed to working with indigenous peoples and organizations to conserve and sustainably use natural resources and to advocate on issues of shared concern. We believe that collaboration depends on lasting partnerships based on recognition of indigenous peoples' rights and interests, appreciation for their contributions to biodiversity conservation and understanding of the links between biological and cultural diversity.

WWF International

Av. du Mont-Blanc
CH-1196 Gland
Switzerland

Phone. +41 22 364 9111
Fax. +41 22 364 0640

www.panda.org

Protocole d'accord
Entre les parties ci-après désignées

Le Ministère des Forêts et de la Faune, représenté par le Conservateur du Parc National de Boumba Bek, ci-dessous dénommé MINFOF, d'une part

Et, d'autre part

Les communautés autochtones Baka vivant à l'intérieur et autour de cette Aire Protégée, représentées par le président de l'Association des Kulawé BUMA'A KPODE ci-dessous dénommée Kulawé

L'acte de création du Parc National de Boumba Bek signé en octobre 2005 par Décret du Premier Ministre, Chef du Gouvernement du Cameroun précise, dans son article 3, les missions assignées à cette Aire protégée notamment « ***l'amélioration des conditions de vie des populations et le développement durable tant au niveau local, régional qu'international*** ». Quant à l'exercice des droits d'usage des populations, le texte stipule que « ***les modalités d'exercice par les populations de leurs droits d'usage doivent être élaborées selon un processus participatif*** » qui ne tient compte que des pratiques compatibles avec les objectifs d'utilisation durable des ressources naturelles. Par ailleurs, ce Décret prévoit « ***l'indemnisation des personnes victimes d'expropriation et occupant une portion dans les limites de cette Aire Protégée*** ».

Dans le cadre des efforts de mise en œuvre de ces dispositions et en rapport avec les engagements internationaux du Gouvernement Camerounais en matière de respects des droits des populations en général et des communautés autochtones en particulier, des recherches participatives sur le finage des communautés Baka de la zone de Boumba Bek ont été réalisées entre 2006 et 2008. Au terme de ces études, des données significatives ont été obtenues sur les différents usages coutumiers et les pratiques ancestrales de ces communautés de chasseurs-cueilleurs ainsi que sur les espaces et espèces qu'elles utilisent traditionnellement.

Sur la base de ces données et dans la logique du principe de Consentement Libre, Préalable et Eclairé (CLIP), une série d'activités destinées à faciliter la prise en compte effective des droits coutumiers des communautés Baka dans le processus d'aménagement de cette aire protégée ainsi que la sécurisation de ceux-ci dans le plan d'aménagement a été réalisée.

Des négociations en vue de l'exercice de ces droits ancestraux (usage, accès, résidence, etc.) des Baka ont été ainsi engagées entre les Pouvoirs Publics Camerounais et les communautés Baka concernées appuyées par certaines ONG.

Le présent protocole d'accord officialise les résolutions auxquelles se sont parvenues les deux parties et constituent le cadre de référence d'exercice desdits droits et de suivi de leur mise en œuvre ainsi que les modalités de participation des communautés autochtones dans l'aménagement global du Parc.

Ainsi, en application des dispositions internationales dont le Gouvernement de la République s'est engagé notamment celles :

- de la ***Convention sur la Diversité Biologique (CDB)*** :
 - dans son préambule dont les parties reconnaissent qu'un grand nombre de communautés locales et de populations autochtones dépendent étroitement et traditionnellement des ressources biologiques sur lesquelles sont fondées leurs traditions et qu'il est souhaitable d'assurer le partage équitable des

avantages découlant de l'utilisation des connaissances traditionnelles intéressant la conservation de la diversité biologique et l'utilisation durable de ses éléments

- dans son article 8 (J) qui stipule que sous réserve des dispositions de sa législation nationale, chaque Etat, respecte, préserve et maintient les connaissances, innovations et pratiques des communautés autochtones et locales qui incarnent des modes de vie traditionnels présentant un intérêt pour la conservation et l'utilisation durable de la diversité biologique et en favorise l'application sur une plus grande échelle, avec l'accord et la participation des dépositaires de ces connaissances, innovations et pratiques, et encourage le partage équitable des avantages découlant de l'utilisation de ces connaissances, innovations et pratique.
 - dans son article 10 (C) qui demande aux Etats de protéger et encourager l'usage coutumier des ressources biologiques conformément aux pratiques culturelles traditionnelles compatibles avec les impératifs de leur conservation ou de leur utilisation durable.
- du **Pacte International sur les Droits Civils et Politiques** qui, dans son article 1^{er}, aliéna 2, stipule que « ... tous les peuples peuvent disposer librement de leurs richesses et de leurs ressources naturelles.... en aucun cas, un peuple ne pourra être privé de ses propres moyens de subsistance »
 - du Comité **sur l'Eradication de toute forme de discrimination raciale** dans sa recommandation XXIII qui exige aux Etats l'engagement de reconnaître et de protéger le droits des populations autochtones de posséder, de mettre en valeur, de contrôler et d'utiliser leurs terres, leurs ressources et leurs territoires communaux et, lorsqu'ils ont été privés des terres et territoires qui, traditionnellement, leur appartenaient ou, sinon, qu'ils habitaient ou utilisaient, sans leur consentement libre et informé, de prendre des mesures pour que ces terres et ces territoires leurs soient rendus. Ce n'est que dans les cas où il est factuellement impossible de le faire que le droit à la restitution devra être remplacé par le droit à une indemnisation juste, équitable et rapide. Cette indemnisation devra se faire, dans la mesure du possible sous forme de terres et territoires.
 - de la **convention 107** de l'OIT
 - dans son article 14 qui stipule que les droits de propriété et de possession sur les terres et territoires qu'ils occupent traditionnellement doivent être reconnus et les gouvernements en tant que de besoin prendre des mesures pour identifier les terres que les peuples intéressés occupent pour garantir la protection effective de leur droit de propriété et de possession
 - dans son article 16 (2) qui stipule que les peuples autochtones ne peuvent être déplacés qu'à titre exceptionnel et uniquement avec leur consentement libre et éclairé et précise des voies de recours existantes en cas de déplacement.
 - de la **convention 169** de l'OIT dans son article 5 qui précise qu'en appliquant ses dispositions, il faudra reconnaître et protéger les valeurs et les pratiques sociales, culturelles, religieuses et spirituelles de ces peuples et prendre dûment en considération la nature des problèmes qui se posent à eux, en tant que groupes comme en tant qu'individus

- de la **déclaration des Nations Unies sur les droits des peuples autochtones** qui :
 - Dans son article 8(1) et (2) stipule que les autochtones, peuples ou individus, ont le droit de ne pas subir des assimilations forcées ou la destruction de leur culture et exige aux Etats de mettre en place des mécanismes de prévention et de réparation efficaces visant tout acte ayant pour but ou pour effet de les déposséder de leurs terres, territoires et ressources.
 - Quant à l'article 10, il est mentionné que les peuples autochtones ne peuvent être enlevés de force de leurs terres ou territoires. Aucune réinstallation ne peut avoir lieu sans le consentement préalable - donné librement et en connaissance de cause - des peuples autochtones concernés et un accord sur une indemnisation juste et équitable et, lorsque cela est possible la faculté de retour
 - L'article 20 (2) de cette déclaration précise que les peuples autochtones privés de leurs moyens de subsistance et de développement ont droit à une indemnisation juste et équitable.
 - Quant à l'article 24 de cet instrument, il stipule que les Peuples autochtones ont droit à leur pharmacopée traditionnelle et de conserver leur pratique médicale notamment de préserver leurs plantes médicinales, animaux, minéraux d'intérêt vital
 - Pour l'article 25 de cette déclaration, les peuples autochtones ont le droit de conserver et de renforcer leurs liens spirituels particuliers avec les terres, territoires, eaux et zones maritimes côtières et autres ressources qu'ils possèdent ou occupent et utilisent traditionnellement, et d'assumer leurs responsabilités en la matière à l'égard des générations futures
 - L'article 26 (1) de la déclaration précise clairement que les peuples autochtones ont droit aux terres, territoires et ressources qu'ils possèdent et occupent traditionnellement ou qu'ils ont utilisés ou acquis et, dans son aliéna 3, il exige aux États de s'accorder à la reconnaissance et la protection juridiques à ces terres, territoires et ressources. Cette reconnaissance se fait en respectant dûment les coutumes, traditions et régimes fonciers des peuples autochtones concernés
 - De même, l'article 28 (1) de cette déclaration reconnaît aux Peuples autochtones le droit à la réparation, par le biais, notamment, de la restitution ou, lorsque cela n'est pas possible, d'une indemnisation juste, correcte et équitable pour les terres, territoires et ressources qu'ils possédaient traditionnellement ou occupaient ou utilisaient et qui ont été confisqués, pris, occupés, exploités ou donné librement en connaissance de cause.
 - Dans son aliéna 2, cet article stipule que, sauf si les peuples concernés en décident librement d'une autre façon, l'indemnisation se fait sous forme de terres, de territoires et de ressources équivalents par leur qualité, étendue et leur régime juridique...
 - Quant à l'article 30, il est clairement stipulé qu'il ne peut y avoir d'activités militaires sur les terres ou territoires des peuples autochtones, à moins que ces activités soient justifiées par une menace importante contre l'intérêt public ou qu'elle ait été décidée en accord avec les peuples autochtones concernés, ou demandée par ces derniers.

- de la **Charte Africaine des Droits de l'Homme et des Peuples** dans son article 21 prévoit la libre disposition des peuples de leurs richesses et de leurs ressources et précise que, en aucun cas, un peuple ne peut en être privé et que la protection des peuples d'Afrique à la terre et leurs ressources est fondamentale pour leur survie.

- de la **Constitution de la République du Cameroun** dans son article 45 qui les traités ou accords internationaux régulièrement approuvés ou ratifiés ont, dès leur publication, une autorité supérieure à celle des lois, sous réserve, pour chaque accord ou traité, de son application par l'autre partie. De même qu'il est stipulé dans son préambule que cette loi fondamentale constitue une base de référence pour la protection des droits de minorités et dispose que: « *l'Etat assure la protection des minorités et préserve les droits des populations autochtones conformément à la loi* ».

Ainsi, les communautés Baka et les Pouvoirs Publics Camerounais,

- conscients du fait que la gestion de l'environnement, la conservation de la biodiversité et la nécessité de garantir la survie des peuples autochtones sont des enjeux prioritaires pour le Cameroun
- conscients du fait que l'espace forestier dit Boumba Bek a fait l'objet de classement comme Parc National par acte du Premier Ministre du 06 Octobre 2005 sous le n° 2005/3284/PM
- conscients des divergences qui existent entre les instruments juridiques internationaux qui garantissent aux communautés l'exercice de leurs droits traditionnels et la reconnaissance de leur droit de propriété et de possession d'une part et, d'autre part, certaines lois nationales notamment le code forestier (interdiction de toute activité humaine dans le Parc National) et la loi foncière (propriété des terres à l'Etat) ainsi que bon nombre de leurs textes subséquents
- conscients des résultats et recommandations des différentes études menées dans le cadre des efforts de conservation et de gestion durable des ressources du Parc National de Boumba Bek d'une part et du respect des droits coutumiers des communautés autochtones en matière de chasse, de pêche, de collecte des produits forestiers, de pratiques culturelles et culturelles entre autres
- conscients que les communautés autochtones Baka dépendent étroitement et traditionnellement des ressources biologiques contenues dans cette Aire Protégées et sa périphérie sur lesquelles ils fondent leurs subsistances et leurs traditions et que ces ressources leur appartiennent
- conscients du fait que l'usage coutumiers et les pratiques traditionnelles des communautés autochtones Baka sont essentiellement pour leur survie et se sont toujours exercés de manière durable
- conscients que l'utilisation durable et la conservation de la diversité biologique ainsi que de l'environnement global de cet espace ne pourront se faire qu'en prenant en compte les défis liés au développement social, culturel et économique de ces populations
- conscients de la nécessité de respecter et d'appliquer le principe de Consentement, Libre, Informé et Préalable avant la mise en œuvre de tout projet pouvant affecter les communautés en général et plus particulièrement dans le cadre de l'aménagement de ce Parc National
- conscients du fait que la politique gouvernementale n'a pour autre ambitions que l'amélioration des conditions de vie des populations et que, pour ce faire, celles-ci qui vivent dans une précarité notoire ont besoin d'utiliser librement leurs ressources, leurs terres et territoires.
- Conscients du fait que les droits humains sont non hiérarchiques, indéniables, indivisibles et interdépendants.

Ont convenu de ce qui suit :

Article 1^{er} : De l'objet du Protocole

Le présent Protocole d'accord a pour objet la sécurisation des droits coutumiers et traditionnels des communautés autochtones Baka dans le plan d'aménagement du Parc National de Boumba Bek et la définition des modalités en vue de l'exercice de ces droits coutumiers et traditionnels par les membres de ces communautés dans le Parc National de Boumba Bek et sa périphérie ainsi que les modalités d'implication et de participation de ces populations dans l'aménagement de cette Aire protégée.

Article 2 : De la durée du protocole

Ce protocole a une durée équivalente à celle de l'aménagement du Parc National de Boumba Bek dans le cadre de la collaboration entre les parties. Toutefois, les communautés continuent indéfiniment à exercer leurs droits ancestraux reconnus même après les opérations d'aménagement du Parc.

Article 3 : Des communautés autochtones concernées

Sont concernées par le présent protocole, les communautés autochtones Baka vivant autour et du Parc National de Boumba-Bek et menant ou ayant mené des activités traditionnelles dans cet espace forestier. Il s'agit plus spécifiquement des populations Baka des villages allant de Ndongo dans l'Arrondissement de Moloundou à Ngatto Ancien dans l'Arrondissement de Yokadouma en passant par Salapoumbé et aussi des communautés Baka vivant dans le secteur de Messok et Ngoyla ainsi que celles installées au sein de cette Aire Protégée.

Article 4 : Des interlocuteurs des parties

Pour les communautés autochtones Baka, l'Association des Kulawé dénommée Buma'a Kpodé est l'interlocuteur valable. Elle est représentée par son Président ou son représentant en cas d'empêchement tandis que le Conservateur de cette Aire Protégée est l'interlocuteur pour les Pouvoirs Publics.

Article 5 : De la prise de décision

Dans le cadre de ce protocole, les décisions se prennent par consensus, c'est-à-dire en l'absence de toute objection de l'une des parties, et tiennent compte de la culture Baka qui nécessite entre autres préalables des consultations à l'interne et de la concertation entre les membres des communautés. Le processus de prise des décisions se fait selon le principe de Consentement libre, préalable et bien informé des populations concernées.

Article 6 : De la participation des communautés Baka dans l'aménagement du Parc

L'implication des communautés Baka dans l'élaboration, la révision, l'exécution et suivi évaluation du plan d'aménagement du Parc National de Boumba Bek doit être garantie et effective. Tous les programmes et plans relatifs à la gestion du Parc sont élaborés et mis en œuvre dans une collaboration et une concertation étroite entre les parties. Aucune opération, outre celles relevant des missions régaliennes de l'Etat, ne pourra être envisagée sans l'implication et la participation des dites communautés.

Article 7 : Des obligations des communautés Baka

Les Baka, individu ou communauté, ont l'obligation de :

- désigner leurs représentants dans le cadre des activités stratégiques, techniques et de communication en lien avec l'aménagement du Parc. Ces représentants peuvent se constituer en une ou plusieurs associations
- mettre librement sur pied et selon leurs propres normes, culture et usages, une ou plusieurs associations devant les représenter dans le cadre de ce protocole d'entente et dans les instances de prise de décisions relatives à la gestion du Parc National de Boumba Bek. Dans cet effort d'organisation, les Baka bénéficient de l'appui des

administrations compétentes (MINATD, MINAS, MINFOF, etc.) et de l'assistance technique des ONG

- informer les autorités compétentes sur toute pratique contraire aux impératifs de gestion durable observés dans leurs zones d'actions et de dénoncer tout acte ou cas d'exploitation illégale des ressources dans le Parc et sa périphérie
- éviter toute méthode allant à l'encontre des principes d'utilisation durable des ressources contenues dans le Parc et sa périphérie notamment l'abattage des arbres hôtes, la pêche par empoisonnement des eaux, la chasse à l'arme à feu, etc.
- agir dans le cadre de leurs activités traditionnelles selon leur propre calendrier et d'informer les pouvoirs publics en cas d'une éventuelle modification de celui-ci
- éviter toute collaboration avec les élites, les autorités, les villageois, les safaris, les concessionnaires, etc. allant dans le sens de l'exploitation illégale des ressources forestières et fauniques et d'en dénoncer les auteurs.
- respecter leurs engagements vis-à-vis des autres parties prenantes en général et des pouvoirs publics en particulier dans le cadre de la gestion du Parc
- donner ou refuser leur consentement de manière libre, éclairé et préalable pour tout projet les concernant ou pouvant les affecter d'une manière ou d'une autre
- suivre l'exécution des activités relatives à l'aménagement du Parc et leurs meneurs et porter leur jugement sur leur pertinence, leur importance et les faiblesses observées dans leur réalisation

Article 8 : Des obligations des Pouvoirs Publics

Les pouvoirs publics ont quant à eux pour obligations de :

- ✓ appuyer la mise en place des associations des Baka et leur renforcement
- ✓ respecter le calendrier des activités traditionnelles des communautés
- ✓ respecter les droits des communautés notamment leurs droits culturels, le droit à l'identité, le droit à l'éducation et la santé, le droit à la participation et à la consultation, le droit à la restitution, l'indemnisation et la compensation, le droit à la terres, aux territoires et aux ressources, le droit de propriété et de possession, le droit d'accès aux avantages de manière juste, rapide et équitable, le droit à la protection, le droit à la survie, le droit au développement, etc.
- ✓ faciliter le processus de mise en place des associations autochtones relevant du Parc National de Boumba Bek
- ✓ associer les Baka dans toutes les opérations tant stratégiques, techniques que de communication relevant de l'aménagement du Parc
- ✓ se rapprocher des communautés ou y être présents pour développer l'esprit de confiance entre les pouvoirs publics et les communautés
- ✓ faire observer une attitude positive et exemplaire de ses agents dans l'exercice de leurs missions
- ✓ apporter toute information, éducation et formation nécessaires au renforcement de la participation des communautés dans le processus de gestion du Parc
- ✓ renforcer les capacités techniques, organisationnelles, institutionnelles et financières des communautés
- ✓ promouvoir les activités relatives au développement social, culturel et économique des populations Baka conformément à leur sollicitation et dans le respect de leur culture
- ✓ faire appel à toute personne physique ou morale, de concert avec les Baka, pour la bonne marche de la collaboration entre les pouvoirs publics et les communautés
- ✓ faciliter l'accès des Baka, individu ou communauté, dans les services sociaux de base notamment la santé, l'éducation, la justice

- ✓ promouvoir l'emploi chez les Baka à travers le développement issu de la collaboration avec les autres acteurs tant du secteur public que du secteur privé ou de la société civile
- ✓ faciliter les partenariats entre ces communautés et les administrations techniques publiques et privées
- ✓ faciliter la mise en place des cadres de concertation, de discussions et de collaboration entre les pouvoirs publics et les communautés et leurs partenaires (ONG et autres) dans le cadre de l'aménagement du Parc
- ✓ inscrire dans les plans d'actions annuels les activités relatives à l'exercice des droits traditionnels des communautés autochtones Baka et les accompagner, si nécessaire et à la demande de ces dernières, dans leur mise en œuvre
- ✓ supporter financièrement, matériellement et techniquement les communautés Baka ou leurs représentants en vue de leur participation effective et efficiente dans l'aménagement du Parc
- ✓ utiliser prioritairement l'expertise locale ou endogène des Baka dans les opérations d'aménagement
- ✓ valoriser les connaissances traditionnelles des communautés Baka
- ✓ rendre l'aménagement du Parc un cadre incitatif pour les communautés Baka en ce qui concerne leurs préoccupations
- ✓ promouvoir les activités alternatives chez les Baka de concert avec ces derniers
- ✓ vulgariser auprès des populations tout texte ayant trait à l'aménagement du Parc et aux obligations et droits de ces communautés
- ✓ expliquer les rôles de chaque acteur dans le processus d'aménagement de cette Aire Protégée
- ✓ promouvoir le droit à la terre des Baka dans les villages riverains du Parc National Boumba Bek en termes de reconnaissance de leurs villages et de leurs chefferies traditionnelles
- ✓ accompagner les Baka dans les activités permettant de les rendre autonomes notamment dans les projets générateurs de revenus (agriculture, élevage, pêche, petits métiers et autres emplois)
- ✓ mettre sur pied une plate forme de concertation Baka, services de conservation, ONG d'accompagnement pour le suivi-évaluation et contrôle. Cette plate forme se rencontre semestriellement.
- ✓ Faciliter la création et la mise en place des instances endogènes de surveillance au niveau des villages
- ✓ Favoriser toute collaboration entre les populations Baka et les autorités compétentes et parties prenantes pour dénonciation directe ou/et indirecte (MINFOF, MINAS MINATD, ONG, etc.)
- ✓ Appuyer la structuration des communautés en vue du suivi approprié des activités d'exploitation des ressources forestières, fauniques et halieutiques avec le concours de l'Administration ((MINFOF, MINAS MINATD, etc.) et des ONG
- ✓

Article 9 : Des obligations des parties

Les deux parties ont l'obligation de :

- respecter les clauses contenues dans ce protocole et toute autre clause arrêtée d'un commun accord dans le cadre de la gestion du Parc
- collaborer l'une et l'autre partie pour la bonne marche des activités d'aménagement du Parc et de ses missions vis-à-vis des communautés
- partager ou échanger toutes les informations intéressant la gestion du Parc à leur possession respective

Article 10: De la gestion des conflits et des voies de recours

Une instance chargée spécifiquement de la gestion des conflits (prévention et règlement) sera mise en place d'un commun accord entre les parties. Les membres de cet organe relèveront également des pouvoirs publics et des communautés Baka élargi à d'autres acteurs en cas de nécessité ou de besoin.

