



P.O. Box. 582 Mankon-Bamenda

Tel: (+237) 681103390

E-mail: info@sekakoh.org

Website: www.sekakoh.org

SEKAKOH's 2021 ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT



Sekakoh, 2021

TABLE OF CONTENT

EDITO: Director of Sekakoh	2
CHAPTER I – ABOUT SEKAKOH	3
I- Presentation of Sekakoh	3
1- Background of creation	3
2- Areas of intervention	3
3- Vision and Mission.....	4
4- Board of direction of Sekakoh.....	4
CHAPTER II – REALIZATIONS IN 2021.....	5
I- Sekakoh in the Benoue National Park (North Region)	5
II- Sekakoh in the Kom-Wum Forest Reserve	6
III- Sekakoh in the Mpem and Djim National Park (MDNP) (Center Region).....	7
III-1- Alternative livelihood: promoting bee keeping in two communities around MDNP	7
III-2- community development: construction of a borehole in Labo village.....	8
IV- Sekakoh in Ebo Forest (Littoral Region)	9
CHAPTER III – EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND COLLABORATION.....	9
I- Collaboration with Mbou-Mon-Tour (MMT) in Congo	9
II- Collaboration with the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife (MINFOF).....	10
III- Sekakoh at the forum for the promotion of community based conservation of great apes in Central Africa organized by AGSAC.....	10
CHAPTER IV – PROJECTS AND FUNDERS IN 2021	11
I- Projects and funders	11
II- Acknowledgements	12

EDITO: Director of Sekakoh



This year 2021 has been a very challenging one in the life of Sekakoh, with the North West and South West (NoSo) crisis unending and interrupting works in the Kom site, and the advent of the Corona virus which almost shut down the world and keeps killing till date. The Corona virus was announced in Cameroon in March 2020 by the Ministry of Public Health and as it spread around the country, the government took measures to curb the spread. Amongst the measures taken includes the suspension of activities in parks and other key biodiversity areas. Most Zoos and other conservation organizations had reduced work or temporarily closed down and there was general hardship coupled with increased prices. However, despite these difficulties we did realize the below with the limited support we had. Many thanks goes to our partners and funders who supported us and they include, the Bristol Zoological society, the French Embassy in Cameroon, the New England Biolabs Foundation, African Bird Club, the Technical Assistant of the Mpem and Djim National Park, and Alliance for the Conservation of Great Apes in Central Africa (AGSAC) for their capacity building supports. Many thanks goes to the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife in Cameroon as Sekakoh was registered as a technical and financial partner of MINFOF.

The Coordinator



NYUGHA Denis

CHAPTER I – ABOUT SEKAKOH

I- Presentation of Sekakoh

1- Background of creation

Sekakoh originated from the Elliotti Project initiated by Osiris DOUMBE (General Secretary of Sekakoh) in 2014 with the aims of (1) surveying the distribution of chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes ellioti*) and the diversity of other primates in North-West Region of Cameroon; and (2) engaging in environmental education in the same area. The good results obtained from this project led to Sekakoh's creation idea to continue monitoring the chimps as well as the whole biodiversity in the area. Sekakoh was thus created on April 2015 in Bamenda and recognized as an Association by the government of Cameroon under the Law N° 90/053 of 19th December 1990.

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 in the Balikumbat dialect (North West Region of Cameroon) "Remember them", in reference to the extinction of the West African black rhinos in Cameroon who were the last representatives of the subspecies *Diceros bicornis longipes*. Through these attributes, Sekakoh fits into a world where human actions have caused - and continue to cause - the degradation of the natural habitats as well as the extinction of several wild species. Through his action, Sekakoh's fight aims to help protect wildlife heritage through environmental conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources, so that a tragic situation like that of the West African black rhino, forever gone, does not happen again.

Many key biodiversity areas in Cameroon are under serious threats due to human activities. People, mostly from rural communities rely mainly on natural resources for their livelihood. They over-exploit these resources in an unsustainable way because of their poor economic situation or unconsciousness. We believe in Sekakoh that a successful conservation is one that integrates local communities in the whole process. Communities need to be involved in conservation actions and as such, they need first of all to understand and change their bad habits towards nature. 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, communities' support and development. Sekakoh also intervene in scientific research and landscape / species-based conservation to help biodiversity and habitats recover.

