



NEW LIFE IN THE CONGO BASIN:

A DECADE OF SPECIES DISCOVERIES (2013-2023)



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Written and researched by Christian Thompson with advisory by Martina Lippuner and reviewed by Fidelis Pegue Manga, Martin Kabaluapa Kapinga, Paul Ngoran, Jeff Worden, Jaap van der Waarde and Tubalemye Mutwale (WWF Int-Africa), Marsden Momanyi, Wendy Elliott (WWF-International), Idriss Ayaya Magwambo, Christian Mpassi, (WWF DRC), Alain Ononino, Jonas Kemajou Syapze (WWF Cameroon), Terence Fuh Neba and Thomas Breuer (WWF Germany), Nuria Ortega (WWF CAR), Melissa Sophie Dondyas (WWF Gabon), Corneille Moukson KUTIA-KWA-NZAMBI and Aksil Goma (WWF RoC).

Designed by Francesca Herimihamina

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A special thank you goes to the local communities and Indigenous peoples who are the dedicated stewards of the Congo Basin's extraordinary biodiversity.

Cover images: (from left to right)

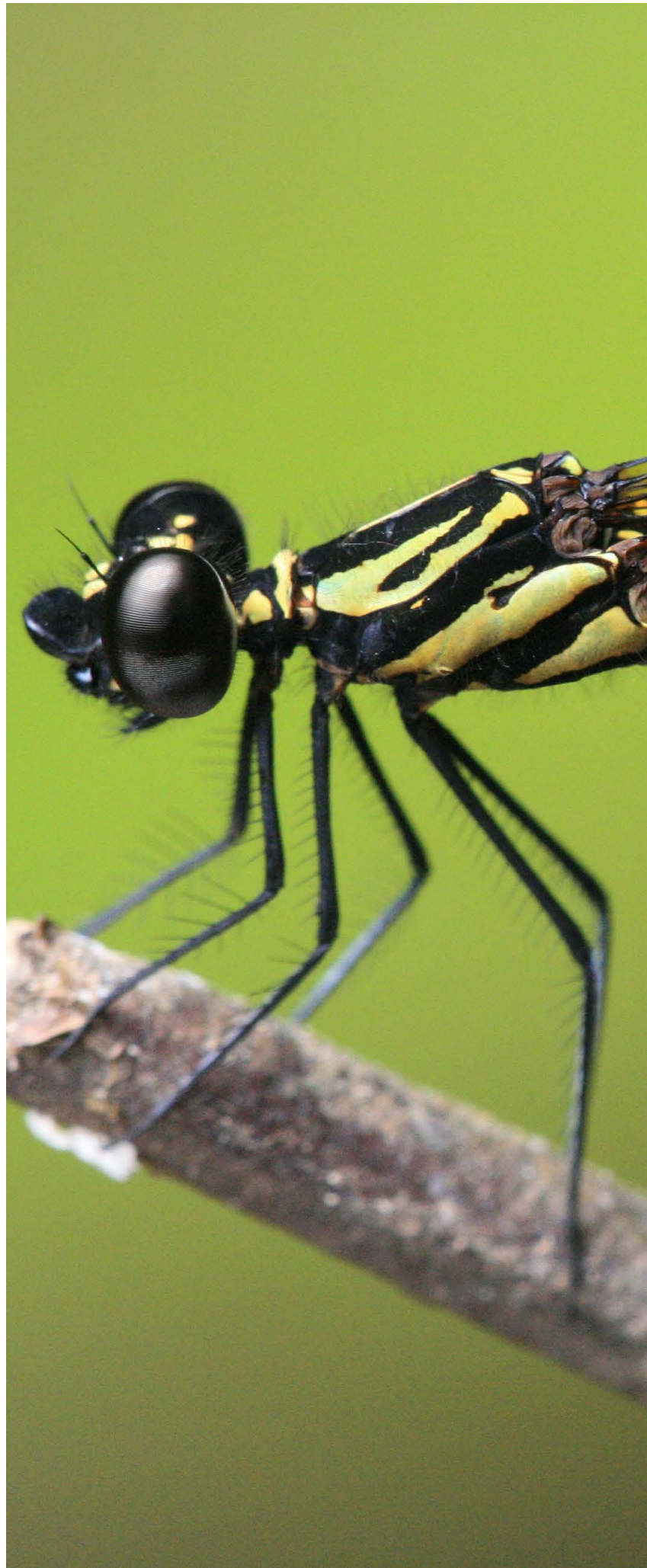
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FOREWORD: EXPLORING THE BIODIVERSITY OF THE CONGO BASIN, A DECADE OF DISCOVERY



Dear Readers,

Over the last few years, I have discovered the rich biodiversity of the Congo Basin and the impressive work done by governments, local and international civil society organisations to protect the ecosystem of the Congo Basin.

It gives me pleasure to introduce this report, which

delves into the remarkable biodiversity of the Congo Basin—a vast and ecologically diverse region that spans the countries of Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and the Republic of Congo.

The Congo Basin forest, covering an impressive 200 million hectares, stands as the world's second largest tropical forest. Within its lush green expanse, we encounter a rich variety of species, both familiar and newly revealed: over 742 species in just the last decade alone.

Approximately 10,000 species of tropical plants call the Congo Basin home, with 30 percent of them being unique to this region. From majestic trees to delicate orchids, the flora here paints a vivid picture of resilience and adaptation.

The forests influence the rain across Africa and shelter many endangered species. Forest elephants, chimpanzees, bonobos, and both lowland and mountain gorillas inhabit them but also the iconic okapi, and the Congolese peacock. Their survival depends on the balance maintained by this ecosystem. Recently, scientists mapped the world's largest tropical peatland within the Congo Basin—an essential carbon sink that supports nearby human communities and wildlife.

For over 50,000 years, humans have coexisted here with nature. Today, more than 75 million people rely on the Congo Basin for sustenance, shelter, and cultural identity. Several indigenous communities still call the forest their home.

Among the newfound treasures presented in this report are new plants, invertebrates, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals, from new spiders to new cobras and even a monkey species known locally as the 'lesula'.

As we delve deeper into this report, let us celebrate the diverse life that exists in the Congo Basin and recognise the urgent need for conservation. Already WWF has programmes up and running such as the One Health approach, primate habituation, biomonitoring, solutions to human-elephant conflicts, Forests Forward,¹ TRAFFIC,² the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and ecotourism.

We are furthering these initiatives, working across key areas and critical habitats in landscapes like the Trinational de la Sangha (TNS) in Cameroon, Central African Republic and the Republic of Congo, the Trinational Dja - Odzala - Minkebe (TRIDOM) in the Republic of Congo, Cameroon and Gabon and the Salonga-Lukenie-Sankuru in the Democratic Republic of Congo, with WWF having a presence in five of the six countries covered in this report.

Our collective efforts can ensure that future generations inherit a world where the lesula monkey's call still echoes through the canopy, and where the peatlands and forests continue to sequester carbon for the well-being of people and our whole planet.

With gratitude for the tireless work of researchers, conservationists, government partners and local communities, I invite you to explore the wonders of the Congo Basin.

Warm regards,

Dr Martin Kabaluapa,
Regional Director Congo Basin
WWF International



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Between 2013 and 2023, at least 742 species have been discovered in the Congo Basin region of Central Africa and have officially been described by scientists as being new species.³ Although some of the new finds may have been known to locals for possibly centuries, they will be new to science.

Recent finds include new orchids species and other flowering plants, new species of coffee, the first firefly species from the Central African Republic, air-breathing catfish, bats, blind snakes, bush vipers, chameleons, clawed frogs, cobras, crocodile, dragonflies, electric fish, endangered frogs, mice, a new monkey, owl, robin, shrews, spiders, a turtle and wasp, to name just a selection of the new discoveries. This report is not exhaustive but gives a snapshot of new life identified in this region.

In summary, the Congo Basin is not only a biodiversity hotspot but also a critical resource for both wildlife and human communities. The discovery of new species underscores the urgent need for conservation efforts to protect this vital ecosystem. The lush forests are home to endangered wildlife, such as forest elephants, chimpanzees, bonobos, lowland and mountain gorillas. Over 400 other species of mammals, 1,000 bird species, and 700 fish species and an incredible 10,000 species of plants can be found in the Congo Basin.

WWF has been involved in conservation here for several decades. We continue to work with local communities, institutions and governments across its 200 million hectares, linking community action with science and effective policy to promote the protection and sustainable use of forests, freshwater, and marine resources for people and for nature. More information on the initiatives and programmes WWF are pioneering can be found in this report.

An aerial photograph of a lush, green tropical rainforest. The forest is dense with various types of trees, including palm trees. A dark blue river flows through the forest, curving from the bottom left towards the right. The water is calm, reflecting the surrounding greenery. A black rectangular box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing white text.

INTRODUCTION: THE SECOND LARGEST RAINFOREST AND RIVER BASIN IN THE WORLD

© Thomas Nicolon / WWF DRC

GEOGRAPHY

The Congo Basin makes up one of the most important wilderness areas left on Earth. Covering an area over 200 million hectares, it is larger than the state of Alaska, USA, or 13 per cent of the entire African landmass and stands as the world's second largest tropical forest after the Amazon. The mighty Congo River and its tributaries spans 4,700km (2,900mi), the only major river globally to cross the Equator twice, flows through 10 countries from its highest point in the East Africa Rift to its lowest where it empties into the Gulf of Guinea at Moanda in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The river has the second largest flow in the world, after the Amazon, the second largest drainage basin of any river, behind the Amazon; and is one of the deepest rivers in the world, at depths greater than 220m (720ft).

Habitat types in the basin region span a remarkable range from dense network of tributaries, sub-tributaries, and small rivers coastal forests, swamp forests and lowland forests, flooded forest, woodlands, savanna, thickets, moorlands, grasslands and mangroves, caves, waterfalls pools, lakes and rapids, equatorial coastline and the Gulf of Guinea. The Congo Basin features concentric slopes ranging from 275 to 460m (900 to 1,500ft) in elevation.

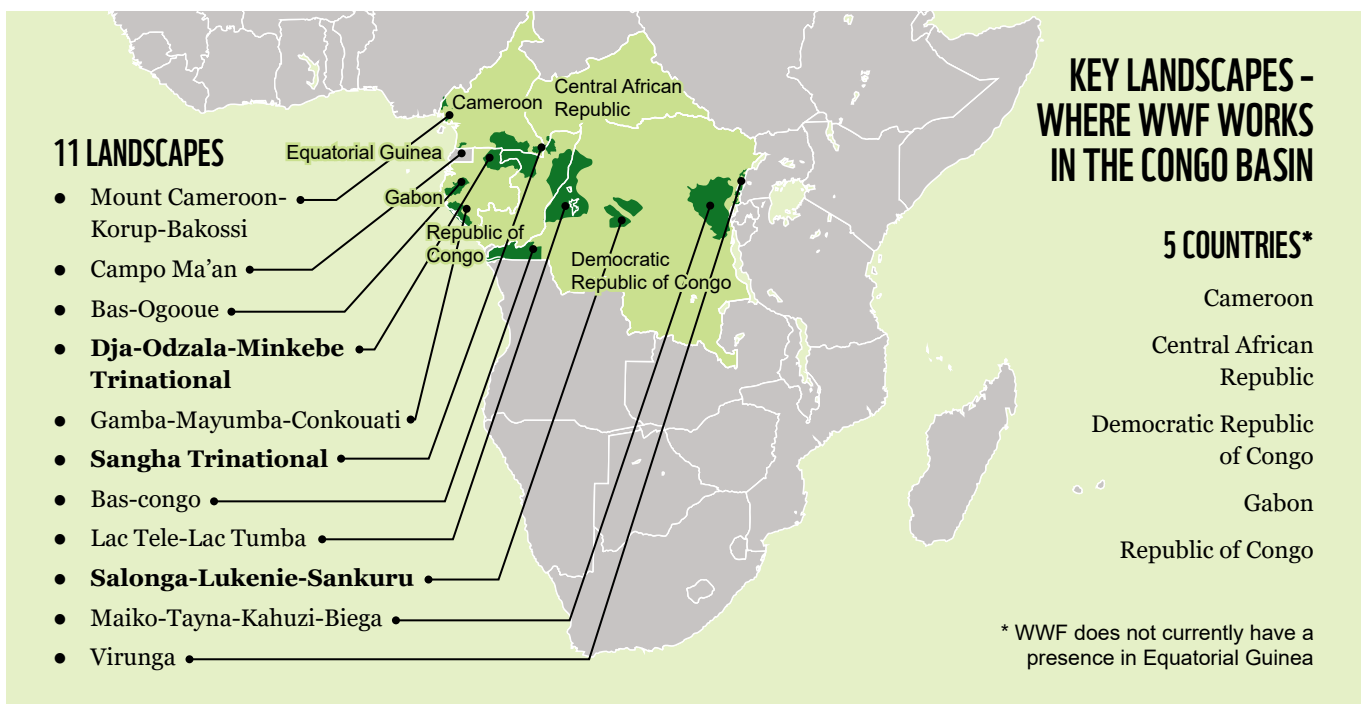
The Congo Basin contains a staggering 18 Terrestrial Ecoregions, 20 Freshwater Ecoregions and one Marine Ecoregion.⁴ Ecoregions help us understand the natural diversity and ecological distinctiveness of different areas on our planet. These regions cover relatively large areas of land or water and contain characteristic, geographically distinct flora and fauna which may be distinct from other Ecoregions. To date, the map of Ecoregions⁵⁶ represents the most detailed classification available to highlight the importance of the habitats in the region.⁷

It's not just the diverse landscape that distinguishes the Congo Basin from other places, but the unparalleled cultural diversity too. The Congo Basin is home to ancient cultures and some of the earliest archaeological evidence of human existence. An archaeological dig along the Congo River in 2010 discovered a well-preserved ceramic pot of the Bantu people among sites dating between 1,500-3,000 years old.⁸

The Congo Basin has been inhabited by humans for more than 50,000 years. Today, the Congo Basin provides food, medicine, water, materials and shelter for over 75 million people. Among some 150 different ethnic groups, the Ba'Aka, BaKa, BaMbuti, Efe and other related groups—often referred to as Pygmies—are today's most visible representatives of an ancient hunter-gatherer lifestyle. They possess an incredible knowledge of the forest, its animals and its medicinal plants. Their lives and well-being are linked intimately with the forest. Some 242 languages are spoken in the Democratic Republic of Congo alone,⁹ 208 of these are living languages.¹⁰

The vast forests of the Congo Basin act as powerful carbon sinks that absorb carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere – a process that reduces the overall concentration of greenhouse gases and helps mitigate climate change. By storing large amounts of carbon in trees and soil, these forests play a crucial role in regulating the global carbon cycle and reducing net CO₂ emissions.

The Congo Basin is also vital to regulating climate beyond the green canopies of the forest, generating rainfall as far away as the Sahel and the Ethiopian highlands, supporting a further 300 million rural Africans.¹¹





© Andy Isaacson / WWF-US

WWF SPOTLIGHT: TNS- TRINATIONAL DE LA SANGHA LANDSCAPES

The cross-border conservation initiative, known as the Sangha Tri-National (TNS) comprises three components. The Nouabalé Ndoki National Park located at the extreme northern part of the Republic of Congo, covers 4,000km² of primary forests. This area has never been exploited by logging companies and is of particular botanical and biological significance. It was created in 1993 and is one of the largest forest reserves of West Central Africa. The park covers about two per cent of Congo's forests. The landscape contains over 300 bird species and more than 1000 plant species. The Dzanga-Sangha Protected Areas were established in December 1990, with an area of more than 4000km². They are located in the Sangha-Mbaere Division in the south-western region of the Central African Republic, comprising two areas: the Ndoki sector that spans 725 km² and the Dzanga sector which covers 495km². The area has a Guinean forest type climate. The Lobéké National Park is mainly constituted of equatorial forest in the extreme south-eastern Cameroon. It covers an area of 217,854 hectares and was created in March 2001. Lobéké has a swampy clearings network especially on its eastern side and has a varied biodiversity rich in wildlife and plant resources. Many of these species are endemic and the park has one of the highest concentrations of African elephants and gorillas. The area is home to 305 bird species and 764 species of plants.