Pour tout différend entre les services de la conservation et les Baka découlant de l'exécution du présent Protocole d'accord, la négociation et le dialogue seront privilégiés.

Toutefois en cas de désaccord il va falloir se référer à l'arbitrage de la plateforme de concertation présentée dans l'article 4 ci-dessus, si le désaccord persiste, les parties se référeront à l'arbitrage d'une personne neutre.

Si l'insatisfaction de l'une ou toutes les parties se poursuit, recours est fait aux juridictions compétentes pour arbitrage.

Article 11 : De l'assistance technique et l'Appui conseil

Les parties bénéficient de l'accompagnement technique des partenaires au développement dans le cadre des appuis apportés par la coopération internationale et des Organisations Non Gouvernementales nationales et locales ainsi que des autres administrations techniques.

Article 12 : De la révision du protocole

Le présent Protocole d'Accord qui prend effet à partir de sa date de signature ne peut être amendé par des accords spécifiques ou abrogé que d'un commun par les deux parties.

Article 13 :**Article 14 : De la validité et l'entrée en vigueur**

Les dispositions de ce protocole prennent effet à compter de sa date de signature et sa durée est équivalente à celle du plan d'aménagement du Parc.

Article 15 : Du suivi de la mise en œuvre du protocole

Le suivi de la mise en œuvre du présent protocole qui est assuré concomitamment par chacune des deux parties concerne tous les aspects liés aux activités d'aménagement du Parc.

Le partage ou l'échange des informations se fera dans le cadre de la plate forme de collaboration et de concertation entre les parties ou à travers tout autre canal approprié à cet effet adopté d'un commun accord entre les parties.

Ce suivi qui se fait sur la base d'un calendrier ou plan d'actions participativement élaboré tient compte des programmes et priorités de chaque des parties qui en désignent des responsables à cet effet.

Article 16 : Du cadre organisationnel/institutionnel d'exécution, du suivi-évaluation du protocole

Une instance fonctionnelle de collaboration, de concertation, de discussions et d'échanges entre les leaders autochtones Baka ou leurs organisations et les responsables des pouvoirs publics sera mise sur pied et les membres de cet organe tiendront ses assises tous les six mois sans préjudice de la tenue des sessions extraordinaires convoquées en cas de besoin.

La coordination des activités de la plate forme est assurée par le Conservateur du Parc alors que la présidence des sessions et les lieux de ces assises se feront à tour de role et consensuelle sur la base d'un calendrier adopté d'un commun accord entre les parties.

Le calendrier de ces rencontres est arrêté d'un commun accord entre les parties au début de chaque exercice, soit lors de la planification des activités à entreprendre dans le cadre de l'aménagement du Parc. Ce calendrier tient compte des priorités de chacune des parties et, autant que possible, de la culture des communautés autochtones concernées.

Article 17 : Des mécanismes de contrôle du respect des règles et normes établies

Chaque partie met en place son mécanisme interne de contrôle du respect des normes et règles établies. Le produit issu de ce mécanisme est débattu pendant les sessions de la plate forme et/ou lors de toute autre occasion favorable à cet effet.

Le contrôle qui est effectué indépendamment par chaque partie concerne à la fois les actions des membres des communautés et celles des agents ou représentants des pouvoirs publics et des autres acteurs (exploitants forestiers, safaris, partenaires au développement, élites, etc.).

A cet effet, l'accès à l'information de l'une ou toutes les parties est libre pour des besoins de vérification ainsi qu'à tout élément de preuve de fait.

Article 18 : Des sanctions

Par le terme sanction, il est compris les récompenses et les punitions.

En cas de violation des termes de ce protocole ou lors de certains actes de bravoures ou de bonnes pratiques par l'une ou l'autre des parties, les sanctions ci-dessous sont applicables :

a) aux communautés Baka

Les sanctions qui sont appliquées au niveau coutumier et, en cas de persistance, le recours à la réglementation officielle se résument ainsi qu'il suit :

- Avertissement par les Kobo
- Plainte à Edjengui
- Dénonciation pour application des sanctions prévues par les lois nationales.

Quant aux récompenses, elles concernent les actes positifs et leurs impacts dans le cadre de l'aménagement du Parc et vont des félicitations écrites aux primes en nature ou/et en espèces et autres avantages ainsi que toutes autres formes de récompenses légales ou décidées d'accord parties.

b) aux agents des pouvoirs publics

En ce qui concerne les actes orchestrés par les agents des pouvoirs publics, en cas de non respect des clauses de ce protocole, les sanctions sont celles relevant du règlement intérieur de leur service et de la réglementation en vigueur.

De même, pour les actes de bravoure enregistrés par ces agents, ils bénéficient des récompenses allant des félicitations écrites aux primes en nature ou/et en espèces et autres avantages.

Nota : Les sanctions infligées dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre de ce protocole sont publiées ou portées à la connaissance des parties.

Article 19 : De la plate forme de collaboration, de concertation et de négociations entre les parties

Après concertation entre les parties, il est créé une plate forme fonctionnelle de collaboration et de négociation regroupant, outre ces dernières, d'autres parties prenantes au processus de gestion ou d'administration du Parc notamment les autorités administratives, les responsables des administrations publiques, les ONG nationales et locales, le secteur privé, les partenaires au développement dans le cadre de la coopération internationale.

Fait à _____, le _____

Les parties

Pour les Communautés Baka

Pour les Pouvoirs Publics

MAPPING OF RESOURCE USE AREA BY THE BAKA PYGMIES INSIDE AND AROUND BOUMBA-BEK NATIONAL PARK IN SOUTHEAST CAMEROON, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO BAKA'S CUSTOMARY RIGHTS

Olivier NJOUNAN TEGOMO

Louis DEFO

University of Yaoundé I, and World Wildlife Fund for Nature, Cameroon

Leonard USONGO

International Union for Conservation of Nature, Cameroon

ABSTRACT In the beginning of the year 2000 the Cameroon government created several protected areas within the framework of efforts aimed at biodiversity conservation in southeast Cameroon, one of which is the Boumba-Bek National Park. The creation of this park restricted the rights of the Baka indigenous hunter-gatherers living in the region to use the resource there. To take into consideration adequately the customary rights of this indigenous people in the management and development of this protected area, we carried out scientific studies as part of investigation by the WWF Cameroon on how the Baka use this forest space. Results of these studies revealed that the Baka have been using the forest for various purposes for a long time. Resources used by the Baka in this forest are very important for them economically, socially and culturally. To accommodate the Baka customary rights to access the forest resources, the management plan for Boumba-Bek National Park should be partly modified to elaborate sufficiently the actuality of Baka traditional use of land and resources.

Key Words: Indigenous peoples; Hunter-gatherers; Protected area; Southeast Cameroon.

INTRODUCTION

For almost 20 years, discussions on indigenous peoples (IPs) have taken center stage at the international level. With this growing global attention, the place and rights of these populations in relation to the management and conservation of forest resources is most recurrent (Persoon et al, 2004; Aquino, 2004). There is controversy, meanwhile, especially concerning the customary rights of IPs in connection with the creation and management of protected areas (Stevens, 1997; Nelson & Hossack, 2003; Schmidt-Soltau, 2003; 2004; 2009; Colchester et al., 2008). Debates center on, among others issues, the foundation of these rights, the participation of IPs in the establishment and management of protected areas, and compatibility of their use of natural resources in relation to conservation principles.

In some parts of the world, especially in Asia and North America, the debate has become popular over the years thanks to scientific works on the issues. In Central Africa on the contrary, scientific investigations on the ground is still

insufficient for the local people and agencies to act for the customary rights of IPs. In a bid to throw more light on the issues that are debated and above all to assist the Cameroon government to engage in the process aimed at firmly including the customary rights of IPs in the management of protected areas, scientific investigations were carried out on many aspects including use of space and resources by the Pygmies in some protected areas, such as Campo Ma'an, Dja, Boumba-Bek, and Nki.

The management plan is supposed to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to recognize and protect certain customary rights of the Baka and to ensure their participation in the planning and management entities. To make this possible, and to take into account the wishes of Baka to safeguard their customary rights in the protected area, several organizations have initiated a process which aims at protecting the customary rights of the Baka in the management plans for Boumba-Bek and Nki National Parks (NPs).

This process includes, among others, mapping of Baka resource and space uses, advocacy, reinforcing organizational capacities, negotiations, etc. In order to establish a scientific basis for its contribution to the process, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Cameroon commissioned a study aimed at identifying all contours of the use of Boumba-Bek and Nki forest massif by the Baka. This paper presents some of its results, which will be incorporated into the forthcoming management plan, and from which planning and co-management efforts will be pursued.

STUDY SITE AND PEOPLE

Boumba-Bek and Nki NPs are located in southeast Cameroon. The geographical region which is the subject of WWF Cameroon Southeast Project covers 23,000 km² of tropical moist forests (Fig. 1). A part of the Congo Basin, the area harbors high densities of forest wildlife with more than 40 species of large mammals, 120 fish species, and 305 bird species (Nzoo Dongmo et al., 2002). The area is inhabited by about 110,000 people, comprising Bantu- and Ubangian-speaking agriculturalists, Baka Pygmy hunter-gatherers, and immigrants from various parts of Cameroon and neighboring countries. The Bantu and other agricultural groups, the Baka, and migrants constitute 60%, 25% and 15% of the total population, respectively. The northern and eastern part of Boumba-Bek NP and its buffer zone where this study was conducted contains 23,269 inhabitants, composed of 49% mostly Bantu and other agriculturalists, 29% Baka, and 22% immigrants⁽¹⁾. Relationships between the Bantu villagers and Baka are complex, but in most areas, the latter are marginalized and dominated by the former (Joiris, 2001; 2003; Abéga & Bigombé, 2006).

Traditionally, both the agriculturalists and Baka have "acephalous" societies, with loose social and organizational structures. Baka Pygmies have been predominantly hunter-gatherers. Before the 1950s, they were leading a nomadic life style in small camps in the forest (Althabe, 1965). Since the colonial period, almost all populations have been concentrated in about a hundred small villages

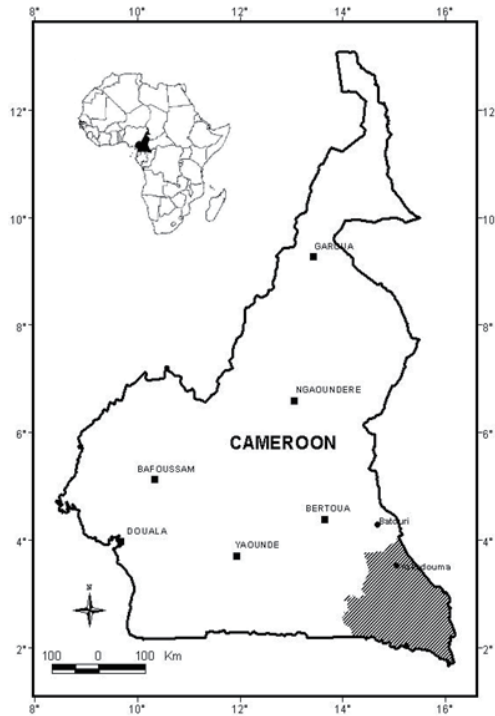


Fig. 1. Research area in southeast Cameroon.

along the main roads. Following change in the political as well as economic situations, Baka have more or less become semi-sedentary agriculturists who also depend on hunting and gathering for their livelihood. The main economic activity of the Bantu people is slash-and-burn agriculture, in which they grow plantain, cassava, maize, groundnuts, as well as cacao as cash crop. Hunting, fishing and gathering of non-timber forests products are also important for them. Some are employed in other sectors, such as government services, logging, sport hunting, and mining⁽²⁾. Animal husbandry is poorly developed. Compared with other regions of Cameroon, the people in this forest region are particularly poor. Poverty in the region is contrasted with its biological and mineral richness (Defo, 2005), for the people derive little economic benefit from these resources.

INADEQUATE INVOLVEMENT OF THE BAKA INTO THE LAND USE PLANNING

In the wake of prescriptions of the Rio de Janeiro Conference in 1992 related to the preservation of biodiversity, the Cameroon government committed to conserve 30% of its national territory (Law No. 94/01). Efforts aimed at

concretizing these commitments were made manifest, amongst others, through the putting in place of several conservation projects, and the establishment of many protected areas, through the adoption of a land use plan for Southeast Cameroon (Decree No. 95/678).

Southeastern Cameroon caught the attention of conservation organizations and the government, thanks to its rich biodiversity. As early as 1995 the area was demarcated for protection. This management option was later confirmed by the Cameroon government in establishing a regulatory framework for land use in southeastern Cameroon. This zoning framework made provision for the establishment of several wildlife reserves in the region, one of which was the Boumba-Bek NP. It was axiomatic then, that plans to create wildlife reserves in this region would restrict access of local people to certain areas. As the government pursued its zoning plan in conformity with biodiversity conservation, the government, supported by WWF and German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) proceeded with the classification of forestland in southeastern Cameroon between 1999 and 2001. In conformity with requirements of Decree (No. 135/D/MINEF/CAB) spelling out procedures for zoning the forests in the permanent forest domain, the zoning went through the following main stages: sharing of information with the public, sensitization of administrative authorities, awareness raising and consultation with local populations, holding commission meetings on the Divisional level, and the completion of the zoning document. This process was rounded off by prime ministerial decrees signed in 2001 for establishment of Lobéké NP, and in 2005 for establishment of Boumba-Bek and Nki NPs.

These decrees finally divided the forest into permanent and non-permanent forest domains in conformity with Article 20 of Law No. 94/01. The permanent forest domain, which covers more than three fifths of the total surface area which is subject of the project, 3 council forests, 10 sport hunting zones formerly allocated to 22 logging concessions, and 3 national parks (Lobéké, Boumba-Bek, and Nki). The non-permanent forest domain is made up principally of agro-forestry zones, with 14 community hunting zones superimposed on them (Fig. 2).

Even though we appreciate efforts made by different actors, from the technocrats who designed the zoning plan to the authorities that created the regulatory framework specifically for this exercise, it is important to raise concerns on the unsatisfactory involvement of the Baka hunter-gatherers in the zoning process. During the process, the recognition of “human occupation of territory” was limited only to clear indicators of human inhabitation such as settlements, farming fields and fallows that can be identified by aerial photographs and satellite images (Côté, 1993).

This method can distinguish a village area where almost all agro-pastoral activities are permitted to some extent, the non-permanent forest domain and areas where access is restricted by regulation, such as national parks and sport hunting zones. But, this procedure can only take into account the land used by sedentary farmers, and the mode of occupation and exploitation by the semi-nomadic hunter-gatherers were largely invisible and ignored. Beyond this technical shortcoming, one has to raise concerns regarding the feasibility of

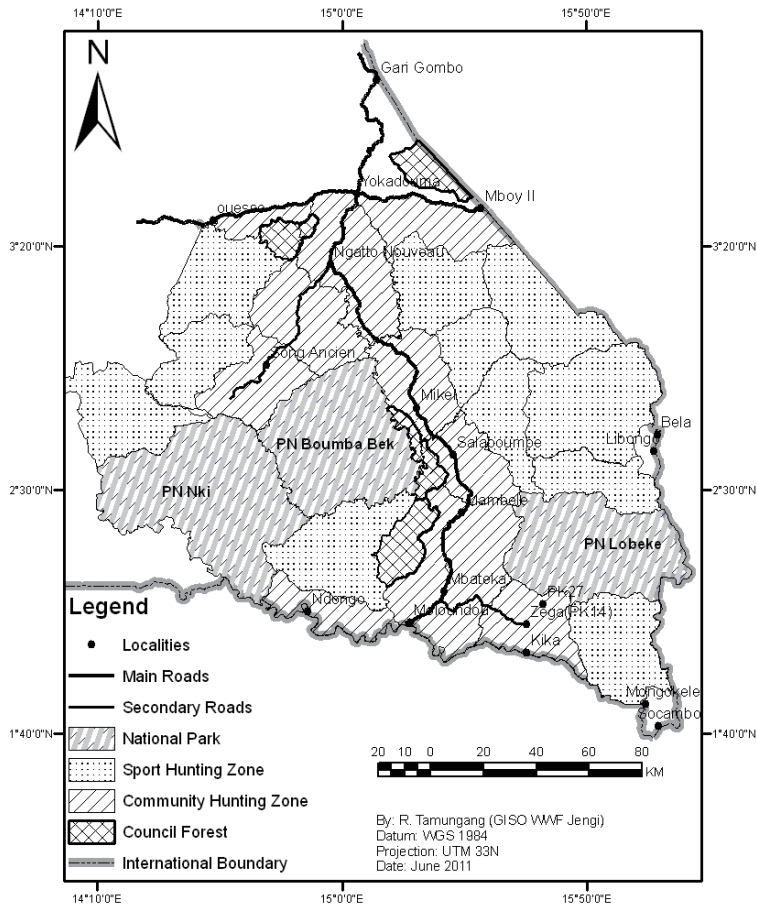


Fig. 2 Land-use classification in southeast Cameroon.

carrying out zoning in an area like southeastern Cameroon, where people live in the forest that is a continuum consisting of farmlands, and hunting, fishing and gathering fields connected by a network of trails (Karsenty & Marie, 1998: 164).

In addition, considering dimensions beyond the zoning code that governs the actual classification of the fields (Decree No. 135/D/MINEF/CAB), we realize that the zoning process did not guarantee an optimal involvement of the Baka in the process. It was difficult for the zoning operation to take into account the specificities of the Baka who hardly understand French, rarely frequent public places, and are less inclined to frankly express their points of view in the presence of their Bantu brethren. Public notices must be written in French and published in the press, posted at the Senior Divisional and Sub-divisional offices, town halls and delegation in charge of forests in the region concerned

(Article 1 of Decision No. 135/D/MINEF/CAB). Letters that convened awareness raising meetings with the local people must be addressed to village chiefs, who are the Bantu or other farmers. Despite efforts of the field teams to involve Baka people in the zoning process, given the above procedure of regulatory framework, the participation of Baka in the zoning process was very small. Indeed, as previously stated, the creation of national parks implies a significant restriction of the rights of people in the space concerned, laying down detailed rules for application of wildlife laws. Article 2 of Decree No. 95/466/PM declared the prohibition of any intervention that can alter the appearance, composition and evolution of the protected area, including hunting, farming, and logging.

In this situation, the Government of Cameroon proposed to develop a management plan which recognizes the customary rights of the Baka and to ensure their participation in the planning and management process. As mentioned above, this process includes mapping of Baka's land and resource uses, which will be a scientific basis for negotiations with other stakeholders and advocacy of their customary rights.

METHODS

We collected data on Baka land and resource uses in the field research for a total of 216 days between March 2006 and July 2007. Methods used to collect data included participatory mapping, focal group discussions, interviews, and direct observation.

Twenty-one semi-sedentary settlements located near major roads, usually at the end of the Bantu villages, in the study area were visited by the research team. The team explained to the Baka the aim of the research, and sought their consent to facilitate the participatory mapping process, then carried out a census of the population, discussed their activities, some momentous historical events and social organization or any other information that was related to the use of land and resources in the forest, in particular in the national park area. When trekking with the Baka into the forests, given the close relationship between Baka and their Bantu neighbors, the Bantu people designated by the Baka accompanied the team in the participatory rapid appraisal mapping and expeditions in the forest.

For each camp, field research was organized between 6 to 11 days per settlement depending on the distance and resource space covered, and we obtained geo-referenced data on Baka land and resource use using Global Positioning System (GPS) and/or the Cyber Tracker, in particular in the forest on the side of national parks. The Baka people accompanying us explained to us the importance of each land and resource visited, and we tape recorded these accounts, or wrote them down in a notebook. At the end of each day, a group discussion enabled us to clarify any misunderstanding and to correct errors.

Then, we estimated the degree of penetration in the following way: (1) We recorded the signs of activities on the trail from the departure point towards

the interior of the forest, including hunting camps, fishing camps, places for gathering non-timber forest products such as honey, *Irvingia gabonensis* nuts, *Baillonella toxisperma* fruits, medical plants, etc., using the GPS, guided by a participatory map previously drawn in cooperation with the Baka in the village. (2) We classified signs of activities and transferred the recorded geo-referenced data into ArcView software, and processed to generate thematic maps. (3) We then estimated the area of the penetration by Baka activities, clipping the forest into two areas mechanically by distance from the nearest sign of activities, namely areas in extents of 0–3 km from the nearest signs, which we will call the “high penetration area,” and areas within 3–9 km from the nearest signs, which we will call the “low penetration area⁽³⁾.”

Adding to this geographical analysis, we strove to understand the history of the exploitation and use of land and resources. One of our major focuses was the continuity and change in the Baka use of forest land and resources: for example, why one space is no longer used while other space is still used, why a certain trail is more frequently used than other trails. Through these attempts, we tried to understand how Baka communities could organize themselves in order to use the forest resources in a better way. The results of these informal interviews will be shown in the Discussion section to compliment the abovementioned geographical analysis.

RESULTS

The places the Baka stay in the forest are not haphazardly chosen. Around the forest camps, we generally found a watercourse from which they fetched water. Staying at one such camp, they go to hunt, fish, and gather other non-timber forest products. The same area is used for other activities simultaneously or successively, whereas others are subjected to a single activity. Figs. 3 & 4 reflect the different but overlapping distribution of different forest resources used by the Baka.

The total surface area of strong penetration area was estimated to be about 3,420 km² (Fig. 4; Table 1). In this area, trails connect different forest camps to others, and to their settlements situated along the main roads. Along these networks of trails, forest camps are set, from which Baka manage resources and space through a variety of activities. The Baka there conduct various land and resource use, sometimes interwoven and or superimposed, such as camping along rivers and stream, hunting small and medium-sized games, gathering non-timber forest products, and fishing, as well as conducting agricultural activities in the fields and conducting rituals in the sacred sites.

Snare hunting is very often practiced in this area. The penetration into the remote areas from the settlements may be caused in certain cases by the decline of wild animal population in the nearby forests. Increase in number of migrants from different regions may have also deepened the penetration into the forest.