2- Areas of intervention

Sekakoh started its activities in the Kom-Wum forest in the North-West Cameroon after its creation and got engaged in and around other Key Biodiversity or Protected Areas across the country. Sekakoh is presently active in the Benoue National Park (North Region), the Mpem and Djim National Park (MDNP) and the Proposed National Park of Ebo Forest (Littoral Region) as shown on the map below.

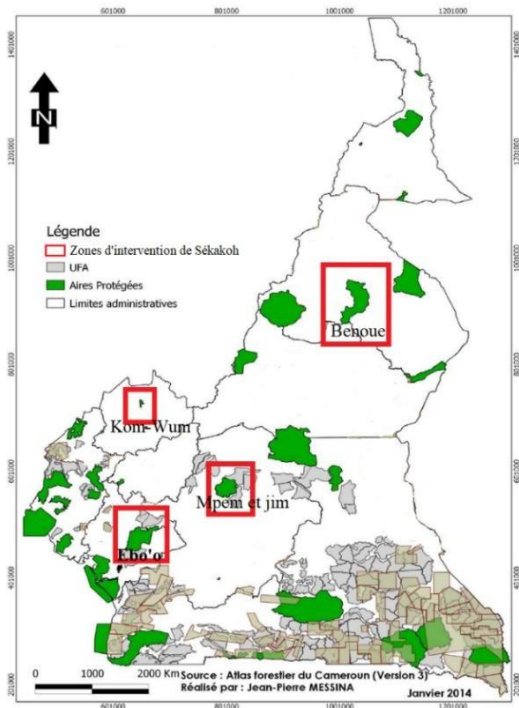


Figure 1: Present areas of intervention of Sekakoh across Cameroon.

3- Vision and Mission

Sekakoh’s believes in “*a world in which human beings live from the natural resources of their surrounding environment that they use wisely in a sustainable way*”. We believe that wildlife is part of our heritage and our duty is to preserve it in order to hand it to future generations.

Sekakoh’s **mission** is therefore to **harmonize the cohabitation between local communities and the natural resources of their surrounding environment**. To meet this, we intervene with three main strategies that are:

- Environmental education and sensitization of local populations,
- Scientific research and wildlife monitoring and
- Community development.

4- Board of direction of Sekakoh

Sekakoh’s board of direction is organized as followed:



Denis NYUGHA
Coordinator



Osiris DOUMBE
Secretary General



Terence FUH
Treasurer



Pauline TIWA T.
Head of Mission for Benoue



Louis LISUK
Head of Mission for Ebo

CHAPTER II – REALIZATIONS IN 2021

This year has been one of the most challenging in the life of Sekakoh, with the NoSo crisis in some of our area of intervention, making it difficult to properly lead activities in the Kom Reserve in protecting the chimps; along with the corona virus which almost shut down the world. There was financial hardship coupled with the suspension of activities by the government of Cameroon in a bit to halt the spread of COVID-19. However, despite these difficulties we did realize the below:

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

In the Northern Region of Cameroon, Sekakoh continued supporting anti-poaching patrols in the Benoue National Park (support consisting financial payment of cold meals for eco guards, equipment, and trainings), alongside wildlife monitoring in the saltlicks in partnership with Bristol Zoological Society (BZS) since 2017. In the same area, the Giraffe nutrition study financially supported by Giraffe conservation fund that was launched in December 2019 was completed in 2020 by the Benoue Project Manager Pauline TIWA T. and team.

In 2020, five series of anti-poaching patrols were implemented under Sekakoh/BZS support, including ordinary patrols and “punch operation” patrols. These patrols, estimated at 911 rangers-day led to the arrest of 10 armed poachers, 35 cattle herders, 50 gold miners, 40 farmers in animals’ corridors, 34 charcoal producers and over 300 illegal settlers driven out of the park.

In In addition to wildlife monitoring carried out in saltlicks through camera trapping, 40 bags of salt were bought and applied to the saltlick to enhance animals’ intake of mineral salts. The 8 saltlicks are monitored through 8 bushnell Trophy Can HD Camera trap.



Figure 2 : Sekakoh’s Project Manager (Pauline Tiwa T.) with teams working in the Benoue National park: Top Left, team preparing for anti-poaching patrols; (Top right) team carrying on research on Kordofan Giraffe feeding habits and (bottom) team setting cameras for wildlife monitoring through Camera trapping.

