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## SEKAKOH 2022, ACTIVITY REPORT



PPI-6



SOS-AWI



NEBLF

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## CHAPTER I – ABOUT SEKAKOH



### I- **Edito: Coordinator of SEKAKOH**

This year 2022 has been a better one in the life of Sekakoh than the previous years, although still plagued economic hardship, financial crises and with the North West and South West (NoSo) socio-political unrest that has evolved to a war unending. The final lifting of COVID measures was effective. This gave a green light for conservation works to resume however, the government kept reiterating the need for locals to do all they could to curb the spread of COVID-19 as much as possible. During the year, Sekakoh was voted to the office of Secretary general for the central African Alliance for the conservation of great apes (AGSAC). The office of SG at AGSAC is held within Sekakoh by the Coordinator. Despite the limited resources we did realize the below with financial and material support from funders and partners. We do appreciate very gratefully the Global Forest Watch through its Small Grants fund program, the Bristol Zoological Society and the African Wildlife Initiative of SOS-IUCN, the New England Biolabs Foundation, Creative Action Institute, the Technical Assistant to the Mpem and Djim National Park, The French Small Scale Initiatives Funds (PPI) and The Alliance for the Conservation of Great Apes in Central Africa (AGSAC) in particular for their capacity building support. Many thanks to Cameroon's Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife and most especially the sectoral managers for their support to Sekakoh's works.

**The Coordinator**



**NYUGHA Denis**



## II- Presentation of Sekakoh

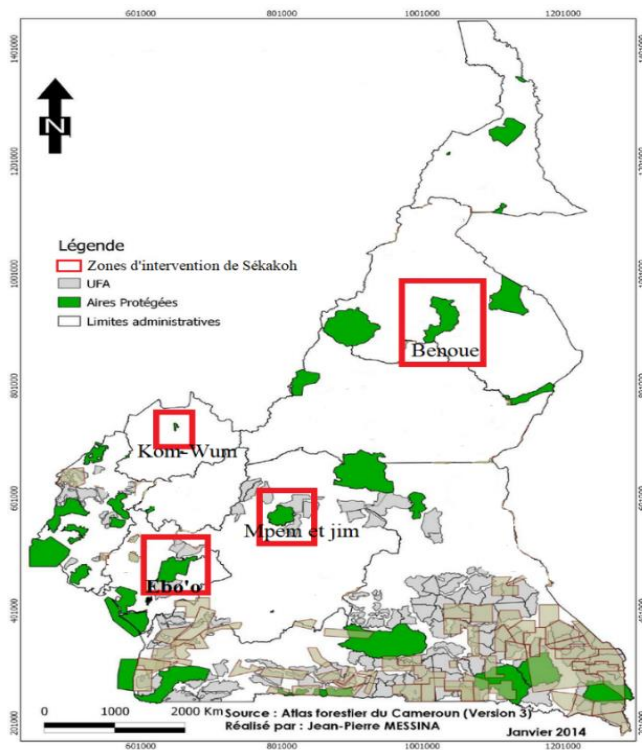
### 1- Background of creation

Sekakoh originated from the Elliotti Project initiated by Osiris DOUMBE current Secretary General in 2014 with the aims of (1) surveying the distribution of the Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes eliotti*) and the diversity of other primates in the North-West Region of Cameroon; and (2) engaging in environmental education in the same area. The rich results obtained from this project led to Sekakoh's creation in order to continue monitoring the kom-wum chimps as well as the whole biodiversity in the area. Sekakoh was thus registered to the government of Cameroon on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 in Bamenda and recognized as an association under the Law N° 90/053 of 19<sup>th</sup> December 1990 governing the creation and existence of Associations and groups.