In the area near the settlement along the motor roads, there is a competition between hunting-gathering and agricultural activities. Therefore, the Baka, and

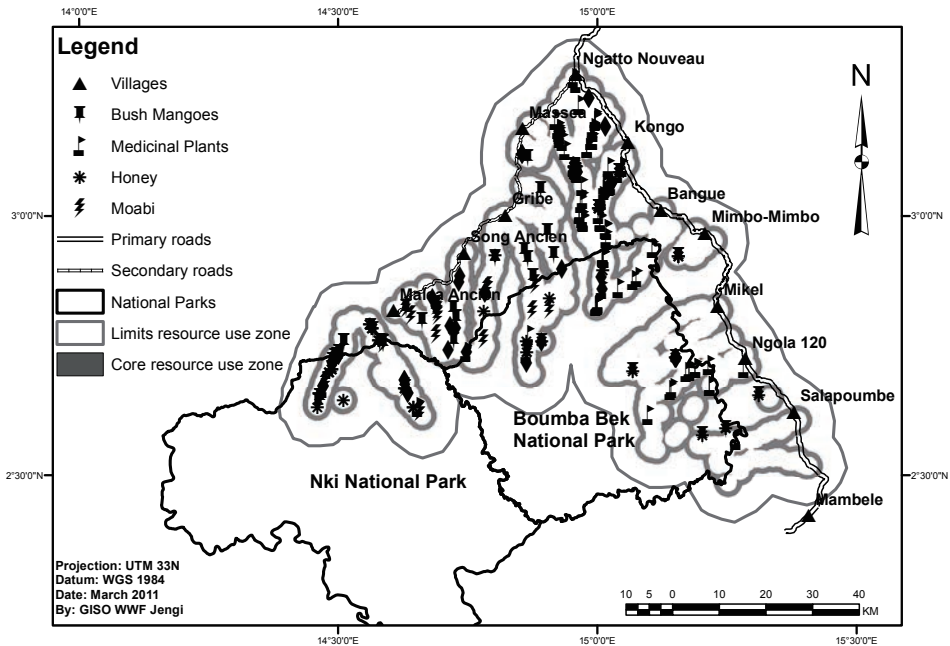


Fig. 3. Mapping of the land and resource use of the Baka inside and around Boumba-Bek and Nki NPs.

the Bantu cultivators in particular, who find themselves in a dilemma, for example, whether to reserve the bush mango trees (*Irvingia* spp.) and moabi trees (*Baillonella toxisperma*, producing edible fruit and oil) for gathering resources, or to clear them for cultivation. Much of the land in this area is now devoted to cultivation and dwelling spaces, such as cocoa and food crops plantations and farmers' houses along the trails leading to the forest.

The total surface area of low penetration area was estimated to be about 2,770 km² (Fig. 4; Table 1). This area is located further inside the forest, and the degree of penetration by the Baka in this portion or land is relatively low for two reasons. First, the surveillance by game rangers instills a bit of fear in the Baka who stay in the deeper part of the forest. The long distance one must travel to the villages may be another reason. While the Baka do not regularly visit this area, it is necessary for them to cover this area for various reasons from a long-term point of view. They even go into both national parks to carry out various activities, and then about one third of the penetration area is included within the two national parks (Table 1). The Baka visit this part of the forest occasionally, for example, during long-term forest expeditions (*molongo*) for gathering wild yams, in particular, in the major dry season (Yasuoka, 2006a; 2009a), or they visit other villages that share a common ancestral relationship through the forest. And sometimes they conduct big game hunting or searching for medicinal plants in the deeper parts of the forest. As both game and useful

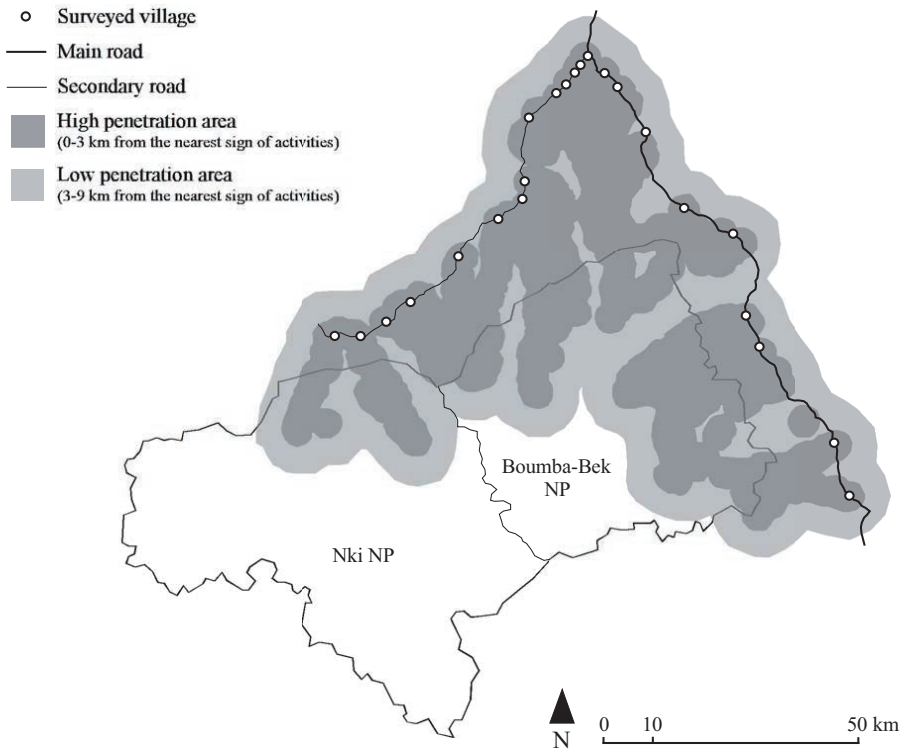


Fig. 4. Penetration area of Baka activities and national parks. This map is a trace of Fig. 3 created with ArcView software.

Table 1. Estimate of penetration area of Baka activities by distance from the nearest signs of activities

Zone	Distance from the nearest sign of activities	Penetration area (km ²)		
		Total	Inside of NPs	Outside of NPs
High penetration area	0–3 km	3,420	1,230	2,190
Low penetration area	3–9 km	2,770	1,160	1,610
Total	0–9 km	6,190	2,390	3,800

Table 2. Penetration area of Baka activities into the national parks

	Total NP area (km ²)	Penetration area (km ²)		
		Total	High penetration	Low penetration
Boumba-Bek NP	2,382	1,720	970	750
Nki NP	3,093	670	260	410
Total	5,475	2,390	1,230	1,160

plants become rarer in the nearby agro-forestry areas, the low penetration area could become more important for their hunting and gathering life.

As shown in Table 2, large parts of the two national parks are penetrated by Baka while carrying out their activities. It should be noted that, in Boumba-Bek NP, 40% of its surface was estimated as high penetration area, and 78% as the total penetration area. Those in Nki NP were calculated to be only 8% as high penetration area, 22% as the total penetration area, although people living in the southern and western parts of the park, who are out of the scope of this paper, may penetrate this part of the forest. These figures clearly show that forest included in national parks, especially in Boumba-Bek NP, are very relevant to Baka life in this region.

DISCUSSIONS

I. Forest, the Continuous Entity

While many biologists and foresters believed that Baka had been living along the main roads since the 1960s, without carrying out much activity in deep forest that is today designated as the protected area, social scientists and activists, in particular, have demonstrated that the use of forest is very important to the Baka (Hattori, 2006; Yasuoka, 2006b). To identify the area exploited by the Baka, we should not limit ourselves to studying a parcel of forests that has been encroached upon. That is to say, there are different degrees of signs of transformation, material and symbolic exploitation of space. As emphasized by Serge Bahuchet (1997), the vast stretch of forest is a very important area to the Baka who need it as actual as well as potential ground to obtain foodstuff, medicines, materials for handicrafts, and other essential materials of their life. Moreover, the area where Baka in a certain village carry out their socio-economic and cultural activities extends beyond the agro-forestry area and penetrates almost 10 km into the Boumba-Bek NP.

Even though the zoning plan designed by the Cameroon forestry administration classified the forestland into agro-forestry areas and protected areas, the Baka recognize no meaning in the distinctions. The carving out of a protected area does not mean to them that the park is a separate entity with specific regulations. For the Baka, the difference between the two areas is just an affair of the state. "We do not differentiate between mangoes or yams on this side and those on the other side of the Boumba [River] because they are the same," commented an elderly Baka. He also says, "The forest is the same, and we see no boundaries in it." There is neither the difference, for them, between natural resources found in the park and in the agro-forestry area. The Baka put importance on the "content," such as honey, wild yams, and various other foods. In contrast, the policy makers who divide the land place their attention on the "container," applying the "model of industrial division of labor and occupation of space" (Karsenty & Marie, 1998: 3). The Baka regard the forest as a wide and continuous entity, rather than an area made up of divided

parts. Therefore, they do not easily understand why harvesting certain resource is permitted on the outside of the protected area and not inside.

II. Nomadism and Vague Ownership of Land and Resources

The social regulation underlines the use of land and resources. Each Baka band, or a residential group consisting of one or several kinship groups, has a specific forest area in which they can use resources and lay claim to them. Members of the same kinship usually construct huts in specific areas inside the forest, from where they go hunting and gathering for different forest products. Thus, the boundaries of the forest area of each band are well known. An elderly Baka in the village of Gribe, who accompanied us into the forest, said, "This stream serves as boundary between us and the Baka in the village of Mikel." Such a spatial boundary is usually recognized by a tree, a hill or a river. The Baka avoid using land belonging to the neighboring band without prior authorization.

In spite of these rigorous boundaries of land use on the inter-band level, their actual resource use in their daily life is very flexible. Traditionally, the Baka do not attach any importance to the individual ownership of the land and forest. No member of a camp can claim exclusive ownership of land and resources. Although the first comers are entitled to using the forest resource in the area, others do not need any authorization to enter into the forest and use the resources⁽⁴⁾. Moreover, if someone maintains a friendly relationships with the people of other bands, they can go together into the heart of the forest to hunt or gather other forest resources. Therefore, in their daily life, they can acquire forest resources as if there is no restriction rule. It is only the availability of the resources concerned that influences their movement in the forest.

Moreover, the land within which their activities take place are hazy and always in flux, with their semi-nomadic life adapted to seasonal change of the available forest resources. Consequently, the sense of belonging to specific territory is of secondary importance. Given that the Baka way of life is predicated on free movement, or nomadism in the forest, the greatest obstacle for the Baka activities is the mutually exclusive territoriality that would restrict their movement in the forest milieu.

III. Customary Rights and Forest Management

Even before the official zoning of Boumba-Bek NP in 2005, there was some controversy in 2001 concerning the appreciation for Baka customary rights to resources (Ndameu, 2003). This included the topics in common with the globally discussed debate that has been going on for almost a decade about the impacts of protected areas on the local peoples' livelihood (Nelson, 2003; Schmidt-Soltau, 2003; 2004; 2009; Schmidt-Soltau & Brockington, 2004; 2007). The debate focuses mainly on the following two points: ways of adequate participation by the indigenous peoples in the zoning process and management of natural resources, with regard to the indigenous peoples' access rights to

resources in the protected areas (Ndameu, 2003; Nelson et al., 2001; Barume, 2005).

Our research results shown above demonstrate that Baka's traditional activities impact on 40% of the surface of the two national parks. The area has in no way been a "no human's land," but has been used by the hunter-gatherers for a long time. To emphasize the abovementioned points, we can probably blame the actors for having failed to consult the Baka, without carrying out consultation properly adapted to their culture. The shortcomings of this approach is evident when one considers the land zoning model that classifies lands based on the logic of sectioning the forest into areas for exclusively different use, which may take account of only the activities of agrarian civilizations, but ignores the mode of land use by the hunter-gatherers. The Baka use certain areas for several activities simultaneously or successively. As an example of such cases, there is a big game hunting area, which is often considered sacred, and in which some non-timber forest products are highly concentrated. Since the spaces where the Baka conduct their important foraging activities overlap, there is super-imposition of legitimacy in the use of resources. Thus, if the land use is prescribed in certain area in accordance only with a single purpose such as hunting, their use of non-timber forest products, such as honey, wild yams and medical plants in the remote area will be practically impossible. Needless to say, such a zoning and management model carved out in favor of the administrative and political concerns is in contradiction with the Baka's view of the forest as a continuous entity and their flexible use of land and resources.

The results from our study, that the Baka carry out activities well beyond the agro-forestry area and that they penetrate into the protected areas, demonstrate vividly that the management plan for Boumba-Bek and Nki NPs should be adjusted sufficiently to the actuality of traditional use of land and resources by the Baka, and their customary rights. In fact, Article 4 of the Decree creating Boumba-Bek NP clearly states that the user rights of local residents will be regulated under the development plan to be elaborated in a participatory process, although only the practices that are compatible with the objectives of sustainable use of natural resources concerned will be allowed (Decree No. 2005/3284/PM). Under this provision, it is clear that the access rights of Baka and their participation in the planning and management is far from proscribed, but simply limited. One of the biggest challenges will be to propose measures in tune with the perception and the representation of the local peoples, their traditional way of using resources and in compatibility with the exigencies of sustainable management⁽⁵⁾.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS This study was carried out with financial support from WWF Jengi Southeast Forest Program. We wish to thank the Baka people living on the periphery of Boumba-Bek National Park for their support and participation. Many of them accompanied us deep into the heart of the forest. Many thanks to our friends and collaborators particularly Mr. Nzooch Dongmo Zacharie, Mr. Mpial Metsele, Mr. Ndinga Hilaire, Mr. Patrice Taah Ngalla, Mr. Tamungang Richard and Mr. Pegue Manga Fidelis.

NOTES

- (1) WWF Jengi unpublished data.
- (2) Until recently, mining in the area was conducted in a rudimentary way but industrial mining is starting in the area.
- (3) According to Yasuoka (2006a; 2006b; 2009), the Baka mostly use areas within 3 km from the forest camps. This assumption is not far from the truth.
- (4) In the Baka community, it is the first visitor to a place that is entitled to use the resources there. The resources are marked by a scratch on the tree girdle, breaking twigs in the surrounding small shrubs, or a scrape on the ground. Following this logic of “first come, first served,” if a particular Baka group originally visits mostly the western part of Boumba-Bek NP, its members seldom visit, for example, the eastern part of the park. They have little knowledge of the resources in a forest that they do not often visit.
- (5) It should also be noted that the Baka share a huge part of these resources and space with their Bantu neighbors, who are also forest-living people in the region, whereas the access to the forest resources by peoples from other areas is regulated by state laws and regulations on the management and use of forest (Law No. 94/01 20 January 1994; Decree No. 95/466/PM 20 January 1995; Decree No. 95/531/PM 23 August 1995).

REFERENCES

- Aquino, M.D. 2004. *Resource Management in Ancestral Lands: The Bugkalots in Northeastern Luzon*. University of Leiden, Leiden.
- Abéga, C.S. & P. Bigombé Logo 2006. *La Marginalisation des Pygmées d’Afrique Centrale*. Maisonneuse & Larose, Afrédit, Paris.
- Althabe, G. 1965 Changements sociaux chez les pygmées Baka de l’Est-Cameroun. *Cahiers d’Etudes Africaines*, 5 :560-592.
- Bahuchet, S. 1997. Un style de vie en voie de mutation: considérations sur les peuples des forêts denses humides. In (V.D. Joiris, ed.) *Les Peuples des Forêts Tropicales: Systèmes Traditionnels et Développement Rural, Civilisations*, 44: 16-31.
- Barume, K. A. 2005. *Etude sur le cadre légal pour la protection des droits des peuples indigènes et tribaux au Cameroun*. Organisation Internationale du Travail/Association PRO France-169, Yaoundé.
- Colchester, M., M. Farhan Ferrari, J. Nelson, C. Kidd, P. Zaninka, M. Venant, L. Regpala, G. T. Balawag, B. Motin & B. Lasimbang 2008. *Conservation and Indigenous Peoples: Assessing the Progress since Durban*. Forest People Programme, Moreton-in-Marsh.
- Côté, S. 1993. *Plan de Zonage du Cameroun Forestier Méridional*. Ministère de l’Environnement et de Forêt. Agence Canadienne de Développement International, Yaoundé.
- Defo, L. 2005. *Le Suivi Socio-économique dans la Région Sud-Est Cameroun: Orientations générales*. World Wide Fund for Nature, Yokadouma.
- Hattori, S. Nature conservation project and hunter-gatherers’ life in Cameroonian Rain Forest. *African Study Monographs Supplementary Issue*, 29: 41-51.
- Joiris, V.D. 2001. *La question des pygmées dans le processus de gestion participative des aires protégées Projet Jengi/WWF sud-est Cameroun*. World Wide Fund for Nature, Yaoundé.
- . 2003. The framework of central African hunter-gatherers and neighboring societies. *African Study Monographs Supplementary Issue*, 28: 57-79.
- Karsenty, A. & Marie, J. 1998. Les tentatives de mise en ordre de l’espace forestier en

- Afrique Centrale. In (G. Rossi, Ph. L. Delville & D. Narbeburu, eds.) *Sociétés Rurales et Environnement: Gestion des Ressources et Dynamiques Locales au Sud*, pp. 154-175. Karthala/Regards/Gret, Paris-Talence.
- Ndameu, B. 2003. Zones protégées et populations autochtones : Antinomie des logiques de conservation et de survie chez les Baka de la région de Moloundou (sud-est du Cameroun). In (J. Nelson & L. Hossack, eds.) *Les Peuples Autochtones et les Aires Protégées en Afrique: Du Principe à la Pratique*, pp. 217-242. Forest Peoples Programme, Moreton-in-Marsh.
- Nelson, J. 2003. Introduction et présentation du projet. In (J. Nelson & L. Hossack, eds.) *Les peuples autochtones et les aires protégées en Afrique: Du principe à la pratique*, pp.15-40. Forest Peoples Programme, Moreton-in-Marsh.
- , K. Justin & J. Dorothy 2001. *Report on a Consultation with Bagyeli Pygmy Communities Impacted by the Chad-Cameroon Oil Pipeline Project*. Forest People Programme, Moreton-in-Marsh.
- & L. Hossack (eds.). 2003. *Les Peuples Autochtones et les Aires Protégées en Afrique: du Principe à la Pratique*. Forest People Programme, Moreton-in-Marsh.
- Nzooch Dongmo, Z.L., B. Tchikangwa, A. Ngniado, L. Usongo, J.C. Ndo & M. Dandjouma 2002. *Le Système de Suivi Ecologique dans la Région du Sud-est Cameroun: Axes d'Intervention*. Ministère de l'Environnement et des Forêts/World Wild Fund for Nature, Yokadouma.
- Persoon, G., T. Minter, C. van der Hammen & B. Slee 2004. *The Position of Indigenous Peoples in the Management of Tropical Rain Forests (Tropenbos Series 23)*. Tropenbos International, Wageningen.
- Republic of Cameroon. Law No. 94/01 of 20 January 1994. Portant régime des forêts, de la faune et de la pêche.
- Decree No. 95/466/PM of 20 January 1995. Fixant les modalités d'application du régime de la faune.
- Decree No. 95/531/PM of 23 August 1995. Fixant les modalités d'application du régime des forêts.
- Decree No. 135/D/MINEF/CAB of 26 November 1999. Fixant les procédures de classement des forêts du domaine forestier permanent de la République du Cameroun.
- Decree No. 2005/3284/PM of 06 October 2005. Portant création du Parc national de Boumba-Bek.
- Schmidt-Soltau, K. 2003. Conservation-related resettlement in Central Africa: Environmental and social risks. *Development and Change*, 34(3): 525-551.
- 2004. The local costs of rainforest conservation: Local responses towards integrated conservation and development projects. *Journal of Contemporary African Studies*, 22(1): 93-117.
- 2009. Is the displacement of people from parks only 'purported' or is it real? *Conservation and Society*, 7(1): 46-55.
- & D. Brockington. 2004. *The Social Impacts of Protected Areas*. Online. <http://www.social-impact-of-conservation.net> (Accessed on December 23, 2011).
- & ——— 2007. Protected Areas and Resettlement: What scope for voluntary relocation? *World Development*, 35(12): 2182-2202.
- Stevens, S. (ed.) 1997. *Conservation through Cultural Survival: Indigenous Peoples and Protected Areas*. Island Press, Washington, D.C.
- Yasuoka, H. 2006a. Long-term foraging expeditions (*molongo*) among the Baka hunter-gatherers in the northwestern Congo Basin, with special reference to the "wild yam question." *Human Ecology*, 34(2): 275-296.
- 2006b. The sustainability of duiker (*Cephalophus* spp.) hunting for the Baka

hunter-gatherers in southeastern Cameroon. *African Study Monographs Supplementary Issue*, 33: 95-120.

——— 2009. Concentrated distribution of wild yam patches: Historical ecology and the subsistence of African rainforest hunter-gatherers. *Human Ecology*, 37(5): 577-587.

——— Accepted *July 1, 2011*

Correspondence Author's Name and Address: Olivier NJOUNAN TEGOMO, *WWF-Cameroon Southeast/Boumba-Bek and Nki project, P. O. Box. 6776, Immeuble Panda, Rue de la Citronelle, BAT Compound, Bastos, Yaoundé, CAMEROON.*

E-mail: tegomo2000@yahoo.fr

Summary of correspondence between WWF and Survival International
2014-2016

- 17 March 2014 Survival writes to WWF-Cameroon, saying that:
- a Baka man recently died in Ndongo village;
 - Ministry of Forests and Fauna (MINFOF) official reportedly regards torture as unobjectionable;
 - WWF consultant witnessed a serious beating in Ngatto Ancien;
 - WWF should organise an independent enquiry and establish a grievance mechanism;
 - and ask which offices fund the Jengi projects on Baka land.
- 31 March 2014 WWF-Cameroon replies:
- it does not ask Survival for more information and ignores the suggestion of an enquiry, as well as the question about funding;
 - it calls on Survival to work with it in setting up a grievance mechanism.
- 7 April 2014 Survival replies, saying that:
- an enquiry is essential, and it is disappointed that WWF has ignored the suggestion;
 - it would need to know more about financial/human resources WWF is able to dedicate to the grievance mechanism before any discussions;
 - and asking for management plans and funding details again.
- 16 April 2014 WWF-Cameroon says that these issues cannot be resolved through mail, asks Survival to suggest dates for a meeting.
- 17 April 2014 Survival replies, saying it is based in London and asking whether WWF has a representative there.
- 6 May 2014 Having received no reply, Survival asks again.
- 6 May 2014 WWF-Cameroon says it would love for local NGOs to be involved in any discussions, and that its director will be waiting for Survival's call the following week.
- 8 May 2014 Survival suggests Wednesday 14 May.

