

Environment and conservation vocabulary



This glossary is one part of a series of resources produced for Cameroonian educators as part of an on-going programme to strengthen Environmental Education in Cameroon's schools and colleges.

Since 2004 a growing partnership of NGOs and education authorities has researched existing environmental knowledge and attitudes amongst teachers, collected information, shared this with educators, who selected and drafted case studies, tested these in schools, collected feedback, adapted, wrote lesson plans, and tested these, finally producing a series of modules on environmental topics and issues that are touching the lives of people in Cameroon today. This glossary is one of our outputs, designed to help teachers lever their existing knowledge and make best use of the new resources and opportunities they are encountering.



Conservation
Values
Programme

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Animal	<p>An organism of the Kingdom Animalia, being characterised by a requirement for complex organic nutrients including proteins or their constituents, which are usually digested in an internal cavity before assimilation into the body proper.</p> <p>Distinguished from typical plants by lack of chlorophyll and inability to perform photosynthesis, cells that lack cellulose walls, and usually by greater mobility with some ability to move itself, greater irritability commonly mediated by a nervous system and by frequent presence of discrete complex sense organs.</p>
Ape	<p>Apes are mammals, a sub-group of primates.</p> <p>Apes do not have tails (monkeys have tails).</p> <p>Most apes are larger and spend less time in trees than monkeys do.</p> <p>Chimpanzee, Bonobo and Gorillas are African apes. Orangutan and Gibbon are Asian apes.</p> <p>Gibbons are in a sub-group called lesser apes, Chimpanzee, Bonobo and Gorillas are Great apes.</p>
Arboreal	<p>An adjective describing an animal which spends most of its life in trees</p>
Biodiversity	<p>Biodiversity in a sense means 'everything biological'. More technically, it refers to all hereditarily-based variation at all levels of organisation from the genes in a single local population or species, to the species composing all or part of a local community to the communities themselves that make up the living parts of the different ecosystems in the world.</p> <p>Biodiversity refers to the amount of variation, both the number of life forms, and the number of different kinds (different species) of plants and animals living in a given ecosystem, biome, or the planet.</p> <p>We talk of species, ecosystem, genetic and molecular biodiversity.</p> <p>High biodiversity means there is much variety, low biodiversity means there is little.</p> <p>In terrestrial habitats, tropical regions have high biodiversity, temperate areas have lower biodiversity and polar regions less again.</p>
Biodiversity hotspot	<p>A region with many endemic species (species that do not occur anywhere else). Biodiversity hotspots exist all over the world, most are forest areas and located in the tropics. Biodiversity hotspots in Cameroon include Mount Cameroon and the Korup forest in Fako and Ndian Divisions, South West Region.</p>

Bonobo	Bonobo is a common English name for the scientific species <i>Pan paniscus</i> . <i>Pan</i> is the genus, <i>paniscus</i> is the species. There are only two species in the genus <i>Pan</i> , the other is the chimpanzee . Bonobos have a thinner body, smaller head, darker face and are more peaceful in their behaviour than chimpanzees. Bonobos are found only in the Democratic Republic of Congo, in the humid, lowland forests south of the Congo river.
Botany	The science of plants, the branch of biology dealing with plants. The plant life of a given region, eg. the botany of Central Region, or the botany of the Wouri mangroves area.
Botanical	Of or relating to plants.
Botanical inventory	The systematic listing of plant species found in a specified area
Buffer zone	In Cameroon wildlife and forestry law, a buffer zone is a clearly-defined belt of land around each national park, natural reserve or game reserve. The zone is designed to mark a transition between the protected area and zones where hunting (cynegetic), farming (agricultural) and other activities are freely carried out. Within a buffer zone, certain human activities may be allowed if they follow a management plan that has been approved by the minister in charge of wildlife. The instrument setting up a protected area shall lay down the limits of its buffer zone.
Bush Meat	Meat from animals that live wild in ‘the bush’, in contrast to animals from a farm.
CFCs Chlorofluorocarbons	Chlorofluorocarbons are chemical substances that are made by humans for use in refrigerators, air conditioners, spray cans, fire extinguishers and cleaning fluids. They are harmful to Earth’s atmosphere, because they cause thinning of the ozone layer over the polar region. They also act as greenhouse gases contributing to climate change. CFCs were banned around the world in 1987.