© WWF / Jaap van der Waarde

WWF SPOTLIGHT: TRIDOM LANDSCAPE

The TRIDOM landscape, involving the countries Cameroon, Congo and Gabon, spans nearly 10 percent of Central Africa's tropical forests, or 178,000km². This landscape contains 11 protected areas, including the Minkébé, Mwagna and Ivindo national parks in Gabon. It features most of the biodiversity of the Central African rainforests with emblematic species such as forest elephants and great apes. The landscape is known as the region's first "hot-spot" for the conservation of forest elephants – an estimated 40,000 forest elephants are found here. The TRIDOM landscape is facing several threats that are causing the degradation and the loss of its natural resources, such as poaching of elephants for ivory, hunting for the bushmeat trade, degradation and loss of natural habitats due to unsustainable extractive activities in the forestry, mining, agro-industry, fisheries and food crop sectors, human-wildlife conflicts, especially the human-elephant conflict



© Brent Stirton / Reportage for Getty Images / WWF

A weekly market in Vitshumbi Fishing village on the Southern shores of Lake Edward, Democratic Republic of Congo.

WWF SPOTLIGHT: SALONGA LANDSCAPE

Declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984, Salonga is home to the Golden-Bellied Mangabey (*Cercocebus chrysogaster*), Thollon's Red Colobus (*Piliocolobus tholloni*), the Angola Pied Colobus (*Colobus angolensis*), Allen's Swamp Monkey (*Allenopithecus nigroviridis*), the De Brazza's Monkey (*Cercopithecus neglectus*) and the Black Mangabey (*Lophocebus aterrinus*). The site also harbours the Congo Peacock, a majestic bird only found in the rainforests of the Congo Basin. A total of 51 species of mammals, 152 species of fish and 223 species of birds who live in the park. Several species are internationally endangered, particularly the forest elephant and the bonobo. Other large mammals are the leopard, nine kinds of antelopes including the bongo, five duiker species, giant pangolin and the hippopotamus. The threats to wildlife in Salonga are mostly related to illegal hunting, destructive fishing, live animal trade and the bushmeat trade, where nearly all species are targeted, as well as infrastructure development in the area.



© Thomas Nicolon / WWF DRC



BIODIVERSITY

It is the Congo Basin's extraordinary biodiversity that continues to amaze the world. This “megadiverse hotspot” is more like an entire continent than a region, given its amazing breadth of endemic animal and plant species.

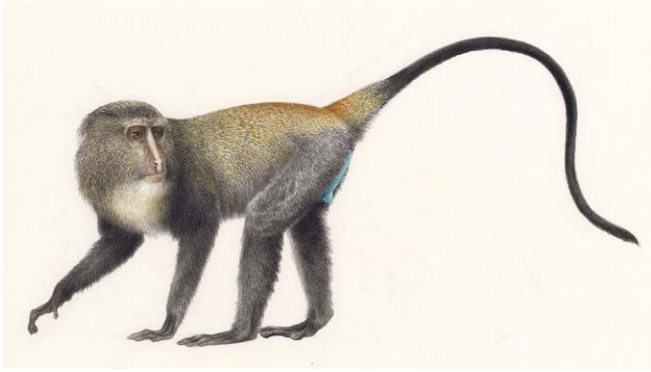
In total, the Congo Basin is home to 15,387 vascular plant species, including 3,013 trees, representing five to seven per cent of the estimated world's tropical tree flora.¹² These forests have the highest endemism rate across Africa, with approximately 30 percent of species being endemic.¹³ Over 1,200 species of birds, 450 mammal species, 700 species of fish, around 280 reptile species¹⁴ and undoubtedly hundreds of thousands of invertebrate species can also be found here.

The second largest block of continuous tropical forest in the world harbours some of the most charismatic and iconic mammals in the world.^{15,16} The Congo forest is home to endangered wildlife, including forest elephants, chimpanzees, bonobos, and lowland and mountain gorillas.





© naturepl.com / Anup Shah / WWF



Cercopithecus lomamiensis, Lesula monkey, DRC 2012, illustration © Kimio Honda



Cercopithecus lomamiensis, Lesula monkey (male), DRC 2012, camera trap © Terese Hart

The okapi, *pygmy hippopotamus*, bongo (antelope) and the Congo peafowl also call this region home. In total, the region comprises 35 species of carnivores¹⁷, 73 species of primates¹⁸, and 57 species of artiodactyls¹⁹, typically ungulate species like buffalo and antelope. Its apex predator is the leopard, which are larger than their savannah counterparts due to lack of competition from other large predators.

This vast wilderness area²⁰ which includes intact forest landscapes²¹, remains largely understudied²² - for example, new mammal species are still being discovered such as *Cercopithecus lomamiensis* in the Lomani National Park (NP) of the Democratic Republic of Congo.²³

The Congo Basin is not only a megabiodiverse hotspot but also a lifeline for both wildlife and human communities.

WWF SPOTLIGHT: WWF BIOMONITORING - EYES ON THE FOREST

Since 1978 significant efforts have been made by WWF to conduct wildlife inventories, support government-led anti-poaching and law enforcement, the creation of Protected Areas (PAs), the development of community-managed areas and other initiatives. WWF has an ambitious programme in the Congo Basin that aims at stabilising or increasing the population of key species, including great apes (chimpanzees, gorillas and bonobos), elephants and regularly hunted species such as monkeys and duikers. The programme recognises the importance of biomonitoring in the implementation of its activities and to ensure greater conservation impact. In order to ensure better monitoring, assessment and optimisation of its conservation activities in the Congo Basin, WWF has committed to engage in a well-structured and coordinated programme based on existing capacities in countries as well as on the support of a dedicated biomonitoring coordinator focusing on the Congo Basin. This move has boosted activities under a harmonised survey protocol. It has also increased collaboration with other NGOs, universities and research institutes and contributed in ensuring that inventories are carried out following internationally recognised methods and standards.

One such biomonitoring consensus conducted by WWF and partners started since 2014. The surveys focus on the Status of Forest Elephant and Great Apes in Central Africa Priority Sites for WWF and those species.

Several results have been compiled up to now; but a regional report produced in 2017 presents the information below.

Scope of the studies:

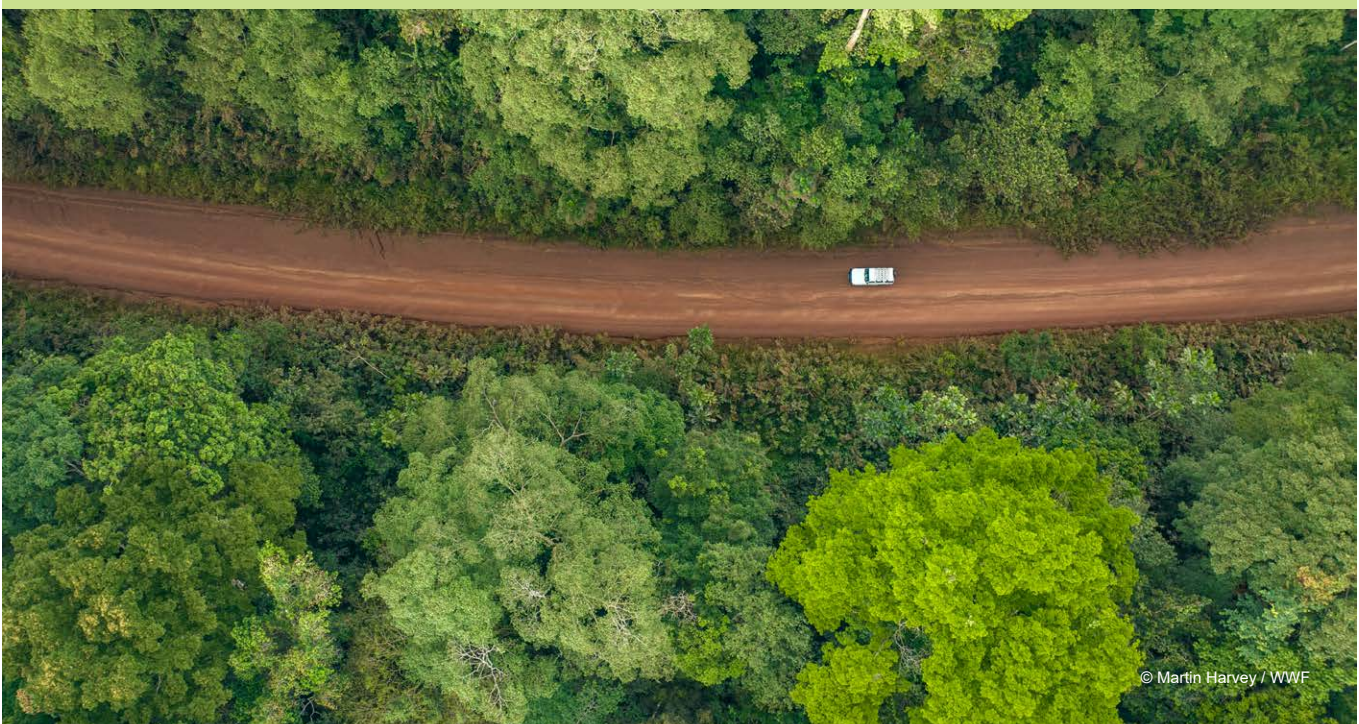
- Key protected areas in four countries: Cameroon, Gabon, Central African Republic and the Republic of Congo,
- Three conservation landscapes: Campo Ma'an, Sangha Tri-National (TNS) and Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkébé (TRIDOM). About one quarter of the total area of the landscapes was covered.
- A total surface area of 5,850,000 hectares

Key findings:

- Poaching pressure is 50 percent less in protected areas than outside
- Elephant population decreased by 66 per cent between 2008 and 2016 in the surveyed protected areas.
- Survey results show an estimated 59,000 weaned great apes individuals
- The elephant population is estimated at 9,500 individuals.

New studies are ongoing in the regional and after their completion, a new status will be done at regional level for a good understanding of new trends in wildlife populations and threats within WWF activity areas. Those results will be linked to the land cover changes in the region to enable adequate recommendations for adaptive management.

» **Find out more:** bit.ly/EyesOnTheForest



© Martin Harvey / WWF

THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH: DISCOVERING THE CONGO BASIN

Man knows just one fifth of the nine million species of animal, plant, fungus and protist thought to inhabit our planet.²⁴

Describing new species is a fascinating process that allows scientists to uncover the rich diversity of life on our planet. They often encounter new species during fieldwork, expeditions, or explorations, collecting specimens (individual organisms) that appear distinct from known species.

The description of a new species refers to the official scientific process by which a species is formally introduced and “described” by scientists for the first time in a peer-reviewed scientific journal.

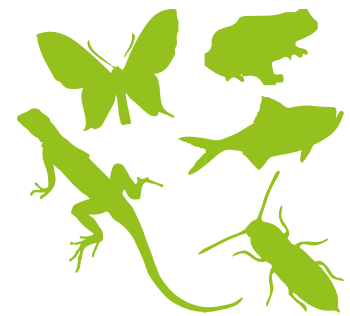
Describing new species helps us understand and protect the life forms we share our planet with. Conservationists cannot protect what they do not know exists – a species without a name cannot be added to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species²⁵ - so species descriptions are crucial for conservation efforts.

WWF has included in this report new discoveries that have been identified and presented as such by scientists. The new species were recorded by scientists from a number of institutions around the world, including museums, universities, government and non-governmental organisations. WWF was involved in the discovery of some of the new finds, including, for example, a certain new spider species (*Myrmarachne salongensis*) found in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

This report presents a list at the back of this report (Appendix 1) which was informed by a variety of expeditions and data retrieved from official and respected scientific databases, appendices, reports and peer-reviewed scientific journals. It was further refined through correspondence and advice received directly from the scientists that discovered the species featured. The list is not intended to be an exhaustive record of new species found in the Congo Basin region, as undoubtedly some species will have been unintentionally overlooked. It should be noted that many other species that may turn out to be new to science may have been encountered and collected in the Congo Basin over the past 10 years. These species may currently be awaiting official scientific description and recognition.

Indigenous knowledge

For centuries, indigenous communities in the Congo Basin have coexisted with these ecosystems, possessing deep knowledge of the flora and fauna that inhabit them. Many of these species, while newly described in scientific literature, have been familiar to local communities through generations. Recognizing this knowledge is integral to conservation efforts, and WWF is committed to working alongside these communities to honor and preserve this shared heritage.



Between 2013 and 2023, at least

742

new species were described for the first time by dedicated scientists. Each and every discovery made contributes to our understanding of Earth's incredible biodiversity. The new encounters span all the different animal groups and range from the cryptic and charismatic to the bold, brilliant and bizarre.

Species of the Congo Basin continue to surprise scientists, spurring them to venture ever further into the unique and often isolated habitats of the region in search of fantastic new finds. As habitats are rapidly disappearing, new species discoveries can raise awareness for the most unique and threatened biodiversity as they are often popular indicators of habitat value and quality.²⁶



© Andy Isaacson / WWF-US

WWF SPOTLIGHT: NEW DISCOVERIES AT A GLANCE (2013–2023)

BY SPECIES

Plants	430
Invertebrates	140
Fish	96
Amphibians	22
Reptiles	42
Birds	2
Mammals	10
Total	742 New species

BY COUNTRY*

Cameroon	238
Central African Republic	25
Democratic Republic of Congo	259
Equatorial Guinea	59
Gabon	262
Republic of Congo	65

* Note: Certain species were found in more than one country e.g. plants, fish

PLANTS



A vast new garden of species, a remarkable 430 plant species, have been discovered in the Congo Basin between 2013-2023.



Angraecum biteai, a new orchid species, Gabon 2016 © M Simo & Stevart



Angraecum biteai, Gabon 2016 © Vincent Droissart

The new species include a plethora of new orchids, ferns from the *Asplenium* genus, species from *Begoni*, *Coffea*, *Hibiscus*, as well as flowering plant species from *Didelotia*, and *Grangea* genera.

The finds include some 14 new orchid species described for the first time, including species from the *Angraecum*, *Bulbophyllum*, *Cyrtorchis*, *Liparis*, *Stolzia*, *Disperis*, *Tridactyle* and *Polystachya* genera.

The Endangered *Angraecum biteai* orchid was first discovered in 2016 between Kinguélé and Tchimbélé, Gabon.²⁷ The species is threatened by oil and gas exploration, logging and wood harvesting.²⁸ The delicate *Angraecum geerinckianum* discovered in 2018 from Bordamur logging concession in the Ndjolé area of Gabon²⁹, and *Bulbophyllum pauwelsianum* from the Crystal Mountains National Park, a protected area in Gabon in 2014,³⁰ also threatened by deforestation.