Sekakoh's slogan is “*Living in Harmony with Nature*” and its logo is a black rhino painted white, the color of mourning. The expression Sekakoh means "Remember them", in the Balikumbat dialect (Balikumbat is a village in the North West Region of Cameroon, it is the village of the founding president). Our choice of a white Rhino color is in reference to the extinction of the West African black rhinos in Cameroon as the last individuals of the subspecies *Diceros bicornis longipes* were observed in the year 2000 and has been declared locally extinct. We therefore intend to avoid such ecological disasters in future for other species. Through these attributes, Sekakoh fits into a world where human actions have caused - and continue to cause - the degradation of natural habitats as well as the extinction of several wild species. Through our actions, Sekakoh aims to help protect wildlife heritage through environmental conservation while ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources, so that tragic extinctions are avoided or put at minimal level.

Many key biodiversity areas in Cameroon are under serious threats due to human activities. Increased terrorism wars surrounding Cameroun have pushed migrants into KBAs, thereby increasing resource extraction threats. Most people from rural communities rely mainly on natural resources for their livelihood. Pushed by population growth and societal needs they “ignorantly” tend to over-exploit these resources in an unsustainable way because of their poor economic situation or unconsciousness. We believe in Sekakoh that a successful conservation initiative is one that blends local communities' knowledge, priorities and needs in the whole process while effectively ensuring their participation both in field and at benefit sharing levels. The next step for them is to find alternative ways of subsistence that are harmless to the natural environment, thus the implication of Sekakoh in raising awareness, supporting community development and providing micro economic projects that fit their needs. Sekakoh while supporting anti-poaching patrols, also carry out socio economic and scientific research to facilitate her landscape / species-based conservation efforts with the aim to help biodiversity and habitats recover in a win-win system.

The map below represents our intervention sites as of December 2022.



**-The Kom-wum forest is a forest reserve with no management plan and rich in primates, (PT Ellioti, six apes species including Preus' monkeys and six species of nocturnal primates).**

**-The Ebo Forest in Littoral region forms part of the Congo basin forest and an unclassified forest, rich in biodiversity (with plant and animal species of international concern) home to PT Ellioto, Preus' monkey, drills, Goliath frogs and western lowland gorillas and more.**

**-The Mpem and Djim National Park in center region of Cameroon, a NP created in 2004, the nearest to Cameroons political capital and home to Hippopotamus, Forest elephants, primates and a vareity of avian species.**

**-The Benue National Park, in North Cameroon is a 1981 UNESCO Biosphere reserve found in wooded savana, lays between the Faro and Bouba Djida National parks and forms part of the Benue Complex. It is home to the CE Kordofan Giraffe, lions, hippos, leopards and Eland Derby.**

## 2- Vision and Mission

Sekakoh envisions ***“a world in which human beings live from the natural resources of their surrounding environment that they use consciously and sustainably”***. We believe that wildlife is part of our heritage and therefore our duty is to preserve it in order to pass it over to future generations.

Sekakoh's **mission** is to **harmonize the cohabitation between local communities and the natural resources of their surrounding environment**. To meet this, we intervene through three main axis as below (we equally work and adapt to changing societal needs with a keen understanding of the diversity of our different intervention sites;

- Environmental education and sensitization of local populations,
- Scientific research and ecological monitoring,
- Community development, mapping and proposition of micro economic projects to locals.
- Support law enforcement.

### 3. Our Team.



*Figure 1 Ndengue David (Mpem and Djim Project manager Center), Guy Janvier (Assistant Project manager Mpem and Djim)*



*Figure 2; Lisuk Louis\_(Ebo Project manager \_Littoral)*



*Figure 3 Bakam Elinore\_Accountant Sekakoh*



*Figure 4 Kamta Romeo Omer\_ Benue Project manager \_ Giraffe program*

## **CHAPTER II – REALIZATIONS IN 2022**

This year has been successful despite the continued financial stress still hitting the life of Sekakoh. There was limited success in the search of funds to support project activities. However, despite these difficulties we did realize the following activities:

### **I- Sekakoh in the Benoue National Park (North Region)**

In the Northern Region of Cameroon, and intervening in the United Nations Biosphere reserve of the Benue National Park, Sekakoh in partnership with Bristol Zoological Society continued supporting and supervising anti-poaching patrols in this park (support consisting financial payment of cold meals for eco guards, equipment, and trainings), alongside wildlife monitoring across the park, and infrastructure development.

