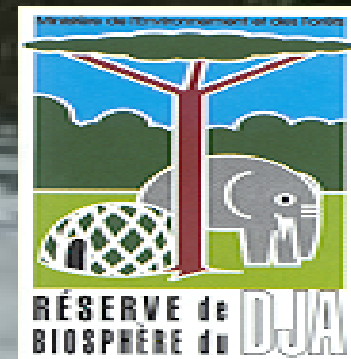




THE BIOSPHERE RESERVES IN THE CONTEXT OF AN EMERGING CAMROON BY 2035: CASE STUDY OF DJA BIOSPHERE RESERVE (DBR)

Achile Mengamenya Goué

*Conservator of Lobeke National Park
Tri-national of Sangha Landscape
Natural transboundary world heritage Site*



Outline of Presentation

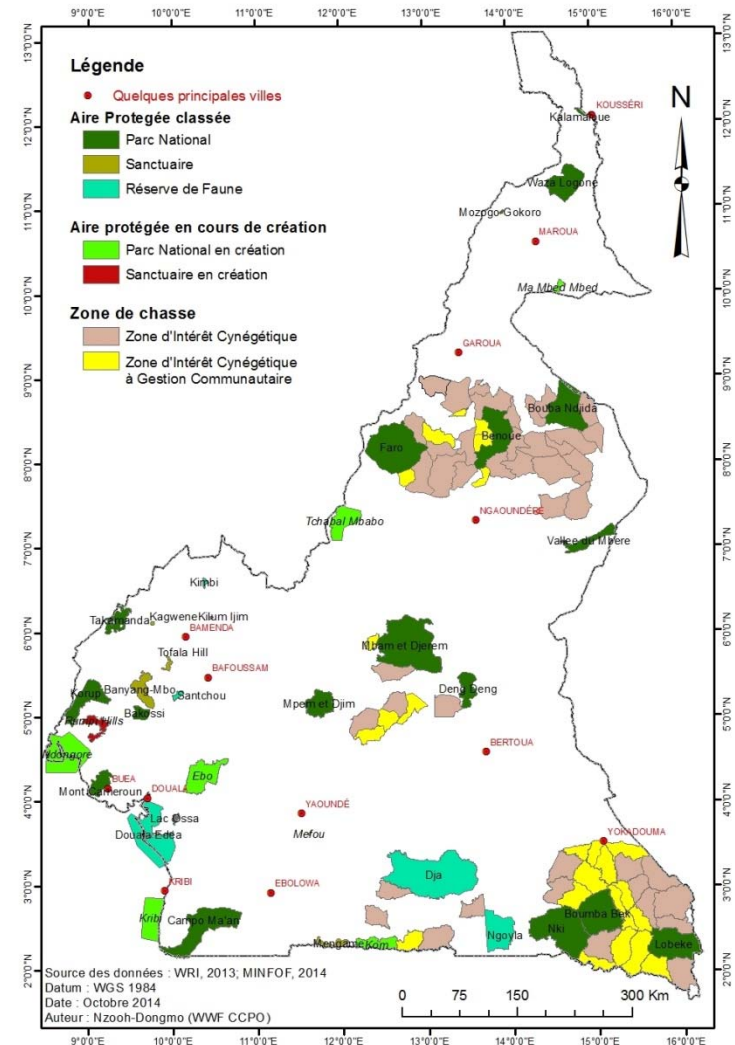
- 1. Introduction/General presentation of Cameroon**
- 2. The country's road map to an emerging nation by 2035**
- 3. Changes in the DBR due to the emerging nation policy**
- 4. Major threats in the DBR**
- 5. Actions taken to mitigate impacts of the threats**
- 6. Lessons learned**
- 7. Conclusion**