- 15 May 2014 Having received no reply, Survival forwards the last email again. WWF replies at 17.57 BST, suggesting a conversation the following day at 10.00 GMT.
- 16 May 2014 Survival tells WWF-Cameroon it is not able to talk this day and suggests speaking after the weekend.
- 16 May 2014 WWF-Cameroon asks Survival to give it two days' notice.
- 20 May 2014 Survival suggests 22 May for a telephone conversation.
- 22 May 2014 Telephone conversation between Survival staff, Hanson Njiforti and Marc van Boekel at WWF:
- WWF proposes that the Ministry of Social Affairs (MINAS) lead a commission of enquiry that includes the Ministry of Forests and Fauna (MINFOF) and WWF;
 - Survival's letter will be used as a background for the investigation; the mission will go to the communities that "have been highlighted as places where possible misdeeds or possible problems have occurred";
 - majority of the mission will be MINFOF and MINAS staff;
 - results are not to be published, at least not immediately;
 - WWF recommends that Survival send its concerns to the ministries, and says it will provide Survival with the relevant contact details for the commission;
 - Survival points out that the problem is not confined to the two villages mentioned in the letter;
 - Survival says there is more information to be collected, and suggest WWF ask a Baka NGO to gather information for the commission to consider. WWF says perhaps it will do this further in the future.
- 5 June 2014 Survival writes to WWF explaining that WWF must do more, that this investigation would be useless if it were restricted to the two villages Survival has mentioned, if there were no independent observers, and if the results were not to be published. Survival asks for the contact details of the commission again. Having received no reply, Survival writes again to WWF-Cameroon, as well as WWF UK, US, NL, International Secretariat and HRH Prince Philip saying that:
- the investigation cannot involve MINAS or MINFOF;
 - Survival has received a suggestion that the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms (CNDHL) would be more suitable;

- until there are measures in place to protect Baka victims and witnesses Survival is unable to contribute further details.
- 24 July 2014 WWF-Cameroon replies saying that:
- “We have repeatedly sought more information from you as they would allow us to make informed decisions”;
 - it agrees with the suggestion about the CNDHL but says Survival must launch the complaint itself;
 - it is concerned at the amount of time it has spent on letters, telephone and Skype calls (the only Skype call, on 22.05.14, lasted approximately 5 minutes, before technical problems forced the participants to switch to phone)
- 28 July 2014 Reply from WWF-UK saying that WWF-Cameroon is in the best position to answer questions.
- 1 October 2014 Survival staff speak to Isabella Pratesi, head of international conservation at WWF Italy, who says she is unaware of the entire situation and is shocked.
- 2 October 2014 Survival writes to Marco Lambertini, Director General of WWF International, pointing out that WWF has had ample information to act, reminding it of its responsibilities, and telling them that it will be putting out a press release.
- 6 October 2014 Survival issues a press release about the abuse of Baka by anti-poaching squads supported by WWF.
- 10 October 2014 Survival writes to Marco Lambertini, asking him to confirm that WWF will suspend funding for wildlife law enforcement, as WWF Italy suggested on its website on 8 October 2014.
- 16 October 2014 Marco Lambertini replies, saying that funding will not be suspended.
- 28 October 2014 Survival replies to Marco Lambertini, asking for past documentation concerning the creation of the conservation zones on Baka land, and past complaints about violent anti-poaching squads.
- 4 November 2014 WWF sends Survival the letter it sent to CNDHL, in which it expresses its support for an investigation.
- 6 November 2014 Survival asks again to see relevant documentation.
- 26 January 2015 WWF says that it will make relevant information available to CNDHL.

- 27 March 2015 Survival writes to WWF, asking how WWF has honoured the principles on indigenous peoples and conservation that it has adopted, in particular its promise to respect the Baka's rights to free, prior and informed consent.
- 10 April 2015 Survival writes to WWF, asking for information about specific past complaints about violent anti-poaching squads. This includes one case in which WWF allegedly received evidence that drew into question the veracity of one complaint. WWF has never released this evidence, despite saying it would do so.
- 12 May 2015 Phil Dickie, Head of Issues Management at WWF, emails a "personal note" to a Survival staff member.
- 27 May 2015 WWF replies, reaffirming its commitment to the CNDHL investigation, outlining ways in which it believes Baka can report grievances about anti-poaching squads, and stating that "Baka have had the opportunity to be involved in an extensive consultative and consent process."
- 10 June 2015 Survival replies, saying that it has found no evidence that the Baka's consent was sought or obtained and pointing out that WWF in its letter does not claim that it was.
- 19 August 2015 Having heard that WWF has commissioned an investigation into the impact of its work on the Baka, Survival writes to WWF to request a copy of the report.
- 14 September 2015 Phil Dickie writes to Survival staff, claiming that WWF does not have the authority to release the management plans Survival requested, since these are government documents.
- 1 October 2015 Survival replies to WWF, pointing out that WWF had already sent draft versions of the same management plans, and drawing attention to another region where ecoguard violence has been reported.
- 7 December 2015 Phil Dickie writes to Survival having looked into a past incident of torture carried out by ecoguards. It suggests Survival write to two MINOF officials asking for the management plans.
- 14 December 2015 Survival replies to WWF, saying that it has written to these officials and emphasizing that it is WWF's duty to establish robust and working systems to ensure its programmes do not lead to further human rights abuses.



Survival International
6 Charterhouse Buildings
London EC1M 7ET
United Kingdom
T 020 7687 8700
F 020 7687 8701
info@survivalinternational.org
www.survivalinternational.org

**We help tribal peoples
defend their lives, protect
their lands and determine
their own futures.**

M Hanson Njiforti
WWF Central Africa Regional Programme Office
Immeuble Panda
Route « La Citronelle »
B.A.T. Compound
Bastos
B.P. 6776
Yaounde
Cameroon

17 March 2014

Dear Mr Njiforti,

In and around the Boumba Bek, Nki and Lobeke National Parks, the Baka people are a routine target of violence and intimidation, and sometimes of murder. They are victims of extortion. Their forest camps are regularly demolished and their belongings seized. Many live in constant fear, especially in the forest. They expect no help from the forces of law and order because their oppressors are often members of these forces – and especially of the Park ecoguards, aided and abetted by the Bataillon d'Intervention Rapide (or BIR). It is only a few months since one Baka man, detained by ecoguards in Ndongo village, died from injuries sustained during his “interrogation.”

Survival International, which has recently conducted field research in southeast Cameroon, is not the first organisation to note that the “protection” of the National Parks in the region is often thought to justify the violation of Baka rights. Over the last five years or so, however, the situation has significantly deteriorated. Ecoguards and the BIR have come to believe that almost anything goes in the war against poachers. They have perhaps been encouraged in this view by the former head of Fauna and Protected Areas in the Ministry of Forests and Fauna,

Founded 1969
Right Livelihood Award 1989

Survival International
Charitable Trust
Registered Charity 267444
Company registered in England
no. 1056317
Registered office as **105**e

who has not only openly admitted to the use of violence by his staff but appears to regard it as unobjectionable.

None of the three Parks would have been created or would have survived, certainly in their present form, without WWF's active support and management. This does not mean, we were repeatedly assured by your local representatives, that WWF bears any responsibility for the conduct of the ecoguards who patrol the Parks. They are employed by the Ministry, we were told, and it alone is accountable for their conduct.

This is not a tenable position. WWF is apparently the Ministry's most important source of funds. Ecoguards and the BIR are able to violate Baka rights only with the technical, logistical and material support that WWF provides. Baka prisoners are transported in WWF vehicles, driven by WWF drivers on fuel that WWF has paid for. WWF's post near Ndongo is used for interrogations, and WWF is aware of the brutal manner in which these are sometimes conducted.¹ It rewards ecoguards with a bonus for the trophies they seize.

WWF's failure to take effective steps either to stop the abuse of the Baka or to withdraw its support for the Ministry appears to be in violation of many of the commitments it has made to its own supporters. These included undertakings:

- (1) To make "special efforts" to respect and "protect the basic human rights" of indigenous peoples, as well as their customary and resource rights²
- (2) To "ensure" that its partnerships with other organisations do not undermine, and if possible serve to actively promote, the basic human rights and customary resource rights of indigenous peoples.³

WWF has thereby explicitly acknowledged that it is not enough to comply with local law, or to rely upon national authorities to protect indigenous rights. In a country like Cameroon, whose

¹ We have a statement from one witness who visited another village, Ngatto Ancien, inside Nki Park, in the course of her duties as a WWF consultant. She saw a serious beating in the village herself, and was told about many

² WWF Statement of Principles on Indigenous Peoples and Conservation §5. See also Mainstreaming WWF Principles on Indigenous Peoples and Conservation in Project and Programme Management

³ *ibid*, §32

dismal record in this area has just been confirmed in the US Department of State Human Rights Report for 2013, this principle assumes special importance. There is no independent body to which the Baka could complain about the ecoguards or the BIR, and they have no access to the courts.⁴

WWF must take steps to plug the gap, not only in the interests of common decency but to discharge commitments it has voluntarily made and to avoid the reputational damage to which it will otherwise be exposed. However hard the battle against the poachers, however important it may be to protect the Parks, WWF knows that it cannot be seen to countenance the systematic abuse of the Baka people.

We believe that WWF should take at least two steps as a matter of urgency:

- (1) It should establish an independent enquiry into the causes and effects of the human rights violations now committed against the Baka by ecoguards at Boumba Bek, Nki and Lobeke, and should pass its findings to the public prosecutor for further action⁵; and
- (2) It should put in place an effective mechanism to resolve the grievances that will undoubtedly continue to arise between the Baka and the ecoguards and military patrols.

WWF cannot discharge its duty to respect the human rights of the Baka until it has first assessed the impact of its activities on them, and devised a plan to avoid or mitigate this impact.⁶ We do not see how it can now do this without an independent and properly resourced enquiry. If this leads to successful prosecutions, ecoguards and members of the BIR may become more circumspect in their dealings with the Baka.

⁴ WWF staff told us that anti-poaching committees can and sometimes do 'pass on' Baka complaints, but we understand that these committees have no powers to discipline ecoguards or to compensate complainants.

⁵ See, eg, WPC Recommendation 5.24 to "establish and implement mechanisms to address any historical injustices caused through the establishment of protected areas, with special attention given to land and water tenure rights and historical/traditional rights to access natural resources and sacred sites within protected areas"

⁶ These are essential components of the duty of due diligence spelt out in GP 17.

Criminal prosecutions, however, are obviously a last resort. What is required is a simple and accessible mechanism to resolve grievances before they get out of hand. The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights show how this can be done.

The effectiveness of both steps will obviously depend on the co-operation of the Cameroon authorities.⁷ If this is withheld WWF should reconsider its Country Programme, and in particular the future of the Jengi TNS and TRIDOM Programmes, all of which give WWF considerable influence.

As the Guiding Principles confirm, the greater its leverage the greater the responsibility an enterprise assumes to prevent further abuse. If national authorities refuse to play their part, the enterprise must consider whether to terminate its relationship with them. It does not matter that the enterprise has not itself contributed to the violation of human rights, as long as the violations are linked to its operations. In the present case, the link is undeniable.

Survival does not doubt that the wildlife of southeast Cameroon is under serious threat or that WWF has done important work not only to address this threat but to support the Baka people as a whole. We are greatly concerned, however, that senior management appears to be ill-informed about the direct and indirect impact of WWF operations on the basic rights of the Baka. It should have been the first to recognise that their continued persecution must stop if WWF is to form the “trust-based relationship” with the Baka that it rightly regards as crucial to its conservation efforts.

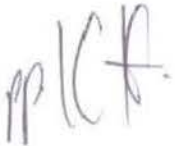
We have highlighted only two of several measures that will need to be taken before this relationship can develop. We are ready to discuss others, including acceptable hunting practices, if and when the opportunity presents itself. We are keen to put our evidence of human rights violations before the enquiry that we hope you will now instigate, and to discuss any other way in which our two organisations can help to secure justice for the Baka people.

⁷ Only they, e.g., could require ecoguards make themselves available to answer questions, and ensure the dismissal of any found to have assaulted Baka or destroyed their property.

We come at the problem from different perspectives, of course, but ought at least to be able to agree that doing nothing is not an option.

We propose to forward copies of this letter to the WWF headquarters in Switzerland and the UK national office. Please let us know which other WWF office or offices fund the Jengi TRIDOM and Jengi TNS projects, so that we may also copy them into this correspondence.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Corry'.

Stephen Corry
Director

Cc: Gilles Etoga, Louis Ngonu, Mark van Boekel

M Hanson Njiforti
WWF Central Africa Regional Programme Office
Immeuble Panda
Route « La Citronelle »
B.A.T. Compound
Bastos
B.P. 6776
Yaounde
Cameroon

Londres, le 17 mars 2014

Monsieur Njiforti,

Dans les parcs nationaux de Boumba Bek, Nki et Lobeke et les environs, le peuple baka est souvent la cible d'actes de violence et d'intimidation, et parfois de meurtre. Ils sont victimes d'extorsion. Leurs campements dans la forêt sont régulièrement détruits et leurs effets personnels sont saisis. Bon nombre d'entre eux vivent dans une peur constante, surtout dans la forêt. Ils n'attendent aucun secours des forces de l'ordre parce que leurs oppresseurs sont souvent membres de ces forces – et surtout des écogardes, avec l'appui et la bénédiction du Bataillon d'Intervention Rapide (BIR). Il y a quelques mois, un homme baka, détenu par des écogardes dans le village de Ndongo, est décédé à la suite des blessures subies pendant son « interrogation ».

Survival International, qui a récemment mené des recherches sur le terrain dans le sud-est du Cameroun, n'est pas la première organisation à noter que la « protection » des parcs nationaux dans la région justifie supposément la violation des droits des Baka. Au cours des cinq dernières années, la situation s'est fortement détériorée. Les écogardes et les équipes du BIR en sont arrivés à croire que presque tout est permis dans la guerre contre les braconniers.

L'ancien chef de la Section Faune et Aires Protégées au Ministère des Forêts et de la Faune les a peut-être encouragés sur ce point, puisqu'il a non seulement avoué que son personnel fait usage de la torture mais semble même la considérer tout à fait acceptable.

Aucun des trois parcs n'aurait été créé et n'aurait survécu dans leur forme actuelle sans l'appui et la gestion active du WWF. Cela ne veut pas dire, vos représentants locaux nous ont-ils assurés à plusieurs reprises, que le WWF est responsable du comportement des écogardes qui patrouillent les parcs. Le ministère qui les embauche, nous a-t-on dit, est le seul responsable de leur comportement.

Cette position n'est pas soutenable. Le WWF est un des bailleurs principaux du ministère. Les écogardes et le BIR ne peuvent violer les droits des Baka qu'avec l'assistance technique, logistique et matérielle que fournit le WWF. Les détenus baka sont transportés dans des véhicules WWF, conduits par des chauffeurs WWF et alimentés en essence grâce au WWF. Des interrogations ont lieu dans le poste du WWF près de Ndongo et le WWF est conscient du fait que ces interrogations sont souvent menées d'une façon brutale.¹ Le WWF récompense les écogardes par un bonus pour les trophées saisis.

En omettant de prendre des mesures efficaces soit pour mettre fin à l'abus des Baka, soit pour retirer son soutien au ministère, le WWF semble violer plusieurs des engagements qu'il a pris à l'égard de ses adhérents. Ces engagements comprennent :

- (1) 'réaliser des efforts spéciaux pour le respect, la protection et l'observation des droits collectifs et individuels, notamment les droits coutumiers et les droits aux ressources dans le contexte d'initiatives de conservation.'²

¹ Nous avons une déclaration d'un témoin qui a rendu visite à un autre village, Ngatto Ancien, dans le parc de Nki, dans l'exercice de ses fonctions de consultant pour le WWF. Elle a été témoin de graves sévices dans le village, et on lui a parlé de plusieurs incidents semblables. Il lui semblait que la violence était utilisée presque systématiquement, non seulement contre les braconniers présumés mais contre ceux qui détiendraient des informations pouvant conduire à la capture de braconniers présumés.

² Les peuples autochtones et la conservation: déclaration de principes du WWF, §5. Voir également Mainstreaming WWF Principles on Indigenous Peoples and Conservation in Project and Programme Management

- (2) ‘assurera’ que la coopération avec les autres organisations ‘ne sape pas et, si possible, qu’elle encourage la promotion active des droits de l’homme fondamentaux et du droit coutumier relatif aux ressources des peuples autochtones.’³

Le WWF a ainsi reconnu explicitement qu’il ne suffit pas de se conformer aux lois locales, ni de compter sur les autorités nationales pour protéger les droits autochtones. Dans un pays tel que le Cameroun, dont le Département de l’Etat des Etats-Unis vient de confirmer le bilan lamentable à cet égard dans son rapport sur les droits de l’homme en 2013, ce principe revêt une importance particulière. Il n’y a aucun organisme indépendant auprès duquel les Baka pourraient porter plainte contre les écogardes ou le BIR et ils n’ont aucun accès aux tribunaux.⁴

Le WWF doit prendre des mesures pour combler le fossé, non seulement pour des raisons de déontologie mais aussi pour s’acquitter des engagements qu’il a pris volontairement et pour éviter de ternir sa réputation, ce à quoi, autrement, il serait exposé. Aussi dure la lutte contre les braconniers soit-elle, aussi important qu’il soit de protéger les parcs, le WWF sait qu’il ne peut pas se permettre d’accepter l’abus systématique du peuple baka.

Nous estimons que le WWF devrait prendre de toute urgence au moins deux mesures :

- (1) Il devrait entreprendre une enquête indépendante sur les causes et les effets des violations des droits de l’homme commises contre les Baka par les écogardes à Boumba Bek, Nki et Lobeke, et faire connaître ses conclusions au procureur général en vue de mesures ultérieures⁵ ; et
- (2) Il devrait établir un mécanisme efficace pour résoudre les griefs qui sans aucun doute continueront de survenir entre les Baka et les patrouilles des militaires et écogardes.

³ *ibid*, §32

⁴ Le personnel du WWF nous a signalé que les comités de lutte contre le braconnage (COVILAB) peuvent ‘transmettre’ les plaintes, ce qu’ils font parfois. Nous croyons cependant comprendre que ces comités ne disposent d’aucun pouvoir pour discipliner les écogardes ou pour dédommager les plaignants.

⁵ Voir par exemple, la recommandation 5.24 de la WPC “d’établir et d’appliquer des mécanismes pour remédier à toute injustice historique causée par l’établissement d’aires protégées, en accordant une attention particulière aux droits fonciers sur la terre et sur l’eau et aux droits historiques /traditionnels d’accès aux ressources naturelles et aux lieux sacrés se trouvant dans les aires protégées;”

Le WWF ne peut s'acquitter de son obligation de respecter les droits de l'homme des Baka avant d'évaluer l'impact provoqué par son activité sur les Baka et d'élaborer un plan afin d'éviter ou d'atténuer cet impact.⁶ Nous ne voyons pas comment cela est possible sans une enquête indépendante et suffisamment pourvue en ressources. Si cette enquête conduit à des poursuites judiciaires, les écogardes et les membres du BIR feront peut-être preuve d'une plus grande circonspection dans leurs relations avec les Baka.

Il va de soi que les poursuites au criminel sont une mesure de dernier recours. Il faut avant tout un mécanisme simple et accessible pour résoudre les griefs avant que la situation ne dégénère. Les Principes Directeurs relatifs aux entreprises et aux droits de l'homme de l'ONU montrent comment cela peut être mis en place.

L'efficacité des deux mesures dépendra bien évidemment de la coopération des autorités camerounaises.⁷ Si les autorités la refusent, le WWF devrait reconsidérer son programme national, et en particulier l'avenir des projets Jengi TNS et TRIDOM, qui donne au WWF une influence considérable.

Comme le confirment les Principes Directeurs, plus l'influence d'une entreprise est considérable, plus grande sera sa responsabilité de prévenir la répétition des violations. Si les autorités nationales refusent de collaborer, l'entreprise devra alors se demander la viabilité de l'entretien de ses relations avec elles. Il importe peu que l'entreprise n'ait pas elle-même contribué à la violation des droits de l'homme, tant que les violations sont liées à ses opérations. Dans le cas d'espèce, le lien est incontestable.

Survival ne doute pas que la faune du sud-est du Cameroun est gravement menacée, ni que le WWF a fait des efforts importants non seulement pour faire face à cette menace, mais aussi pour soutenir le peuple baka tout entier. Pourtant nous sommes vivement préoccupés par le fait que la haute direction semble être mal informée des impacts directs et indirects des opérations

⁶ Ce sont des éléments essentiels du devoir de diligence énoncé dans la Principe Directeur 17 de l'ONU.

⁷ Seulement les autorités pourraient par exemple exiger que les écogardes demeurent disponibles pour répondre aux questions et garantir le licenciement de tout agent reconnu coupable de violence contre un Baka ou d'avoir détruit les biens d'un Baka

du WWF sur les droits fondamentaux des Baka. Le WWF aurait dû reconnaître en tout premier lieu que cette persécution continuelle doit cesser si le WWF veut établir la « trust-based relationship » avec les Baka qu'il considère avec raison comme déterminant pour ses efforts de conservation.

