



**Cameroon  
Biodiversity  
Protection  
Program**

**Mbakaou Wildlife Education Center and Ganga research station**

# **IMPACT REPORT**

Field Activities  
January – June 2026

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report documents the field activities carried out by the CBPP team between January and June 2026 in Ganga research station and the periphery of the Mbam and Djerem National Park (PNMD). Over six months, the center delivered a sustained program of environmental education, community awareness, youth engagement, and women's empowerment — reaching over 1,700 people across multiple localities through eight major initiatives.

The activities were organized around five key thematic areas: school-based environmental education, celebration of international environmental days, youth engagement, women's empowerment, and community conservation awareness. All activities aimed to strengthen local communities' understanding of biodiversity, reduce harmful practices affecting the PNMD, and foster a culture of environmental stewardship among residents of all ages.

## KEY FIGURES

|                                    |                                                    |                                                        |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>9</b><br>Major field activities | <b>+1,700</b><br>People reached                    | <b>6</b><br>Partner schools                            |
| <b>5</b><br>Global days celebrated | <b>263</b><br>Chimpanzee nests recorded<br>(Ganga) | <b>28</b><br>Illegal items seized / camps<br>destroyed |

## ACTIVITIES OVERVIEW

| Date           | Activity                                                          | Location      | Reach           |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Feb 9–11, 2026 | Youth Week: cross-country, cultural evening, parade               | Mbakaou       | ~200 youth      |
| Mar 5–8, 2026  | International Women's Day: bead training, roundtable, parade      | Mbakaou       | ~60 women       |
| Mar 21, 2026   | International Day of Forests: documentary screenings, discussions | Mbakaou       | ~100 people     |
| Jan–Jun 2026   | Weekly school visits – 6 partner schools (environmental lessons)  | Northern Zone | 1,000+ students |
| May 11, 2026   | World Endangered Species Day: community awareness session         | Djaoro-Kombo  | 90 people       |
| May 22, 2026   | World Biodiversity Day: awareness walk + football match           | Mbakaou       | ~120 people     |
| Jun 4, 2026    | End-of-School-Year Celebration: quiz, poetry, drawing contests    | Mbakaou       | 150 people      |
| Jun 5, 2026    | World Environment Day: Lake Ponbii excursion & clean-up           | Lake Ponbii   | 64 children     |

## DETAILED ACTIVITY REPORTS

### 1. Youth Week — February 9–11, 2026

The Youth Week was organized by the Environmental Education Center in collaboration with Mbakaou High School and the local primary school. It aimed to raise awareness among young people about biodiversity conservation while promoting sport, culture, and community spirit.

#### Cross-Country Race

A cross-country course was designed through the surrounding natural landscape with the support of physical education teachers. Students from both the high school and primary school competed, with prizes awarded to the top five finishers from each institution. The race introduced young participants to the local natural environment while encouraging healthy physical activity.

- Top 10 students rewarded across two school levels
- Route designed through natural ecosystems to build environmental connection
- Promoted healthy competition and teamwork



#### Cultural Evening

A cultural evening was organized featuring traditional dances, poetry recitals, and environmental awareness messages delivered by Wildlife Center students. The event celebrated local culture while embedding conservation messages within creative expression.

- Strengthened community bonds and intercultural exchange
- Students expressed artistic talents in a supportive environment
- Tolerance, openness, and group spirit reinforced



## Youth Parade — February 11

To mark the National Youth Day on February 11, Wildlife Center children received commemorative t-shirts and joined a festive parade through Mbakaou. The parade included singing, dancing, and public environmental messaging. The day ended with a shared meal among all participants.

- Raised public awareness about biodiversity conservation
- Promoted sense of community and civic pride among youth
- Festive atmosphere broadened community engagement



## 2. International Women's Day — March 5–8, 2026

A series of activities over four days celebrated International Women's Rights Day while combining skills development, awareness, and community celebration. The program linked women's empowerment with environmental stewardship, highlighting the critical role women play in forest conservation.

### Beaded Bag Making Training (March 5)

A hands-on practical training session was held at the center, teaching participants how to design and assemble beaded bags from scratch — including materials (beads, threads, needles, closures, fabric), basic bead assembly techniques, and progressive creation of a finished bag. This craft was highlighted as a potential income-generating activity.