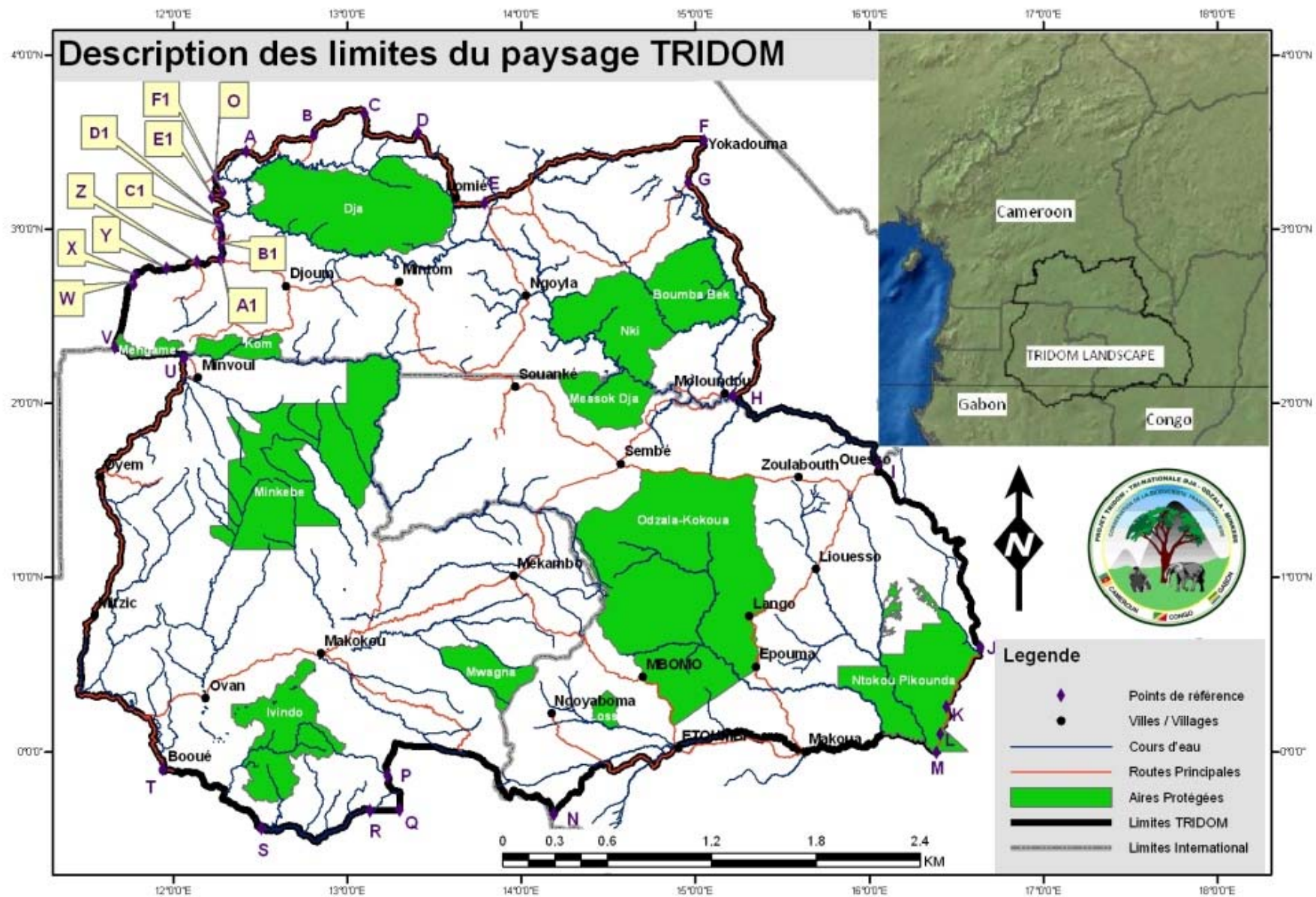
1 Introduction/General presentation

- Cameroon is about 475 442 Km²; 47 Million Ha of surface area. Located just 2° above the equator in Central Africa, at juncture of the Gulf of Guinea, between latitude 2 and 13 Degrees and longitude 9 and 16 degrees
- Bounded on the North by Chad, on the East by the Central Africa Republic, on the South by Congo, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea and on the West by Nigeria.
- Cameroon is composed of about 20.1 million inhabitants; It is also very culturally diverse, with over 200 different linguistic groups.
- Agriculture, timber and forest products exploitation, livestock, fishery and also the actual mining expansion constitute the base of the national production system,