Nous n'avons souligné que deux mesures parmi d'autres que le WWF devra prendre afin de faciliter ces relations. Nous sommes disposés à discuter des mesures supplémentaires, y compris les pratiques de chasse acceptables lorsque l'occasion se présentera. Nous espérons que vous initierez cette enquête et nous souhaitons mettre à sa disposition les preuves de violations des droits de l'homme dont nous disposons et discuter avec vous toute autre manière dont nos deux organisations peuvent aider à obtenir justice pour le peuple baka.

Nous partons de points de vue différents, bien sûr, mais nous devrions tout au moins convenir que ne rien faire n'est pas une option.

Nous proposons de transmettre une copie de cette lettre au secrétariat du WWF à Gland et aux bureaux nationaux aux Etats-Unis et au Royaume-Uni. Merci de nous indiquer les autres bureaux qui financent les projets Jengi TRIDOM et Jengi TNS, afin que nous puissions également les mettre en copie dans cette correspondance.

Veillez agréer, Monsieur, l'expression de ma haute considération,



Stephen Corry

Director

Copie conforme : Gilles Etoga, Louis Ngono, Mark van Boekel



WWF *for a living planet*®

WWF Central Africa Regional
Programme Office, CARPO
**Cameroon Country
Programme Office**
Immeuble Panda,
Rue La Citronnelle,
BAT Compound, Bastos
BP 6776 Yaounde
Republic of Cameroon

Tel: (237) 22 21 70 84 / 83
22 00 77 03
77 50 00 35
99 50 36 21
Fax: (237) 22 21 70 85
22 21 42 40
hnjiforti@wffcargo.org
www.panda.org

O/ref. CCPO/DN/FY14/372/HH/ann

Yaounde, 31 March 2014

To: Mr Corry

Subject : Your correspondence dated 17 March 2014

Dear Mr Corry,

Thank you for your letter dated 17 March 2014 in which you raise concerns about the maltreatment of Bakas by Ecoguards and elements of the Rapid Intervention Unit (BIR) in and around Lobeke, Boumba-Bek and Nki National Parks. We are saddened by the loss of life arising from these allegations. WWF unequivocally rejects any form of human rights violations.

We thank you for bringing to our attention insights that can help our teams improve their approach to working with Indigenous People as well as to better prepare those charged with the difficult task of preventing "illegal" commercial exploitation of the country's natural heritage.

With regard to your concerns, combating illegal wildlife trade is indeed a key component of our efforts in Central Africa, and it must be recognized that the Baka traditions and rites are entwined with forest and wildlife. WWF has been working with regional governments to safeguard this age-old tradition and rites of Indigenous Peoples in all its programmes.

In this extremely challenging region, a broad range of powerful actors compete around land resources. WWF has worked in Cameroon with the Government on land-use planning to define protected areas for conservation, concession areas, and community agriculture, forest and hunting zones. WWF is also supporting park management and the establishment of village-based institutions. In line with WWF's Indigenous Peoples and Conservation policy, we remain committed to supporting activities that promote the rights of indigenous peoples.

As part of our country programme in Cameroon, we work with Government Park and forest management authorities and local NGOs for the purpose of improving Baka livelihoods, scholarization, and access to resources in protected areas and surrounding forest lands, aiming at securing formal recognition and protection of Baka forest rights across land uses, including within park management plans developed on a basis of prior informed consent.

In recent years poaching in general and elephant poaching in particular has reached alarming levels. Unfortunately, due to their knowledge of the forest and animal behaviours, the Bakas are increasingly being used by "white collar poachers" as hunters to whom they provide war-grade guns like the AK47 Kalashnikov¹. Besides being used as hunters, Bakas are also being used for the safe keeping of weapons (see footer 1 for Bakas caught with guns).

.../...

¹ 4 out of 10 AK47 seized by Ecoguards from poacher between 2010 to 2013 were from Bakas involved in elephant poaching

The situation has been worsened by the war in Central African Republic which has resulted in an influx of more AK47s. This has become a national security concern and the response of the Cameroon Government has been to reinforce security in the region by stationing a special unit of the military (Rapid Intervention Unit or BIR) in Yokadouma.

Unfortunately, many park rangers and soldiers have basic levels of education and their attitudes towards indigenous groups are marked by social norms and stereotypes against the Baka. WWF in Southeast Cameroon has provided basic training on human rights and WWF Indigenous Peoples Principles and Policy to eco-guards.

We will continue to leverage and support the government to improve the quality of training to park rangers as well as ministerial ability to monitor their staff. In this regard we plan to reach out to organisations with expertise in how to undertake responsible and ethical law enforcement that respects human rights of local communities. In this regard we will be happy to explore the possibility of partnering with organisations such as yours.

In an effort to mainstream Indigenous Peoples' rights in natural resource management, WWF has been working with its key partners in government and civil society to improve the respect of indigenous peoples' rights. For instance, WWF recently collaborated with the Centre for the Environment and Development and the German Development Cooperation (GIZ) to develop guidelines for Free, Prior and Informed Consent for the Ministry of the Environment Nature Protection and Sustainable Development for the implementation of the national REDD+ strategy.

WWF equally facilitated the signing of a co-management agreement between the Bagyeli (an indigenous group) and the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife in the Campo Ma'an National Park. We also negotiated for the delineation of a special access area for local communities including Baka in the Lobeke National Park, which is part of the Dzanga Tri-National-UNESCO World Heritage site. Ensuring access rights of indigenous populations was a prerequisite for obtaining the World Heritage status. Also, and thanks to financial and technical support from WWF, the first ever Baka community forest became operational in 2010. These community forest (ASDEBYM) groups Baka communities from Yenga and Mambele villages, and is generating financial resources which are being used to help realise basic rights for Baka children including education and safe drinking water. WWF also worked with local NGOs who are defending the rights of Bakas ASBAK, ORADER, RACOPY, PERAD, CEFAID, AFE BEN, CED) to define access rights for the Bakas in Boumba-Bek, Nki and Lobeke National Parks.

The reality, however, is that these measures take a long time to bear full fruits and are hampered by the fact that indigenous people's rights have yet to be adequately embedded in national legislation and legal framework to provide a basis for efficient inclusion of how to address their specific needs and rights in Government plans and institutional practice.

WWF continues to engage the Government of Cameroon in meaningful dialogue and collaboration to improve its policy and practice on (indigenous) community rights. We welcome your interest in finding a solution to any violation of Baka rights, and will like to call on you to work with us in setting up a mechanism to address grievances as you recommend. We clearly need deeper collaboration with other entities to effectively work with the Government to tackle poaching in ways that are smart and respectful of the human rights of local communities and Indigenous People.

Sincere regards,


Dr Hanson Njiforti
Country Director





Survival International
6 Charterhouse Buildings
London EC1M 7ET
United Kingdom

T 020 7687 8700
F 020 7687 8701
info@survivalinternational.org
www.survivalinternational.org

Dr. Hanson Njiforti
Country Director
WWF Cameroon Country Programme
P.O. Box 6776
Yaounde
Cameroon

**We help tribal peoples
defend their lives, protect
their lands and determine
their own futures.**

7 April 2014

Dear Dr Njiforti,

Thank you for your letter of 31 March 2014.

You attribute the violent and oppressive treatment of the Baka we have described, and which you do not dispute, to the “basic levels of education” of the ecoguards and Rapid Intervention Unit (BIR) and “their attitudes to indigenous groups.”

It is has obviously not been enough to rely on the “basic training on human rights” and WWF principles to which you also refer. Something more has to be done. The question is: what?

I continue to believe that the answer can only be found through a proper enquiry, and am disappointed that you have not responded to my proposal on this. Without an enquiry, WWF cannot hope to discharge its duty of due diligence to the Baka communities or to identify the measures needed to protect them from further abuse. I urge you to reconsider your position.

I am pleased to learn that you are keen in principle to establish a grievance mechanism. I would need to know more about the financial and human resources that you are able to dedicate to this, and to the situation on the ground generally, before I could offer any practical advice.

No matter how well it is designed and resourced, a grievance mechanism can only respond to specific complaints. It cannot look at the system as a whole, or at the kind of endemic abuse that appears to occur in Boumba Bek and other parks. The mechanism is unlikely to deal properly even with individual cases unless the people who have to use it trust the people who set it up and administer it.

This brings me back to an enquiry, which can look at the system as a whole, and will offer the best proof to both the Baka and others that WWF is serious about human rights.

When you reply, I would be grateful if you could also provide us with the management plans for the three parks. Could you please also respond to my request for information about the WWF offices that fund the Jengi projects? They may well have a view on the issues I have raised, and should have a chance to express them.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Corry
Director

Founded 1969
Right Livelihood Award 1989

Survival International
Charitable Trust
Registered Charity 267444
Company registered in England
no. 1056317
Registered office as 117ve

From: Stephen Corry [mailto:director@survivalinternational.org]

Sent: Monday, April 07, 2014 4:04 PM

To: hnjiforti@wwfcarpo.org

Subject: Reply to your letter of 31 March 2014 with subject Ecoguard abuse and the Jengi TNS and TRIDOM projects.

Dear Dr Njiforti,

Please see the letter attached,

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Corry
Director

Survival International
6 Charterhouse Buildings
London EC1M 7ET
UK

Tel: (+44) (0)20 7687 8700

Fax: (+44) (0)20 7687 8701

www.survivalinternational.org

From: Hanson Njiforti <hnjiforti@wwfcarpo.org>
Subject: RE: Reply to your letter of 31 March 2014 with subject Ecoguard abuse and the Jengi TNS and TRIDOM projects.
Date: 16 April 2014 12:16:00 BST
To: Stephen Corry <director@survivalinternational.org>
Cc: Yemi Katerere <YKaterere@wwfcarpo.org>, Frederick Kumah <Fkumah@wwf africa.org>, Jane Ganeau <jganeau@wwfint.org>

Dear Mr Corry,

Thank you very much for your prompt reply to my last letter dated 31 March 2014. As stated in that letter, we are keen to work with you to find a solution to the issues raised in your letter dated 17 March 2014. It is clear that the issues at stake cannot be resolve through mail, and we will be happy to meet and discuss the way forward with you at your earliest convenience. In this respect, we are waiting for your suggestions on possible dates for this meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Hanson Njiforti (PhD) | Country Director | WWF Cameroon Country Programme | P.O. Box 6776, Yaounde, Cameroon | Tel: [+237 22 217083](tel:+23722217083) +237 77500035 Direct: [+41 22 364 9038](tel:+41223649038) | E-mail: hnjiforti@wwfcarpo.org | Skype: hnjiforti

WE'RE ALL CONNECTED 

Find out more and get involved at panda.org

This e-mail message and any attached files are confidential and may contain privileged information. If you are not the addressee of this e-mail, you may not copy, disclose, distribute or otherwise use it, or any part of it, in any form whatsoever. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately by return e-mail or by telephoning +237 22217083 and then delete this e-mail.

From: Stephen Corry <director@survivalinternational.org>
Subject: Re: Reply to your letter of 31 March 2014 with subject Ecoguard abuse and the Jengi TNS and TRIDOM projects.
Date: 17 April 2014 11:44:35 BST
To: "hnjiforti@wwfcarpo.org" <hnjiforti@wwfcarpo.org>

Dear Dr Njiforti,

Thank you for your email and suggestion of a meeting. We are based in London, so I wonder if you have a suitable representative here we could meet with. We are, obviously, anxious to have a response to the points we are raising as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Corry
Directo

From: Stephen Corry [mailto:director@survivalinternational.org]
Sent: Tuesday, May 06, 2014 10:46 AM
To: hnjiforti@wwfcarpo.org
Cc: YKaterere@wwfcarpo.org; Fkumah@wwfafrica.org; jganeau@wwfint.org
Subject: Ecoguard abuse

Dear Dr Njiforti,

Following my email of 17 April, I would again like to ask whether you have a representative here in London that we could meet with. Alternatively, would it be possible to arrange a meeting by Skype? As I said in my last email, we are keen for this urgent and extremely serious situation to be addressed as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Corry
Director

From: Hanson Njiforti <hnjiforti@wwfcarpo.org>

Subject: RE: Ecoguard abuse

Date: 6 May 2014 18:14:16 BST

To: Stephen Corry <director@survivalinternational.org>

Cc: Yemi Katerere <YKaterere@wwfcarpo.org>, Frederick Kumah <Fkumah@wwfafrica.org>, Jane Ganeau <jganeau@wwfint.org>

Dear Mr Corry,

As you must have noticed from my autoreply, I am presently in Brazil for the WWF annual conference and can only Skype with you next week. We do not have a representative in the UK and I had been hoping that you were traveling to Cameroon again. As I informed you in my earlier mails, we are presently working with a number of local NGOs on Baka related issues (ASBAK, ORADER, RACOPY, PERAD, CEFAID, AFE BEN, CED) and I will love that some if not all of them get involve in our discussions on the way forward. My Skype ID is given below and I will be waiting for your call next week.

Best regards,

Hanson Njiforti (PhD) | Country Director | WWF Cameroon Country Programme | P.O. Box 6776, Yaounde, Cameroon | Tel: [+237 22 217083](tel:+23722217083) +237 77500035 Direct: [+41 22 364 9038](tel:+41223649038) | E-mail: hnjiforti@wwfcarpo.org | Skype: hnjiforti

<[image001.jpg](#)>

This e-mail message and any attached files are confidential and may contain privileged information. If you are not the addressee of this e-mail, you may not copy, disclose,

distribute or otherwise use it, or any part of it, in any form whatsoever. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately by return e-mail or by telephoning +237 22217083 and then delete this e-mail.

From: Stephen Corry
<director@survivalinternational.org>
Subject: Re: Ecoguard abuse
Date: 8 May 2014 14:46:49 BST
To: "hnjiforti@wwfcarpo.org"
<hnjiforti@wwfcarpo.org>
Cc: "YKaterere@wwfcarpo.org"
<YKaterere@wwfcarpo.org>,
"Fkumah@wwfafrica.org" <Fkumah@wwfafrica.org>,
"jganeau@wwfint.org" <jganeau@wwfint.org>

Dear Dr. Njiforti,

Would it be possible for you to speak with those in Survival best briefed on the issue, and able to represent our views, by Skype on Wednesday 14 May, at a time between 9am and 12pm (UK time)?

Your sincerely,

Stephen Corry
Director

From: Stephen Corry [mailto:director@survivalinternational.org]
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2014 12:16 PM
To: hnjiforti@wwfcarpo.org
Subject: Fwd: Ecoguard abuse

Dear Dr. Njiforti,

I am forwarding you my email of 8 May as I do not seem to have received any acknowledgement. I'd be grateful if you'd confirm receipt and let us know which time suits you for a Skype conversation.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Corry
Director

From: Hanson Njiforti <hnjiforti@wwfcarpo.org>
Subject: RE: Ecoguard abuse
Date: 15 May 2014 17:57:34 BST
To: Stephen Corry <director@survivalinternational.org>

Dear Mr Corry,

I am now back in Cameroon with a very charged daily program. Please let us Skype tomorrow May 16 at 10am GMT. My Skype is hnjiforti

Regards,

Hanson Njiforti (PhD) | Country Director | WWF Cameroon Country Programme | P.O. Box 6776, Yaounde, Cameroon | Tel: [+237 22 217083](tel:+23722217083) +237 77500035 Direct: [+41 22 364 9038](tel:+41223649038) | E-mail: hnjiforti@wwfcarpo.org | Skype: hnjiforti

WE'RE ALL CONNECTED 

Find out more and get involved at panda.org

This e-mail message and any attached files are confidential and may contain privileged information. If you are not the addressee of this e-mail, you may not copy, disclose, distribute or otherwise use it, or any part of it, in any form whatsoever. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately by return e-mail or by telephoning +237 22217083 and then delete this e-mail.

-----Original Message-----

From: Stephen Corry [<mailto:sc@survivalinternational.org>]

Sent: Friday, May 16, 2014 11:02 AM

To: hnjiforti@wwfcarpo.org

Subject: Survival International

Dear Dr Njiforti,

Thank you for your email. I am unfortunately unable to talk today. Might we reschedule to next week?

I have asked two colleagues to speak to you and will try to get them together at a time of your convenience. Say, next Monday or Tuesday.

Anyway, I'll wait for you to suggest a time and day.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Corry

From: Hanson Njiforti <hnjiforti@wwfcarpo.org>
Subject: RE: Survival International
Date: 16 May 2014 11:07:21 BST
To: Stephen Corry <sc@survivalinternational.org>

Dear Mr Corry,

I was waiting for your call. To enable me see if we can Skype next week as you say, please inform at least 2 days in advance. I travel a lot.

Best regards,

Hanson Njiforti (PhD) | Country Director | WWF Cameroon Country
Programme | P.O.Box 6776, Yaounde, Cameroon | Tel: +237 22 217083 +237
77500035 Direct:
+41 22 364 9038 | E-mail: hnjiforti@wwfcarpo.org | Skype: hnjiforti

This e-mail message and any attached files are confidential and may contain privileged information. If you are not the addressee of this e-mail, you may not copy, disclose, distribute or otherwise use it, or any part of it, in any form whatsoever. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately by return e-mail or by telephoning +237 22217083 and then delete this e-mail.



Survival International
6 Charterhouse Buildings
London EC1M 7ET
United Kingdom
T 020 7687 8700
F 020 7687 8701
info@survivalinternational.org
www.survivalinternational.org

**We help tribal peoples
defend their lives, protect
their lands and determine
their own futures.**

Dr Hanson Njiforti
Country Director
WWF Cameroon Country Programme
P.O. Box 6776
Yaounde
Cameroon

5 June 2014

Dear Dr Njiforti,

WWF-funded ecoguard abuse

Thank you for meeting on Skype with my colleagues at Survival to discuss WWF's involvement in the Boumba Bek, Lobéké, and Nki National Parks, and for sending us the Memorandum of Understanding between the Baka and the Ministry of Forests and Fauna together with the mapping study report. The management plans for Boumba Bek and Nki that you sent appear to be first drafts; could we see the most recent version of these plans? We would also be grateful for a copy of the current management plan for Lobéké.

As discussed during your Skype conversation, this is not the first time that WWF Cameroon has been shown evidence of abuse by ecoguards. Indeed there is a wealth of evidence pointing towards systematic failings in the management of the parks. Whilst we welcome WWF's efforts to encourage the government to investigate these crimes, we would be concerned if this was your only response.

As you know, a thorough government investigation is likely to take a long time, during which the Baka's basic human rights will continue to be violated. As WWF funds and supports the ecoguards through the Ministry of Forests and Fauna, we believe that your organization has a responsibility to take action itself. We therefore urge WWF to take immediate action to cease funding, directly or indirectly, the abuse of Baka men and women by ecoguards, and not simply to wait for the government's investigation.

Founded 1969
Right Livelihood Award 1989
**Survival International
Charitable Trust**
Registered Charity 267444
Company registered in England
no. 1056317
Registered office as at 129

In any event, we would of course be happy to advise on how any investigation might be best conducted from the perspective of guaranteeing tribal peoples rights. For example, the investigation would be of little or no value if it were restricted to the two villages mentioned in our previous letter; if it did not include Baka NGOs and other independent observers such as the National Human Rights Commission; and if its results were not made public. We would be grateful if you would send the contact details of the relevant people involved in the commission, so that we can also share our point of view with them.

I also wish to reiterate that this abuse is only one of many violations of the Baka's rights. As your study shows, much of their land remains unmapped. We are aware that WWF has advocated for the Baka to retain "customary rights" to parts of the park, but we know that many Baka living in and around these parks are still not fully aware of these provisions, and that they are not respected by many ecoguards.

The Baka therefore continue to be denied not only collective land ownership rights but their usufruct rights too. These rights are enshrined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and ILO Convention 169, both of which WWF endorses.

We believe WWF needs to take responsibility for the funds and support it provides the government, and that it obviously cannot wait for the government to take action alone. Similarly, other organisations that fund and support the Ministry of Forests and Fauna need to act, and we are asking them to do so.

Yours sincerely,



Stephen Corry
Director

Dr Hanson Njiforti
Country Director
WWF Cameroon Country Programme
P.O. Box 6776
Yaoundé
Cameroon

15 July 2014

Dear Dr Njiforti,

Abuse of Baka 'Pygmies' by ecoguards in Cameroon

Following the skype conversation between you and Survival staff on 22 June and my letter to you of 5 June, we have consulted with various people about the planned investigation into the abuse of Baka 'Pygmies' by ecoguards employed by the Ministry of Forests and Fauna and supported by the 'Jengi' programmes funded by WWF.

We have concluded that the Ministry of Social Affairs is not the appropriate organisation to direct the investigation, and that there would be a conflict of interest if the Ministry for Forests and Fauna, which employs the ecoguards, were to take part in it.

One recommendation we have received is for the National Human Rights Commission, an independent body, to head the enquiry. I hope you will agree that not only must the commission be fully independent, but it must also be seen as such, especially by the Baka.

We are very concerned about the safety of Baka victims and witnesses. Researchers from Survival and other organizations who have either witnessed incidents of abuse or gathered first-hand testimonies, do not feel able to supply more information to the investigation unless effective measures are in place which ensure the safety of the victims and witnesses.

Survival believes that the abuse of Baka by ecoguards is so serious and widespread that it warrants immediate action. Wittingly or unwittingly, WWF has allowed itself to be party to a system in which serious assaults on the Baka are taking place in many communities at the hands of ecoguards who know they can act with impunity.

We would like to know what measures WWF will put in place now, before the investigation is launched and completed, to ensure that it is not funding, directly or indirectly, acts of abuse committed by ecoguards.

As you will be aware, research in many parts of the world increasingly demonstrates that tribal peoples such as the Baka, play a crucial role in the protection of biodiversity and conservation of eco-systems when their land rights are recognized and upheld. These rights are enshrined in ILO Convention 169, the international law on tribal and indigenous peoples, and in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

However, for decades the Baka and other 'Pygmy' peoples have been denied their land rights. Forced from their forest homes, the Baka are now in an impossible and desperate situation. In many of their forests they are forbidden to hunt, an activity that is fundamental to their livelihood. If they do hunt to feed their families, they are frequently treated as criminals and face torture, beatings and harassment. Many today are condemned to a life of poverty, living on the margins of their land in communities where alcohol addiction, prostitution, wage slavery are leading to very poor health, mental illnesses and malnutrition.