Between January and December of 2022, 12 series of SMART led anti-poaching patrols were implemented under Sekakoh/BZS support, including 8 ordinary patrols and 5 “punch operations” which were often reinforced by military men from the 32<sup>nd</sup> BIM in Tcholerie. These patrols, estimated at 1300 ranger-days led to the arrest of 36 armed poachers, burning of 10 abandoned camps, 20 cattle herders, 15 gold miners, 38 farmers in animals’ corridors, 30 charcoal burners, 215 illegal settlers sensitized and sent out of the park, 2 motto bikes seized, 1 floating gold dictating machine ceased, 8 cattle herds driven out of the park and a stone crushing quarry for gold extraction destroyed. Arrested defaulters respond to their offences either at the Banda base depending on the intensity of their crimes (for example; illegal settlers fleeing boko haram were sensitized and asked to settle outside the park) other criminals responded to their offences at the designated courts in Tcholerie in front of the competent authorities. In total, there were 118 trials in court with 25 sentenced to jail terms rendering between 5months to 3 years.

In addition, there was wildlife monitoring carried out across the whole park through camera trapping. In total, 48 Bushnell Trophy HD Camera traps were diploid and data collected on a bi-monthly basis during which battery replacements were made and processed data is stored at the park’s data base in Banda and shared to partners. To note also was the encounter with Giraffes during patrols missions. 6Giraffes in total were met along patrol tracks. Other interesting species caught on our camera are yet to be published as data treatment is ongoing.



**Top Left;** Illegal Gold mining sites,  
**Top Right;** Eland Derby on CTs,  
**Left;** Illegal settlers being sensitized for resettlement out of the park.

*Figure 5 Patrol team read*

## **II- Sekakoh in the Mpem and Djim National Park (MDNP)\_Center Region**

In June of 2021, Sekakoh successfully applied for the French Embassy's grant program PISCCA (*Programme de Financement des Projets Innovants des Sociétés Civiles et Coalition d'Acteurs*). In October, a project implementation workshop was organized in Toungou hotel Yaounde which culminated to the project launch at the French residence in Cameroun. After successfully delivering the 2020 activities as planned, in 2021, Sekakoh in collaboration with the Conservation service and the Technical Assistant of the Mpem and Djim national park, organized a video projected sensitization campaign in 6 communities neighboring the PA, under the same project, ANCO carried out 2 follow up visits to accompany the 40 trained bee keepers and Daimond Hard Geo services visited the borehole in March 2022 for controls and performance evaluation.

In June 2022, we successfully applied for the the PPI-6 grant. The 30 months long project focuses on conserving biodiversity through sendentirization of grazers. Activities roled out imediatley

after project presentation to the administrative authorities with the organization of participatory mapping across 3 target villages and the training of grazers on pasture management which culminated to the putting in place of a pasture nursery.



- 1) Participatory mapping in Kpourong
- 2) Training on Pasture management and nursery creation

#### **i) ANCO's follow up visit 2 Common initiative groups in the PISCCA project**

Regarding beekeeping as an alternative livelihood, Bee keeping training activities were carried out in partnership with ANCO (Apiculture and Nature Conservation Organization) that has worked with Sekakoh for over 3 years training and equipping selected locals/hunters on modern bee keeping with the use of Kenyan Top Bar hives. In Ngoro and Serere (communities neighboring the MDNP), an 8 days hands on training on bee keeping was organized with technical support from ANCO. Beneficiaries were; a) 20 members of a registered CIG (Common Initiative Group) called "THE NEW GENERATON" based in Ngoro and b) a second group of 20 beneficiaries from Serere were trained and equipped. The Second group of beneficiaries were constituted and registered into the "Serere Bee Farmers Common Initiative Group".