Chimpanzee	<p>Chimpanzees are mammals, one of two species in the genus <i>Pan</i>. They resemble humans more closely than any other ape</p> <p>Chimpanzees, scientific name <i>Pan troglodytes</i> live only in equatorial Africa, they are divided into four sub-species – <i>P. t. verus</i>, <i>P.t. troglodytes</i>, <i>P.t. schweinfurthii</i> and <i>P.t. T.elliotti</i>.</p>
CITES	<p>Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species is an international agreement between governments. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. Because the trade in wild animals and plants crosses borders between countries, the effort to regulate it requires international cooperation to safeguard certain species from over-exploitation. CITES was conceived in the spirit of such cooperation. Today, it accords varying degrees of protection to more than 30,000 species of animals and plants, whether they are traded as live specimens, fur coats or dried herbs.</p> <p>CITES was drafted as a result of a resolution adopted in 1963 at a meeting of members of IUCN (The World Conservation Union). The text of the Convention was finally agreed at a meeting of representatives of 80 countries in Washington, D.C., the United States of America, on 3 March 1973, and on 1 July 1975 CITES entered in force. The original of the Convention was deposited with the Depository Government in the Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish languages, each version being equally authentic.</p> <p>CITES is an international agreement to which States (countries) adhere voluntarily. States that have agreed to be bound by the Convention ('joined' CITES) are known as Parties. Although CITES is legally binding on the Parties – in other words they have to implement the Convention – it does not take the place of national laws. Rather it provides a framework to be respected by each Party, which has to adopt its own domestic legislation to ensure that CITES is implemented at the national level.</p> <p>For many years CITES has been among the conservation agreements with the largest membership, with now 178 Parties.</p>
Classified forest	<p>An area of forest that is owned by the state and managed under the National Zoning Plan. Classified forest may be permanent or non-permanent (ie. can be converted to other land use at some time). Permanent forest may be state or council managed. Forests may be managed for plant and animal conservation or for production of timber.</p>
'Clearing'	<p>The act of removing the trees or natural vegetation cover of a forestland in order to use such land for purposes other than forestry, irrespective of the means used in removal'</p>
Climate	<p>An area's average atmospheric (weather) conditions <i>over a long period of time</i>. Weather refers to the short term.</p>

Climate change	<p>Long term changes in average atmospheric conditions (weather).</p> <p>Modern industry and transport relies on fossil fuels (coal, oil, gas, petrol, diesel) to produce energy. When burnt, these fuels produce carbon dioxide and other carbon gases which collect in the atmosphere and cause a ‘greenhouse’ effect. As the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere increases, the planet warms up. This anthropogenic (man-made) climate change may cause unpredictable and unusual weather.</p>
Cobalt	<p>Cobalt is a mineral. A hard, magnetic, silver, white, bivalent and trivalent metallic element belonging to the same family as iron and nickel. It occurs usually with nickel or copper either in nickel iron alloys, or combined in minerals from which it is isolated as a by product. It is essential as a trace element in plant and animal nutrition. Cobalt is used to produce magnetic alloys and hard alloys resistant to abrasion, corrosion and high temperatures. Symbol - Co.</p>
Community conservation	<p>An approach (way of going about) conservation of nature that meets both natural environment and local (human) community needs by involving local people in the process of wildlife or habitat management. This often involves trying to develop the sustainable use of natural resources, in order that the wildlife or habitat being conserved ‘pays its way’ for local communities.</p>
Compost	<p>A mixture of decayed plant and food matter that improves soil. Compost makes soil less susceptible to erosion, the organic matter in compost holds water in the soil and breaks down to provide nutrients to the plants.</p>
Concession	<p>A concession is the right given by a government to an individual or company to exploit the products and services of a particular area, in return for a payment. A concession may for example, be given to exploit the timber in an area of forest, or to extract minerals from an area of land. A concession does not confer ownership of the land, merely the right to exploit specified resources.</p>
Conservation	<p>The action of keeping from harm, decay, loss, or waste; careful stewardship.</p> <p>Maintenance of existing conditions, institutions, rights, etc.</p> <p>The preservation of the environment, especially natural resources.</p> <p>Planned management of nature or a natural resource to prevent destruction, harm or loss.</p>