Unless their rights to their lands and resources are recognised and upheld by both WWF and the government of Cameroon, we fear that many Baka communities will disintegrate and they will ultimately be destroyed as a people.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Corry
Director

cc:
WWF International Secretariat
WWF UK
WWF USA
WWF Netherlands
HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, President Emeritus, WWF



WWF

for a living planet

WWF Central Africa Regional
Programme Office, CARPO
**Cameroon Country
Programme Office**
Immeuble Panda,
Rue La Citronnelle,
BAT Compound, Bastos
BP 6776 Yaounde
Republic of Cameroon

Tel: (237) 22 21 70 84 / 83
22 00 77 03
77 50 00 35
99 50 36 21
Fax: (237) 22 21 70 85
22 21 42 40
hnjiforti@wwfcarpo.org
www.panda.org

O/ref. CCPO/DN/FY15/027/HN/ann

July 24, 2014

Mr Stephen Corry
Director
Survival International
6 Charterhouse Buildings
London EC1M 7ET
United Kingdom

Subject : Your correspondence dated 15 July 2014

Dear Mr Corry,

I am responding on behalf of WWF to your essentially similar recent letters 15 of July 2014 to HRH the Duke of Edinburgh, the President of WWF International, WWF International Secretariat, the CEO of WWF UK, the CEO of WWF USA, and the CEO of WWF Netherlands on the matter of the accusations about Baka rights violations.

WWF has through several exchanges (letters, Skype, telephone) confirmed to you its real concern about these accusations. We have repeatedly sought to have more information from you about such accusations as they would allow us to make informed decisions. You have thus far not provided us with specific information rendering adequate action from us very difficult. We are committed to act on any verified evidence of human right abuses especially in our priority landscapes (including the Eastern Region of Cameroon in this case).

We note your concern about the parties we had proposed for the investigation and would be agreeable for the National Human Rights Commission to carry out the investigation alone as you suggest in my copy of your letters of 15 July 2014. However, it must be noted that the NCHRF can only carry out investigations into formal complaints. We are therefore suggesting that you lunch the former complaint with the facts you have (WWF has insufficient facts and cannot file the complaint). We would be happy to support such efforts with the NCHRF.

We are concerned at the amount of time all of us have spent on letters, telephone and Skype calls without arriving at the way forward for this serious allegation of human rights abuse. Beyond the investigation we both agree is called for, we still would kindly request your support in proposing additional measures such as the setting up of a grievances mechanism for human rights abuse. We believe your expertise may be crucial for us to be successful with such efforts. Please feel assured that we have already communicated your complaints to the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife and that we are ready to act upon the results of the investigation.

.../...

President: Yolanda Kakabadse
Director General: Marco Lambertini
President Emeritus:
HRH The Duke of Edinburgh
Founder President:
HRH Prince Bernhard of The
Netherlands

Registered as:
WWF-World Wide Fund For Nature
WWF-Fondo Mondiale per la Natura
WWF-Fondo Mundial para la Naturaleza
WWF-Fonds Mondial pour la Nature
WWF-Welt Natur Fo
Also known as World Wildlife Fund

+

The Cameroon National Commission on Human Rights and Freedom can be reached through the following contact address:

The Cameroon National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms (NCHRF)
SGBC Building 2nd Floor, Opposite Chamber of Agriculture, Yaoundé, Cameroun
B.P. 20317, Yaoundé, Cameroon
Tel: (237) 22- 22 61 17
Fax: (237) 22-22 60 82
Email: cndhl@iccnnet.cm, cdbanda26@yahoo.fr

Sincere regards,


Dr Hanson Njiforti
Country Director



CC

- WWF International Secretariat,
- the CEO of WWF UK,
- the CEO of WWF USA,
- the CEO of WWF Netherlands



WWF-UK
Registered office
The Living Planet Centre
Rufford House, Brewery Road
Woking, Surrey GU21 4LL

Tel: +44 (0)1483 426444
info@wwf.org.uk
wwf.org.uk

Mr Stephen Corry
Director
Survival International
6 Charterhouse Buildings
London
EC1M 7ET

28 July 2014

Dear Mr Corry,

Thank you for your letter of 15 July to David Nussbaum, regarding abuse of Baka 'Pygmies' in Cameroon, which he has passed to me for response. I'm afraid that we did not receive the letter of 17 March to which you refer in your opening paragraph.

Your correspondence to date on this subject has been with Dr Hanson Njiforti, Country Director of the WWF Cameroon Country Programme, and I am aware that a similar letter from you has been received by WWF-International and others. I am aware of Dr Njiforti's response to the issues you raise, in his letter of 24 July, which sets out WWF's perspective from the office in the WWF Network most competent to do so.

WWF-UK's funding to projects in Cameroon does not extend to the 'Jengi' projects to which you refer in your letter. I would, however, like to assure you that WWF-UK endorses the WWF Network policy on Indigenous Peoples which, *inter alia*, "...recognizes that indigenous peoples have the rights to the lands, territories, and resources that they have traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used, and that those rights must be recognized and effectively protected, as laid out in the ILO Convention 169 and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples".

We treat information alleging malpractice or abuse by individuals or agencies associated with WWF projects or funding seriously. The specific issues you raise are being addressed appropriately by colleagues at WWF-International and WWF Cameroon. Thank you for drawing these matters to our attention as well.

Yours sincerely,

Owen Gibbons
Executive Adviser to the Chief Executive

Cc: David Nussbaum
Dr Hanson Njiforti, WWF-Cameroon



President: His Royal Highness,
The Prince of Wales KG, KT, GCB, OM
Chair: Sir Andrew Cahn KCMG
Chief Executive: David Nussbaum

WWF-UK a charity registered in England and Wales number 1081247 and in
Scotland number SC039593, a company limited by guarantee registered in
England number 4016725. VAT number 733 761821
100% recycled paper



Survival International
6 Charterhouse Buildings
London EC1M 7ET
United Kingdom
Phone +44 (0)20 7687 8700
info@survivalinternational.org
www.survivalinternational.org

Dr Marco Lambertini
Director General
WWF-International
Avenue du Mont-Blanc
1196 Gland
Switzerland

**We are the global movement
for tribal peoples' rights. We help
them defend their lives, protect
their lands and determine their
own futures.**

2 October 2014

Dear Dr Lambertini,

Re: Abuse of Baka by wildlife officers in Cameroon

I write further to my letter of 15 July regarding the abuse of Baka in Cameroon by anti-poaching squads for which WWF provides both financial and logistical support. Despite the serious nature of this letter, we received no response from your office.

In his letter of 24 July 2014, Dr Njiforti, the director of WWF-Cameroon, states:

We have repeatedly sought to have more information from you about such accusations as they would allow us to make informed decisions. You have thus far not provided us with specific information rendering adequate action from us very difficult.

The notion that WWF has received insufficient information to make "informed decisions" is not tenable. WWF has repeatedly been made aware of the problems by other NGOs and by the Baka themselves, as well as by Survival International.

This perhaps explains why, in his reply to our first letter of 17 March 2014, Dr Njiforti did not ask us for any further information. On the contrary he told us by phone (22 May 2014) that, on the strength of our letter, he believed that an investigation should now be conducted by a commission appointed by the Ministry of Social Affairs.

We discussed this proposal with various contacts and wrote again to Dr Njiforti on 5 June. We expressed concern that such an investigation would not be seen to be impartial or independent, and asked for contact details for the commission that Dr Njiforti said he would provide. We emphasised that, in our view, WWF should take immediate steps to ensure its support did not facilitate still further abuse while an investigation was carried out. We received no reply.

We then wrote to Dr Njiforti again (15 July 2014) to reiterate these concerns about the proposed investigation. It was only after we wrote to HRH Prince Philip and others

within WWF did we finally receive a response (24 July 2014). More than four months after our initial letter had, we believed, persuaded Dr Njiforti that the allegations against the anti-poaching guards should be properly investigated, we were now told that it would be “very difficult to take adequate action” on the material we had provided.

Dr Njiforti’s attitude is not an isolated one. There has been a marked reluctance on the part of WWF generally to respond in any practical way to repeated allegations that Baka have been and continue to be abused by the anti-poaching squads that it supports.

As we have previously explained, in 2012 a former WWF consultant witnessed first-hand a violent raid on the village of Ngatto Ancien. Shortly afterwards she told senior WWF staff what she had seen, and of one man’s claim in particular that he been subjected to simulated drowning. We have found no evidence that anything was done.

The same person had also spoken to the head of the Protected Areas Division at the Ministry of Forests and Fauna, which employs the wildlife officers. He had freely admitted to her that “*we torture [individuals accused of poaching] when they do not want to talk.*” She informed the director of WWF Cameroon about this conversation. Once again, nothing seems to have been done.

In 2011 Baka in the village of Yenga made a video about the abuse to which they had been subjected at the hands of wildlife officers. Baka in Yenga have told us and others that this abuse continues. WWF’s only response was to ask the NGO that had hosted the video on its website to take it down, or at least to remove all mention of WWF. You provided no evidence, however, that called into question the content of the video itself.

NGO workers in Cameroon tell us that they have reported similar incidents to WWF time and time again. The Forest Peoples Programme has published reports on the abuse of the Baka by wildlife officers, to which Mr van Boekel specifically referred in our telephone conference in May. WWF has apparently taken no steps in response to these reports either.

This supine approach makes a mockery not only of WWF’s avowed commitment to ILO Convention 169 and UNDRIP, but of its own Statement of Principles on Indigenous Peoples and Conservation. We have seen precious little evidence that WWF has applied any of these principles in southeast Cameroon.

WWF has equally ignored the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, which apply to conservation organizations as they do to any other business. At the core of these Principles is the duty of due diligence. This requires WWF to have in place a process to identify any adverse impact that its operations may have on the human rights of local communities. Without this, obviously, it cannot hope to discharge its duty to respect those rights.

If WWF Cameroon has created such a process, we have yet to be told what it is. On the contrary, Dr Njiforti apparently thinks that he need do nothing at all until someone else has shown that his support for anti-poaching squads has facilitated the abuse of Baka rights. His conduct betrays an alarming misunderstanding of WWF’s responsibilities.

We have filed a submission to the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms in Cameroon, and hope that WWF finally takes action to ensure that its support does not facilitate further abuses while the Commission investigates. If you are unable to do this, you surely have no alternative but to withdraw your support for the Ministry of Forests and Fauna.

Many Baka have asked us to publicise their predicament as widely as possible, and we will shortly issue a press statement.

Yours sincerely,



Stephen Corry
Director

Cc. Dr Hanson Njiforti, Country Director, WWF-Cameroon
Ms Isabella Pratesi, Head of International Conservation, WWF-Italy
Mr Mark Languy, Head of WWF-CARPO
Jane Ganeau, Assistant to the Director General

Survival



Survival International
6 Charterhouse Buildings
London EC1M 7ET
United Kingdom

Phone +44 (0)20 7687 8700
info@survivalinternational.org
www.survivalinternational.org

Dr Marco Lambertini
Director General
WWF-International
Avenue du Mont-Blanc
1196 Gland
Switzerland

**We are the global movement
for tribal peoples' rights. We help
them defend their lives, protect
their lands and determine their
own futures.**

10 October 2014

Dear Dr Lambertini,

Abuse of Baka by wildlife officers

I was glad to read on WWF-Italy's website on Wednesday that "WWF has proposed to suspend support to the enforcement of the laws for the defence of protected species in three protected areas (Lobeke, Bouba Bek [sic], and Nki)."

Can you confirm that WWF will in fact be suspending all the support, financial and otherwise, that it provides the Ministry of Forests and Fauna for operations in the East and South provinces, as well as any unmarked budgetary support, which may be misused for these violations? As we emphasised to Dr Njiforti and Mr van Boekel over the phone, these abuses are not confined to the interior or peripheries of the three parks.

For example, we have received reports that wildlife officers have tortured Baka in Assoumindele, near Mbalam, and violently persecuted Baka in the logging concessions connected to Vasto Legno, one of WWF's partners. We have also received reports that Congolese wildlife officers have crossed into Cameroon and beaten Baka.

We urge WWF to ensure that the support it provides the government of the Republic of Congo, including through its WWF-ETIC programme, is not facilitating human rights abuses either.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Corry
Director

Cc. **Dr Hanson Njiforti**, Country Director, WWF-Cameroon
Mr Mark Languy, Head of WWF-CARPO

Founded in 1969
Right Livelihood Award 1989

Survival International Charitable Trust
Registered Charity 2674439
Company registered in England number 1056317
Registered office as above

Mr Stephen Corry
Director
Survival International
6 Charterhouse Buildings
London EC1M 7ET
United Kingdom

16 October 2014

Dear Mr Corry,

Thank you for your letter dated 2 October. First of all let me stress very clearly that WWF has a worldwide track record of solid and constructive work with and for local communities and indigenous people, including a long record of assisting and supporting the Baka in South East Cameroon and of assisting and supporting efforts to combat the wildlife crime that is among the most severe threats to their environment and livelihoods.

I personally have been involved with many local communities and indigenous people including the Baka and fully appreciate the fragile status of their human rights in many regions of central Africa.

We also passionately believe that our biodiversity and environmental agenda is a crucial foundation to any solid and long term social development plan, as it addresses the connection between the Baka and the forest and wildlife so crucial to their own livelihood.

Also I want to make very clear that immediately after receiving your letter dated 15 July 2014, I transmitted it to WWF-Cameroon for appropriate follow-up. WWF-Cameroon responded to you on 24 July. WWF is not an office, it is a Network, and we work in an environment of distributed functions and responsibilities. The fact that it was WWF-Cameroon and not me responding to your letter is part of the way we operate with truly empowered national organizations.

I regret that our two organisations seem unable to work together towards resolution of these issues and would point out that Survival International's campaign of denigrating WWF hardly helps foster the collaborative action that will most advance the cause of the Baka.

WWF-Cameroon practice is to take sufficiently grounded allegations to the competent authorities. For instance, concerns raised by a WWF consultant in the field about unacceptable Ecoguard behaviour towards both Baka and Bantu persons was raised directly and in person with the Minister by a then senior WWF-Cameroon officer at a meeting convened for that purpose. This may relate to some of the incidents outlined in your letter.

Survival International has failed to provide detail of allegations on the grounds that the safety of individuals might be at stake and has also castigated WWF for not taking action on incidents for which we have insufficient detail to propose proper investigation.

It has been some months since WWF-Cameroon agreed that these allegations warranted independent investigation by a body that could make recommendations that would add to civil society efforts to address the allegations of abuse and the underlying conditions that allow abuse. WWF nominated one such investigative mechanism but readily agreed to support a submission to the NHRFC as it was your preferred agency of investigation.

It has been difficult for WWF to respond to your letter (October 2) on the submission made to the NHRFC when, to WWF's knowledge, the NHRFC had received no such submission. Now that a submission has been lodged (October 13), WWF-Cameroon has written to the NHRFC indicating its support for this investigation. WWF generally stands behind this commitment.

I would submit to you that it is now time for our two organisations to discuss how to maximise the prospects of a successful investigation. I would like to strongly underline that our commitment for the strictest respect of human rights has always inspired the design and implementation of our field programmes. It would be highly unfortunate if you were to present the beginning of the investigation as a result of a campaign of few hundred emails when, in fact, it has been waiting on your submission.

None of the Baka organisations WWF works with on the ground has requested that WWF cut support for forest and wildlife protection activities pending the outcome of any inquiry or for any other reason. In the face of the current onslaught on forests and resources in Cameroon, it is hard to see how such a course of action would benefit Baka and other communities dependent on Protected Area forests and resources.

WWF has much common ground with Survival International on indigenous peoples and their role in conservation. It is WWF that has been working on the ground in these often very difficult conditions and realities, facing complex and sometimes competing issues to advance a crucial agenda for nature and for people.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Marco Lambertini', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Marco Lambertini
Director General

Survival



Survival International
6 Charterhouse Buildings
London EC1M 7ET
United Kingdom
Phone +44 (0)20 7687 8700
info@survivalinternational.org
www.survivalinternational.org

Dr Marco Lambertini
Director General
WWF International
Ave du Mont-Blanc
1196 Gland
Switzerland

**We are the global movement
for tribal peoples' rights. We help
them defend their lives, protect
their lands and determine their
own futures.**

(by email to mlambertini@wwfint.org)

28 October 2014

Dear Dr Lambertini,

Re: abuse of Baka by anti-poaching squads supported by WWF

Thank you for your letter of 16 October. We are confused by WWF's reaction to our concerns, and I thought it worth clarifying our position, as well as putting some questions to you. To date, we are hearing at least two different responses from different components of your organization.

- 1) On the one hand, we are told our allegations are "absurd" and "self-serving" etc.
- 2) We are also told that we should provide details about specific cases, so these can be "investigated."

At the same time, no one in WWF actually denies that the anti-poaching squads, who depend on your funding, abuse the Baka, and have been doing so for many years. Indeed, you will be aware that WWF has known this for over 13 years, and it's nearly 25 years since we first raised with your office in Cameroon the problem of planning for national parks which expropriated Baka land. The abuse is ongoing and systematic. It obviously won't be resolved by investigating a few specific cases (though we have given you details of some), or insisting on detailed accounts from named victims who have been seriously intimidated for years, and so are unlikely to collaborate with those they see as their abusers, or (eventually) reprimanding a handful of individual guards.

WWF claims its policies are in line with the international standards on tribal peoples. These acknowledge ownership rights over tribal lands and are clear that nothing should happen on those lands without the proper consent of those who have always lived there. We do not believe WWF actually upholds these policies; we are calling for it to start doing so.

I suggest that, were your organization actually to apply the standards it claims to hold: it would take immediate, and long overdue, steps to tell wildlife guards that abusing Baka will result in (at least) their dismissal, as well as action being brought against them; it would inform the Baka that they have every right to use their forests, as they did prior to the establishment of “conservation” zones, and that WWF will actively support them in exercising this right; it would stop all collaboration with loggers and others who are destroying the Baka forests; and, it would stop supporting safari hunting concerns operating on tribal lands in violation of your stated policies.

We are well aware that such an agenda may appear “unrealistic” to you, that it would affect your income, and that WWF will argue that the reality on the ground is too “complicated” to pursue it.

Our view is that if you are unable to uphold your policies, you should at the very least not yourselves be funding those operations which violate them, particularly when they are in breach of international law and hurt, and even kill, people. Our objective however has nothing to do with whether or not you stop your funding of wildlife guards, it is simply to stop the violation of Baka rights. (I would point out, as an aside, that it was widely reported in Italy that you *would* halt funding pending an investigation. I now note that this was never your intention.)

I am copying this letter to the heads of WWF components we have been in touch with over this important matter, and would be grateful if you would take steps to ensure our concerns are not further belittled.

If you are indeed willing to work together over this, we would like to look into how WWF has handled the various submissions it has received on this topic over the years, as well as how Baka rights were considered during the creation of the conservation zones. To do this properly requires an examination of original documents, and I wonder whether your office would be willing to send us copies of relevant archives, or at least say where we might see them. We will be making the same request of WWF-Cameroon and anything you could do to expedite this would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Corry

Director

Cc.

Ms Isabelle Autissier, President, WWF-France

Mr Eberhard Brandes, Managing Director, WWF-Germany

Mr Pedro Calderón Antuñano, President, WWF Spain

Mr Luigi Epomiceno, Director, WWF-Italy

Ms Jane Ganeau, Assistant to the Director General
Mr J. A. Van de Gronden, CEO, WWF-Netherlands
Ms Yolanda Kakabadse Navarro, President, WWF-International
Mr Johannes Kirchgatter, Africa Expert, WWF-Germany
Mr Mark Languy, Head of WWF-CARPO
Mr Tony Long, Director of WWF European Policy Office
Dr Hanson Njiforti, Country Director, WWF-Cameroon
Mr David Nussbaum, CEO, WWF-UK
Ms Isabella Pratesi, Head of International Conservation, WWF-Italy
Mr Carter S Roberts, CEO, WWF-US

Founded in 1969
Right Livelihood Award 1989

Survival International Charitable Trust
Registered Charity 267444
Company registered in England number 1056317
Registered office as above

Mr Stephen Corry
Director
Survival International
6 Charterhouse Buildings
London EC1M 7ET
United Kingdom

4 November 2014

Dear Mr Corry,

For your information I attach the letter sent to the Cameroon Human Rights and Freedom Commission informing them of WWF-Cameroon's support for the investigation requested 13 October by Survival International.

The commitment of support includes WWF-Cameroon and the WWF Network providing the Cameroon Human Rights and Freedom Commission with any information the Commission requests that is in WWF's possession that pertains to the allegations raised by Survival International and the underlying issue of whether Baka face systemic abuse from Ecoguards or others.

I can also assure you that, while the investigation is in progress, WWF-Cameroon will have the support of our Network in improving the relation between Ministry of Forests and Fauna Eco-guards and communities, including Baka, when undertaking law enforcement and other activities they are in charge of.

We will also continue working towards protecting the forests Baka depend on from increasing threats of forest conversion. While doing that, we will be continuing to work collaboratively with Baka and other concerned organisations on the ground in Cameroon in having Baka rights to forest occupation and access better established, secured and protected.