- *Cameroon* is among the richest countries in Africa in terms of *biodiversity* resources; The country has over 900 species of birds, over 300 mammals and many other stunning creatures; Its forests harbor two subspecies of the western gorilla – the Cross River gorilla and the western lowland gorilla.
- Cameroon is often called ‘Africa in miniature’ because it exhibits all major biogeographic and climatic zones of the continent: coastal, desert, mountains, rainforest, and savanna.
- 18 national parks, 06 fauna reserves; 04 fauna sanctuaries, 03 zoological gardens, 47 hunting zones and 25 community hunting zones constitute a network of protected areas that cover 19.20% of the country; 03 transboundary conservation initiatives: TNS, TRIDOM, BSB Yamoussa
- Among the protected areas, Dja Biosphere Reserve in the forest zone is the major one with three statuts: Fauna reserve since 1950; Biosphere reserve since 1981 and World heritage site since 1987,





2. The road map of Cameroon as an emerging nation by 2035

2.1 Understand the context of the vision to position Cameroon as an « emerging nation, democratic and united in its diversity » by 2035

- Given the macroeconomy environment characterised by the growth since 1994, the government of Cameroon adopted its first Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) to define the overall framework for its development policies in 2003.
- Implementing the PRSP led to attend the so called 'achievement point' of poor country initiative in 2006, which led to a new 'development vision'.
- In 2007, the government began a wide-ranging consultative process to fully update the PRSP. At the conclusion of the process, a new growth and employment strategy (DSCE) was adopted and presented to the public in November 2009 jointly by the Minister of Economy and the Minister of Finance.
- The new strategy aims to adjust the overall objectives and address the weaknesses of the various sector policies. It is built on (i) a long-term vision up to 2035; (ii) a 2008 household survey; and (iii) a medium-term expenditure framework (MTEF) prepared with technical support of the European Union and the World Bank.

2.2 Development challenges

1. Consolidation of the democratic process and reenforcement of the national unity
2. Address Sociodemographic challenges
3. Address Economic growth and employment challenge
4. Address the challenge of urban development, land and environment issues.

2.3 Major axes of the strategy

ACCELERATING THE GROWTH RATE

PROMOTING EMPLOYMENT

PROMOTING BETTER GOVERNANCE AND STATE STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT

3. CHANGES IN THE DJA BIOSPHERE RESERVE DUE TO THE EMERGING NATION POLICY

3.1 Mining development

- Geovic mining company (cobalt et Nickel) 2000 employment with an additional flux of about 10000 inhabitants ;
- Limestone in the southern part of the Dja forest including the river in Bii village
- Iron exploration/exploitation Projects (Venture Capital, CAMINEX, CAMIRON...)



3.2 Agroindustries and logging companies

✓ Sud Cameroun Hévéa (hevea and palm oil) that at least will use 45,000 ha of land surrounding the DBR employing 8,000 persons (flow of + de 40 000 inhab.)

✓ More than 12 forest concessions for timber exploitation densifying the road network with the open of 06 Forest management units to the exploitation.