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NEW DISCOVERED PLANTS
SPECIES

Other flowering plants include the yellow *Grangea ogoouensis* from the lower Ogooué basin of Gabon in 2020³¹, *Greenwayodendron glabrum* in 2018 from south-west Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon in 2018³², the white *Impatiens akomensis* from Efoulan, South Region, Cameroon in 2015³³, and the threatened purple *Impatiens banen* from the Yingui-Yabassi area of Littoral Region, Cameroon.³⁴



Greenwayodendron glabrum, Cameroon and Gabon 2018 © Ehoarn Bidault



Grangea ogoouensis, Gabon 2020 © Ehoarn Bidault



Angraecum geerinckianum, a new orchid species, Gabon 2017 © Ehoarn Bidault



Bulbophyllum pauwelsianum, a new orchid species, Gabon 2014 © MBG



Impatiens akomensis, Cameroon 2015 © Vincent Droissart



Impatiens banen, Cameroon 2022 © Vincent Droissart

Sirdavidia solannona was described in 2015 from Gabon by Thomas L.P. Couvreur of France's Institute of Research for Development, Raoul Niangadouma of the Herbar National du Gabon, Bonaventure Sonké of the University of Yaoundé, and Hervé Sauquet of Université Paris-Sud.³⁵ The genus was named in honour of naturalist Sir David Attenborough. The type species *Sirdavidia solannona* was discovered and collected in Gabon in the Crystal Mountains National Park on 15 November 2013, at elevations of 300–600m, and named a Top Ten New Species globally for that year.³⁶ According to the scientists that filmed the pollination of *Sirdavidia*, it represents a unique syndrome amongst the whole family and order with bees trying to buzz the flower. The species is the only plant in its genus of flowering plants from the family *Annonaceae*. The species name refers to the resemblance of the flowers to those of *Solanum* species.

This species can grow to six metres tall with a narrow trunk just a few centimetres wide. The leaves are up to 26cm long by 9cm wide, roughly oval in shape with long, pointed tips. The inflorescences occur in the leaf axils and directly from the trunk. There are male and bisexual flowers. Each is made up of three whorls: one whorl of red sepals and two whorls of red petals. As the flower blooms the petals spread outward and sometimes curl backward toward the stalk. At the centre are 16 to 19 stamens with bright yellow tips.



Sirdavidia solannona, Gabon 2015 © Thomas Couvreur

New *Hibiscus* plants have been described including *Hibiscus minkebeensis* from Minkébé National Park in 2013³⁷ and *Hibiscus ngokbanakii* also from Gabon in 2013.³⁸ In addition a new coffee species, *Coffea rizetiana*, grown from plants collected south of the Mouyouka-Kompina Forest Reserve in Littoral Region, Cameroon in 2016, was officially described in 2021.³⁹

Further plants of particular interest due to their distribution or habitat include the small herbaceous *Psychotria yaoundensis* discovered in 2013 in Central Province, Cameroon⁴⁰, which is only known from three rocky hills around Yaoundé and is Critically Endangered.⁴¹ The plant *Palisota leowhitei* described in 2019 is endemic to the Raponda-Walker arboretum near Libreville, Gabon.⁴² The species *Pauridiantha gracilipes* has a very restricted distribution in the Ogooué delta, Gabon, and was first collected in 2014.⁴³ It only occurs in forests dominated by *Ctenolophon englerianus*, which are noteworthy for having the highest carbon stock per hectare of any plant.⁴⁴



Psychotria yaoundensis, Cameroon 2013 © Olivier Lachenaud



Pauridiantha gracilipes, Gabon 2019 © Olivier Lachenaud



Sabicea rubiginosa, Gabon 2020 © Olivier Lachenaud



Palisota leowhitei, Gabon 2019 © Olivier Lachenaud

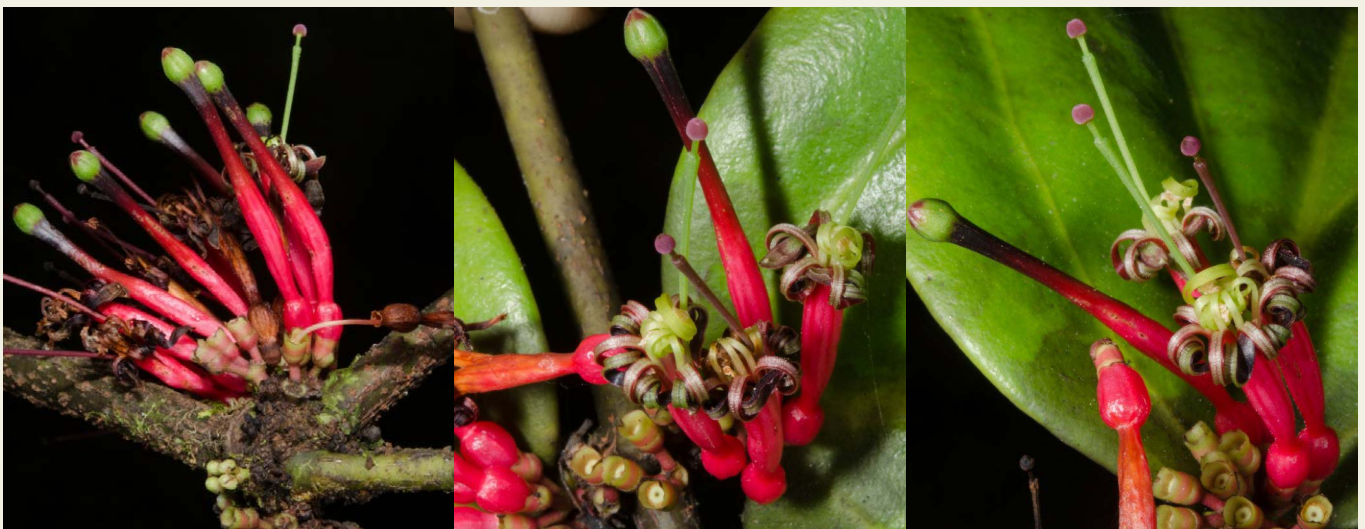
Particularly spectacular or attractive plants include the Endangered⁴⁵ *Englerophytum gigantifolium*, a plant with very long leaves described in 2016 from Mabounié, Ogooué Province, Gabon.⁴⁶ The highly ornamental species *Globimetula agelanthoides* is a parasitic mistletoe with attractive flowers, often growing on planted citrus and avocado trees. The species was discovered in 2023 in Cape Esterias, Estuaire, Gabon.⁴⁷

Plant 'rediscoveries' include *Virectaria salicoides*, a herb growing on rocks in rivers, originally collected in 1897 in Gabon⁴⁸ but rediscovered by scientists in 2021. The species *Psychotria gaboonensis*, first collected in 1861 in Gabon⁴⁹, also rediscovered in 2021 – nearly 160 years later; and *Ceropegia letestui*, a herb from coastal white sand savannas in Gabon and Republic of Congo⁵⁰, with spectacular but foul-smelling flowers, rediscovered in 2016.⁵¹

Some 2,000 plant species globally are described for the first time each year⁵², so the new species have made an important contribution to this number.



Englerophytum gigantifolium, a species known for its very long leaves, Gabon 2016 © Olivier Lachenaud



Globimetula agelanthoides, Gabon 2023 © Ehoarn Bidault

WWF SPOTLIGHT: WWF CONGO BASIN MONITORING AND EVALUATION DATABASE

WWF has turned its Congo Basin Biomonitoring Programme into an integrated “Impact Monitoring Programme” which is integrated into day-to-day activities for more efficiency, in order support field and countries programmes in delivering conservation outcomes and impacts for an easy contribution to the Global Goals. It is critical to properly identify and estimate the natural capital in order to sustainably manage it, by properly orientating conservation efforts and evaluating the efforts and their outcomes.

The general objective of the programme is the establishment of an adequate monitoring and evaluation system by 2027 for WWF’s inclusive conservation efforts, which supports the adaptive management of priority landscapes and demonstrates conservation impacts across five countries in the Congo Basin: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon and Republic of Congo. The target area spans more than 10 sites of high priority for WWF located in six landscapes - an area of at least 10 million hectares, targeted for data collection. Priority sites and their peripheral zones represent about 20 percent of the surface area of the six landscapes.

The programme identified the need for information storage and management in a structured way, allowing easy and quick access. Like several existing web platforms designed with databases facilitating visualisation and access to certain information, a web platform named “Congo Basin Monitoring and Evaluation Database” has been built to support decision-making. The platform has the advantage to combine several key sources of information useful for the management and development of conservation and research projects. It is organised by level (Congo Basin subregion, countries, landscapes and sites) and by pillars (type of data source), and it remains flexible to integrate additional topics.

The database is still being improved and updated to provide access to reliable ecological and socio-economic data from WWF-supported programmes and other organisations in the Congo Basin. It is also a repository to facilitate information sharing, communication, and learning for all users. It particularly depicts the outcomes and impacts of different thematic issues of conservation and sustainable development at several geographic scopes.

» Find out more: bit.ly/ImpactMonitoringDatabase



© WWF / Jaap van der Waarde



Cyrtorchis okuensis, a new orchid species, Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea 2021 © Vincent Droissart



Cyrtorchis submontana, a new orchid species, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea and Republic of Congo 2016 © Vincent Droissart



Tridactyle minutifolia, a new orchid species, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon 2015 © Ehoarn Bidault



Polystachya bamendae, Cameroon 2013 © Vincent Droissart



INVERTEBRATES

Small creatures have a big role to play in the delicate ecology of the Congo Basin. It is difficult to count all the new invertebrates discovered in the region since 2013, but if we look at historical records at least half of all new species discovered globally each year are arachnids, insects and plants. An army of new species including at least 140 ants, beetles, bugs, flies, mites, moths, spiders, worms and a new firefly species were described for the first time.



Umma gumma © Klaas-Douwe B Dijkstra

+121

**BUGS, ANTS, MITES, BEETLES,
WORMS, FLIES, MOTHS, SPIDERS
AND A NEW FIREFLY SPECIES**

In 2022, a new species of firefly *Afrodiaphanes pulcher* was recorded from a cave system in Nana-Grébizi Prefecture, 550m above sea level in the Central African Republic.⁵³ The 17mm long species was given the name *pulcher* after the Latin meaning for beautiful or graceful. Today, the greatest diversity of fireflies can be found in the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Africa where the tropical and equatorial regions produce great biodiversity hotspots. It's very likely that a large number of firefly species have yet to be described and studied in Africa. Still, we do have records of numerous diverse species.

In 2010, 67 scientific experts in their fields descended on the Democratic Republic of Congo to mark 50 years since the country's independence. The expedition produced some staggering entomological results.⁵⁴

Freshwater covers less than one percent of Earth's surface, but harbours ten per cent of animal species, of which a third may be at risk of extinction, with many of these being insects like dragon and damselflies.⁵⁵ So, it was exceptionally good news when a group of scientists including Dutch expert Dr Klaas-Douwe Dijkstra described 60 new species of dragonfly from Africa in a single journal published in 2015. Some 40 species were from the Congo Basin countries identified during the 2010 expedition, including the charismatic Robust Sparklewing (*Umma gumma*) from Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon and Republic of Congo.⁵⁶ The species is named after the 1969 album by English rock band Pink Floyd and was listed as a Top Ten New Species discovery globally that year.⁵⁷ Other fantastically named species include the Swordbearer Emperor (*Anax gladiator*) from the Democratic Republic of Congo and Goldsmith Threadtail (*Elatoneura aurifex*), Bongo Leaf-tail (*Phyllogomphus bongorum*), and Blue-spotted Pricklyleg (*Porpax mezierei*), all from Gabon.⁵⁸



Anax gladiator, Swordbearer Emperor, DRC 2015 © Jens Kipping



Pseudagrion dactylidium, Gabon Slim Sprite (male), Gabon 2015 © Nicolas Meziere



Umma gumma © Klaas-Douwe B Dijkstra



Pseudagrion aureolum, Nugget Sprite (male), Gabon 2015 © Jens Kipping



Umma gumma, Robust Sparklewing (male), Cameroon, DRC, Gabon and Republic of Congo 2015 © Jens Kipping

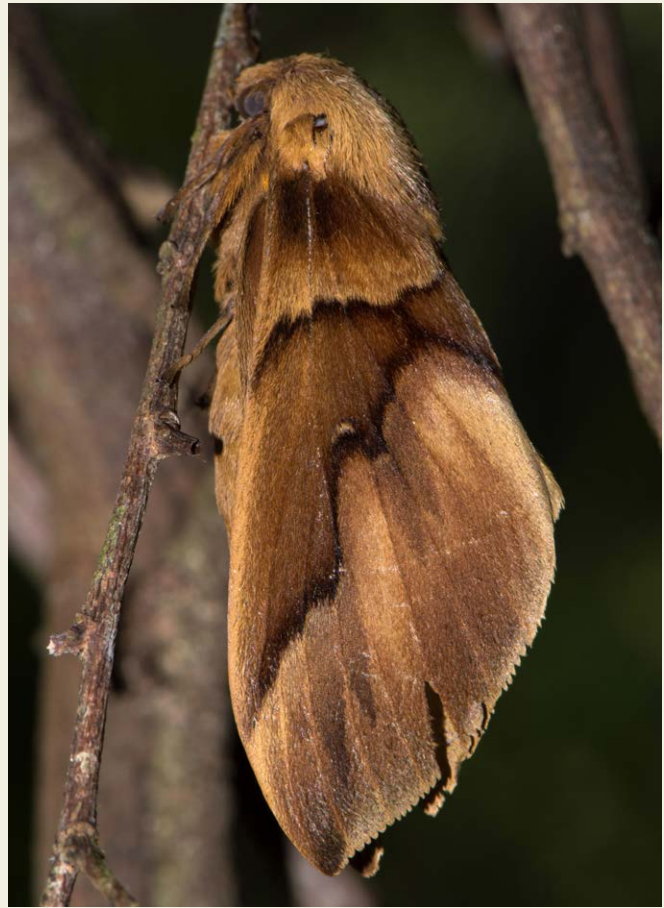


Porpax mezierei, Blue-Spotted Pricklyleg (male), Gabon 2015 © Nicolas Meziere

Also part of the expedition in 2010, a pair of dedicated scientists identified a staggering 25 new species of flies (*Diptera*), which were officially described as new to science in 2013.⁵⁹ A year later, Dr Patrick Grootaert and Dr Igor Shamshev would describe a further 19 species also from the Democratic Republic of Congo.^{60 61}

Moths of the *Lasiocampidae* family are often spread through Cameroon, southern Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Republic of Congo. One scientific team described 19 species between 2013- 2023. Some of the species were discovered during a one-year stationary expedition in Mai-Ndombe, Ekongo camp in the buffer zone of the Salonga National Park between June 2017 – June 2018. Collectors Alexey Prozorov and Tatiana Prozorova along with fellow scientists evaluated the biodiversity of the park and analysed the diversity of collected specimens. Their results suggested that around 76 per cent of the collected species were endemic to the Salonga National Park and a staggering 84 per cent were likely new to science out of a total of 254.⁶² The new species include *Leptometa adalensis*, *Leptometa knudlarseni*, *Leptometa sophiae*, all officially described in 2023.⁶³

Lyroda centralafricana is a digger wasp of the family *Crabronidae*.⁶⁴ Little is known about the biology of the species from north of Sibut, Central African Republic, but related species are ground nesters which dig long burrows into the soil (up to 30cm below the surface). These contain several cells and the larvae develop in these. *Lyroda* species feed the larvae with grasshoppers. Some 19 species are known worldwide, most of them are from Asia.⁶⁵ The new species was described based on a specimen found in the Entomology collection of the Oberösterreichisches Landesmuseum in Linz, Austria.⁶⁶



Leptometa adalensis (female), DRC 2023 © Prozorov et al.



Lyroda centralafricana (female), a new wasp species, CAR 2021 © Christian Schmid-Egger



Onychogomphus undecim, Katanga Claspertail (male), DRC 2015 © Klaas-Douwe B Dijkstra



Lyroda centralafricana (male), CAR 2021 © Christian Schmid-Egger

Four species of bark beetle including *Afromicracis concava* were discovered over the last 10 years.⁶⁷ This new species is only known from the vicinity of Mann Spring, Mount Cameroon. Specimens were collected from a variety of unusual host plants from different plant orders, including a *Hypericum* tree (Hypericaceae), and from lignified herbs of *Vernonia* (Asteraceae), *Solanecio mannii* (Asteraceae) and *Plectranthus* (Lamiaceae). The species was found feeding on the bark of the first three hosts and in the woody roots of *Plectranthus* pulled out from the soil. In *Vernonia* plants, both adults and larvae excavated longitudinal tunnels between fibres just beneath the cortex. The species is reddish-brown and has a concave forehead which gives the species its particular Latin name *Concava*.