Yours sincerely,



Marco Lambertini
Director General



for a living planet®

WWF Central Africa Regional Programme Office, CARPO Cameroon Country Programme Office Immeuble Panda, Rue La Citronnelle, BAT Compound, Bastos BP 6776 Yaounde Republic of Cameroon

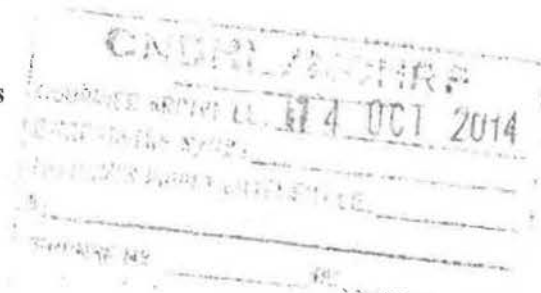
Tel: (237) 22 21 70 84 / 83 22 00 77 03 77 50 00 35 99 50 36 21 Fax: (237) 22 21 70 85 22 21 42 40 hnjiforti@wwfcarpo.org www.panda.org

O/Ref: CCPO/DN/FY15/085/RS/ann

Handwritten signature: Essenyé Zom / ENDAH 15/10/2014

Yaoundé, 15 October 2014

To: The National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms Yaoundé Cameroon



Dear Sir,

DECLARATION OF SUPPORT FOR INVESTIGATION INTO ALLEGATIONS OF PHYSICAL ABUSE OF BAKAS AS REQUESTED BY SURVIVAL INTERNATIONAL

Through its Cameroon Country Program Office in Yaoundé, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) supports the Cameroon Government in the conservation and sustainable management of natural resources to the benefit of the Cameroonian society in general and the local people, dependent on such resources, in particular.

This support includes capacity development for staff of the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF), technical advice for the management of National Parks and their surrounding areas and the co-financing and logistical support of anti-poaching patrols conducted by MINFOF eco-guards in and around National Parks.

However, and in accordance with our mandate as an international NGO, WWF does not carry out anti-poaching operations or any other law enforcement activity on its own.

In all our conservation activities the local population plays a crucial role as only with their support can our conservation work be effective and sustainable. Ethnic minorities, such as the Baka Pygmies, are of particular concern to us as their livelihoods are closely linked to the use of forests and wildlife.

Consequently, WWF has established and remains committed to a policy framework that aims at preventing negative socio-economic impacts, respecting cultures and traditional rights and promoting participation of and benefit sharing with local people. Such principles are put into practice as core components of ongoing conservation projects and through specific livelihood, education and health support projects implemented in communities around protected areas.

Most of all, WWF human rights policies and related codes of conduct are to ensure the protection of human rights, the prevention of discrimination and the equal and just treatment of all people, irrespective of their nationality, ethnic affiliation, level of education, sex or age. As such, WWF is categorically opposed to any violation of human rights of Bakas, Bantus or any other ethnic group, including the abuse of any individual that has been arrested, is interrogated or in any other way affected by law enforcement activities. Since 2006 WWF has supported the provision of human rights training for staff of the Ministry of Forest and Wildlife (MINFOF) and is currently examining ways to extend this training.

.../...

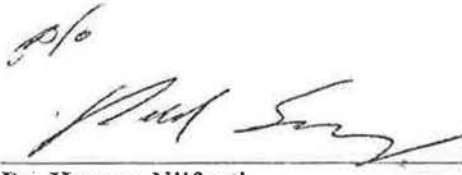
President: Yolanda Kakabadse Director General: Marco Lambertini President Emeritus: HRH The Duke of Edinburgh Founder President: HRH Prince Bernhard of The Netherlands

Registered as: WWF-World Wide Fund For Nature WWF-Fondo Mondiale per la Natura WWF-Fondo Mundial para la Naturaleza WWF-Fonds Mondial pour la Nature WWF-Weit Natur Fonds Also known as World Wildlife Fund

WWF took up a set of allegations brought to its attention by field staff engaged in programmes to assist the Baka directly with the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife in 2012. WWF has been in contact recently with Survival International, which has brought forward allegations, some of which may relate to the matters taken up by WWF previously and some of which are not known in any detail by WWF.

WWF-Cameroon wishes to inform the Commission that WWF fully supports the investigation of the issues raised by Survival International by the Commission. WWF-Cameroon notified Survival International that it would support a NHRFC investigation into the allegations on July 24. Please contact me in relation to any matter where I may be able to assist with this investigation.

Yours faithfully,



Dr. Hanson Njiforti
WWF Country Director
Cameroon



Survival



Survival International
6 Charterhouse Buildings
London EC1M 7ET
United Kingdom

Phone +44 (0)20 7687 8700
info@survivalinternational.org
www.survivalinternational.org

Dr Marco Lambertini
Director General
WWF International
Ave du Mont-Blanc
1196 Gland
Switzerland

**We are the global movement
for tribal peoples' rights. We help
them defend their lives, protect
their lands and determine their
own futures.**

(by email to mlambertini@wwfint.org)

6 November 2014

Dear Dr Lambertini,

Re: abuse of Baka by anti-poaching squads supported by WWF

Thank you for your letter of 4 November. Your support for an investigation into the abuse of Baka by the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms is encouraging.

I note that you have not responded to many of the points raised in my correspondence of 27 October, and would like to draw your attention, in particular, to my questions from the end of that letter. Will WWF make available, or let us see, historical documentation relating to how Baka land use and rights were dealt with when the national parks and safari hunting zones were originally planned? Will it also let us see historical documents relating to how it dealt with earlier reports of abuse?

I hope you agree that it is in the interests of all parties, and of the public at large, for there to be the most complete transparency possible over such matters.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Stephen Corry'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stephen Corry

Director



WWF *for a living planet*[®]

WWF International
Avenue du Mont-Blanc
1196 Gland
Switzerland

Tel: +41 22 364 9111
Direct: +41 22 364 9280
Fax: +41 22 364 5468
mlambertini@wwfint.org
panda.org

Mr Stephen Corry
Director
Survival International
6 Charterhouse Buildings
London EC1M 7ET
United Kingdom

26 January 2015

Dear Mr Corry,

My apologies for the delay in responding to your letter of 6 November 2014.

As previously noted, WWF-Cameroon and WWF generally have committed to assist the Cameroon National Commission on Human Rights and Freedom in the matter of the investigation requested by Survival International into allegations raised by Survival International.

In response to your query regarding access to WWF records, I agree with the need for complete transparency and would simply reiterate that we have committed to making WWF staff and all requested documentation available to the Commission.

Yours sincerely,

Marco Lambertini
Director General

Dr Marco Lambertini
Director General
WWF-International
Avenue du Mont-Blanc
1196 Gland
Switzerland

27 March 2014

Dear Dr. Lambertini,

Abuse of Baka by anti-poaching squads in Cameroon

It has now been over a year since we contacted WWF regarding the anti-poaching squads it funds in Cameroon that are abusing the Baka and their neighbours. This problem has been repeatedly documented and brought to WWF's attention for over 13 years.

As we emphasised before, this is not confined to the Boumba Bek, Nki and Lobeke national parks. Baka have been tortured in the Ngoyla-Mintom-Kom-Mengame landscape, where WWF also funds wildlife officers.

Baka have also been beaten by Congolese wildlife officers, funded by WWF, who have crossed into Cameroon. There is a risk of this type of abuse happening to Baka in Northern Congo, since there are no safeguards in place to prevent it there either.

The investigation by the Cameroonian Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms has still not got off the ground, more than five months after the complaint was lodged. We have been told that it only intends to visit four villages and publish its findings only at the end of the year.

We do not believe it is acceptable for WWF to sit by and allow more of the Baka and their neighbours to be abused, tortured and even killed using WWF's support whilst an investigation drags on. It is still virtually impossible for Baka to inform WWF of any abuse.

What immediate steps is WWF taking to ensure it is not funding human rights violations?

We note that a recent public statement by WWF says that “[t]he communities we work with are not asking us to suspend support for the protection of the forests.” However, Baka from Ndongo (the village in which WWF has its South East Project base¹) did in fact ask WWF in November last year to stop financing anti-poaching squads.

WWF stated recently that it “is reviewing field experience and [its] activities in support of the Baka and forest protection in Cameroon.” This is encouraging, especially since Baka are still complaining that WWF is not applying its principles on conservation and indigenous peoples to its work in Cameroon.

For instance, WWF has vowed not to support the creation of protected areas or the imposition of restrictions on subsistence resource use unless these have received the free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) of affected indigenous communities.

I would be grateful if you answered the following questions:

1. How has WWF determined that the Baka have given their FPIC to the “protected areas” that have been created on their lands?
2. How has WWF determined that the Baka have given their FPIC to the 1994 Forest Code and associated decrees that often class them as criminals when they hunt for subsistence?
3. May we please see copies of the strategic, monitoring and operational plans and workplans that have been produced as part of WWF’s work in Cameroon and Northern Congo?

Yours sincerely,



Stephen Corry
Director

Cc. **Mr Phil Dickie**, Head, Issues Management, WWF
Mr Frederick Kumah, Director, Africa, WWF

¹ Please see http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/where_we_work/congo_basin_forests/the_area/ndongo/



Survival International
6 Charterhouse Buildings
London EC1M 7ET
United Kingdom
Phone +44 (0)20 7687 8700
info@survivalinternational.org
www.survivalinternational.org

**We are the global movement
for tribal peoples' rights. We help
them defend their lives, protect
their lands and determine their
own futures.**

Dr Marco Lambertini
Director General
WWF-International
Avenue du Mont-Blanc
1196 Gland
Switzerland

10 April 2015

Dear Dr Lambertini,

Abuse of Baka by anti-poaching squads in Cameroon

Further to my letter of 31 March, I understand that Frederick Kumah, your Africa Director, is saying that WWF has been taking "issues of alleged and probable abuse [of Baka and their neighbours] that have come to [its] attention up directly with the Minister and Ministry of Forests and Fauna."

As funder of the ecoguards responsible for the violence, your responsibility surely goes beyond merely informing the government, and in any case doing so does not seem to have had the desired effect.

Moreover, in some cases WWF seems not to have taken any action at all. We may of course be mistaken, which is why we asked you on 28 October and 6 November 2014 to provide us with material showing how WWF dealt with past incidents of abuse. To date we have had no response.

Specifically, we would like to ask whether we might

- (1) see a copy of the report that led WWF to believe that the Baka who made a video in 2011 to complain about this problem (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=22O1b9xe2Rk>) had been "tricked and persuaded" by a "foreigner" into making false statements. We understand that Dan Forman of WWF-US told Gareth Benest, Director of Programmes at InsightShare, that this report would be released.

(2) know exactly what steps WWF took after it was made aware of an incident in 2010 in which a Baka man was allegedly crippled by an anti-poaching squad. Louis Defo, WWF Jengi Collaborative Management Advisor, was interviewed about this incident for the attached news article.

Yours sincerely,



Stephen Corry
Director

Cc. Mr Phil Dickie, Head, Issues Management, WWF
Mr Frederick Kumah, Director, Africa, WWF

From: Phil Dickie [mailto:pdickie@wwfint.org]

Sent: 12 May 2015 15:37

To: 'Michael Hurren'

Subject: RE: Kamerun: Baka-Indigene: Stellungnahme des WWF

Dear Michael,

Apologies for the delays. We have a lot in process around this and related issues and the priority has been working on the issue rather than responding to letters.

This is a personal note. I would prefer to operate on the basis that our organisations both have the interests of the Baka and other indigenous people at heart. If so, and we can get to a basis of trusting each other we may be able to do some good. If you want to explore the possibilities, let me know.

I am not a stranger to this topic, having worked on indigenous issues as a journalist and consultant in Australia and as a consultant to the UNHCHR during the time that UNDRIP was finally coming forward for endorsement.

Best regards

Phil Dickie



WWF *for a living planet*

WWF International
Avenue du Mont-Blanc
1196 Gland
Switzerland

Tel: +41 22 364 9111
Direct: +41 22 364 9280
Fax: +41 22 364 5468
mlambertini@wwfint.org
panda.org

Mr Stephen Corry
Director
Survival International
6 Charterhouse Buildings
London EC1M 7ET
United Kingdom

27 May 2015

Dear Mr Corry,

Thank you for your letter of 27 March 2015.

The insinuation that WWF has done nothing and is doing nothing for the Baka is both untrue and insulting to the many WWF staff engaged for many years in securing rights for the Baka and supporting Baka communities.

I might remind you that our original suggestion to you in relation to the allegations you have raised was to engage directly with the Ministry of Social Affairs. Investigation by the Cameroon National Human Rights and Freedom Commission (NHRFC) was Survival's choice and if you are discontented with that choice, we suggest you take it up directly with the NHRFC.

WWF wrote to the NHRFC in October 2014 to inform them of our support for any investigation they might conduct into the issues and allegations raised by Survival International. We stand by that commitment. To date, we have not heard back from the Commission. As we do not know what issues and supporting material you brought before the Commission as a basis for their investigation, we have no ability to comment on the adequacy of the Commission's response.

Many of the issues you raise on land use decisions, recognition of indigenous rights and the behaviour of government employees are most directly matters for the Government of Cameroon.

WWF has long accepted obligations to negotiate and intercede with the Government on such issues, and in the process has won many concessions for the Baka and other communities. WWF would be prepared to assist arranging meetings between Survival and relevant Cameroon Government offices, if Survival wishes to take up its concerns directly with responsible agencies.

In south east Cameroon, Baka have had the opportunity to be involved in an extensive consultative and consent process around the zoning of the Jengi landscape which has seen the Baka achieve rights and recognition unavailable to Baka and other indigenous peoples in Cameroon.

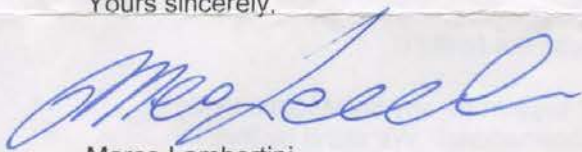
Currently, the most promising avenues for extending rights and recognition to more of Cameroon's indigenous peoples are associated with Cameroon Government reviews of some policies and with UN requirements for projects to reduce carbon emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+). WWF is significantly engaged in these processes, including for instance in being a major contributor and facilitator of community inputs into Cameroon's first guidelines for implementation of Free, Prior, Informed Consent (FPIC). *

We also believe, as do others, that discrimination and mistreatment of the Baka have been exacerbated since 2009 by the linkages between increased abundance of military weaponry, armed conflict over nearby borders, a refugee influx increasing demands on forest resources, an upsurge in organised poaching and a greater military presence in this sensitive border area. We do not, however, accept that there are no means for Baka or others to report abuse – there is a MinFoF hotline, community chiefs have a number of avenues open to them, our experience is that WWF employees and consultants, particularly those working with the communities on social programmes, are readily approached, as are NGOs in the community. We do agree that mechanisms for communities and individuals to provide information of abuse from any quarter need to be formalised and are working on this quite complex issue – not least by ensuring that communities know of available mechanisms. WWF also has its own independent mechanisms for staff or others to raise issues with the conduct of WWF or WWF staff, and we are reviewing how these can be made more readily accessible in regions such as south east Cameroon.

As you may now appreciate, the indigenous rights situation in Cameroon is complex and evolving. The option of removing WWF's proportion of funding for forest protection is both simplistic and likely to cause greater harm to the Baka themselves. The Ecoguard service is providing the services it was intended to, which significantly includes protecting forests, wildlife and access important to Baka culture, livelihoods and welfare. Baka communities we work with are not asking us to suspend protection of forests – indeed, a common key ask of communities during the consultation and consent process for the protected areas in south east Cameroon was for stronger action on poaching.

Survival International appears to have a practice of posting its correspondence to other organisations on its site but not of posting their replies. We also note that you include no facility for comment on your website, which does not allow for any correction of incomplete information or misinformation. Once you remedy this situation, we can return to the discussion of collaborative action to benefit the Baka.

Yours sincerely,



Marco Lambertini
Director General

* Operational Guidelines for Obtaining Free, Prior and Informed Consent in REDD+ Initiatives in Cameroon - including Principles, Criteria and Indicators.

http://loggingoff.info/sites/loggingoff.info/files/062014_Cameroon%20National%20FPIC%20Guidelines_EN.pdf

Survival



Survival International
6 Charterhouse Buildings
London EC1M 7ET
United Kingdom

Phone +44 (0)20 7687 8700
info@survivalinternational.org
www.survivalinternational.org

Dr Marco Lambertini
Director-General
WWF International
Avenue du Mont-Blanc
1196 Gland
Switzerland

**We are the global movement
for tribal peoples' rights. We help
them defend their lives, protect
their lands and determine their
own futures.**

10 June 2015

Dear Dr Lambertini,

Abuse of Baka by anti-poaching squads in Cameroon

Thank you for your letter of 27 May. We note that you have consistently ignored our repeated requests to make available to us details of the agreements with the government which have restricted Baka access to their ancestral lands. We believe you played, and play, an important role in those arrangements, both when Baka land was "zoned" into hunting and logging concessions, national parks and so forth, as well as concerning its current management.

Without providing any details, you simply claim there was "an extensive consultative and consent process" that the Baka "have had the opportunity to be involved in." However, nothing we have seen or heard leads us to believe that the proper consent of the Baka to their removal from their ancestral land or to restrictions concerning its use was sought or obtained, and I note you don't even claim it was.

If that is so, and if WWF played, and/or continues to play, a role in this, then we believe it is in violation both of international standards concerning indigenous peoples' rights and of the commitment WWF made nearly 20 years ago to uphold them.

Concerning specifically the abuse of Baka by WWF-supported guards, your employees are aware that this is continuing, as they have known for many years. Your attempt to pass sole responsibility to the government authorities – which you are supporting – is we believe neither appropriate nor adequate.

We will continue to press WWF on these points, both directly and more widely.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Corry".

Stephen Corry
Director

Founded in 1969
Right Livelihood Award 1989

Survival International Charitable Trust
Registered Charity 267447
Company registered in England number 1056317
Registered office as above

De: Frederick Kumah [mailto:fkumah+canned.response@wwf.panda.org]

Enviado el: jueves, 09 de julio de 2015 12:50

Para:

Asunto: Re: Detenga el apoyo del abuso a los bakas en nombre de la conservación

We share your concerns about the plight of the Baka in South East Cameroon. They do suffer from significant disadvantage and discrimination and WWF has sought to counter this over many years by arresting the destruction of their forests, helping them secure community, forest and hunting rights and providing direct support to their communities. WWF insisted on a high level of informed community consent for the creation of the three National Parks in south east Cameroon, and it should be noted that for many communities, including Baka communities, stronger action against poaching was one of their key priorities.

In the main, the ecoguards have been and are performing their designated function of protecting the forests and securing the access and areas of forest communities, including those of the Baka. Some dealings between Baka and Ecoguards unfortunately reflect the deep seated discrimination faced by the Baka. In recent years, this sensitive border area has also been afflicted by dramatic increases in organised poaching and the availability of military grade weapons. This has meant an increased military presence to counter weapons trafficking and increased casualties among the ecoguards. Communities have also become more subject to tensions, from increased fear and having to deal with threats or inducements from criminal interests. There have undoubtedly been incidents of utterly unacceptable behaviour towards Baka and others by ecoguards and/or police and military – some appear to relate to underlying discrimination being taken to extremes and some to the more militarised dynamic intruding into the area. When unacceptable behaviour has come to WWF's attention and can be verified to some extent, WWF has taken the issue up directly and emphatically with the Cameroon Ministry of Forests and Fauna and improved behaviour has seemed to follow. **Incidents appear to be less in areas where WWF is currently active.**

WWF has considered the suggested approach of just cutting the funding to the Ecoguard service and has concluded it would be highly likely to weaken, not improve, the position of the Baka. Removal of forest protection would place Baka communities back in the situation they faced before the creation of protected areas - at risk of loss of the forests and their resources with no practical recognition or rights or mechanisms to see them respected and extended. In Cameroon, it is only in the context of these few protected areas that the Baka have any practically recognised rights in respect of forests. WWF is also only a part-funder of the service, and it would most likely continue with less emphasis on observance of human rights. WWF realises that community and access rights negotiated for the Baka fall well short of the customary rights recognition specified in instruments such as the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). Such recognition can only occur through national legislative, regulatory and implementation measures not currently in place or effective in Cameroon. In such circumstances, civil society coalitions of local and other NGOs such as WWF work together to obtain achievable recognition of rights and levels of protection which can then be a platform for obtaining higher levels of recognition. The emphasis currently is to increase recognition of Baka and other community rights over a greater expanse of Cameroon under the framework of UN climate action related programmes for reduced deforestation (REDD+). Another incremental process important to all forest

communities is the continuing effort to expand the scope for community management of resources.

Please rest assured that WWF has been and remains committed to improving indigenous welfare in south east Cameroon and other areas where we work over the long term

Yours sincerely,

Frederick Kumah
Director, Africa
WWF Regional Office for Africa

Survival



Survival International
6 Charterhouse Buildings
London EC1M 7ET
United Kingdom

Phone +44 (0)20 7687 8700
info@survivalinternational.org
www.survivalinternational.org

**We are the global movement
for tribal peoples' rights. We help
them defend their lives, protect
their lands and determine their
own futures.**

Dr Marco Lambertini
Director-General
WWF International
Avenue du Mont-Blanc
1196 Gland
Switzerland

19 August 2015

Dear Dr Lambertini,

Investigation into the impact of WWF's work in Cameroon on the Baka

We understand that WWF commissioned an investigation into the impact of its work on the Baka. Please may we see a copy of the report?

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Corry
Director

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Phil Dickie** <pdickie@wwfint.org>

Date: Mon, Sep 14, 2015 at 10:00 AM

Subject: Furthering Baka interests in south east Cameroon

To: Michael Hurrin <mh@survivalinternational.org>

Dear Michael,

To the best of my awareness, you have yet to respond to my note exploring the possibilities of working together on furthering the interests of the Baka. That offer still stands and I have put forward a concrete initial suggestion below.

WWF will also be standing by its commitments to support the Cameroon Human Rights and Freedom Commission investigation initiated by Survival, and our more recent offer to try to facilitate meetings between Survival and relevant Cameroon government ministries.

Our most recent correspondence from your director makes no reference to these offers or other requests for equivalent online publication of past WWF responses to his letters or to provide a comment facility on your website for the correction of misleading or incomplete information.

We do, however, wish to keep the lines of communication open for correspondence that could conceivably lead to actions that further Baka interests. There is a lot our organisations have in common. We agree on the degree and unfortunate impacts of Baka marginalisation and are both committed to improving Baka welfare, to the recognition of Baka rights and to the Baka being able to secure a more substantial voice in the management of their resources. It is possible that our organisations have different strengths and face differing limitations, widening the scope for effective joint action.