Conservationist	<p>A supporter, proponent or advocate of natural habitat and wildlife conservation</p> <p>A person who works for or promotes conservation of the natural environment, natural habitats and wildlife.</p>
Convention on Biological Diversity	<p>The Convention on Biological Diversity is an international legally binding treaty signed by 150 government leaders at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. It is dedicated to promoting sustainable development, recognizing that ecosystems, species and genetic resources must be used for the benefit of humans but in a way and at a rate that does not lead to long-term decline of biological diversity. The Convention has three main goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - conservation of biological diversity - sustainable use of its components (all ecosystems, species and genetic resources); and - fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources.
CVP	<p>Conservation Values Programme. The Environment programme of UNAFAS (United African Association), based in Yaoundé.</p>
Cynegetic zone	<p>According to Cameroon's wildlife law of 1995 – a cynegetic zone is any protected area reserved for hunting and managed by the service in charge of wildlife, a natural person or corporate body, or local council and in which any hunting activity is subject to the payment of a fee determined by the Finance Law. No hunting that involves fully protected species shall be carried out in a cynegetic zone.</p> <p>NB Cynegetic comes from the ancient Greek word <i>kynēgetikos</i> meaning ‘of or relating to hunting’</p>
Decomposition	<p>The process by which things break down, decay, rot.</p>
Deforestation	<p>Loss of forest due to clearing or felling trees on a large scale.</p>
Destruction and fragmentation of habitats	<p>Destruction of a habitat may result from natural events like volcanic activity, flooding, tornados, drought, or from human activity like mining, deforestation, construction projects, hydro projects, agricultural expansion, or from pollution.</p> <p>Any of the above may also cause fragmentation of habitats, resulting in an area of for example, forest, grass or wetlands being broken up into a few or many small areas.</p>

Diamonds	Diamond is a mineral, it is the hardest substance known. Native carbon crystallised in the isometric system often in the form of octahedrons with rounded edges, and usually near colourless. When transparent and free from flaws is highly valued as a precious stone due to remarkable brilliance and play of colours. The hardness of diamonds make them invaluable for industrial purposes, in abrasive powders, rock drills, turning tools. Off coloured or flawed diamonds are usually used in industry.
Ecosystem	An ecosystem is a dynamic complex made up of plants, animals, microorganisms and their physical non-living surroundings, such as soil, rock, weather, etc. which by their interaction constitute a unit. Some examples are marine, lake, soil, forest or mountain ecosystems.
Ecosystem or ecological services	<p>Resources and processes provided by ecosystems and species.</p> <p>Provisioning services -production of food (including seafood and game), crops, wild foods, and spices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - water - minerals - raw materials for pharmaceuticals, - energy (hydropower, biomass fuels, wood, coal) <p>Regulating services - like control of climate and disease</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - purification of water and air - carbon sequestration and climate regulation - waste decomposition and detoxification, breakdown of different substances - crop pollination - pest and disease control <p>Supporting services - nutrient cycling and dispersal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - seed dispersal and crop pollination - primary production <p>Cultural services - cultural, intellectual and spiritual inspiration and benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - recreation, including ecotourism.
Ecosystem service providers	Species or populations of organisms providing specific ecosystem services. Can also refer to a person or community who are protecting or maintaining an ecosystem to allow it to provide a service (e.g. a village council maintaining forested hillsides to prevent flooding and soil erosion)

Education for Sustainable Development	Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is an approach to education that provides the knowledge and skills for critical reflection and to motivate actions that promote sustainable development and actions that are in harmony with nature. It is underpinned by an ethic of solidarity, equality and mutual respect among people, countries, cultures and generations.
Endangered	Under threat, or in peril of probable harm or loss.
Endangered species	A species of plant or animal whose continued existence is threatened in some way.
Endemic	<p>Belonging, native or restricted to a particular place or region or people: characteristic of or prelevant in a particular field, area or environment.</p> <p>Plants and animals are said to be endemic to an area when they occur nowhere else. Endemism can be to a region, like the Congo Basin; to a country, like Cameroon or very local, for example to a single mountain, or river valley.</p>
Energy	Energy is an object's capability to do work, that is to exert a force through a distance on another object. Any movement, growing, heating up, creating a light or producing a sound is due to energy. Different forms of energy include kinetic, potential, thermal, chemical, electrical, electrochemical, light, sound and nuclear.
Environment	<p>The region surrounding a place.</p> <p>The set of circumstances or conditions especially physical, in which a person or community lives, works, develops, etc, or a thing operates; the external conditions affecting the life of a plant or animal.</p>
Environmental	<p>Of or pertaining to the environment.</p> <p>Concerned with the conservation of the environment; often used to mean 'not harmful to the environment'.</p>
Environmentalist	A person who is concerned about or seeks to protect the natural environment, or elements of the natural environment.