Other new invertebrates include leafhoppers such as *Paranataretus albertinus* described from North Kivu Province, Democratic Republic of Congo in 2023⁶⁸, and an abundance of new spiders including *Orthobula marusiki* from Cameroon and Central African Republic in 2022⁶⁹ and those found by WWF and partners in the Democratic Republic of Congo (see Textbox).



Paranataretus albertinus, DRC 2023 © Vladimir Gnezdilov



Polychornum centroafricanum, DRC © Vladimir Gnezdilov



Afromicracis concava, Cameroon 2021 © Bjarte Jordal



Orthobula marusiki (female), Cameroon, CAR 2022 © Charles Haddad



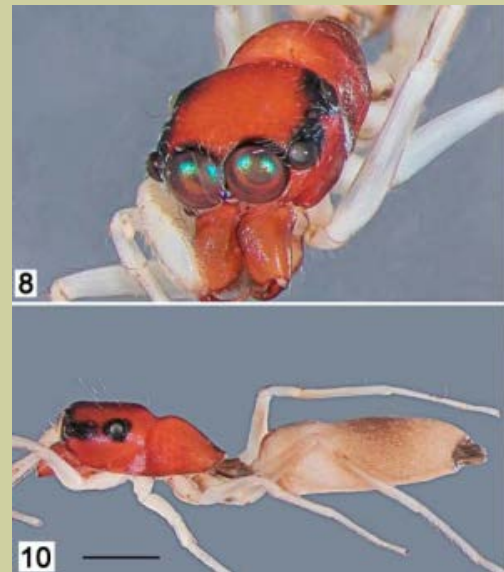
Ceriagrion banditum, Band-Eyed Citril (male), DRC 2015 © Jens Kipping

WWF SPOTLIGHT: WWF SPIDER DISCOVERY IN SALONGA NATIONAL PARK

Between November–December 2022, during a biodiversity inventory expedition to Salonga National Park, a science team discovered an orange-striped ant-like jumping spider. The species *Myrmarachne salongensis*, collected in Africa’s largest protected tropical rainforest reserve in the Democratic Republic of Congo, was found at two sites deep in the primary rainforest.⁷⁰ The forest has dense leaf litter, high tree canopies and many large mature trees.

The spider was one of three species collected by scientists from the Biodiversity Inventory for Conservation (BINCO) in partnership with WWF: two species were recorded for the first time - the first published records of Myrmarachnini spider species from Salonga.

Jumping spiders are the most diverse spider family in the world, with 6,618 species in 677 genera. In the Afrotropical Region, over 1,000 jumping spider species are known. Despite having a relatively large number of described species, spider fauna in the region remains understudied with data limited to a few countries and localities. For instance, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the largest country in Africa, only 66 jumping spider species have been recorded to date. However, based on the data from comparable sized tropical countries, it is believed to contain as much as 500 jumping spider species.⁷¹



Myrmarachne salongensis (female)
© Pett et al



Elattoneura aurifex, Goldsmith Threadtail (male), male, Gabon and Republic of Congo 2015 © Jens Kipping



Lestinogomphus venustus, Lovely Fairytail (male), Gabon 2015 © Nicolas Meziere

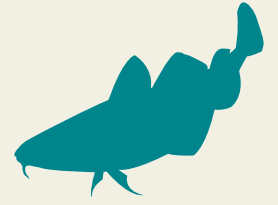


Phyllogomphus bongorum, Bongo Leaftail (male), Gabon 2015 © Jens Kipping



Urothemis venata, Red-Veined Basker (male), Gabon 2015 © Jens Kipping

FISH



Barbs, bass, catfish, clingfish, electric fish, killifish, swamp eel and tetras are among a whole shoal of new fish totalling 96 species encountered and described for the first time.



101
NEW FISH SPECIES

Aphyosemion aurantiacum, Gabon 2018 © Olivier Buisson



Aphyosemion grelli (male), Gabon 2013 © Valdesalici, S. and Eberl, W.



Aphyosemion grelli (female), Gabon 2013 © Valdesalici, S. and Eberl, W.

In Gabon, a new species of killifish was described in 2018.⁷² The fish *Aphyosemion aurantiacum* is brightly coloured with blue iridescent scales, beige flanks and intense orange fins and tail, has red dots between the rays on its fins. Measuring 3.9cm from the tip of the snout (nose) to the end of the tail. The species was ‘unexpectedly’ collected along with five other species in a southern and a northern tributary of Wézé River in the Wonga-Wongué Presidential Reserve in Gabon.⁷³

The endemic species was only found at three localities and nowhere else in the basin to date. It lives only in very small forest streams and water holes, often with a bottom consisting of roots and dead leaves, where it can be found in abundance. In the southern-most locality, it was found hidden under dead leaves along the riverbanks in a two-metre-wide river with a sandy bottom. This species was found together with three further undescribed species of *Aphyosemion*, *Epiplatys* and *Plataplochilus* fish.

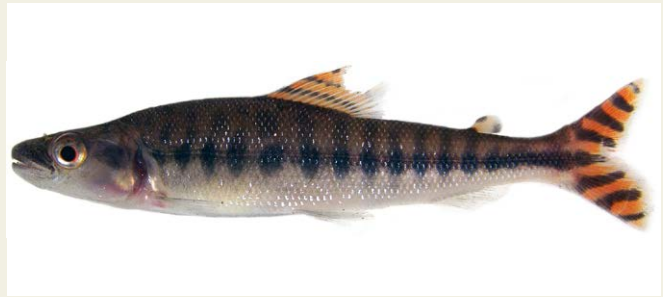
Killifish are found in lakes, rivers and streams and feed primarily on aquatic arthropods such as insect (mosquito) larvae, aquatic crustaceans and worms. Normally, killifish avoid near-surface water to reduce the danger of being eaten by predators. The large populations of killifish and the genetic diversity of the species have enabled it to evolve and survive in areas where other species have died out. Over a few dozen generations, in a relatively short period of time (50–60 years), killifish have evolved resistance against levels of dioxins, Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), mercury, and other industrial chemicals up to 8,000 times higher than the previously estimated lethal dose.

Ten species of elephant fish also known as electric fish were discovered during the period. These include the species *Petrocephalus arnegardi* described in 2014.⁷⁴ The silvery white, fish with three distinct black marks on each side of the body can grow to 9 cm (3.5 in) long and is found in the Likouala River drainage, middle Congo River, in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Republic of Congo.

Petrocephalus are African “Weakly” electric fishes (as opposed to “Strongly” e.g. electric eels and rays) of the family Mormyridae that produce pulses of only a few hundred millivolts from an electric organ made of modified muscle cells in front of their tail. Receptor cells on the fishes’ skin detect distortions to the electric field created by nearby objects in the water. Short electric pulses, too weak to be sensed by touch, are also used to navigate their complex aquatic environment, sense prey and predators and communicate the sender’s species identity and gender to other electric fishes for the purposes of reproduction.⁷⁵



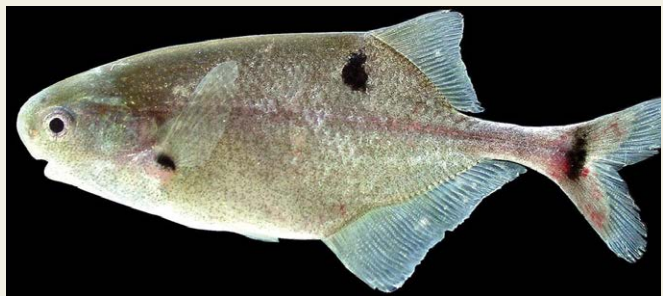
Clarias monsebulai, DRC 2022 © Melanie L Stiassny



Eugnathichthys virgatus, DRC 2013 © Melanie L Stiassny



Cryptomyrus ogoouensis, Gabon 2016 © John P. Sullivan

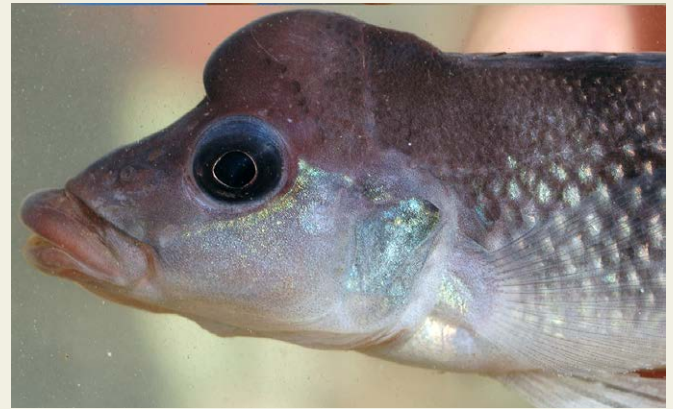


Petrocephalus arnegardi, Republic of Congo 2014 © Sébastien Lavoué and John P. Sullivan



Petrocephalus boboto, Republic of Congo 2014 © Sébastien Lavoué and John P. Sullivan

A new species of air-breathing catfish *Clarias monsembulai* was discovered in 2022 and is only currently known from streams, both large and small, within the Momboyo, Luilaka, Salonga, and Yenge river systems, all within the Cuvette Centrale area of the middle Congo River Basin.⁷⁶ The near 10 inch long species is unique in that it has exceptionally long maxillary barbels (up to 60 per cent of the fish length). The species is named in honour of Raoul Monsembula Iyaba, a biology professor at the University of Kinshasa for collecting the original specimen and for his contribution towards the study of fish (ichthyology) in Africa.



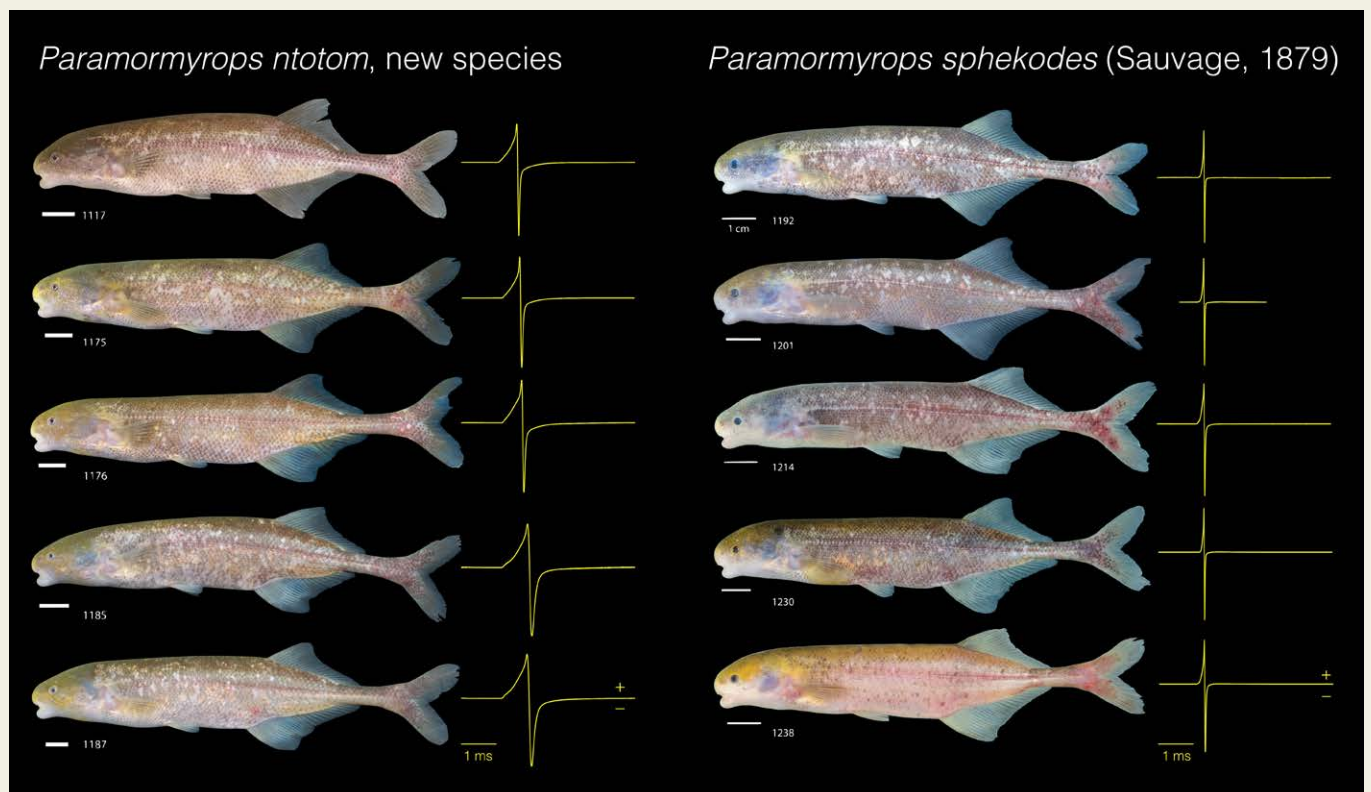
Lamprologus markerti, DRC 2014 © Melanie L Stiassny

A new cichlid species *Lamprologus markerti* is endemic to the lower Congo River in the Democratic Republic of Congo.⁷⁷ Another new cichlid species *Teleogramma obamaorum*, also native to the Congo River, is unique among the genus for the sexes lacking colour differences in the tail fin. Individuals reach up to 75 mm (3.0 inches) in length and are molluskivores preying mainly on snails.⁷⁸ The species was described in 2015 and named in honour of former U.S. president Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama in recognition of their commitments to science conservation, and development in Africa and overseas.⁷⁹



Teleogramma obamaorum, DRC 2015 © Melanie L Stiassny

Nearly all the communities along the Congo River and its tributaries engage in fishing, providing a much-needed source of nutrition and protein for millions of people. Fish play an essential role in sustaining the livelihoods of Congo Basin communities and the sector across Africa employs some 12 million people. The continent's fisheries in general are incredibly important - almost 2.3million tonnes of fish are harvested each year inland and 4.6million tonnes from coastal marine waters, together contributing US\$24billion to the African economy every year.⁸⁰ Climate change, pollution and overexploitation threaten these fish stocks and the future of fisheries.



Paramormyrops ntotom (left), Gabon 2017 © John P. Sullivan

WWF SPOTLIGHT: ECOTOURISM IN DZANGA-SANGHA

The Dzanga-Sangha Protected Areas (APDS) offers high quality tourism based on exceptional natural and cultural resources. In addition to observing key wildlife species such as forest elephants, lowland gorillas, chimpanzees, bongos, buffaloes, hogs, bushpigs to name a few, Dzanga Sangha offers its visitors the opportunity to experience the culture of the local indigenous communities, including the Ba'Aka and the Sangha-Sangha through a range of community activities based on their traditional way of life.

Living with the Ba'Aka is an exceptional experience. The Ba'Aka are a people of the Congo Basin who are among the most dependent on the forest. Visitors can experience a traditional culture through community activities like hunting with nets or crossbows, cooking by Ba'Aka women, honey harvest, raffia wine harvest, building huts and collecting medicinal plants.

Taking a dugout canoe on the Sangha River, Ba'Aka dance and singing, Bilo -meaning bantu in Ba'Aka language - singing, and water drumming can also be experienced.

The Ba'Aka involved in this activity aim to preserve their cultural heritage, promote traditional knowledge for self-determination, empower their youth to document ancestral wisdom, and create economic opportunities through cultural valorization.

» **Find out more:** www.dzanga-sangha.org/



© Karine Aigner / WWF-US

AMPHIBIANS



An incredible chorus of 22 new frog species have been discovered in the Congo Basin between 2013-2023.