- Participants acquired transferable artisan skills
- Activity generated strong interest as a livelihood opportunity
- Several participants completed their first bead attachment bases during the session

### Women's Roundtable and parade (March 7-8)

A structured discussion was held on women's rights, their role in environmental protection, the process for legalizing trade in forest products, and the provisions of the new 2024 forestry law and its sanctions. Women shared personal experiences and challenges.

- Exchanges on community challenges faced by women
- Raised awareness on legal frameworks governing forest product trade
- Increased women's participation in environmental governance
- Celebrated women's contributions to community and conservation



*Women's Day training session*



*One training result*



*March 8 parade*

### 3. International Day of Forests — March 21, 2026

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In partnership with the Mbakaou High School Environmental Club, the center organized awareness activities around the theme "Forests and Economy." The event sought to connect participants' understanding of forests with economic development and long-term livelihoods.

#### Documentary Screenings

Educational films were screened covering the role of forests in economic development, ecosystem services provided by forests, and the impacts of deforestation on communities and livelihoods. The screenings were followed by interactive discussions.

- Approximately 100 people made aware
- Key messages: forests, employment, and income; conservation for future generations
- Participants expressed commitment to eco-responsible behaviors
- Recommendation: future activities to include practical components such as reforestation and field visits



*Projection time*

### 4. Weekly School Programme — January to June 2026

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Throughout the entire semester, the center conducted regular weekly visits to six partner schools in the Northern branch of its education network. Each session was adapted to the school level, using a range of pedagogical approaches to effectively communicate environmental messages.

## Partner Schools

- Mbakaou primary school
- Bonintsing primary school
- Naskoul primary school
- Djaoro-Kombo primary school
- Baptist primary school
- Mbakaou secondary school

## Topics Covered

- Humans and their environment: natural resources, human-nature interactions, ecosystem importance
- Illegal fishing: biological rest periods, consequences of non-compliance, good fishing practices
- Biodiversity of the Mbam and Djerem National Park
- Climate change: causes, consequences, and practical individual actions

## Teaching Methods

Lessons were delivered using age-appropriate, varied approaches including visual aids, documentary videos, educational games, interactive practical activities, and guided field outings. Wednesday and Sunday center meetings also served as preparation sessions for community awareness activities.

## Outcomes

- More than 1,000 students engaged across 6 schools over 6 months
- Knowledge acquisition validated through end-of-year assessment activities
- Strong student enthusiasm and participation throughout



*Play activities at the Wildlife Center*



*Naskoul Primary School visit*



*Lesson session — Djaoro-Kombo Primary School*

## 5. World Endangered Species Day — May 11, 2026

An awareness campaign was organized in the locality of Djaoro-Kombo, in partnership with MINFOF and with the participation of traditional authorities. The event focused on combating illegal wildlife trafficking and the consequences of species loss for ecosystems and communities.

### Session Highlights

The session was conducted in a friendly, participatory atmosphere. Traditional authorities gave opening remarks endorsing the initiative. Facilitators from the center and MINFOF staff delivered key messages, followed by interactive discussion with the community.

- Protection of endangered animal species in and around the PNMD
- Consequences of illegal wildlife trafficking for ecosystems and people
- Importance of biodiversity for present and future generations
- Role of local communities in park conservation

### Results

- 90 people reached, with strong community involvement
- Active participation throughout, with questions and open dialogue
- Clear interest from participants in biodiversity issues
- Strengthened links between local communities and conservation actors

Follow-up recommendations include increasing the frequency of awareness activities in Djaoro-Kombo and developing strategies to help communities see the tangible benefits of conservation.



*Departure of children and CBPP staff to Djaouro-Kombo*



*Traditional authorities*



*Wildlife Center students lead awareness messages*



*Community awareness session — Djaoro-Kombo  
CBPP staff presentation*

## 6. World Biodiversity Day — May 22, 2026

Under the theme "Local Actions, Global Impact," the center organized a public awareness campaign at Mbakaou High School followed by a 5 km awareness walk and plastic waste collection, and concluded with a friendly football match. The event brought together students, residents, and two football teams.