II- Sekakoh in the Kom-Wum Forest Reserve

In the North-West Region, Sekakohs’ secured Zoo Brevards wildlife grant for wildlife monitoring in the Kom forest Reserve through Camera trapping carried out by community ecoguards of the area. In this troubled North West region, wildlife data was collected after a camera trapping training of chosen eco-guardians (Chia John and Che Cosmas) held in Bamenda the capital city of North West led by the Coordinator. Data was collected from the installed camera traps and sent to Sekakoh office in Bamenda for analyses on monthly bases. Upon analyzing data from the camera traps, we were re-assured of the continued existence of our target species (Pan Elliotti) in this reserve despite the war.



Figure 3: Image of blue grey Turaco caught on our camera trap in Kom Reserve

III- Sekakoh in the Mpem and Djim National Park (MDNP) (Center Region)

In June this year, 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, presided over by the French Ambassador to Cameroon H.E. Christophe Guillhou. This was followed by a project launching visit to the beneficiary communities in the peripheries of the MDNP led by the coordinator. While in Ngoro sub division, the discussions with the local administration was fruitful as the planned activities (Beekeeping training and a Borehole construction) were adhered to and realization sites identified.



End of workshop picture with PISCCA team



Launching ceremony at French Embassy in Cameroon

III-1- Alternative livelihood: promoting bee keeping in two communities around MDNP

Regarding beekeeping as an alternative livelihood, 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 organised 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. This second group shall be constituted into a legal CIG in the days ahead by Sekakoh.



Hands on bee keeping training



Materials produced at the end of the training

III-2- community development: construction of a borehole in Labo village

As part of community development to support villages living near key biodiversity sites, Sekakoh constructed and handed over a 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, the local population and a trained and equipped management committee led by a woman was installed.



Initiation of borehole construction



Reception ceremony of borehole in Labo



Handing over of tool box to management committee

IV- Sekakoh in Ebo Forest (Littoral Region)

Sekakoh continued the follow up of activities initiated in 2019 with PPI funds; these are specifically the follow up of 20 bees keeping beneficiaries hunters who had installed 40 hives and the last part of mushroom farming with women. We organized 2 follow-up visits to the bee keepers and the last visit culminated to harvesting of 4 hives.

Following the government's publication of a decision to transform parts of the Ebo forest into logging concessions in March 2020, Sekakoh was a signatory to the letter addressed to the government of Cameroon to advocate for the suspension of the classification decision. Sekakoh and signatory CSO's urged for an inclusive land-use planning process to determine Ebo's future. This yielded fruits as in August 2020, a presidential decree suspended the logging concessions in Ebo forest. However, despite the suspension, the future of Ebo forest remains unclear.

CHAPTER III – EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND COLLABORATION

I- Collaboration with Mbou-Mon-Tour (MMT) in Congo

This year, Sekakoh coordinator undertook an exchange visit to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). This was a visit supported by the French Small Scale Initiatives (PPI) that has support supported Sekakoh's projects since 2018. For two weeks, Sekakoh's coordinator visited Mbou Mon Tour (MMT) in Nkalla, Mai dombe region in the West of DRC to share experiences between Bonobo conservation practices by MMT and The conservation of Nigeria-Cameroon Chimpanzee carried out by Sekakoh in Cameroon. During this visit comprised of field visits to observe bonobos and focused group discussions, the coordinator learnt the MMT approach of community led conservation. Thanks to MMT's effective works the trackers led us to the direct observation of a group of 11 Bonobos.



Day 1 at MMT



Field work day at MMT: visiting bonobos

II- Collaboration with the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife (MINFOF)

In late September, following Sekakoh's application for a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Forestry and wildlife, a delegation of MINFOF cooperation unit visited Sekakoh's project site in Ebo, Littoral region of Cameroon. This was to ascertain and evaluate the existence of Sekakoh in the area while visiting some of Sekakoh's project realizations and to exchange with locals. The first administrative meeting for this evaluation visit was at the Edea divisional delegation of forestry and wildlife and a second meeting in Somakek village with the local population. For 2 days, there were discussions and fields visits to Sekakoh's project sites in Somakek village. The evaluation team upon return to Yaounde gave a positive response to the Minister to sign an MOU with Sekakoh. On 24th November 2020, the last elaboration meeting for the MOU held in Yaounde at the MINFOF building now pending invitation for final signature for both parties.