22

NEW FROG SPECIES

Cardioglossa annulata, Republic of Congo 2015 © Marius Burger

The species *Cardioglossa annulata*, also known as the annulated long-fingered frog, scientifically described in 2015.⁸¹ It is native to the Niari Department of the Republic of Congo and inhabits elevations ranging from 634 to 744m (2,080 to 2,441ft). These frogs are found in forests and wetlands within a 610km² (240 sq mi) area. Most of the specimens were found or trapped along small rivers in secondary or degraded rainforest. Some individuals were found on plants or logs or on the forest floor in muddy or marshy areas.⁸²

Adults of this species measure between 22.8 to 32.9 mm (0.90 to 1.30 inches), with a single juvenile measuring 21.5 mm (0.85 inches). The *Cardioglossa annulata* frog has a relatively long body with a sharp snout. Its extremities are elongated and slender. An identifying feature is three little black spots on its brown back, with white spines adorning the tips of its feet, dorsal thigh, lower back, and groin.

According to IUCN, the species is Endangered⁸³ facing threats from agriculture, livestock farming and ranching, logging and wood harvesting, development projects such as housing.⁸⁴

The species *Congolius robustus* was described in 2021 from the Democratic Republic of Congo.⁸⁵ This nocturnal species is likely endemic to the Congo Basin as it has only been found in several small locations to the south of the Congo River where it perches on vegetation along forest streams, as well as sometimes occupying flooded forests and dense farmbrush. Scientists say the medium-sized frog is a flagship species for the central Congolian forests - a key indicator species for the health of the habitats found here.⁸⁶

Six clawed frogs were described in 2015. These included *Xenopus parafraseri*, or the Upland Clawed Frog which is endemic to Cameroon, Congo and Gabon.⁸⁷ It lives in forests and wetlands, and in elevations of up to 420 to 715 m (1,378 to 2,346 ft); *Xenopus mellotropicalis* or Gabonese Clawed Frog⁸⁸ from several Congo Basin countries, and Bamiléké Clawed Frog *Xenopus eysoole* from Cameroon.⁸⁹

Not a new species but nonetheless a significant new discovery is the curious species *Sclerophrys channingi* which mimics the pitviper. Endemic to the eastern Lower Guinean rainforest of the Congo Basin, the Congolese Giant Toad, exhibits colouration that bears a striking resemblance to that of the widespread Gaboon Viper (*Bitis gabonica*).⁹⁰ According to scientists this is the only example in the world of a toad mimicking a venomous snake to avoid predation. Scientists determined this through studying comparative data from colour pattern, morphology, geographic distribution and behaviour of the two species. Although the colour pattern similarity between these taxa is not an exact match, aposematism (markings or colouration that advertises to potential predators that it is not worth attacking or eating) and precise imitation are not required for mimicry to be effective, especially when *Bitis gabonica* is dangerously venomous and carefully avoided by other vertebrates. The species is very adept at survival - in the past locals have believed that the toad's white secretions might induce blindness and thus feared it.⁹¹



Xenopus eysoole, Cameroon 2015 © Daniel Portik



Sclerophrys channingi, Congolese Giant Toad vs Gaboon Viper comparison © Eli Greenbaum



Cardioglossa congoia, DRC 2015 © Eli Greenbaum



Congolius robustus, DRC 2021 © Václav Gvoždík



Xenopus kobeli, Cameroon 2015 © Václav Gvoždík



Xenopus mellotropicalis, Cameroon 2015 © Václav Gvoždík



Xenopus allofraseri, Cameroon © Václav Gvoždík

REPTILES



A diverse nest of reptiles including 25 snakes such as blind snakes, cobras and pitvipers, 10 geckos, three chameleons, two skinks, one turtle and a crocodile have been newly discovered in the Congo Basin.



Mecistops leptorhynchus, Congo Basin, 2018 © Nik Borrow

Of all the new reptile species, the most significant has to be the Central African Slender-Snouted Crocodile (*Mecistops leptorhynchus*), described as a new species by scientists in 2018.⁹² Within the Congo Basin region, the new crocodile can be found across Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, northern Angola, Central African Republic, Republic of the Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

42

NEW REPTILE
SPECIES

Originally thought to be the same species as the West African slender-snouted crocodile (*Mecistops cataphractus*), studies and careful analysis of molecular sequencing revealed a new species that really was 'hiding in plain sight'. Journal papers show the animals' genetics first diverged more than eight million years ago, as volcanos arose in and around what is now Cameroon. This volcanic activity created impassable mountains that split the range of the reptiles in two, cutting off gene flow, and separating the two populations ever since.

As a consequence of identifying the new species and separation from the West African slender-snouted crocodiles, numbers of the latter have been revised down to such a level that the species is now listed as Critically Endangered.⁹³ Habitat loss and poaching affect both species. The species is listed on CITES Appendix II⁹⁴, highlighting that it is a species that may become endangered in the future.

Elsewhere, a new turtle species was identified from the Central African Republic in 2014.⁹⁵ The African helmeted terrapin *Pelomedusa schweinfurthi* is small to medium-sized, dark-coloured helmeted terrapins with a known maximum straight length of 15.7 cm and can be found in rivers, lakes, marshes and swamps of the region. Unlike many others the species is quite dark coloured overall, with a predominantly brown carapace. It is an omnivorous eater mainly feeding on aquatic invertebrates, small fish, and vegetation. The species is named after Georg August Schweinfurth who collected the oldest of the samples of the new species during his third Africa expedition (1868 – 1871) "inside the heart of Africa".⁹⁶ The species brings the total number of *Pelomedusa* species to 23.



Mecistops leptorhynchus, Congo Basin, 2018 © Leyo



An example of the African helmeted turtle genus (*Pelomedusa subrufa* shown) © Charles J. Sharp

A plethora of new snakes have been discovered over the last decade including two new cobras. The dwarf water cobra (*Naja nana*) is a small, venomous species of aquatic cobra found in the large freshwater Mai-Ndombe Lake within the Tumba-Ngiri-Maindombe area, western Democratic Republic of the Congo, the largest Wetland of International Importance recognised by the Ramsar Convention in the world.^{97,98}

The dwarf water cobra does not typically grow longer than 1m (3.3ft). Unlike the two other semi-aquatic African *Naja* species, *Naja annulata* and *Naja christyi*, both of which can attain lengths of up to about 2.5m (8.2ft). Distinguishing features of the species include its characteristic defensive posture, its aquatic lifestyle, the straight-row arrangement of its dorsal scales, and its distinctive coloration: black with small white or yellowish spots, a whitish abdomen, and a black underside of the tail. Dwarf water cobras can swim and climb, but generally prefer a terrestrial habitat, although they will hunt exclusively fish.⁹⁹

Among other new snakes is the venomous *Toxicodryas vexator* found in Mulisi, Nzovu Est, Kahuzi-Biega National Park, South Kivu Province, Democratic Republic of Congo.¹⁰⁰ The species described by scientists in 2021 is over a metre long and with adult males being glossy or velvety black with a yellow belly, and adult females light brown, grey, or yellowish-brown with light-brown or cream cross-bars on the flanks, with yellowish-brown venters. The name given to the species refers to the latin name for 'stalker' or 'harasser' in reference to the fact that this snake stalks prey when they are sleeping, and to its aggressiveness when disturbed.



Naja nana, DRC 2020 © Jean-François Trape



Naja nana, DRC 2020 © Anthony Laing



Naja savannula, Cameroon 2018 © Jean-François Trape



Naja savannula, Cameroon 2018 © Jzoobob



Toxicodryas vexator (adult male), DRC 2021 © Konrad Mebert



Toxicodryas adamantea, DRC and Equatorial Guinea 2021 © Eli Greenbaum

The bush viper *Atheris hetfieldi*, or Hetfield's bush viper, is a venomous species found at the base of a volcano on Bioko Island, Equatorial Guinea. The species is named after James A. Hetfield, frontman of the band Metallica, and is the first new snake discovered on the island for more than 100 years. The species is the only snake known to be endemic to the island.¹⁰¹ Species are sometimes named in honour of celebrities to help raise awareness. A further bush viper species, *Atheris mongoensis* or the Mongo Hairy Bush Viper, was described in 2020 from areas surrounding the Mbandaka region by the Congo River in the Democratic Republic of Congo.¹⁰²

A new species of blind snake *Afrotyphlops chirioi* was described from Berbérati, Central African Republic in 2019.¹⁰³ It is known from a mosaic of tropical moist forest and secondary grasslands at 500–600 m (1,600–2,000 ft) above sea level. The eyes of the snake are covered in smooth translucent shiny scales, a sign of its adaptation to a subterranean life, allowing it to move easily through earth. They live underground in ant and termite nests. Another species of blind snake, *Afrotyphlops rouxestevae*, was described from Douala, Cameroon in 2019.¹⁰⁴

Several of the new species were identified during an expedition to the Congo Basin in 2013 and subsequently described in a forthcoming book by reptile expert Dr Eli Greenbaum of the University of Texas, El Paso, titled *Venomous River: A Zoologist's Search for New Species Along the Congo*.¹⁰⁵

Also among the den of 42 new reptile species are new species of lizards including three chameleons. Two species, *Kinyongia mulyai* and *Rhampholeon hattinghi*, were described from the Albertine Rift, Democratic Republic of Congo in 2015.¹⁰⁶ The former is known to occupy small, highly fragmented remnants of the temperate forest on Mount Nzawa where it is found perching on vines ranging from a few metres high to up to 20 meters high. Recent satellite imagery shows only three remaining suitable patches of habitable forest area. Both species are listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List¹⁰⁷ and *Kinyongia mulyai* is also on CITES Appendix II.¹⁰⁸ A third species, *Kinyongia itombwensis*, was discovered in 2017 from the same region.¹⁰⁹



Afrotyphlops chirioi, CAR 2019 © Jean-François Trape



Afrotyphlops rouxestevae, Cameroon 2019 © Jean-François Trape



Dasypeltis congolensis, DRC, Gabon, Republic of Congo 2021 © Jean-François Trape



Atheris mongoensis, DRC 2020 © Jean-François Trape



Hemidactylus sinaitus, Cameroon © Jean-François Trape (note - not a new species but a new record)



Boaedon montanus, DRC 2022 © Jean-François Trape



Boaedon parolineatus, CAR 2016 © Jean-François Trape



Boaedon perisilvestris, Cameroon, Central African Republic, DRC, Gabon and Republic of Congo 2016 © Jean-François Trape



Boaedon longilineatus, Cameroon 2016 © Jean-François Trape



Boaedon subflavus, Cameroon 2016 © Jean-François Trape



Myriopholis occipitalis, CAR 2019 © Jean-François Trape



Hemidactylus coalescens, Cameroon, Gabon and Republic of Congo 2014 © Hectonichus



Lycophidion chirioi, CAR 2021 © Jean-François Trape



Lycophidion tchadensis, CAR 2021 © Jean-François Trape



Lygodactylus leopardinus, DRC 2023 © Eli Greenbaum



Echis romani, Cameroon, CAR 2018 © Jean-François Trape



Philothamnus chifunderai, Cameroon and DRC 2023 © Eli Greenbaum



Philothamnus chifunderai, Cameroon and DRC 2023 © Eli Greenbaum



Philothamnus mayombensis, DRC 2021 © Jean-François Trape

WWF SPOTLIGHT: THE CENTRAL AFRICA WILDLIFE CRIME COORDINATION HUB AND ETHICAL WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT

Poaching continues to be a growing problem in the Congo Basin, even within national parks and other protected areas. The international trade in protected species such as elephants has reached levels which endanger the survival of these species.

WWF plays an important role in combating poaching and illegal trade in wildlife artefacts such as bushmeat, tusks, skins and pangolins, through its partnership with TRAFFIC (Trade Records Analysis of Flora and Fauna in Commerce), the world's largest wildlife trade monitoring network.

WWF's partnership with TRAFFIC focuses on preserving biodiversity, by improving people's standards of living in order to reduce their dependence on nature. It was originally created in 1976 as a specialist group of the Species Survival Commission of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and evolved into a strategic alliance of WWF and the IUCN to tackle unsustainable illegal wildlife trade.

The Congo Basin, with its rich biodiversity, faces significant threats from wildlife crime. These threats include subsistence hunting and large-scale commercial poaching, which pose serious risks to endangered species such as elephants, gorillas, and pangolins. Organised criminal networks often drive wildlife trafficking, making it increasingly sophisticated and transnational. Trafficking involves the illegal trade, smuggling, poaching, capture, or collection of endangered species, protected wildlife (including animals or plants that are subject to harvest quotas and regulated by permits), derivatives, or products thereof.

In 2012, WWF established a Central Africa regional wildlife crime programme following the launching of the Illegal Wildlife Trade campaign to address the situation. The programme aimed to work with partners to create and manage protected areas, protect wildlife in logging concessions, clamp down on wildlife crime, address weak governance and corruption, build capacity and support and reduce demand.

In 2018, the Wildlife Crime Programme evolved to become the Central Africa Wildlife Crime Coordination Hub with a primary purpose to facilitate, coordinate, leverage resources and partnerships, and provide support to internal capacity building for the implementation of Wildlife Crime projects and programmes in the region.

One such initiative is ethical wildlife law enforcement which focuses on the landscapes of Sangha Tri-National (TNS), TRIDOM Cameroon, TRIDOM Congo, and Salonga National Park. The strategic approaches include building capacity and raising awareness of law enforcement agencies, operationalizing anti-poaching units, supporting judicial systems for effective prosecution, and enhancing communication for outreach and policy influence. The varying effectiveness of law enforcement and judicial systems across different sites highlights the need for sustained and enhanced efforts to combat these threats. WWF addresses these challenges through capacity building, logistical support, and collaboration with local and international partners.

» **Find out more:** www.traffic.org



BIRDS

At least two species have been discovered over the past decade with a new forest robin and an owl joining the flock.

In 2009 and 2010 a group of scientists were conducting collections-based fieldwork near Kisangani in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The primary goal of this survey work was to assess genetic variation in avian species, and their parasitic diseases, distributed on both sides of the Congo River and several of its tributaries. During these expeditions a number of Forest Robin specimens were collected and subsequently analysed for differences in morphology, plumage, and song. As a result a new species, *Stiphrornis rudderi*, or Rudder's Forest Robin, was described from the Yoko Forest Reserve, Ubundu District, Orientale Region, Democratic Republic of the Congo, in lowland rainforest at an elevation of 420m.¹¹⁰

The new species is brown with an orange-yellow throat and breast. The current known distributional range of the new species is currently limited to only two localities near the city of Kisangani, Democratic Republic of Congo. The first is Yoko Forest Reserve, Ubundu District, on the south side of the Congo River. The second locality is Turumbu, 8km north of Yelenge, Yawenda District, on the north side of the Congo River.



+2

NEW BIRD SPECIES

Otus bikegila, Principe Scops-Owl, St Tome and Principe 2022 © Martim Melo and Bárbara Freitas

Off the coast of Equatorial Guinea on a small island, another extraordinary new find was made. In 2022, a new species of Scops-owl was described from a Príncipe Obô Natural Park[on Príncipe island, highlighting once again the importance of protected areas in species conservation. The charismatic species *Otus bikegila*, or the Príncipe Scops-owl is small in size, has distinctive ear-tufts, facial disc, short rounded wings, and a short tail. It inhabits tall trees, where it feeds on insects. Researchers say it has a distinctive ‘cat-like’ call which sounds like “tuu tuu”, a call that is emitted at a higher pitch among the females of the species. Its known predators are the mona monkey and black rat.

