

**A PRESENTATION BY
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A PRESENTATION ON MANAGING PROTECTED AREAS IN CAMEROON

A **protected area** is a clearly defined geographical space that is recognized, dedicated, and managed through legal or other effective means to achieve the long-term conservation of nature, including biodiversity, ecosystems, and associated cultural values. This definition is widely adopted from the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

Protected areas are established to safeguard ecosystems that are still healthy and intact, making them one of the most effective strategies for preserving global biodiversity. These areas may be managed by governments, private organizations, or indigenous communities, and they can vary in size, purpose, and level of human activity allowed.

CLASSIFICATION OF PROTECTED AREAS ACCORDING TO IUCN (INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE)

1 Category Ia ; Strict Nature Reserve

- Highly protected areas set aside for scientific research
- Very limited human access

2 Category Ib; Wilderness Area

- Large, untouched natural areas
- No permanent human settlement

3 Category II ; National Park

- Protected for ecosystem conservation and recreation
- Example: waza national park

4 Category III; Natural Monument

- Protects specific natural features (e.g., caves, waterfalls)

5 Category IV; Habitat/Species Management Area

- Managed to protect particular species or habitats

6 Category V; Protected Landscape/Seascape

- Areas where humans and nature interact sustainably

7 Category VI; Protected Area with Sustainable Use

- Allows controlled use of natural resources

Establishing Conservation Priorities

- Distinctiveness of species
- Level of endangerment
- Utility for ecosystems and humans

PROTECTED AREAS IN CAMEROON

- Waza National Park
- Korup National Park
- Campo Ma'an National Park
- Mbam et Djerem National Park
- Dja Faunal Reserve (UNESCO site)
- Lobéké National Park

WAZA NATIONAL PARK

- Created: 1934 (reserve), 1968 (national park)
- Location: Far North Region
- Features: Savanna wildlife (elephants, lions, giraffes)
- UNESCO Biosphere Reserve
- Category II



KORUP NATIONAL PARK

- Created: 1986
- Location: Southwest Region
- Features: Ancient rainforest, high primate diversity
- Category II



Campo Ma'an National Park

- Created: 2000
- Location: South Region
- Features: Rainforest, mangroves, gorillas
- High conservation importance
- Category II



Mbam et Djerem National Park

- Created: 2000
- Location: Central Cameroon
- Features: Forest–savanna ecotone, chimpanzees
- High biodiversity value
- Category II



Lobéké National Park

- Created: 1999
- Location: Southeast Cameroon
- Features: Congo Basin rainforest, gorillas, elephants
- Part of UNESCO Sangha Trinational (it means that the area belongs to a **large transboundary conservation zone** recognized by UNESCO as a **World Heritage Site**)
- Category II



Dja Faunal Reserve

- Created: 1950
- Location: Southeastern Cameroon
- Features: Large intact rainforest, primates
- UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Category VI



Managing Protected Areas

- Control invasive species
- Fire management
- Habitat restoration
- Monitoring wildlife populations

Challenges and Solutions

- Challenges: poaching, deforestation, climate change
- Solutions: community involvement, law enforcement, adaptive management