Environmental sustainability	<p>Sustainability can be defined as the ability to continue a defined activity forever. An activity is environmentally sustainable if it does not harm or deplete the local or global environment to the extent that it can no longer take place in the long term.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In resource use, this means that the rate of harvest should not exceed the rate of regeneration (eg. trees should be cut down only if there are others growing to replace them). - In waste management, waste should only be produced at a rate which can be assimilated by the environment. - The use of non-renewable resources (like minerals) can only be sustainable if there is full recycling.
Evolve	Change slowly over a long period of time
Evolution	<p>A theory proposing that life on Earth developed and diversified from a single common ancestor into millions of different forms over the past 3.5 billion years. Evolution is studied at a large-scale (the evolution of new species over many generations) and on a small-scale (how the frequency of particular genes change from one generation to the next).</p> <p>Evolution results from the process of genetic inheritance, specifically</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - mutation (change in DNA sequence due to error in replication or repair), - migration (gene flow due to migration of individuals from a different population), - genetic drift (chance changes from generation to generation) and - natural selection (“survival of the fittest”).
Evolved	A species is said to have evolved when it has developed due to evolution over a long period of time. Eg. Elephants’ ears evolved as a way of regulating body temperature by increasing their surface area to volume ratio.
Ex situ conservation	Protecting an endangered species out of its habitat, e.g. in a zoo or botanic garden.
Extinct	A species is extinct when there are no living individuals in existence.
Extinction	The permanent loss of a species of living organism from the surface of the earth. Extinction occurs when the last individual dies.

Fishery resources	Within the context of the Cameroonian law means ‘fish, seafood, molluscs and algae from the marine, estuarine and fresh water environments, including sedentary animals in such environments.’
Fission	The splitting of the nucleus of an atom into nuclei of lighter atoms. Fission releases a large amount of energy as heat and light. Humans generate electricity from controlled nuclear fission in nuclear power stations.
Flagship species	Flagship species are sometimes called Charismatic species, because for one reason or another they capture public attention and support for conservation. Flagship species, eg Gorilla, Lions, Panda Bears act as ambassadors for wildlife, nature in general, or for a particular ecosystem.
Forest	A large tract of land covered with trees and undergrowth. Often refers to a wilderness area.
Forest inventory	The systematic collection of data and forest information for assessment or analysis
Forest Reserve	A general term for an area of forest set aside and protected by the government as a wildlife refuge or nature reserve. Definition of the different types of forest reserves in Cameroon and laws that apply to these are laid out in law No. 94/01 of 20 January 1994 – copies of this law are available on the LAGA website- click here to access
Fossil Fuels	Fossil fuels (eg coal and oil) are the fossilized remains of living organisms – 300 million years ago, in the Carboniferous Period, the Earth was covered in dense forest, as trees died, they were buried under layers of soil and gradually transformed by high pressure and temperature into the coal now being mined and burnt all over the world. This is fossilisation. Oil and natural gas are made in a similar way from the bodies of marine plankton, organisms which float in the open ocean and fall to the seafloor when they die. When fossil fuels are burned, the carbon taken out of the atmosphere when these plants photosynthesized millions of years ago, is released back into the atmosphere.
Game-ranch	An area protected and managed for the purpose of exploiting wild animals for food or for other purposes.