The species is believed to be low in numbers and to only inhabit the forests of the small protected area.¹¹¹ As a result, scientists have called on the IUCN to declare the species as Critically Endangered.¹¹²

In addition to the new species finds, in December 2023, biologist Michael Harvey and his team rediscovered a population of the yellow-crested helmet shrike or Prince Albert’s hemshrike (*Prionops alberti*)¹¹³ during a six-week expedition to the Itombwe Mountains, Democratic Republic of Congo. The elusive species with glossy black plumage and bright yellow crest had previously been categorised as a “lost species” or for all terms and purposes extinct, as it had not been seen in the wild for two decades. The new population is listed as Vulnerable by the IUCN as it is threatened by deforestation and mining.¹¹⁴

Birds in particular are likely the best studied animal group, making the discovery of new species more challenging and often restricted to remote locations in the basin. Scientists believe that the lack of collecting expeditions in lowland forests is likely inhibiting the potential discovery of new species, suggesting that a lack of sampling in the region, rather than a lack of diversity, is a contributing issue in fully documenting avian biodiversity in the region.

WWF SPOTLIGHT: ‘ONE HEALTH’ - REDUCING DISEASE TRANSMISSION IN DZANGA SANGHA LANDSCAPE

Zoonoses are infectious diseases that can be transmitted from humans to animals – and vice versa. Ebola, anthrax, avian influenza for example, are among them. To protect humans, habituated primates, and other wild animals, WWF worked with the Robert Koch Institute on an early warning system for six years. This system is designed to help identify health threats rapidly and initiate immediate responses. Since 2012, WWF has been cooperating with Leendertz Lab at RKI which later formed the Helmholtz Institute for One Health (HIOH).

This approach (also known as One Health) is highly appreciated by the local populations as it allows them to better protect themselves against outbreaks, reduces the risk of fatal epidemics and helps reduce the risk of disease transmission from humans to habituated gorillas. This keeps gorilla groups and other wildlife populations healthy and thus secures an income from ecotourism for local communities.

» Find out more: www.dzanga-sangha.org/research

WWF SPOTLIGHT: CREATING NATURAL BARRIERS FOR DISEASE PROTECTION

Lessons learned during the COVID 19 pandemic reiterate the importance of conserving nature for reducing the risk of future outbreaks. WWF is advancing on this front with an innovative project in Cameroon and the Central African Republic to effectively manage forests and biodiversity as natural barriers to disease spill-over (INFORBIO - Intact and effectively managed Forests and Biodiversity). The project has several strands carefully combined together to attain its main aim of lessening the risk of infectious disease outbreaks through the use of natural barriers.

Main activities include establishing a spatial database to inform land use planning; using the Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) to connect protected areas and corridor restoration; a disease early warning system for both humans and wildlife; One Health policy, communication and knowledge sharing; and introducing economic opportunities to improve the healthcare and wellbeing of indigenous people and local communities (IPLCs) in the zones of intervention.



© WWF / Jaap van der Waarde

MAMMALS



In the last decade, one new mammal species a year on average has been found in the Congo Basin. This pack of new mammals include a new monkey species, four species of shrew, three mice and two bats.

New mammal finds are rare on any continent, so it is especially significant when a new species of monkey, *Cercopithecus lomamiensis* or lesula, was discovered in the Lomami Basin of the Tshuapa–Lomami–Lualaba Conservation Landscape, until very recently a remarkably unknown forested region in central Democratic Republic of Congo.¹¹⁵ Known to locals for some time, but otherwise unknown to the international scientific community, the new species was only the second new species of African monkey to be discovered since 1984. Although discovered in 2012, the species was listed among the Top 10 New Species globally in 2013,¹¹⁶ and has been included in this report because of its enormous significance.

This monkey is described by scientists as having distinctive human-looking eyes, a blue bottom and a somewhat haunting low ‘boom’ call which echoes around the forest when calling out. The lesula are generally described by researchers as quiet and shy. They tend to usually live in small family groups of around five members or less where they leisurely forage for fruits and vegetation, groom, and rest.

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NEW
MAMMALS
SPECIES



Cercopithecus lomamiensis (Lesula) male, DRC 2012, Camera trap © Terese Hart

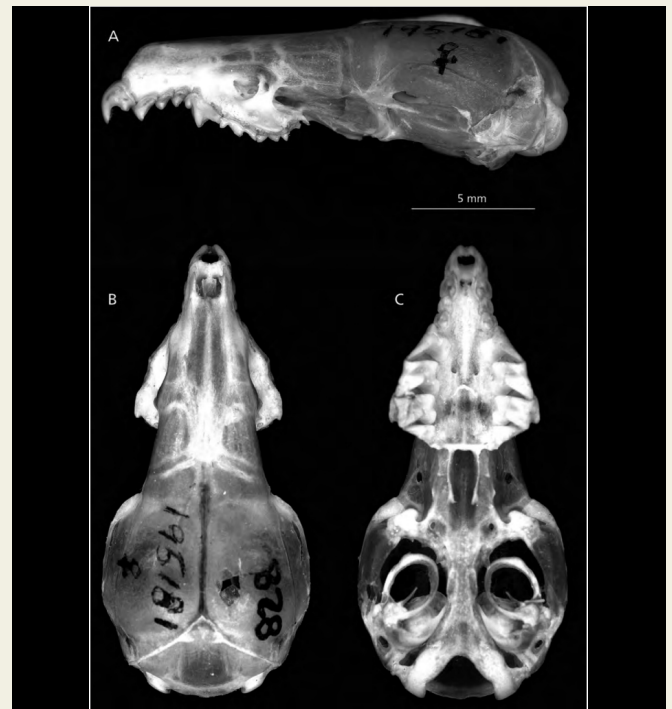
Like many Congo Basin species, the lesula is vulnerable to hunting for bushmeat. The initial discovery of the monkey was one held in captivity highlighting the potential threats they face. Protecting the species could be challenging, as species with such a small range can go from vulnerable to seriously endangered in a few years.

Since the lesula discovery a new population of a Critically Endangered primate, the endemic dryas monkey, was identified.¹¹⁷ The discovery of the new population was particularly significant as it downgraded the species to an Endangered status from Critically Endangered.¹¹⁸ Scientists are also working on the scientific description of a third primate species¹¹⁹ proving that the Congo Basin region continues to be the source of incredible new mammal discoveries.

All of the primate species can be found in the Lomami National Park (LNP) in Democratic Republic of Congo which covers an area of almost 9,000 km² and is the heart of the 40,000 km² natural landscape between the rivers Tshuapa, Lomami, and Lualaba. The region is almost completely covered by dense tropical rainforest, which is also home to bonobos, forest elephants, giant pangolins¹²⁰, and hippos. Numerous endemic or rare species have been found in the LNP, including Congo peacocks, and Okapi.¹²¹

The Democratic Republic of Congo has actually been the source of all but one of the new mammal finds in the Congo Basin, including two new bat species described from the Albertine Rift in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo including *Rhinolophus willardi* or the Willard's horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus willardi*).¹²² This endemic species lives in dense forest composed of tall trees about 40–50 m tall and found at only two sites in the Misotschi-Kabogo highlands in the South Kivu province off the shore of Lake Tanganyika at elevations of 1,880 m and 1,950 m in montane forest. Scientists say the species probably roosts in local caves and mines. Little information on population numbers exists and its habitat is threatened due to regional conflict, hunting, unregulated forest clearing, habitat degradation, and roost disturbance. As such the species is listed as Endangered by the IUCN Red List.¹²³

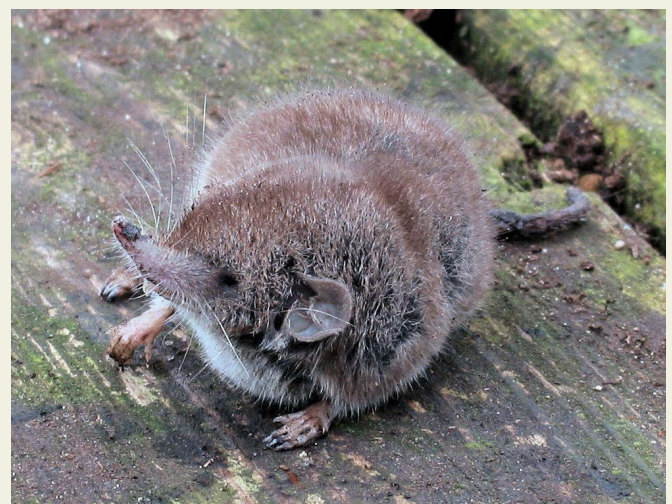
An elusive semi-aquatic mouse, *Colomys lumumbai*, was described in 2020 by an international team of scientists from the U.S., Democratic Republic of Congo and Kenya.¹²⁴ The species has thick waterproof fur, bright white belly and kangaroo-like elongated feet to wade through shallow streams on the prowl for water-dwelling insects like caddisfly larvae. Mining for gold and coltan and general forest degradation are major threats to the stream habitat of the species.¹²⁵



Crocidura iwiroensis, Misotschi-Kabogo Shrew, DRC 2013 © Kerbis Peterhans et al



Colomys lumumbai, DRC © Velizar Simeonovski (illustration), T. C. Giarla et al

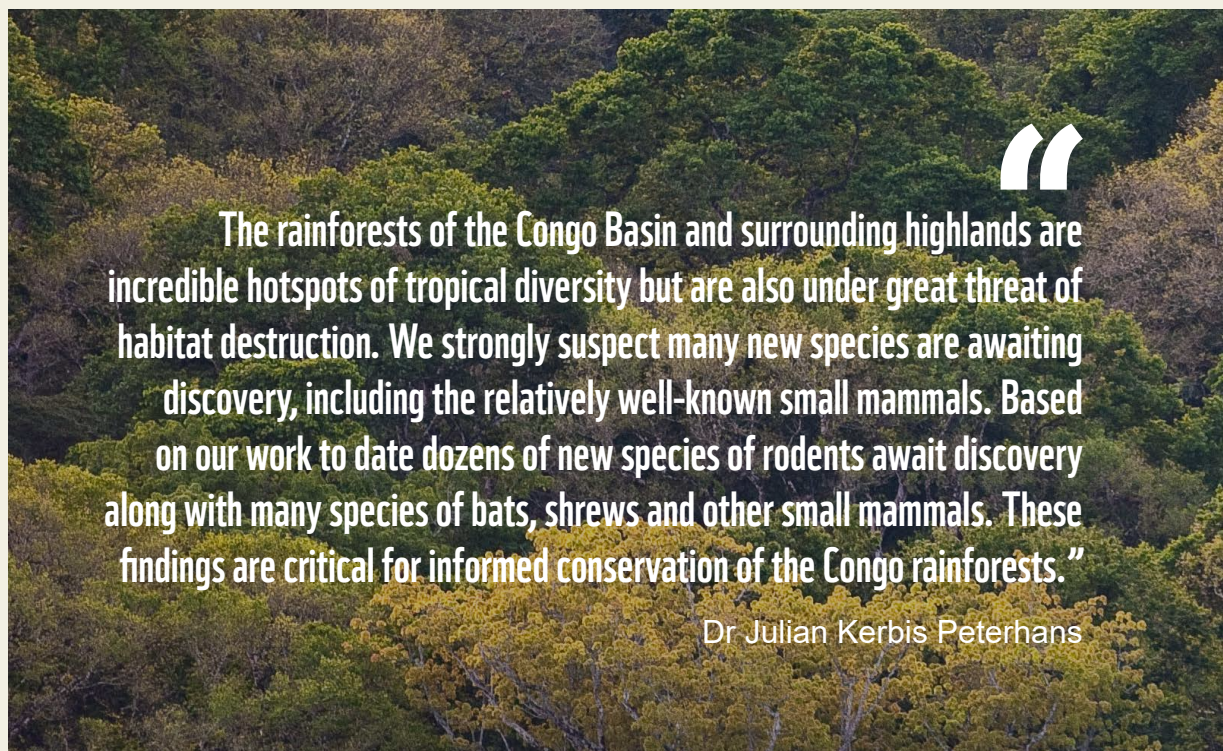


An example of the *Crocidura* genus © Rasbak



Myosorex kabogoensis, Kabogo
Mouse Shrew, DRC 2013 ©
Kerbis Peterhans et al

The endemic Lwiro shrew or Misotshi-Kabogo shrew (*Crocidura lwiroensis*) is restricted to a small portion of the Albertine Rift on the western shore of Lake Tanganyika.¹²⁶ It is restricted to an isolated highland region of montane forest south of the Itombwe Mountains. The only known specimen was found along a creek in a primary forest. The species is very small in body size measuring 110 mm in length, with a nearly naked tail at 45 mm length, and weighing just 5.6g. It has dark grey fur above and lighter grey fur below. The habitat of the species is threatened by deforestation for agricultural expansion, mining concessions, as well as an increase in local population from migration by refugees from conflict with rebel groups in the east.



“

The rainforests of the Congo Basin and surrounding highlands are incredible hotspots of tropical diversity but are also under great threat of habitat destruction. We strongly suspect many new species are awaiting discovery, including the relatively well-known small mammals. Based on our work to date dozens of new species of rodents await discovery along with many species of bats, shrews and other small mammals. These findings are critical for informed conservation of the Congo rainforests.”

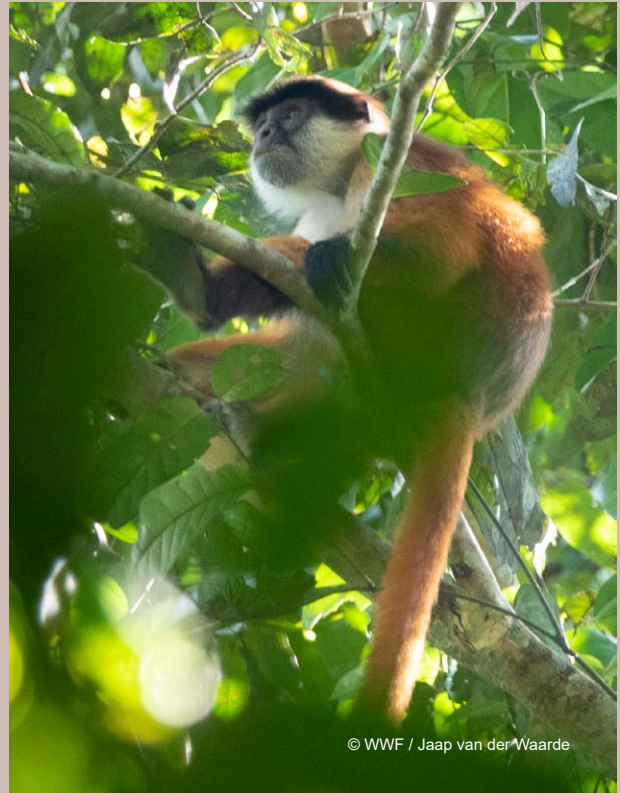
Dr Julian Kerbis Peterhans

WWF SPOTLIGHT: BOUVIER'S RED COLOBUS MONKEY CAPTURED ON VIDEO FOR FIRST TIME

In May 2021, a conservation team from WWF on a mission to Ntokou Pikounda National Park in the Republic of the Congo captured the first-ever video footage of Bouvier's red colobus. This rare monkey, once thought to be extinct after four decades without a confirmed sighting, was rediscovered in 2015 and a still photo taken during an expedition by Lieven Devreese from Belgium and Gaël Elie Gnondo Gobolo from the Republic of the Congo.

The people of Congo including the local communities who carry out fishing activities along the forest's rivers have been aware of the existence of this species of colobus monkey for some time which is endemic to the Ntokou Pikounda National Park. In 2008, the Bouvier's Red Colobus was classified by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species as Critically Endangered and even "possibly extinct." However, since its rediscovery in 2015 it has recently been reclassified as Endangered. There have been no systematic surveys carried out to determine the population status of the species however based on sightings and available habitat, it is estimated that their number ranges between 1,000 and 10,000 individuals.

