

DEVELOPMENT OF ORGANIC VALUE CHAINS FOR FOREST AND AGROFORESTRY PRODUCTS IN ORDER TO PRESERVE THE DJA BIOSPHERE RESERVE

In the northern outskirts of Dja Reserve densely populated, threats linked to human activities are increasing every year: poaching, collecting firewood, making charcoal, overexploitation of wild forest products, clearing for extensive agriculture... Pressure on the natural reserve is reduced by boosting a sustainable production of cocoa.

CAMEROON

Full cost : **250,000 euros**
Duration : **3 years**
Start : **april 2020**



A project implemented by :



And supported by :





The site and its biodiversity

The Dja Biosphere Reserve (526,000 ha), the only UNESCO World Heritage site in Cameroon, covers 18% of Cameroon's national network of protected areas.

It is exceptionally rich in mammals (109 species including Lowland Gorillas and chimpanzees), birds (360 species including the Bald Picatharte and the Grey Red-tailed Parrot), fish and trees (such as the Moabi).

Major issues

This conservation area is subject to continuous degradation due to the increase in rural population and overexploitation of natural resources (timber, charcoal, poaching, fishing, non-timber forest products for food and medicine).

This constant pressure on natural resources leads to a loss of biodiversity, to the detriment of the poorest rural population that traditionally lives off it.

Committed partners

Tropical Forest and Rural Development (TF-RD) is a Cameroonian association created in 2010 working on the creation of

cocoa-based agroforests, and the development of local value chains that promote biodiversity conservation and economic activities on protected areas surroundings.

Its objective is to contribute to the development of a socio-economic model that supports the empowerment of local communities and contributes to the conservation of biodiversity.

TF-RD is currently working around the Dja Biosphere Reserve, focusing on cocoa agroforests, fruit trees and NTFPs such as wild mangoes, Moabi seeds and Njansang nuts.

In addition, resource regeneration activities through the establishment of nurseries and planting are also carried out.

The project and the prospect of change

The project aims to support the cocoa sector, which today represents up to 50% of the income of many farmers.

This support will be done through the creation of a pilot organic cocoa value chain and the implementation of a sustainable agroforestry system and the obtaining of the 'Rainforest Alliance' certification.

A guarantee of forest protection will be established, thus ensuring zero deforestation production for the benefit of local communities.

This work will be done through the support of an existing cocoa farmers' cooperative.

The project will support the Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) sector. These NTFPs: moabi, wild mango, njansang, allanblackia... collected in the periphery of the reserve, are traditionally used by local communities for food and medical purposes.

Their collection generates additional income for the women, which is used in particular for the sending children to school. The partner TF-RD will support women's groups in the collective sale of their products.

In order to ensure better incomes and sales, TF-RD's action will also focus on supporting producers and collectors in improving the quality of their products.

Within the framework of this project, Noé and TF-RD will continue their approach of strengthening the capacities of local communities, promoting women empowerment, and conserving biodiversity (anti-poaching patrols, bio-monitoring, development and implementation of sustainable resource management plans, etc.).