### Key Messages

- Importance of biodiversity for ecosystem balance and community well-being
- Threats to fauna and flora of the Mbam and Djerem National Park
- The role of each citizen in local environmental protection
- Concrete actions to reduce pressure on natural resources

### Results

- Approximately 120 people made aware of local and global biodiversity issues
- Concrete interest shown in conservation of PNMD species and ecosystems
- Improved understanding of consequences of biodiversity loss, especially among youth
- Visible waste reduction along the route



*Awareness session at Mbakaou High School*



*Community awareness walk and waste collection*



*Biodiversity awareness messages*



## 7. End-of-School-Year Celebration — June 4, 2026

The Wildlife Center organized its annual end-of-year celebration, bringing together students from four partner schools — Mbakaou High School, Primary school of Djaoro-Kombo, Naskoul, and Mbakaou — to assess knowledge acquired during the school year through a series of competitions.

### Competition Categories

- Brain-teaser match: Q&A sessions on the environment, biodiversity, nature conservation, and PNMD knowledge
- Poetry contest: poems on nature protection, wildlife preservation, and responsible environmental behaviors
- Awareness messages: presentations on pollution, waste management, reforestation, human-wildlife disease, and biodiversity
- Drawing contest: illustrations of animal species and the importance of species conservation

### Awards & Outcomes

Performances were evaluated by a jury established by the Wildlife Center. Winners received school study scholarships, prizes, and certificates of distinction to recognize their academic and environmental commitment.

- 150 people mobilized and sensitized
- 4 schools participated actively with enthusiasm and fair play
- Students demonstrated strong grasp of environmental concepts learned during the year
- Teachers and chaperones actively supported participants



*Prize-giving ceremony*



*Poetry and awareness message presentations*



*Students competing in the brain-teaser match*



*Dance time*

## **8. World Environment Day and illegal fishing Day — June 5, 2026**

On the occasion of World Environment and illegal fishing Day, the center organized an educational excursion to Lake Ponbii for 64 children from the Environmental Education Center. The day combined environmental awareness, hands-on action, and educational games in a natural lakeside setting.

### **Activities**

- Climate change awareness: causes, consequences, and individual protective actions
- Lake clean-up operation: participants collected waste along the shores of Lake Ponbii
- Educational games and interactive exchanges to reinforce awareness messages

### **Results**

- 64 children made aware of environmental and climate issues
- Active participation in the lake clean-up campaign
- Improved cleanliness of the lake surroundings
- Enhanced knowledge on environmental protection and aquatic resource preservation
- Development of citizenship and environmental responsibility among children



*Excursion to Lake Ponbii*



*Climate change awareness session*



*Lake clean-up activity*



*Children at Lake Ponbii*

## **GANGA RESEARCH STATION — January to May 2026**

The Ganga Research Station is a dedicated field site operated by CBPP in partnership with MINFOF ecoguards. Since January 2026, two specialized monthly teams of four people (three CBPP staff and one MINFOF ecoguard) have been deployed for bio-monitoring and site protection missions.

### **1. Bio-Monitoring Programme**

Bio-monitoring operations have been carried out every month from January to May 2026, involving monthly field missions along established transects. Data collected includes chimpanzee nests, tools, fecal samples, and direct wildlife observations.

#### **Monthly Data Collection Results**

| Month    | Nests | Tools | Fecal Samples | Chimpanzee Sightings    | Other Wildlife Observed                                                                                                                                              |
|----------|-------|-------|---------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| January  | 18    | 05    | 05            | None                    | Baboon, Grey-cheeked mangabey, Putty-nose, Pogonias, Colobus guereza; Buffalo, Bushpig, Blue duiker, Black-backed duiker, Giant pangolin ( <i>Smutsia gigantea</i> ) |
| February | 55    | 05    | 02            | 1 group / 3 individuals |                                                                                                                                                                      |

| Month | Nests | Tools | Fecal Samples | Chimpanzee Sightings     | Other Wildlife Observed |
|-------|-------|-------|---------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| March | 137   | 09    | 05            | 1 individual             |                         |
| April | 35    | —     | —             | —                        |                         |
| May   | 18    | 01    | 04            | 1 group / 15 individuals |                         |

## Key Observations

- Chimpanzee nests peaked in March with 137 nests — the highest count of the period
- Direct chimpanzee sightings in February (1 group / 3 individuals), March (1 individual), and May (1 group / 15 individuals)
- Diverse primate community documented: baboons, grey-cheeked mangabeys, putty-nose monkeys, pogonias, *Colobus guereza*
- Large mammal diversity confirmed: buffalo, bushpig, blue duiker, black-backed duiker, and critically endangered Giant pangolin (*Smutsia gigantea*)