Over the last six years, WWF has supported the government's conservation efforts in Ntokou Pikounda National including working with local and indigenous communities to find practical ways for them to manage this key forest habitat they have depended on for centuries.



» **Find out more:** bit.ly/BouviersRedColobusMonkey

“

On the final day of a three-day hike through the Ntokou Pikounda National Park to try and capture the rare species on camera, we heard the distinctive piercing calls of a group nearby. We then carefully waded through the murky Kandeko river towards the beckoning sounds into a small clearing in the dense forest and were rewarded with a glimpse of five adults and a baby before they quickly scampered away into the forest canopy above.”

WWF's Jaap Van Der Waarde

WWF SPOTLIGHT: GORILLA CONSERVATION THROUGH HABITUATION AND EDUCATION

The Primate Habituation Programme (PHP) in the Dzanga-Sangha Reserve, initiated in 1997 by WWF, has not only significantly contributed to the conservation of Western Lowland Gorillas but has also played a crucial role in the economic sustenance of the region. Over the years, the program has nurtured an invaluable repository of the Ba'Aka community's traditional knowledge on gorilla tracking, which was at risk of disappearing before the programme began. This emphasis on traditional skills has sparked a renewed interest among the younger Ba'Aka generation in learning and preserving their ancestral customs.

Economically, the PHP has proven to be a substantial asset. Between 2007 and 2011, primate tourism alone enabled the Dzanga-Sangha Protected Areas (APDS) to generate revenue ranging from 17 million to 76 million CFA francs (approximately US\$28,000 to US\$126,000). When considering all income related to the program—including park entry fees, other tourist activities, research fees, and filming fees—the revenues from PHP accounted for more than 60% of the total tourism receipts for the APDS.

Eventually, despite the successes of the habituation program in increasing our understanding and fostering global interest in these majestic creatures, the habituated gorilla families disintegrated following the death of their silverbacks.

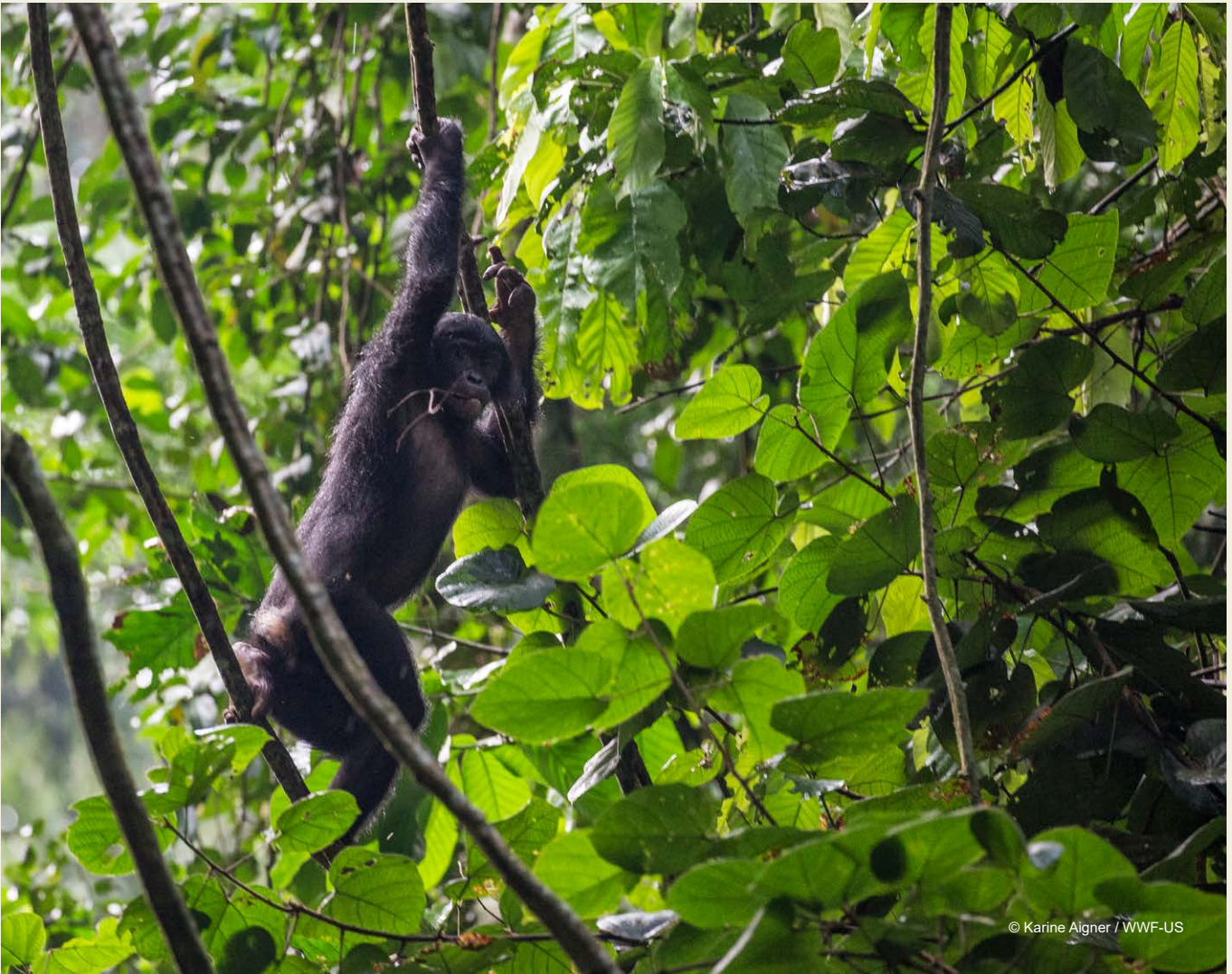
Two habituated silverbacks, Mata and Mayele, died in 2022 while Makumba, the most famous habituated silverback in Dzanga Sangha died in May 2024 as a result of natural causes - Makumba and Mayele died from injuries resulting from inter-group interactions while Mata died probably from an accident. Inter-group interactions, migration of individuals, silverback challenge, infanticide and disintegration of gorilla groups are all natural phenomena. Silverbacks are the bonds that keep western lowland gorilla groups together and their death may lead to the disintegration of the groups. This was the case in Dzanga-Sangha.

The loss of the gorillas represented a significant setback not only for local conservation efforts but also for the communities dependent on ecotourism. The gorillas of Dzanga-Sangha were not just a source of scientific curiosity; they were a vital component of the region's ecological health and its economic stability through tourism, underscoring the fragility of conservation success and the need for innovation and support in these efforts.

WWF and its partners are committed to continuing their work in the region, adapting their strategies to ensure gorillas and their habitat are protected. This includes furthering research, enhancing local community engagement, and refining conservation techniques to prevent such losses in the future.



© naturepl.com / Andy Rouse / WWF



WWF SPOTLIGHT: BONOBO HABITUATION

The bonobo (*Pan paniscus*) is an Endangered species of primate endemic to the Democratic Republic of Congo. For the past three decades, research and conservation organisations have been supporting the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo in its efforts to protect these unique great apes by making sure they face minimal threats, and their long-term survival is ensured. Salonga is home to the world's largest bonobo population, estimated at 15,000 individuals in protected areas of the Democratic Republic of Congo, and almost 50 per cent of the global population.

WWF contributes to the protection of bonobos in Salonga through effective management of the Salonga national park (to eliminate poaching), continuous surveys and monitoring (to track changes in population size, distribution and assess the levels and location of threats) and supporting improved and sustainable agriculture methods (to reduce habitat loss).

In October 2023, WWF launched a bonobo habituation program in the Salonga National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo with the intention of habituating bonobos to human presence with the aim of implementing an ecotourism project and conducting research to better understand bonobos and how to protect them. The overall aim is to develop sustainable tourism for bonobos, which promotes the well-being of local communities while ensuring the viability of the bonobo population. The habituation process will be carried out in strict compliance with IUCN guidelines on ecotourism and primate habituation.

A temporary habituation camp has been set up in Inkomu, 35 km or two hours by boat from the new headquarters in the park's northern block (Yokelelu station), where tourism infrastructure is currently being developed.

It will be one of the few programs in the region to habituate bonobos. On the other hand, habituated bonobos will enable studies to be carried out that are difficult to conduct without access to habituated groups.

THREATS: A FOREST FIGHTING FOR ITS FUTURE



© Brent Stirton / Getty Images / WWF-UK



Like many forests around the world, the threats facing critical habitats of the Congo Basin are significant. Despite protection efforts by governments of the region, NGOs like WWF, WCS, Greenpeace and others as well as international bodies, the region is faced with a disastrous combination of pressures as a result of infrastructure development, increased access to forests, and the demand for commodities by local, regional and global markets.

The host of threats include forest destruction as a result of legal and illegal and unsustainable logging, forest conversion for industrial and artisanal agriculture, leading to shifting cultivation for firewood, illegal poaching for bushmeat and the illegal wildlife trade.

If we look at the largest country in the region, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the amount of tree cover lost between 2001-2023 was 19.7 million hectares of tree cover. This is equivalent to a 9.9 per cent decrease in tree cover since 2000 and 12.3 gigatonnes of CO₂ emissions. In 2023, the country lost 1.32 million hectares of natural forest, equivalent to 888 megatonnes of CO₂ emissions.¹²⁷ At the same time, biodiversity in the forest is declining rapidly: monitored forest-dwelling wildlife populations have shrunk by 79 per cent on average, with habitat loss, habitat degradation and climate change as the most pressing threat.¹²⁸

The Global Forest Atlas estimated that the logging industry in the Democratic Republic of Congo covers between 44 - 66 million hectares of forest. Studies show that 54,000 miles of roads for forest concessions were built across the Congo Basin between 2003 and 2018, reaching a total of 143,500 miles.¹²⁹ Construction of roads has greatly facilitated access to the interior of the forest, and many people have relocated close to roads.

Many of the tropical logs from the basin will be destined for foreign markets like China, the world's largest timber importer. China's top ten sources of tropical logs, including many African timber producers like the Democratic Republic of Congo, rank low in forest governance with rampant illegal logging. Together they supply 80 percent of China's tropical timber imports.¹³⁰ The Congo Basin especially is an important source of African teak, used for building furniture and flooring.

Unsustainable hunting of wildlife for the commercial bushmeat market threatens to wipe out many species, with monkeys and antelope being common targets but also including endangered wildlife like forest elephants and great apes. In the Democratic Republic of Congo alone, over a million tonnes of bushmeat are consumed each year. Alarmingly, this lucrative business is causing the forest to become empty of species.

Combating the bushmeat trade presents many challenges. In remote areas, bushmeat is the primary source of income for families, as it is the only export that will earn a profit.

The international demand for ivory still drives the killing of elephants, leading to local extinctions and threatening to eliminate elephants entirely. WWF plays an important role in fighting illegal trade, including through TRAFFIC, the world's largest wildlife trade monitoring network.

As a result of the ongoing threats facing the Congo Basin, today 1,082 species are considered either Critically Endangered, Endangered or Threatened by IUCN¹³¹¹³².



© Daniel Nelson / WWF

Mining and infrastructure projects like roads also open up previously inaccessible areas to poachers, increasing the illegal trade in wildlife and the availability of bushmeat.

The Congo Basin is abundant in natural resources: diamonds, gold, rare metals, coltan (used to make cell phones) and lithium (crucial for renewable energy technologies) and petroleum, but current methods and rates of extracting these resources are unsustainable and threaten the future of this vast wilderness region's ecosystems

Many people depend on such resources for their livelihoods, and the global demand for these materials is increasing. For example, China has 22 cobalt and one lithium mine operating in the Democratic Republic of Congo and a manganese mine in Gabon.¹³³ Cobalt is a rare vital material in the lithium batteries that power our mobile electronics and increasingly cars: 90 percent of the Cobalt from the Democratic Republic of Congo is exported to China.¹³⁴ These mines form part of China's 'Belt and Road Initiative' to build an infrastructure network connecting China to the world.¹³⁵ The country has invested heavily in projects in the Democratic Republic of Congo, focusing mainly on minerals essential to meet global energy demand, with Chinese companies pledging up to US\$7billion in future infrastructure investment relating to their copper and cobalt extractive venture agreement with Democratic Republic of Congo.¹³⁶ Some of these mines have become sources of tension with locals ranging from damage to ecosystems, violations of the rights of local communities, child slave labour and unsafe working conditions.

While forests are a lifeline for many Congolese, slash-and-burn subsistence farming and a heavy reliance on fuelwood drive deforestation – over 80 percent of the population relies on fuelwood for cooking and heating needs. An estimated 40 million people depend on these forests, surviving on traditional livelihoods.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, refugees from armed conflict are forced to live off the land with severe impacts to forests and wildlife. For example, the demand for fuelwood and charcoal has led to deforestation in Virunga National Park, the oldest national park in Africa.

Deforestation not only affects biodiversity but also impacts rainfall patterns across Africa. The worsening effects of climate change exacerbate the threats to the Congo Basin, affecting its rich biodiversity and the people who depend on it.

At a global level, Congo's forests are a huge "carbon sink", trapping carbon that could otherwise remain carbon dioxide. The Congo Basin holds roughly 8 percent of the world's forest-based carbon. If these woodlands are deforested, the carbon they trap will be released into the atmosphere. Predictions for future unabated deforestation estimate that by 2050 activities in the Democratic Republic of Congo will release roughly the same amount of carbon dioxide as the United Kingdom has emitted over the last 60 years. In 2017, British scientists discovered that peatlands in the Cuvette Centrale, which cover a total of 145,500 sq km, contain 30 billion tonnes of carbon or 20 years of U.S. fossil fuel emissions.

To safeguard the Congo Basin, it is crucial to address these threats through concerted conservation efforts, sustainable practices, and international cooperation.

WWF SPOTLIGHT: SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY PRACTICES HELP WILDLIFE THRIVE

A new study reveals compelling evidence that forests certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) in Gabon and the Republic of Congo harbour a higher abundance of larger mammals and critically endangered species such as gorillas and elephants compared to non-FSC certified forests. The research – led by Utrecht University with support from WWF and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and published in the journal *Nature* – underscores the effectiveness of measures implemented in FSC-certified forest concessions to safeguard wildlife.

By meticulously documenting individual animal counts and strategically positioning camera traps, the research affirms that certified concessions notably harbour a bigger population of large and threatened mammals – 2.7 times more for mammals over 100 kg, such as gorillas and forest elephants, and 2.5 times more for mammals from 30-100 kg such as leopards and chimpanzees – when compared to non-FSC-certified forests concessions.

The number of smaller mammals observed was similar between FSC- and non-FSC concessions. In addition, the encounter rates observed of large mammals in FSC-certified forests were comparable to published data from recently monitored protected areas in the Congo Basin region. The new study is the first to compare so many different forest areas at the same time, using 474 camera traps across 14 logging concessions – seven FSC-certified and seven non-FSC certified.

FSC-certified forest concessions in the Congo Basin are often in large, remote areas which are harvested under Reduced-Impact Logging principles in a decades-long rotational pattern, meaning that large mammals are able to roam and avoid production areas. Certified forestry companies' proactive measures, such as blocking old logging roads, establishing checkpoints, and supporting alternative protein sources for local populations, have significantly curbed illegal hunting. One of those companies is Interholco, which manages a 1.16 million-hectare FSC-certified forestry concession in the Republic of Congo, bordering the Odzala-Kokoua National Park. The company has also been granted FSC Ecosystem Services certification for their role in conserving biodiversity.

As logging concessions account for more than half of the remaining forest areas in the two countries studied (61 percent in the Republic of Congo and 67 percent in Gabon), these positive results from FSC-certified concessions are of great importance for the conservation of biodiversity in the region.

