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Conservation Project for the Goliath Frog (*Conraua goliath*) in the Mount Nlonako Reserve

Implementation Period: February 2025

Location: Mount Nlonako Reserve, Littoral Region,
Cameroon

1. Introduction

The Goliath frog (*Conraua goliath*), the largest amphibian species in the world, is endemic to the Sanaga River basin in Cameroon. Listed as Endangered by the IUCN, it faces significant threats from poaching, habitat degradation, and a lack of awareness within local communities.

To support its conservation, a field mission was conducted in February 2025 in the Mount Nlonako Reserve, with financial support from the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund (grant awarded in May 2024). The mission followed an integrated approach combining ecological monitoring, community involvement, and threat identification.

2. Mission Objectives

- Strengthen patrol efforts to combat poaching and illegal trade of the Goliath frog
- Collect data on the species' distribution, habitat, and associated threats
- Raise awareness and engage local communities in conservation efforts
- Identify critical areas requiring priority interventions

3. Methodology

3.1 Patrol Organization

Three mixed patrols were conducted along the main rivers in the reserve, notably the Manya and Nlonako Rivers. Each patrol team included:

- 2 to 3 armed eco-guards
- 2 young local volunteers
- 1 scientific coordinator
- 1 community observer

3.2 Field Techniques

- Day and night visual surveys along riverbanks
- Evening listening sessions for male vocalizations to locate breeding sites
- GPS recording of observation points and poaching evidence
- Photographic documentation and recording of presence indicators (tracks, eggs, calls, etc.)

4. Results

4.1 Presence of the Goliath Frog

- 7 confirmed observations of adult individuals
- 4 breeding sites identified with eggs or tadpoles present
- Habitat quality ranged from moderate to good depending on the area surveyed

4.2 Identified Threats

- 2 artisanal traps discovered in riverine areas
- Deforestation and bank clearing in specific zones
- Lack of regular monitoring by governmental conservation services

4.3 Community Involvement

- 8 local youths trained in basic ecological monitoring techniques
- Awareness sessions held in 2 surrounding villages
- Encouraging local engagement in species protection efforts

5. Illustration

Photo 1: Mixed patrol during a surveillance operation in the Mount Nlonako Reserve – February 2025. This activity aims to deter traffickers, monitor Conraua goliath aquatic habitats, and strengthen community involvement in conservation.



6. Challenges Encountered

- Difficult access to certain areas during the dry season
- Limited field equipment
- Need for improved logistics and transportation

7. Recommendations

- Increase the frequency of patrols
- Provide additional field equipment
- Organize awareness-raising workshops
- Establish a participatory monitoring protocol

8. Conclusion

This field mission contributed to a better understanding of the status of the Goliath frog in the Mount Nlonako Reserve and laid the groundwork for sustainable, community-based conservation. The support of the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund has proven to be instrumental in fostering a participatory and effective protection model in a biologically rich yet threatened area.

Annexes

Annex 1: Geographical location of the patrolled areas.

Area	GPS coordinates	Type of habitat	Presence of C. goliath	Observed threats
Manya River (upstream)	N 04°53.247' E 009°46.589'	Forest river	2 adult individuals	1 artisanal trap
Lélé Stream	N 04°52.820' E 009°47.010'	Secondary stream	3 juveniles	None
Nlonako River (downstream)	N 04°54.110' E 009°45.998'	Main stream	2 breeding pairs	Poaching reported
Zone marécageuse de Lengo	N 04°51.900' E 009°47.300'	Marais	Nocturnal sound cues	Défrichement