*Fecal sample collection — Ganga field mission*



*Dietary analysis of fecal samples — CBPP staff & ecoguard*

## 2. Site Protection — Ganga and Surroundings

A dedicated protection team (3 CBPP staff + 1 MINFOF ecoguard) conducts monthly patrols to secure the Ganga site and its peripheral zones, deterring poachers, illegal fishermen, and herders. Over the five months from January to May 2026, the site faced numerous incursions and the team recorded the following interventions:

### Protection Results (January – May 2026)

- 1 firearm and 8 ammunition rounds seized
- 5 steel cable traps for large mammals dismantled
- 7 illegal fishing and/or hunting camps identified and destroyed
- 15 fishing nets seized



*Firearm and ammunition seized during patrol*



*Destruction of an illegal hunting camp at Ganga periphery*

### 3. Impact of Ganga Research & Protection Activities

- Ongoing bio-monitoring generates critical population data on chimpanzees, enabling evidence-based conservation planning
- Fecal sample analysis supports dietary and health research on the local chimpanzee population
- Confirmed presence of the Giant pangolin (*Smutsia gigantea* — critically endangered) validates the ecological significance of the Ganga site
- Monthly protection patrols have significantly reduced poaching pressure and illegal occupancy
- Seizure of weapons, traps, and fishing nets directly prevented illegal harvest of wildlife and aquatic resources
- CBPP–MINFOF joint operations reinforce law enforcement legitimacy and field capacity

## IMPACT ASSESSMENT

### Environmental Education & Knowledge Building

The six-month school program reached over 1,000 students through consistent, weekly engagement. By combining classroom sessions with field outings and practical activities, the center has embedded a culture of environmental awareness within the school community. The end-of-year celebration confirmed strong knowledge retention on biodiversity, the PNMD, and conservation practices.

### Community Conservation Awareness

Six major international environmental days were used as platforms to engage the broader community beyond the school system. Localities including Mbakaou and Djaoro-Kombo received

direct outreach, with a total community reach exceeding 700 people outside the school programme. The active involvement of traditional authorities and MINFOF reinforced the credibility and sustainability of the center's conservation messaging.

## Youth Empowerment & Social Cohesion

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Youth Week (February 9–11) demonstrated the center's capacity to combine conservation education with sport and culture. Parades, cross-country races, and cultural evenings built community pride, inter-school solidarity, and civic identity. The end-of-year celebration further reinforced healthy competition and a sense of environmental responsibility among the youngest generation.

## Women's Empowerment & Gender Inclusion

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The Women's Day programme (March 5–8) addressed the intersection of gender equity and environmental conservation. By pairing income-generating skills training with legal literacy on forest regulations, the center equipped women with both practical tools and knowledge to participate more actively in conservation governance. The March 8 parade gave public visibility to this commitment.

## Scientific Research & Anti-Poaching (Ganga Station)

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The Ganga Research Station programme added a critical scientific and law enforcement dimension to CBPP's field operations. Five months of bio-monitoring generated a dataset of 263 chimpanzee nests and three confirmed direct sightings, while monthly protection patrols intercepted poachers, fishermen, and herders encroaching on the site. The seizure of firearms, traps, and fishing nets directly prevented illegal harvest of wildlife, confirming the deterrent effect of regular patrol presence.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

## Recommendations for the Second Semester

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- Increase the frequency of community awareness sessions in peripheral localities
- Integrate practical field components (reforestation, nature walks) into awareness events
- Strengthen educational materials and audio-visual resources for school sessions
- Develop strategies to help communities better perceive the direct benefits of conservation
- Reinforce partnerships with MINFOF, local authorities, and traditional leaders

# CONCLUSION

The first half of 2026 confirms the Environmental Education Center's role as a key actor in conservation education and community engagement in the Mbam and Djerem National Park buffer zone. Through eight major activities and a sustained weekly school programme, the center reached over 1,700 people — students, youth, women, community members, and local authorities — across multiple localities.

The diversity of approaches — educational sessions, awareness marches, cultural events, practical training, and field excursions — demonstrates the center's ability to adapt its methodology to different audiences and contexts. The mobilization of traditional authorities, MINFOF partners, and school institutions reflects a growing network of local stakeholders committed to conservation.

Looking ahead, the center remains committed to deepening its impact by expanding its community reach, strengthening pedagogical resources, and fostering long-term behavioral change in favor of biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource management.