To consolidate training and ensure successful uptake of bee keeping knowledge, a second follow up visit was carried out by ANCO experts in May 2022. The results were encouraging at the end of the visit with 80% colonization of hives recorded . However there were 7 absconded hives and the ANCO team realized that this was caused by use of herbicides as weed control near hives.



A



B

- A- Beneficiaries near a colonized hive in Ngoro
- B- ANCO expert examines an absconded hive in Serere

**ii) Community development: Follow up visit after construction of a borehole in Labo village**

As part of community development to reconcile populations living near project sites to we constructed and handed over a manual borehole to the population of Labo village, a community that has suffered a persistent lack of potable water. The construction work was led by Diamond Hard Geo services and a completed borehole was handed to the community in the presence of Traditional leaders, the local and civil administration and a trained and equipped management committee led by a woman was installed. In March this year, the borehole team carried out a follow up visit to ensure the borehole was effectively working. At the end of this March 2022 visit (timing peak period for water scarcity as the soils are totally dry waiting for new rains), although the borehole was still very functional, the rolling wheels were un mounted and overhauled, and the experts congratulated the management committee for their great job.



Figure 6 Hands-on checks on Bore Hole machine



Briefing of the management committee

**III- Sekakoh in Ebo Forest (Littoral Region)**

**i) Sekakoh with CAI**

Sekakoh continued conservayion activities in Ebo that's was initiated from our arrival in 2019 with PPI funds and a first New England Bilobabs fund out of North West region. We worked with local populations coming from,Somakek, Malo, Dikouss and Dissat and environs with financial support from Creative Action Institute (CAI), we implemented a Community Arts Practicum (CAP) on the fundamentals of food sovereignty and food security and our CAP was titled **"Fostering Forest protection while supporting sustainable food production in Ebo Forest of Cameroon"**. It should however be noted that CAI is funded by NEBLF as well.



In Pics 1,2,3 ;  
Community Arts  
practicum and  
painting of a  
Community mural  
in Somakek

... 2022,

We successtully secured a second grant from New England Biolabs Foundation to advance our work in Ebo titled to advance and engage scaling up our works which aimed at supporting hunters reduce pressure on Ebo's wildlife, this grant permitted us increase the number of beneficiary hunters who are now engaged in modern bee farming, a mushroom training this grant also helped us organize a community awareness campaign at the DIssat palace amongst other activities. The project is very much appreciated by the locals.



**Left:** End of sensitization workshop hall picture

**Right:** Bee keeping training ends with support materials distributed

### **iii) Sekakoh with Global Forest Watch (GFW) in Ebo;**

Through a joint application led by the Alliance for the Conservation of Great Apes in Central Africa (AGSAC), we trained and put in Ebo, 10 local forest watchers, equipped with Smart devices that initiated the first forest cover monitoring through the GFW App. The project had as objective to monitor forest cover loss and denounce illegal forest activities. We at the end of the project set up a mixed forest supervision committee composed of Traditional chiefs and

the local administration putting in place an advocacy plan to sanction illegal forest activities. By the end of this year, 4 individuals carrying out illegal forest activities (basically Timber exploitation and clearing for plantations) have been sanctioned with one paying a fine of 200,000FCFA to the monitoring committee. This amount will be used to reforest some degraded forest parts. We have empowered the local forest watchers to denounce illegal forest practices to the competent authorities that be.



### CHAPTER III – EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND COLLABORATION

#### I- Collaboration with the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife (MINFOF),

In Late September 2022, following Sekakoh’s application for a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Forestry and wildlife, there was a second evaluation meeting at R 350 in the ministry of Forests and Wildlife to re-examine the Sekakoh proposed MoU. This is in line with a long standing MoU tabled by Sekakoh in late 2019.



Family picture \_end of administrative meeting



Exchanges with locals in Somakek village with 2<sup>nd</sup> MINFOF delegation

## CHAPTER IV – PROJECTS AND FUNDERS IN 2021

### I- Projects and funders

In 2022, Sekakoh realized a number of projects financed by different funders in different areas as shown in the table below.