To explore this possibility could I ask you to forward what detail you have of the most recent episode of alleged Ecoguard abuse of Baka in south east Cameroon that you are aware of to me and we will endeavour to investigate it from our end. I would ask that you do this with further incidents coming to your attention. Where incidents can be sufficiently verified, we can jointly consult on an appropriate and mutually agreeable course of action.

Best regards

Phil Dickie

From: **Phil Dickie** <pdickie@wwfint.org>
Date: Mon, Sep 14, 2015 at 12:22 PM
Subject: RE: (request of SI for) Lobeke management plan
To: fw2@survivalinternational.org

Dear Freddie,

WWF does not see a reason why the management plans should not be public documents, and thus shared with Survival and any other interested parties. However, these are Government of Cameroon documents – we are not able to pass them to you, but would be willing to support your request to the Ministry of Forests and Fauna for them, or to seek permission from MinFof to pass them to you. I believe some of the management plans are under review, with Lobeke likely to be the first to be reissued.

Let me know what your preference is. Feel free to approach me on related issues, we are open to discussion of collaborative action that would materially assist the Baka.

Best regards
Phil Dickie

WWF International
[+41 79 7031952](tel:+41797031952)

From: johannes.kirchgatter@wwf.de [mailto:johannes.kirchgatter@wwf.de]
Sent: 16 July 2015 17:27
To: pdickie@wwfint.org; [hnjiforti@wwfcarpo.org](mailto:hunjiforti@wwfcarpo.org); RSprung@wwfcarpo.org
Subject: WG: (request of SI for) Lobeke management plan

Dear Phil and Hanson,
As discussed, SI keeps coming back on me with the request on the management plans (see mail below) As these should be public documents (as elsewhere) I think we should send them or -even better- ask the ministry to send them officially. Please let me know what you think and how to answer to SI,
Thanks and best
Johannes

Gesendet von meinem BlackBerry 10-Smartphone.

Von: Freddie Weyman < >
Gesendet: Donnerstag, 16. Juli 2015 17:18
An: Kirchgatter, Johannes
Cc: Percy Vogel
Betreff: Re: Lobeke management plan

Dear Johannes,

Would it be possible to see copies of the three current management plans (Lobeke, Boumba Bek and Nki)? As I said on the phone, we asked WWF Cameroon for copies of these but didn't receive them – you said you'd be able to help?

I know you're busy but I would really appreciate it if we could speak again by phone, even if only briefly.

Best wishes,

Freddie



Survival International
6 Charterhouse Buildings
London EC1M 7ET
United Kingdom

Phone +44 (0)20 7687 8700
info@survivalinternational.org
www.survivalinternational.org

Dr Marco Lambertini
Director-General
WWF International
Avenue du Mont-Blanc
1196 Gland
Switzerland

**We are the global movement
for tribal peoples' rights. We help
them defend their lives, protect
their lands and determine their
own futures.**

1 October 2015

Dear Dr Lambertini,

Re: Furthering Baka interests in south east Cameroon

I refer to the emails of 14 September from Mr Dickie in your office.

As you probably know, we have long since taken up our concerns with the Cameroonian government.

Your office has previously sent us draft management plans for Boumba Bek and Nki National Parks which are presumably just as much “government documents” as the final management plans, which we have been asking to have sight of for many months. We would be grateful if you would expedite this as soon as possible.

We would also be grateful if you would let us know what steps you have taken concerning the many incidents of ecoguard abuse which have been reported to you over the years. If you have taken action over these, nothing you have done seems to have had a lasting effect. For example, we assume you are aware of recent reports concerning attacks by WWF-funded ecoguards and their destruction of at least one Baka camp in, respectively, the southern and western edges of the Ngoyla Wildlife Reserve, a conservation zone which you helped to create last year. Please let us know what you have done about these and please let us have sight of the report you commissioned as a result of our concerns about ecoguard abuse.

In a recent discussion on WBEZ Chicago Radio, WWF stated that Survival’s “claims related to the World Wildlife Fund are misguided, misinterpret facts and events and are generally highly inaccurate.” Please either substantiate these allegations or stop making them.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Corry
Director

Cc. **Phil Dickie**, Head of Issues Management, WWF
John Nelson, Africa Regional Coordinator, Forest Peoples Programme

Founded in 1969
Right Livelihood Award 1989

Survival International Charitable Trust
Registered Charity 267444
Company registered in England number 1056317
Registered office as above



WWF Deutschland • Reinhardtstraße 18 • 10117 Berlin

WWF Deutschland

██████████
██████████
██████████

Reinhardtstraße 18
10117 Berlin
Telefon: +49 (0)30 311 777-0
Direkt: +49 (0)30 311 777-XXX
Fax: +49 (0)30 311 777-199
vorname.name@wwf.de
www.wwf.de

Betreff: Situation der BaAka in Kamerun 2015

09.10.2015

Sehr geehrte(r) ████████ und ████████

vielen Dank für ihren Brief. Ihre zum Ausdruck gebrachte Sorge und Beunruhigung können wir sehr gut nachvollziehen. Der WWF ist in intensiven Gesprächen mit der Regierung Kameruns, um dafür zu sorgen, dass die staatlichen Wildhüter die Rechte der Indigenen respektieren und im Umgang mit der gesamten Bevölkerung strikte Regeln einhalten. Auf Initiative und mit Unterstützung des WWF wurde eine Delegation der unabhängigen und von der UN anerkannten nationalen Menschenrechtskommission aufgestellt, um alle Vorwürfe zu prüfen und umfassend aufzuklären. Der WWF vertritt eine klare Position: Wir akzeptieren unter keinen Umständen, dass BaAka oder andere indigene Völker Opfer von Gewalt und Einschüchterung werden.

Die Zusammenarbeit mit indigenen Völkern ist für den WWF ein zentrales Element der Naturschutzarbeit. Mit den BaAka arbeiten wir seit Jahren vertrauensvoll und intensiv in verschiedenen Projekten zusammen. So hat der WWF Deutschland einen eigenen Hilfsfond für die BaAka ins Leben gerufen. Hier investiert der WWF jährlich mehr als 120.000 Euro, um deren Ausbildung und Gesundheitsversorgung zu verbessern(<http://www.wwf.de/themen-projekte/projektregionen/wie-wir-fuer-die-baaka-arbeiten/>). Darüber hinaus werden wir mit Partnerorganisationen Rechtsberater in der Region einstellen, die als Anlaufstelle für die BaAka dienen und sie bei der Sicherung ihrer Rechte unterstützen.

In den Naturschutzprojekten des WWF sind außerdem zahlreiche BaAka beschäftigt und an den Schutzkonzepten beteiligt. Ohne sie wäre z.B. ein erfolgreicher Schutz von Gorillas nicht möglich. Auch die staatlichen Wildhüter, die sogenannten Eco-Guards, setzen verstärkt auf das Know-how der BaAka.

Vor diesem Hintergrund treffen uns die erhobenen Vorwürfe gegen die staatlichen Wildhüter in Kamerun in besonderem Maße.

Leider herrscht In Kamerun in vielen Bereichen ein Klima der Gewalt, das sehr häufig ethnisch motiviert ist. Die BaAka werden vielfach marginalisiert und sind im ganzen Land besonders oft brutalen Übergriffen ausgesetzt. Die Wilderei ist ein riesiges Problem, das dazu geführt hat, dass in den Wäldern außerhalb der Schutzgebiete kaum noch Wild lebt. Ein Volk wie das der BaAka, das seit Jahrhunderten im und vom Wald lebt, trifft dies besonders hart. Gerade deshalb legt der WWF großen Wert darauf, die Landrechte der BaAka zu stärken. Das hat u.a. dazu geführt, dass ihnen in verschiedenen Gebieten, darunter auch in allen vom WWF in Kamerun betreuten Nationalparks, Sondernutzungsrechte und -zonen eingeräumt werden. Würden aber die bestehenden staatlichen Schutzgebiete wie Nationalparks einfach aufgehoben, wären die Wälder innerhalb kürzester Zeit von Wilderern leerräumt und die BaAka würden ihrer Lebensgrundlage vollends beraubt.

01

Der WWF Deutschland ist Teil der internationalen Umweltschutzorganisation World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF).

Registriert als Stiftung WWF Deutschland • Senatsverwaltung für Justiz Berlin, Az: 3416/976/2
Stiftungsratsvorsitzender / Präsident: Prof. Dr. Detlev Drenckhahn • Geschäftsführender Vorstand: Eberhard Brandes
Steuer-Nr.: 27/605/58683 • USt-IdNr.: DE114236103
Spendenkonto: IBAN DE06 5502 0500 0222 2222 22 • Bank für Sozialwirtschaft, Mainz • BIC: BFSWDE33MNZ
Spenden an den WWF sind steuerlich abzugsfähig. Testamentarische Zuwendungen sind von der Erbschaftssteuer befreit.



Sigrid+Peter Schmitt
Kirchheimer Str. 32
71032 Böblingen
Tel. 07081-27152

wahr?

Aufgrund ihrer Kenntnisse werden die BaAka leider zunehmend von kriminellen Wildererbanden rekrutiert, obwohl sie in ihrer Mehrheit unsere besten Verbündeten für den Schutz ihrer Heimat, der Regenwälder, sind. In der Auseinandersetzung zwischen skrupellosen Wilderern und Wildhütern kommt es immer wieder zu gewaltsamen Auseinandersetzungen. Gerade die Eco-Guards (Wildhüter) in Kamerun sind hier immer wieder massiven, mitunter tödlichen Angriffen von Wilderern ausgesetzt. Im vergangenen Jahr wurde ein Wildhüter förmlich hingerichtet, nachdem die vorher von ihm festgesetzten Wilderer wieder frei gekommen waren.

Wir werden auch weiterhin alles dafür tun, die Situation der BaAka zu verbessern und mit und für die Menschen des Kongobeckens die Regenwälder und ihren Artenreichtum zu erhalten. Bitte wenden Sie sich bei weiteren Rückfragen gerne direkt an uns, wir können Sie dann auch gerne mit unserem Afrika Referenten Johannes Kirchgatter verbinden.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen

X C. Faber

Carla Faber
WWF Infoservice

Der WWF Deutschland ist Teil der internationalen Umweltschutzorganisation World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF).

Registriert als Stiftung WWF Deutschland • Senatsverwaltung für Justiz Berlin, Az: 3416/976/2
Stiftungsratsvorsitzender / Präsident: Prof. Dr. Detlev Drenckhahn • Geschäftsführender Vorstand: Eberhard Brandes
Steuer-Nr.: 27/605/58683 • USt-IdNr.: DE114236103
Spendenkonto: IBAN DE06 5502 0500 0222 2222 22 • Bank für Sozialwirtschaft, Mainz • BIC: BFSWDE33MNZ
Spenden an den WWF sind steuerlich abzugsfähig. Testamentarische Zuwendungen sind von der Erbschaftssteuer befreit.

From: Phil Dickie <pdickie@wwfint.org>
Subject: Re: Furthering Baka interests in south east Cameroon
Date: 13 October 2015 14:48:38 BST
To: director@survivalinternational.org
Cc: Frederick Kumah <Fkumah@wwfafrika.org>, Hanson Njiforti <hnjiforti@wwfcam.org>, johnnelsonmail@googlemail.com

Dear Mr Corry

Just confirming that I have received and will be responding to your letter to Dr Lambertini of 1 October.

I would like to assure you that WWF is genuine about the overtures put forward in my emails of May and September on possible collaborative action that could potentially benefit Baka interests in Cameroon.

Best regards

Phil Dickie

WWF International

[+41 79 7031952](tel:+41797031952)

From: Phil Dickie <pdickie@wwfint.org>
Date: 7 December 2015 at 14:57:43 GMT
To: director@survivalinternational.org
Cc: johnnelsonmail@googlemail.com
Subject: Response to correspondence

Dear Mr Corry

In response to recent letters to WWF International Director General

Our delayed response resulted from our efforts to investigate incidents matching the details provided by you on October 1 – “reports concerning attacks by WWF-funded ecoguards and their destruction of at least one Baka camp in, respectively, the southern and western edges of the Ngoyla Wildlife Reserve.”

We were unable to find any record of any incidents matching this description. You have since published on your website an article *Baka ‘Pygmies’ report more abuse despite WWF assurances* (27 October) which has enabled us to identify an incident in the vicinity of the Seh encampment on 7 April 2014. We are continuing to investigate this incident and would appreciate your confirmation that this is the incident to which you refer.

WWF has offered, in good faith, to investigate any current allegations of abuse that Survival brings to our attention and to give consideration to collaborating in taking action on those issues. For its part, we would appreciate that Survival in equivalent good faith provides the full details of alleged incidents in its possession to facilitate such investigation. A preoccupation with capitalising on incidents is likely to impede rather than assist in resolving them.

It has not been possible to verify the allegations made in the videos published in your article, and we have referred these to the Ministry of Forests and Fauna (MinFoF) for their response. We will share this response if and when we receive it, and take up additional issues with MinFoF if these become apparent from our investigation.

Contemporaneous accounts of the occurrences of 7 April 2004 are confusing and contradictory. Seh encampment is close to Mbalam 2 village in a forestry concession adjacent to the Congo border. A patrol of Ecoguards and one police officer, went to Seh to investigate the reported killing of an elephant and encountered a party of (mainly?) Baka leaving for the forest. Some Baka were armed with machetes and there was allegedly an altercation. There is mention of minor injuries on both sides. Huts were searched and elephant meat discovered. Some arrests were made and these were processed at Mbalam or Ntam. Statements taken included admissions that the elephant had been killed and meat and some ivory had been delivered to a person who had commissioned the hunt and supplied an illegal firearm for the purpose. This person was not Baka, but had a position of some prominence in the community and was able to exert some authority over the Baka. Interviewed at his home, he admitted receiving elephant meat and owning the illegal firearm, but denied commissioning the elephant hunt. He agreed to hand over the weapon, not currently in his possession. The hunter of the elephant was identified as the brother of one of the arrested Baka but was said to be still in the forest with the weapon. The Baka said they had not been paid as promised for the elephant meat and ivory. Some of the elephant meat was transported to a neighbouring village in the DRC.

The Baka were said to be on their way to seek out a second elephant on the commission of the same prominent person when the patrol and the hunting party encountered each other. The incident does have some notoriety, due to the interventions of a gendarmerie officer whose record allegedly included involvement in illegal cross border activities and efforts to involve other gendarmes and at least one Ecoguard in such activities. His record of “interference” was also allegedly linked to him being stabbed by a soldier in 2011. This officer was also allegedly involved in promoting claims of beatings of Baka, on this occasion by noting he would seek the submission of statements that all injuries resulted from beatings by ecoguards rather than in the course of an altercation. As previously noted, however, no contemporaneous references to or documentation in respect of any beatings have come to light in inquiries of any of the agencies involved. It is our understanding that the gendarmerie officer referred to has since been transferred out of the area, allegedly because of his illegal activities.

Although these accounts are largely contemporaneous with the incident, WWF is not in a position to verify them. Although statements were taken, none of the Baka or others involved were charged with any offences and there were no subsequent procedures that can shed any light on the incident. Other information and later developments however make it clear that the rivalry between different agencies was a significant dynamic in the area and that there were pressures on Baka to take sides in these disputes and to participate in illegal activities.

The age of this incident and the conflict between accounts and agencies is likely to make it very difficult to resolve. WWF will, as possible, seek to further clarify what happened and take up issues that can be appropriately verified. If you have further information that could assist, I would

urge you to pass it on and also to facilitate my direct contact with the Survival personnel who collected your material. Very useful information would be identification information on any officers allegedly involved in beatings.

WWF was not involved in this operation in any way and was not providing any funding or support to the ecoguard unit involved.

On other issues raised, the Government of Cameroon has told WWF-Cameroon that Survival International must make its own request for the three current National Park Management plans WWF-Cameroon had requested on your behalf. The requests should be made to the persons nominated below:

M. Denis Koulagna Koutou, Secrétaire Général du Ministère des Forêts et de la Faune, koulagnakdd @ [yahoo.fr](mailto:koulagnakdd@yahoo.fr)

M. Joseph Lekealem, Directeur de la Faune et des Aires Protégées, Ministère des Forêts et de la Faune, lekealemjoseph @ [yahoo.fr](mailto:lekealemjoseph@yahoo.fr)

In future, I would suggest that rather than seeking government action or documentation through WWF, you make your own requests of government and keep us informed on such requests. This would reduce the possibility of our organisations duplicating effort and better assist collaborative action to advance Baka interests. You are invited to forward to us any recent outstanding requests you have made of Cameroon government or other agencies. We may be able to provide further background or support action on those requests.

I have requested documentation on the consultative process for the Ngoyla reserve. At this stage it is apparent that there was a consultative process and that Baka needs were at the very least a substantial focus of the consultations.

I also acknowledge receipt of your letter of 30 November to our Director General. The request concerns information not readily to hand that will take some time and effort to collect and collate. Given the extended period of WWF involvement with indigenous peoples, I would be unable to guarantee that all such instances could be discovered. For the sake of balance and completeness, I will also seek information on steps taken by our offices to ameliorate the impacts on indigenous peoples of government decisions to remove them from or restrict their access to conservation zones, of instances where WWF has been significantly supportive of indigenous peoples' campaigns for conservation zones, or where WWF has been a significant proponent of community based natural resource management programmes for indigenous people in respect to conservation zones. We would seek an undertaking from Survival that it will publish in its entirety any report provided by WWF in relation to this request for information.

We still await Survival action on our request that where you disseminate or publish Survival letters to WWF online you also disseminate and publish WWF responses to those letters, and that you provide an online "comment" mechanism to enable the correction of misinformation or incomplete information,

Best regards

Phil Dickie

WWF International



Survival International
6 Charterhouse Buildings
London EC1M 7ET
United Kingdom
Phone +44 (0)20 7687 8700
info@survivalinternational.org
www.survivalinternational.org

**We are the global movement
for tribal peoples' rights. We help
them defend their lives, protect
their lands and determine their
own futures.**

Dr Marco Lambertini
Director-General
WWF International
Avenue du Mont-Blanc
1196 Gland
Switzerland

14 December 2015

Dear Dr Lambertini,

Abuse of Baka by ecoguards in Cameroon

Thank you for the email of 7 December from Mr Phil Dickie which I assume was written on your behalf.

We are pleased that some attention is being given to the ecoguard abuse which has been going on for years as WWF (sometimes) now admits.

We are however surprised by Mr Dickie's remark, "A preoccupation with capitalizing on incidents is likely to impede rather than assist in resolving them." I do not know why drawing attention to serious human rights abuses should be described as "capitalizing on incidents," nor why this should "impede" their resolution. Of course, you cannot "resolve" abuses which have occurred, merely ensure perpetrators are dealt with and victims achieve as much restitution as possible, as I'm sure you'll agree.

Regarding specific incidents of ecoguard abuse, your account of the one on 7 April 2014 (not "2004" as Mr Dickie has it in one place) differs from the version we have been told. For example, two of the victims were "encountered", as Mr Dickie has it, as they were sleeping in their beds. We were also told that the squad of ecoguards did not include any police officers, contrary to Mr Dickie's assertions.

May we suggest Mr Dickie stops describing Baka going into the forest as "armed" with machetes – everyone in the region routinely uses machetes in forested areas as you will know. Incidentally, Mr Dickie also claims, "Some of the elephant meat was transported to a neighbouring village in the DRC," which is of course geographically impossible.

Anyway, I'd be grateful if you could clarify his remark, "WWF was not ... providing any funding or support to the ecoguard unit involved." Is his claim here that WWF played no role in establishing, training or supporting the ecoguard programme in that area?

It is perhaps too late to investigate this incident with any certainty of obtaining all relevant evidence. This fact of course further illustrates the lack of effective means by which victims of abuse could quickly complain knowing they would be dealt with fairly.

As we've stressed repeatedly, our first objective is to ensure the abuse, which has been going on for years, is stopped. We believe that you have a responsibility here which you have failed to meet, and that you will never address it if you simply call for specific examples to be investigated as and when we or others bring them to your attention. We believe you have a duty to establish, without further delay, working and robust systems to ensure your programmes do not lead to further human rights abuses and, where they occur, to ensure those perpetrators you are supporting are prosecuted. We are concerned just as much with the fact that this abuse been going on for years and seems to us likely to continue, as we are with any specific incidents.

Our principal other concern is to stop the eviction of tribal peoples from the conservation zones you encourage and have a hand in planning and running, and to try and bring some form of restitution to those tribal people who have already had their land taken from them through your programmes.

As you know, since April 2014 we have been asking for the management plans you worked on for the parks. You played an important role in these plans, yet your refusal over the last 20 months to make them public might easily be seen as a deliberate obstruction. You are repeatedly calling on companies to be transparent in their environmental policies. Should WWF not itself be transparent? Although you obviously have these management plans, you now tell us we must ask specific individuals in government for them. We have done so, let's see if we receive them.

You will, I hope, be aware that your claim, "it is apparent that there was a consultative process and that Baka needs were at the very least a substantial focus of the consultations" means very little and does not begin to address your obligations were you actually to be abiding by the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, your own stated policies, or for that matter by the World Bank Report which says that you, "will support the Government of Cameroon to... hold specific consultations with Indigenous Peoples to ensure free prior and informed consent – in compliance with the UN Declaration." No one, including

WWF, has ever seriously claimed that the Baka consented to their removal from their lands.

Regarding my question about whether or not WWF has spoken out about the eviction of tribal people from conservation zones, anywhere, we are not looking for exhaustive information taking a long time to compile. We simply want a brief paragraph or two on some verifiable concrete examples which surely should take up only a few moments of your staff's time.

As you would, I hope, expect, Survival does not give prior undertaking that it would publish, sight unseen, anything from anyone. We are, however, eager to draw public attention both to what WWF *does* as well as to what it says *vis-à-vis* the eviction of tribal peoples from protected areas and how they are treated, before, during and after such evictions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Corry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'S'.

Stephen Corry
Director