Administrative meeting in Edea
between MINFOF and Sekakoh



Exchanges with locals in Somakek village
with MINFOF

III- Sekakoh at the forum for the promotion of community based conservation of great apes in Central Africa organized by AGSAC

During November 18 and 19, 2021, a Sekakoh team composed of the Coordinator, the Benoue and Littoral project leads attended the first ever forum for the promotion of community based conservation of great apes in the Congo Basin organized in Yaounde by the Alliance for the Conservation of Great Apes in Central Africa (AGSAC). Sekakoh is a member to this network since 2019. This forum brought together partner organizations from within Cameroon and the Central African sub region. This was an occasion for NGOs to showcase their individual actions in their different sites of intervention towards great apes conservation. Moreover, the event was a networking and experience sharing opportunity for participants and other civil society organizations (Cameroonian and Central African CSOs) with shared interests on the conservation of endangered great apes' species and biodiversity of the Congo Basin forests.



Figure 4: Sekakoh’s stand at the forum of AGSAC: (left to right) Benoue and Littoral Project Managers alongside the Coordinator

CHAPTER IV – PROJECTS AND FUNDERS IN 2021

I- Projects and funders

In 2021, Sekakoh realized a number of projects financed by different funders in different areas as shown in the table below.

Funder	Project title/site	Comments/Status
(Giraffe Conservation Foundation) Carried forward from late 2019	Giraffe nutrition studies, Benoue National Park	Completed
ZOO BREVARD	Preserving one of the last havens for primates in an unstable region of Cameroon	Completed
African Bird Club (ABC)	Understanding Conservation threats to the B. Turaco, Mt Mbam	Ongoing
French Embassy (PISCCA)	Sensitization and implication of neighboring communities on the sustainable use of natural resources of the MDNP	Ongoing
Bristol Zoology Society (BZS)	Giraffe project Benoue	Ongoing
New England Bio Labs Foundation	Supporting hunters in Southern Ebo to reduce hunting Pressure on wildlife	Ongoing

(*) For ABC, a project launch team visited Bangourain the headquarters of Mt. Mbam and met with traditional chiefs and quarter heads, the project idea was shared and plans laid down for future works. The questionnaire administration to hunters and farmers is ongoing led by Mustapha Ferdinand a student from the University of Dschang. Field work data collection has been scheduled to begin in March 2021.

II- Acknowledgements



Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) has been very supportive to Sekakoh this year, Sekakoh was registered as a Technical and Financial partner of the Ministry of Forestry and wildlife. We equally completed the process of validating an MOU with the MINFOF pending final signature. Sekakoh is very grateful to the Assistant Director of Cooperation Mr. Hamman Adama and The staff of Cooperation unit especially Madame Tabot Justin.

We are grateful to Mr. Moneye Jean-Pierre the MINFOF divisional delegate for the Sanaga Maritime division.

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.



Bristol Zoological Society
Saving Wildlife Together

We thank the **Bristol Zoological society** for continuing the support of the Giraffe project in the Benoue National Park.



**AMBASSADE
DE FRANCE
AU CAMEROUN**

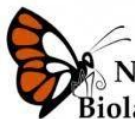
*Liberté
Egalité
Fraternité*

We thank the cooperation service of the French Embassy in Cameroon for all their support especially Ariane Visier, Elena Flanigan and Mathieu Sette.



AFRICAN BIRD CLUB

We also thank the African Bird Club for supporting our work in the Mt. Mbam area.



**New England
Biolabs Foundation**

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

We thank all our field staff Ndengue David Antoine and Janvier Nguy Tchard local heads of project for the MDNP, Lisuk Louis in Dibamba, Pauline Tiwa T. in the Benoue National park, Bakam Elionore the administrator and financial secretary in Bafoussam and Chia John in the Kom Wum forest reserve.

Contacts

Website: www.sekakoh.org

Facebook: Sekakoh/facebook

Emails: info@sekakoh.org

lefordenis@yahoo.fr

Tel: (+237) 681 103 390/ 655 034 907

Head Office: Carrefour Le Maire Bafoussam.