



HELPING PEOPLE AND NATURE THRIVE IN A VITAL ECOSYSTEM IN THE FARO LANDSCAPE

In Faro, a priority landscape for AWF in Cameroon, the African Wildlife Foundation fulfills its commitment to collaborative conservation that builds opportunities for communities. Taking a holistic and pragmatic approach, we empower people to reap direct rewards from conservation and sustainable development initiatives.

INTRODUCTION

The 344,249-hectare Faro landscape (1,329 square miles) in Cameroon is home to diverse wildlife, including elephants and the largest hippo population in Central and West Africa. Threats include commercial poaching, transhumance (seasonal cross-border livestock herding), illegal fishing, and climate change impacts.

AWF supports the government in managing Faro National Park and the surrounding area while ensuring that the local community and Indigenous people are engaged in conservation activities that benefit them. With European Union support, AWF delivers an integrated program that incorporates microenterprise development, participatory land-use planning, capacity-building in protected-area management, training in counter-wildlife-trafficking, mediation of community conflicts related to transhumance and resources, and environmental education.

AWF INTERVENTIONS

- Monitoring and Protecting Wildlife:** AWF builds rangers' anti-poaching capacity, providing tracking technology and training in best practices. We helped build a community scout contingent based at the park's borders, which protects against incursions and monitors wildlife. We also gather baseline species population data, which is critical to assessing conservation success and monitoring endangered wildlife populations.
- Addressing Conflict Over Natural Resources:** AWF supports communities around Faro in developing land-use plans, which improve the management of natural resources by demarcating multi-use zones. Furthermore, AWF helped create a local "diplomacy network" of transhumant herders. These AWF-supported "TANGO" teams mediate conflict and foster two-way communication while engaging in non-threatening, culturally fine-tuned information-sharing. As a result, groups traditionally in conflict over land use are collaborating to establish corridors and improved grazing areas for seasonal cattle pasture and passage.
- Profiting Sustainably from the Land:** To help reinforce food security in the landscape, the EU-funded project has enabled community members from Cameroon's Tchamba District to develop microenterprises in beekeeping. This project allows people to improve their incomes without degrading natural resources.
- Youth Engagement:** We deliver conservation education with long-term impact through activities like school trips to the park and community tree-planting days. In FY21, we partnered with the Garoua Wildlife School to launch "Operation Reforest Faro," distributing 2,000 indigenous tree seedlings to students and families in three area villages. Students who took good care of their trees received scholarships covering school fees and books.
- Developing Park Infrastructure:** To ease park access and facilitate rapid ranger deployment, the Faro team is supporting construction of a new headquarters in Voko and a park base on the river at Faro Beach. We are also supporting road improvements and contributing to planning for airstrips in the park.



IMPACT

SOLVING CONFLICT

Oumma Djaoudji, 25, is part of an AWF-supported, gender-balanced TANGO team created to address transhumance—seasonal, migratory livestock herding that in this landscape poses a threat to wildlife habitat and creates competition for resources with local communities. These members of TANGO (the Association for Peaceful Management of Transhumance) are Fulani cattle herders chosen by fellow community members for their integrity, leadership skills, and love for biodiversity. TANGO seeks to raise awareness of the harmful effects of transhumance and to dialogue with herders to secure alternative pasture zones that don't harm the fragile ecosystem. "The project has helped reduce conflict between protected-area managers and herder communities," said Djaoudji. "The allowances I earn as a TANGO member," she added, "have made my life better."

AMASSING BASELINE WILDLIFE DATA

In 2021, with technical support from AWF and funding from the European Union, Faro conducted a wildlife inventory that revealed that the park is home to 30 species of mammals, more than 900 hippos, and 72 fish species. The inventory not only provided baseline data, it also gave information about threats in the landscape that helped the team refine its park surveillance strategy. The team also installed over 40 camera traps in the park to improve wildlife monitoring. The motion-triggered camera traps capture images offering vital information that can help park managers better protect species and more efficiently deploy resources such as ranger patrols.



MICROENTERPRISE PROJECT

To help reinforce food security in the landscape, a European Union-funded project has enabled community members from Cameroon's Tchamba District to develop microenterprises in beekeeping. In 2021, the beekeepers increased their honey harvests and expanded their inventory of hives. Along with improving incomes, such projects foster trust in AWF and strengthen our relationships with government and private-sector partners.

AWF IN FARO BY THE NUMBERS

10

MICROENTERPRISE
PROJECTS SUPPORTED

30

SPECIES OF
MAMMALS IDENTIFIED
IN WILDLIFE INVENTORY
AND CONFIRMED BY
CAMERA TRAPS

8,000

INDIGENOUS TREE
SEEDLINGS DISTRIBUTED
TO COMMUNITY

360

COMMUNITY
MEMBERS
ENGAGED IN LAND-
USE PLANNING

10

TANGO
MISSIONS

800

STUDENTS BENEFITING FROM
CONSERVATION EDUCATION

40

CAMERA TRAPS
INSTALLED IN FARO
NATIONAL PARK



**AFRICAN WILDLIFE
FOUNDATION**

*Building a Future for Africa Where
People and Wildlife Thrive*

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