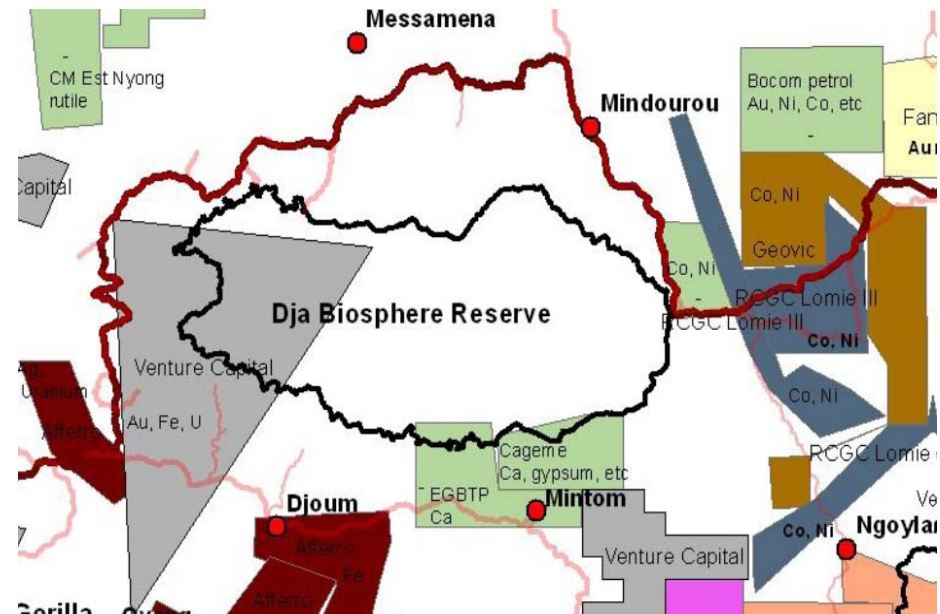
3.3 Infrastructure development

- The current construction of Mekin hydroelectric dam;
- The Sangmélima-Ouessou road on-going project;
- The futur Mbalam-Kribi railway project for the exportation of CAMIRON iron products.



4. Major threats in the DBR

- **Loss of biodiversity due to poaching in general and particularly for the elephant ivory traffic;**
- **Fauna habitat fragmentation with the overlapping of different lands use autorisations (Mines-protected area, mines-logging concessions-agroindustries,...) leading to various conflicts of interests between stakeholders;**
- **Pollution and proliferation of diseases.**



5. Actions taken to mitigate impacts of the threats

- ✓ **The suspension of mining concessions overlapping the protected areas obtained due to Membres of Parliament lobby action;**
- ✓ **The lurching of the process of the nation wide Land use plan elaboration;**
- ✓ **A stakeholder meeting framework have been put in place to maintain dialogue at the local level and the interdepartmental commission for DBR at a strategical level;**
- ✓ **Environmental and social impacts assessment and management plan imposed to any project before its emplementation;**
- ✓ **The capacity building improved for the management unit of the DBR in term of human ressources, logistic and technical equipments due to the development of partnership with private operators and Fund raising by UNESCO and other development and conservation partners.**

6. Lessons learned

- Conciliation between development aspirations and environment conservation needs a clear definition and the strictly respect of land use plan; A perfect zoning must be engaged in DBR
- There is a need for the reenforcement of the authority of local population in terme of land tenure mastering and for a building organisation capacity in taking into their account their own development with a great respect to the environment
- A long-term finance mechanism has to be put in place to ensure a sustainable local development if we want to guarantee conservation of Biodiversity in and arround protected areas in general and particularly Biosphere Reserves.

Conclusion

- ❑ **The emerging nation policy engaged by Cameroon enabled different Departments to become proactive to ensure their contribution to the country development.**
- ❑ **The richness of the Dja region in term of natural resources has transformed this zone to a destination for many structural projects carried out by different departments, leading to conflicts in term of land uses.**
- ❑ **The State of Cameroon helped by the international community is now conscient for the necessity to carry out an integrated development to ensure its sustainability.**
- ❑ **For this, Dja Biosphere Reserve is serving now as an experimental field for the process of maintaining socioeconomic and environmental equilibrium.**
- ❑ **The capitalisation of all lessons learned here can ensure the success of the process of creating a TRIDOM transboundary Biosphere Reserve that is in gestation between Cameroon, Congo and Gabon.**



DJA Miel
MIEL DE LA RESERVE DE BIOSPHERE DE DJA

Ce miel délicieux,
100% naturel
est produit à base de
fleurs des encense-
médicinales et
parmeso d'immenses
vertus thérapeutiques

0,35L

À conserver à
température
ambiante

Respectons notre
environnement

DJA Miel
Produit par l'association des
apiculteurs de la Boucle de Melas
BP :
Tél :
Date de fab :
Date de péremption :



Cameroon



THANK YOU!!!