<b>Funder</b>	<b>Project title/site</b>	<b>Comments/Status</b>
GFW	Community mapping and advocacy for Sustainable Forest Management in the Bolobo Territory in RDC and the EBO Forest in Cameroon	Completed
PPI-6, IUCN-FC	Conservation of Biodiversity through the sedentarization of grazers	Ongoing
Bristol Zoology Society (BZS) with SOS-AWI funding	Giraffe Project Benoue	Ongoing
New England Bio Labs Foundation	Advancing community-driven conservation of the Ebo Forest reserve; an important site for the conservation of Africa's most endangered wildlife species	Ongoing
Creative Action Institute (CAI)	Community Arts Practicum (CAP) on the fundamentals of food sovereignty and food security and our CAP was titled <b><i>“Fostering Forest protection while supporting sustainable food production in Ebo Forest of Cameroon”</i></b> .	Completed

## II- Acknowledgements

**Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF)** has been very supportive to Sekakoh this year, Sekakoh has been registered as a Technical and Financial partner of the Ministry of Forestry and wildlife. Sekakoh remains grateful to the Assistant Director of Cooperation Mr. Hamman Adama and The staff of the Cooperation unit especially Madame Tabot Justin.

We thank Mr. Jean Pierre Bisseck, The conservator of the Mpem and Djim National park and his team for their endless support to our works on this site.

We also thank Mr. Achile Mengameya Goue, the conservator of the Benue National Park for all his support to our works.



**Brist  
Socie  
Saving**

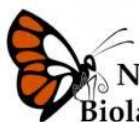
tinuing the  
the Giraffe project in the Benoue National Park, we addition  
SOS-IUCN for also funding tour activities.



**AMBASSADE  
DE FRANCE  
AU CAMEROUN**

*Liberté  
Egalité  
Fraternité*

We thank the cooperation service (PISCCA team) of the French Embassy in Cameroon for all their support especially Camille Hosteint.



**New England  
Biolabs Foundation**

We also thank the New Enlang Biolabs foundation for supporting our works in Ebo

We thank Global forest watch for supporting the training and putting in place of forest watchers in Ebo forest. Forest monitoring is ongoing.



We thank PPI-IUCN FC for supporting our works in the Mpem and Djim national park that aims at reducing pressure on the parks resources.

We thank all our field staff Ndengue David Antoine and Janvier Nguy Tchard in Mbam and Kim, Lisuk Louis in Edea, Pauline Tiwa T. and Kamta Romeo Omer in the Benoue National Park, Bakam Elionore in Bafoussam and Chia John from the Kom Wum forest reserve.

### **Next Steps -In Ebo**

-Scale up our actions to reach more new communities

Reforest degraded habitats

-Build a field base in Ebo

-Engage community participatory mapping and a land use plan for the Snanga Maritime parts of Ebo

-Expand our research through camera trapping and field surveys

-Initiate zero deforestation agriculture

-Initiate small scale farm plantations for cocoa and palm oil production for locals.

-Support the lone health and educational establishments with didactic materials (beds, benches etc)

-Set up and apiary planted with bee loving flowers as a demonstration site for our Bk trainees

-Expand the fight against HECS and retaliatory killings

--Expand community development actions (AGRs, water, bridges, roads, schools health units etc)

### **For Mpem and Djim**

-Initiate a robust wildlife monitoring focused on great apes

- Support community development as identified with locals during surveys (water points, school facilities, bridges etc)
- Introduce and expand number of beneficiaries for our Income generating activities
- Study the migratory tracks of the Great Apes population and the African forest elephants present
- Support anti-poaching patrols and wildlife monitoring
- Reforest degraded grazing lands
- Expand community development actions (AGRs, water, bridges, roads, schools health units etc)

### **For Benue National Park**

- Introduce more poverty alleviation activities through training and equipment,
- Provide more water sources for communities
- Train Ecoguards on Human rights respect and support swearing in of ecoguards
- Support targeted anti- poaching patrols
- Continue wildlife monitoring

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