Game reserve	<p>In Cameroon law a Game reserve is an area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - set aside for the conservation, management and propagation of wildlife and for the protection and management of its habitat; - wherein hunting is forbidden, except by authorization of the minister in charge of wildlife, as part of duly approved management operations; - where dwelling and other human activities are regulated or forbidden.
Genetic resources	<p>the genetic material of plants, animals or micro-organisms. Advances in biotechnology and biochemistry are enabling new ways of using genetic material. Genetic resources in Cameroon are the property of the State.</p> <p>The Nagoya Protocol of the Convention on Biological Diversity covers <i>Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization</i>. This document, not yet in force, clarifies who should benefit from new discoveries based on genetic material and addresses the problem of bio-piracy, where plant or animal resources are commercially exploited without compensating the countries or communities where they are found and traditionally used.</p>
Global warming	<p>The increase over time of the average temperature of the Earth's atmosphere and oceans.</p> <p>The IPCC estimate that in the last 100 years global average surface temperature increased by 0.6 °C (+/-0.2 °C), and that “most of the observed warming over the last 50 years is likely to have been due to the increase in greenhouse gas concentrations.”</p> <p>The IPCC - Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is a committee set up in 1988 by the United Nations, it reviews the most recent scientific, technical and socio-economic information produced worldwide on climate change.</p>
Gold	<p>A precious metal characterised by its yellowish colour, resistance to tarnishing and corrosion, and great malleability and ductility. It is a chemical element of the transition series, atomic number 79 (symbol Au).</p>
Gorilla	<p>The largest of the primates, gorillas are great apes that live only in the forests of central Africa.</p> <p>There are two species of gorilla - the Western gorilla (<i>Gorilla gorilla</i>) and the Eastern gorilla (<i>Gorilla beringei</i>), that are divided into four, possibly five subspecies.</p> <p>The Western lowland gorilla, the Cross River gorilla and the Mountain gorilla are classified as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red list, whilst the Eastern lowland gorilla is classified as Endangered.</p> <p>All gorilla species are listed on Appendix 1 of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES 2010). Gorillas are threatened by habitat destruction, hunting and the Ebola virus.</p>

Great Ape	The Great Apes (or Hominidae) are the taxonomic family including the human, gorilla, chimpanzee and orangutan species. Great Apes are much more intelligent than other primates, such as gibbons (known as lesser apes) and monkeys.
Green house	A building with walls made of glass or sometimes clear plastic. The glass allows sunlight to enter and traps heat inside. , Greenhouses are used in colder climates, for growing plants because they create a hot, humid atmosphere that suits some species.
Green house effect	Warming of the earth, that results from increased greenhouse gases in the atmosphere absorbing the sun's heat and trapping it in the atmosphere, just as heat is trapped inside a greenhouse.
Greenhouse gases	Gases that contribute to a green house effect, including - water vapour, CO ₂ , methane, nitrous oxide, ozone, CFCs
Habitat	The physical environment in which a plant or animal naturally or normally lives and grows.
Half life	The time taken for half the atoms in a radioactive material to undergo decay
Hunt	Pursue or chase with the goal of capturing and killing (wild animals or game) for food or sport. Of an animal, to pursue prey. Make a diligent or energetic search for, look eagerly. Drive away from a place, by pursuit or harassment. Pursue vexatiously, pester.
Hunter	A person engaged in the pursuit of wild animals or game. A person who hunts. A person who searches or seeks diligently or energetically for something. A dog, good at, or used in hunting.
Hunting grounds	A zone where hunting activities are authorized and carried out in accordance with hunting regulations. Community hunting grounds are hunting grounds in a non-permanent State forest that is the subject of a management convention between a local community and the service in charge of wildlife.

Hydro	Abbreviation of Hydroelectric.
Hydroelectric	Generating electricity by utilising the energy of falling or flowing water; pertaining to such generation; electricity generated in this way
Hydro power	Electricity generated by utilising the energy of falling or flowing water.
Inventory	An itemized catalogue or list of tangible goods or property, or of intangible attributes or qualities.
In situ conservation	Protecting an endangered animal on site, or in its habitat.
IUCN	The International Union for the Conservation of Nature it a large, internation conservation organisation. It was founded in 1948 as the world's first global environmental organization, it is the largest professional global conservation network with more than 1,200 member organizations including 200+ government and 900+ non-government organizations and almost 11,000 voluntary scientists and experts, grouped in six Commissions in some 160 countries. IUCN provides a forum for conservationists and has conservation projects and activities around the world. It is funded by governments, bilateral and multilateral agencies, foundations, member organizations and corporations.
IUCN Red List	<p>The IUCN Red List catalogues and highlights plants and animals that are at risk of global extinction (i.e. those listed as Critically Endangered, Endangered and Vulnerable). It provides taxonomic, conservation status and distribution information on plants and animals that have been globally evaluated for the relative risk of extinction</p> <p>The IUCN Red List also includes information on plants and animals that are categorized as Extinct or Extinct in the Wild; taxa that cannot be evaluated because of insufficient information (i.e., are Data Deficient); and those close to meeting the threatened thresholds or that would be threatened were it not for an ongoing taxon-specific conservation programme (i.e., are Near Threatened). The information is held in a database, that can be accessed publically, on-line.</p>

Logging	The work or business of felling and trimming trees and transporting the logs to a mill
Mangrove	Tropical trees or shrubs of the family Rhizophoraceae, and the genera Rhizophora and Bruguiera that have interlacing aerial roots, which form distinctive dense thickets in muddy swamps bordering the sea.
Mangrove forest	A forest formation found in areas bordering the sea, and largely composed of Rhizophora species.
Mineral	A naturally occurring substance that is neither animal nor vegetable in origin; inorganic. A substance obtained by mining, especially one other than a native metal, an ore.
Mining	The process of extracting coal or minerals from the ground.
Monkey	Monkeys are primates. They are in the anthropoid group of primates; humans, apes, marmosets and tamarins are also anthropoid primates. Monkeys have tails. Apes do not. Monkeys are in the families Cebidae (capuchins, howler monkeys,...), Callitricidae (marmosets, tamarins,...), and Cercopithecidae (baboons, macaques, colobuses).

National Park	<p>Large areas of countryside protected by law for the enjoyment of the general public or the preservation of wildlife. Run differently in different countries. Defined in Cameroon law as: an uninterrupted area whose fauna, flora, soil, subsoil, atmosphere, waters and natural environment as a whole are of special interest and should be preserved from any natural deterioration and protected against any human interference likely to alter their outlook, composition and evolution. In Cameroon the following shall be forbidden in national parks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - hunting and fishing, except as part of a park management operation; - industrial activities; - extraction of materials; - pollution of any nature; - farming, grazing and forestry activities; - stray domestic animals; - aircraft flying at an attitude of less than 200 m; - the introduction of local or imported animal and plant species, except for scientific purposes or as part of management operations authorized by the minister in charge of wildlife.
National forest estate	The total area of forest that is owned by the state and managed under the National Zoning Plan. National Forest Estate is made up of permanent and non-permanent forests, regulations and definitions relating to these are laid down in Law No. 94/01 of 20 January 1994.
Permanent forest	Permanent Forests are subdivided into State Forests and Council Forests – law relating to these are outlined in Chapter I
Non-permanent forest	Non-permanent forest is divided into Communal forests, Community forests and Forests belonging to Private individuals. Chapter II
Natural forest regeneration	The regrowth of a forest due to natural seed fall and sprouting, without interference from humans.
Natural resources	The land, animals, plants, forests, minerals, and water that exist naturally in a place.

Natural selection	Natural selection is one of the basic mechanisms underlying the theory of evolution. It occurs when a breeding population has a variety of traits (e.g. some elephants have smaller ears, some have larger ears). The traits which allow individuals to survive better and produce more offspring will occur more frequently in the next generation, and if this continues over many generations, all individuals in the population will have that trait.
Non timber forest products	All useful things (other than timber) that can be harvested from forests – NTFPs include fruits and seeds, herbs, cane and rattan, and other plant and animal material. NTFPs may be used for construction, medicine, food, spices, traditional ceremonies, to make clothing, or any other purpose.
Organic matter	Material that originates from living plants and/or animals.
Ozone	Ozone is a harmful gas at the Earth’s surface but is important in the upper atmosphere. It blocks ultra-violet rays from the sun, if these rays pass through the atmosphere they can have harmful effects on earth.
Ozone layer	A region, a layer, in the atmosphere composed of ozone molecules, which forms a natural shield that protects the earth from the harmful effects of the sun’s ultra-violet (UV) rays.
PACE	Pan African Conservation Education, a project run by Siren Conservation Education and Tusk Trust in the UK. PACE shares environmental information and practical ways people have solved common environmental problems- from fuel-saving stoves to rainwater-harvesting, compost making to forest product certification.
Paper mash	The process of, or items made from, recycling paper or cardboard by cutting it into small pieces, soaking in water, mashing into a pulp, forming shapes and drying these until they are hard
Participatory management	Any wildlife resource management approach which, at each stage in its design and implementation, involves the local population and all other stakeholders as much as possible.
Plant	A living organism other than an animal, typically fixed to a substrate, able to subsist wholly on inorganic substances, and moving chiefly by growth, especially such an organism having cellulose cell walls, and capable of photosynthesis by means of chlorophyll.

Poacher	A person who takes game (wild animals, birds, fish) illegally or unfairly.
Poach	To encroach or trespass on the land or rights of another to acquire something unlawfully or unfairly, especially game/ bush meat, fish or birds.
Poaching	Any hunting activity without a licence, out of season, in reserved areas or with prohibited vehicles or weapons
Pollution	Presence in the environment or introduction into it, of substances which have harmful or unpleasant effects. Occurs when the environment is contaminated or “dirty” due to the addition of unnatural things such as trash, chemicals, or other harmful substances. A thing that pollutes.
Prehistoric	Of or relating to the period before recorded history; very old.
Preserve	Keep alive or save, keep in existence, keep free from decay.
Primate	A member of the group of mammals which includes humans, monkeys, and apes. They are intelligent. Most live in families, pairs or large troops and care for and protect others in their group. There are 200 species of primate. Primates have bodies covered with hair. They are the only animals with opposable thumbs which enables gripping and holding things. They have eyes facing forwards, giving 3D vision. Monkeys are found in Africa, Asia, Central and South America. Gorillas, chimpanzees, bonobos are primates found only in Africa. Orangutans and Gibbons are Asian primates.
Protect	To keep something from harm or destruction.
Protected areas	Defined in Cameroonian law as - a zone geographically delimited and managed with a view to conserving and realizing the sustainable harnessing of one or more given resources.

Radiation	Energy that is transferred by rays as atoms or molecules undergo change
Radioactivity	The spontaneous release of neutrons, alpha, beta particles, or gamma rays, from an atom with an unstable nucleus
Range	The area over which the occurrence of a species is possible, ie. the area over which conditions suitable for it to live, exist.
Range-restricted	A range-restricted species is one with a small range. In conservation, a common threshold for defining range-restricted species is that the range size is < 50,000 km ² (Terborgh & Winter, 1983). In the absence of other information, the IUCN Red list assumes that species with a very restricted range are critically endangered.
Reforestation	The replanting of trees (a forest) in an area where trees grew before and have been burned, cut down or removed in some other way.
Recycle	To use again, to convert waste of any kind into a usable form.
Renewable resources	Renewable resources can be replenished, timber can be cut and more planted, solar energy can be harnessed and more is produced by the sun, we can harvest fish and those remaining will breed and restock the waters.
/ non-renewable resources	Non-renewable resources are finite – we can drill for oil until reserves are used up, no more will be made: we can mine for gold until the deposits are finished, no more gold will be made.
Research	Systematic investigation into and study of a subject through a course of scientific inquiry, critical study of materials and other sources to establish facts, collate information and reach new conclusions. Formal postgraduate study or investigation. Surveying of opinions or background information relevant to a project, etc.
Resource	Available assets, stock or reserve which can be drawn on when necessary.
Restoration	The process of returning something to its original, natural state or form.

Sacred Forest	An area of forest that has spiritual significance to people living nearby.
Sanctuary	A place of refuge. In the Cameroon wildlife and forestry law a sanctuary is defined as ‘an area within which only specially designated animal or plant species are given full protection. The list of such species shall be drawn up by the minister in charge of wildlife.’
Seedling	A plant in the first stages of growth following germination.
Semi-natural area	A habitat where human-induced changes can be detected or one that is influenced to some extent by human management such as cultivation, grazing, habitation. Some semi-natural habitats contain high biodiversity and/or flora and fauna of great interest.
Silver	Silver is a precious metal with the chemical symbol Ag and atomic number 47. It is a soft, white, lustrous transition metal, that has the highest electrical conductivity of any element and the highest thermal conductivity of any metal.
Soil	Soil is formed naturally, on the surface of the earth, its composition, structure and appearance varies greatly according to climate, geology, past and present human, plant and animal presence and activity. Soil is made up of variable combinations of naturally broken down rock, organic matter from decayed plants and animals and other materials. Soil contains animals like earthworms, bacteria and beetle larvae that move, feed in and break down the dead organic matter. Soil is regenerated as plant debris fall from trees and the rock underneath and above is broken up by roots, erosion and animals.
Solar	Of sun or sunlight
Solar energy	Energy from sunlight. Can be made into electricity using photovoltaic cells or used to heat water in solar water heaters.
Species	The most basic category of biological classification; a group of individuals (plant or animal) that have common qualities or characteristics – generally members of a species can breed among themselves; genetic similarity may also be used to delimit species.

State forest	Areas of forest belonging to the state, permanent or non-permanent and managed for protection or production. These may include production forests, protection forests, Teaching & research forests, Forest plantations, Recreation forests, Plant life sanctuaries, Botanical gardens, Integral ecological reserves, Game reserves, Hunting areas, State game ranches, Wildlife sanctuaries, Buffer zones, State zoological gardens, National parks.
Survey	Carry out a systematic focused investigation of something, examine and ascertain the condition, situation, or value of something – a habitat may be surveyed, a house may be surveyed, a group of people or a set of books may be surveyed.
Sustain	Support, keep from failing or giving away, cause to continue in a certain state, maintain the proper level or standard, bear up or hold out.
Sustainable	Of a defined activity, something that can continue indefinitely at the same rate or level, with the same inputs, and without leading to depletion of resources required to finance, or to furnish the activity.
Sustainable development	<p>Defined in 1987 by United Nations as development that “...meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.</p> <p>Later definitions state that Sustainable development is “based on long term renewable use of biological resources”, and “underpinned by an ethic of solidarity, equality and mutual respect among people, countries, cultures and generations; it is development in harmony with nature ..”</p>
Sustainable energy	Energy that is produced in a way (using a process) that can continue indefinitely without depleting non-renewable resources or damaging the environment. Renewable energy sources include solar, wind and hydroelectric power. Nuclear power may also be preferable to fossil fuels in that it does not produce greenhouse gas emissions. Each of these energy generation methods have effects on the environment which need to be managed. Humankind needs to invest in more research and development for sustainable energy generation.

Sustainable management Rules and methods to follow such that a renewable resource is not used up faster than it can be regenerated or replaced by natural processes. Fisheries, forests, wildlife and water supplies can be sustainably managed.

Terrestrial Related to the land or the ground. A terrestrial animal or plant lives or grows on land as opposed to in water, or on the ground rather than in or on trees

semi-terrestrial When referring to an animal, one that forages (searches for food) both on the ground and in trees, or on land and in water. Or of a plant that can be found growing on the ground and in trees or on rocks.

Toxic Poisonous, harmful to health

Toxic waste Toxic means poisonous. Toxic waste usually refers to potentially or actually poisonous or harmful by products or refuse of a process, industrial, medical, chemical or biological. Nuclear power stations produce toxic radioactive waste that needs special management.

Trans boundary management (of wildlife) A single management programme, project or strategy that involves more than one national territory:
The Cross River Gorilla Conservation strategy is ‘transboundary’ because it includes areas in Cameroon and in adjacent Nigeria. The Sangha Tri-National Complex is said to be one of the most important conservation areas in Central Africa, it includes three adjacent national parks in three countries, Lobeke in Cameroon, Dzanga-Ndoki in Central African Republic and Nouabalé-Ndoki , Republic of Congo.

Transparent Of an object - transmits light, such that objects lying beyond are clearly visible.
Also used in reference to openness and accountability in financial transactions, negotiations and decision-making in politics, business, administration, science and other sectors.

Transparency The condition of being transparent

Turbine An engine that extracts energy from a flow of fluid or steam

Uranium	A natural radioactive element found in pitchblende
uranium-235	An isotope of uranium that undergoes fission and is used as fuel for nuclear reactors and nuclear weapons
uranium-238	An isotope of uranium used to make plutonium
Viable populations	Populations that are large enough to maintain themselves.
Waste	Something that has been discarded or has no perceived use. Trash, or refuse.
Waste management	Organisation of waste: the collection, storage, sorting, transportation, disposal and in some cases re-cycling
Wild animals	Animals that are not farmed or cared for by human beings, usually refers to species that are not commonly domesticated
Wildlife	In English, ‘wildlife’ refers to wild animals living without being cared for, or not being farmed by human beings. In French the term refers to animals (la faune) and plants (la flore) that exist in nature independently of human beings. In Cameroon law wildlife means ‘all the species belonging to any natural ecosystem as well as all species captured from their natural habitat for domestication purposes.
Wildlife conservation	Activities carried out with the goal of ensuring that wild animals, plants and the ecosystems in which they exist are sustained in the long term.
Wildlife reserve	An area of land that is protected and managed in order to preserve a specified , usually rare, endangered or otherwise special habitat, flora and/or fauna. In Cameroonian law a Game Reserve is an area set aside for the conservation, management and propagation of wildlife and for the protection and management of its habitat; - wherein hunting is forbidden, except by authorization of the minister in charge of wildlife, as part of duly approved management operations; - where dwelling and other human activities are regulated or forbidden.

Zoology The science of animals, the branch of biology dealing with animals.

Zoological Of or relating to animals.

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