» Find out more:

Research results: bit.ly/FSCResearch

Forest Forward programme: bit.ly/ForestForward



© WWF / Jaap van der Waarde



These results are inspiring and an indication that FSC continues to be an effective tool in tropical forests, and that its standards translate into tangible impacts. Solutions that benefit both people and nature do exist, and responsible forest management certification is one of those vital solutions.”

Fran Price, Leader, WWF Forest Practice.

WWF SPOTLIGHT: MANAGING HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICTS THROUGH WILDLIFE INSURANCE SCHEMES

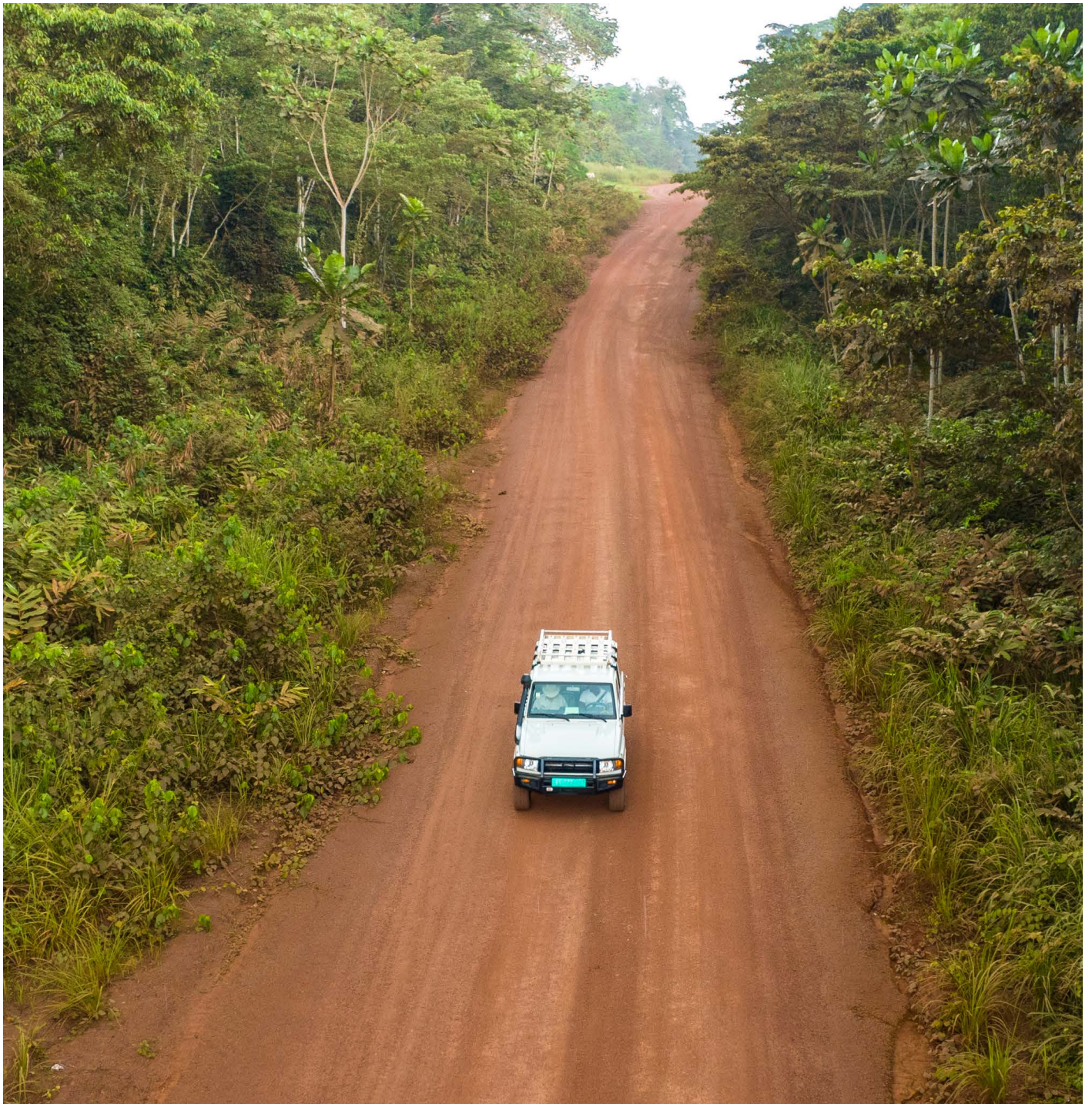
In 2024, WWF began pioneering a new initiative to ease the conflict between man and wildlife. Agricultural fields are sometimes the only source of income for local and indigenous communities, which means damage wrought by wildlife such as elephants can sometimes be devastating.

Under the new scheme introduced by WWF in the Republic of Congo, communities can receive insurance compensation if they have become a victim of wildlife which would otherwise lead to human-elephant conflict. The scheme also provides material and technical resources to ensure harmonious cohabitation.

The project is currently open to village communities bordering the Messok-Dja forest massif, part of the Tri-National Dja-Odzala-Minkebe (TRIDOM) landscape, a forest elephant stronghold.

Around Ntokou Pikounda National Park, human elephant conflicts pose a safety risk and a challenge for local communities, whose agricultural crops and properties can be damaged or lost. Livelihood concerns, driven by human-wildlife conflict concerns, have surfaced in discussions at multi-stakeholder platform meetings. NPNP is a pilot site for WWF's recently developed Conflict to Coexistence (C2C) methodology, which includes hands-on guidance and training for managing human-wildlife conflict. WWF's work in this context around NPNP involves a detailed situational analysis of conflict with elephants and other wildlife, stakeholder identification and analysis, and human-wildlife risk assessment with multiple stakeholder groups with an objective to co-create a human wildlife conflict management plan with the community.





CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

In conclusion, the Congo Basin's biodiversity is a treasure trove of ecological wealth, hosting a vast array of species and ecosystems that are vital for global biodiversity. To preserve this natural heritage, it is recommended that:



1. Conservation should be intensified, with increased funding and resources allocated to protected areas by key stakeholders.



2. Sustainable practices be promoted among local communities to balance ecological preservation with economic needs.



3. International collaboration be strengthened to combat illegal wildlife trade and deforestation.



4. Research and monitoring be enhanced to better understand the Basin's ecosystems and respond to environmental changes.



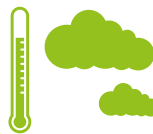
5. Raise awareness about the importance of the Congo Basin to support conservation efforts by governments, communities and the private sector.



6. Promote and support sustainable land use and resource management in the region to help protect the habitats and species of the Congo Basin

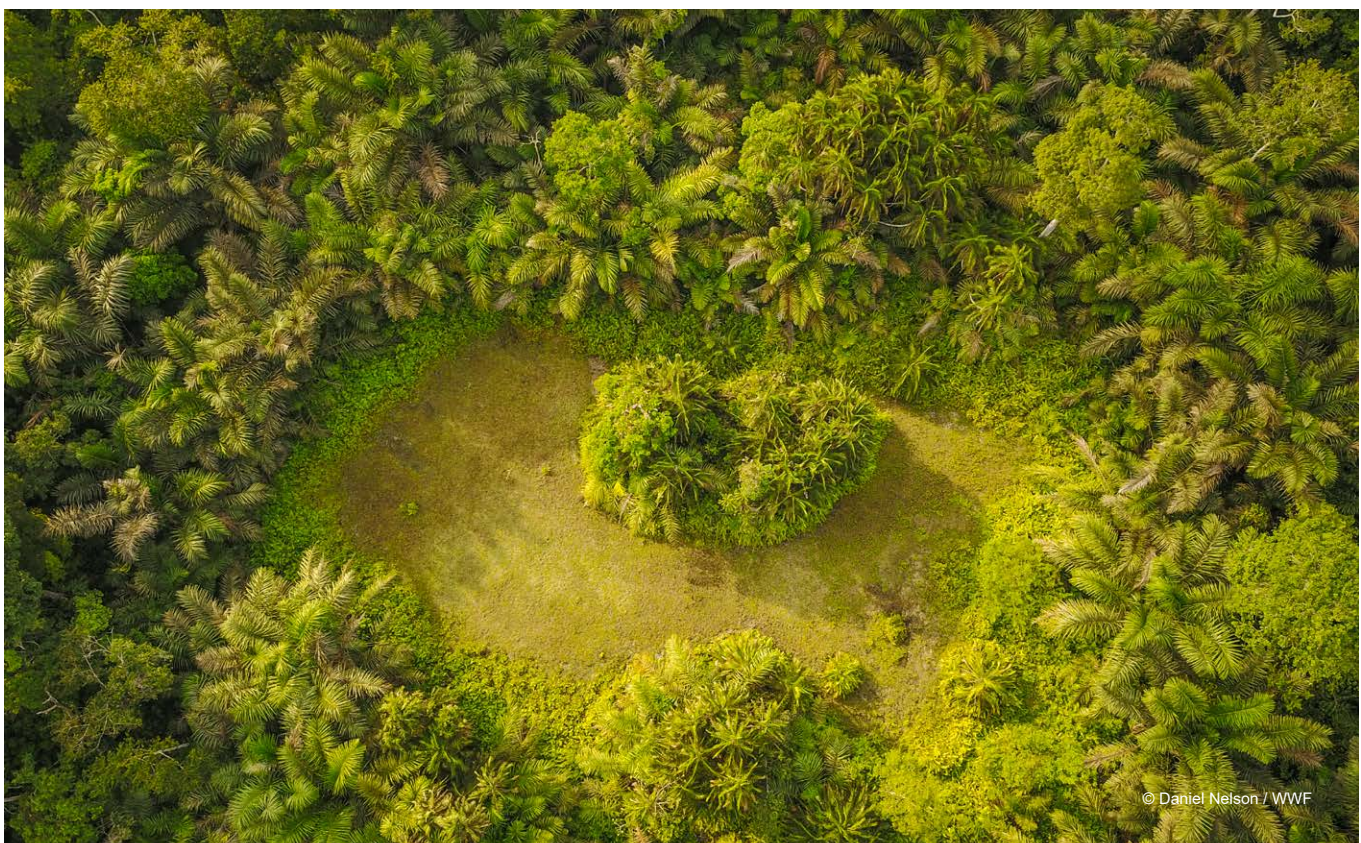


7. Engage with community reserves and projects that aim to create jobs and generate tourism income while conserving wildlife



8. The Congo Basin acts as a significant carbon sink. By reducing carbon footprints, contribute to global efforts to combat climate change, which in turn will help preserve the rainforest.

By implementing these recommendations, we can ensure the Congo Basin remains a bastion of biodiversity for generations to come.



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APPENDIX

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APPENDIX 1. NEW SPECIES OF THE CONGO BASIN 2013-2023

PLANTS

Species	Scientist(s)	Year	Distribution	Type
<i>Aframomum dhetchuwii</i>	Harris & Wortley	2018	DRC	Plant
<i>Aframomum fragrans</i>	Harris & Wortley	2018	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Aframomum hirsutum</i>	Harris & Wortley	2018	DRC, Gabon	Plant
<i>Aframomum kamerunicum</i>	Harris & Wortley	2018	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Aframomum kodmin</i>	Harris & Wortley	2018	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Aframomum lutarium</i>	Harris & Wortley	2018	Cameroon, DRC	Plant
<i>Aframomum ngamikense</i>	Fisch., Kirunda, Ewango, Leal & Plumptre	2018	DRC	Plant
<i>Aframomum parvulum</i>	Harris & Wortley	2018	DRC, Republic of Congo	Plant
<i>Aframomum plicatum</i>	Harris & Wortley	2018	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Aframomum rotundum</i>	Harris & Wortley	2018	Gabon	Plant
<i>Aframomum scalare</i>	Harris & Wortley	2018	Central African Republic, DRC, Gabon, Republic of Congo	Plant
<i>Aframomum submontanum</i>	Harris & Wortley	2018	DRC	Plant
<i>Aframomum tchoutoui</i>	Harris & Wortley	2018	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Afrothismia fungiformis</i>	Sainge & Kenfack	2013	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Afrothismia kupensis</i>	Cheek & Williams	2019	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Afrothismia pusilla</i>	Sainge & Kenfack	2013	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Albertisia badia</i>	Breteler	2022	Gabon	Plant
<i>Albertisia mouilaensis</i>	Breteler	2022	Gabon	Plant
<i>Allophylus bertoua</i>	Cheek	2016	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Amischotolype scandens</i>	Burg & Bidault	2020	Gabon	Plant
<i>Amorphophallus dumboi</i>	Fisch., Dumbo & Dumbo	2022	DRC	Plant
<i>Anemia rauhiana</i>	Mickel	2016	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Angraecum biteaui</i>	Simo & Stévant	2016	Gabon	Plant
<i>Angraecum geerinckianum</i>	Stévant & Ječmenica	2017	Gabon	Plant
<i>Angraecum gereauanum</i>	Stévant & Ječmenica	2017	Gabon	Plant
<i>Angraecum lanceolatum</i>	Ječmenica, Stévant & Droissart	2016	Cameroon, Gabon	Plant
<i>Anisophyllea biokoensis</i>	Zhang, Chen & He	2015	Equatorial Guinea, Gabon	Plant
<i>Anisophyllea cuneata</i>	Zhang, Chen & He	2015	Cameroon, Gabon	Plant
<i>Anisophyllea myriostictoides</i>	Zhang, Chen & He	2015	Gabon	Plant
<i>Anisophyllea neopurpurascens</i>	Zhang, Chen & He	2015	Cameroon, Gabon	Plant
<i>Asplenium kivuensis</i>	Mangambu	2016	DRC	Plant
<i>Asplenium markusbeckeri</i>	Fisch. & Lobin	2023	DRC	Plant
<i>Asplenium uschiae</i>	Fisch. & Lobin	2023	DRC	Plant
<i>Atriplex congolensis</i>	Sukhor.	2016	DRC	Plant
<i>Baissea atrobrunnea</i>	Lachenaud	2022	Gabon	Plant
<i>Baphia vili</i>	Cheek	2014	Republic of Congo	Plant
<i>Begonia monte-alenensis</i>	Sosef	2014	Equatorial Guinea	Plant
<i>Begonia puberula</i>	Sosef	2014	Gabon	Plant
<i>Bolusiella fractiflexa</i>	Droissart, Stévant & Verlynde	2013	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Bonamia ngouniensis</i>	Breteler	2015	Gabon	Plant
<i>Bulbophyllum pauwelsianum</i>	Stévant & Droissart	2014	Gabon	Plant
<i>Campylospermum auriculatum</i>	Biss.	2013	Equatorial Guinea, Gabon	Plant
<i>Campylospermum gabonense</i>	Biss.	2013	Gabon	Plant

Species	Scientist(s)	Year	Distribution	Type
<i>Campylospermum glaucifolium</i>	Biss.	2013	Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Republic of Congo	Plant
<i>Campylospermum occidentale</i>	Biss.	2013	Gabon	Plant
<i>Carapa wohllebenii</i>	Fisch., Killmann, Leh & Janssens	2021	DRC	Plant
<i>Coffea rizetiana</i>	Stoff. & Noirot, Adansonia	2021	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Cola elegans</i>	Pierre ex Breteler	2014	DRC, Gabon, Republic of Congo	Plant
<i>Cola etugei</i>	Cheek	2020	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Cola kodminensis</i>	Cheek	2020	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Cola mamboana</i>	Kenfack & Sainge	2018	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Cola moussavoui</i>	Breteler	2014	Gabon	Plant
<i>Cola stigmatica</i>	Breteler	2014	Gabon	Plant
<i>Cola zemagoana</i>	Kenfack & Thomas	2018	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Combretum longistipitatum</i>	Jongkind	2018	Gabon	Plant
<i>Combretum rupestre</i>	Jongkind	2019	Gabon	Plant
<i>Cordia letestui</i>	Simons	2021	Cameroon, Gabon	Plant
<i>Costus acutissimus</i>	Maas & Maas	2016	Gabon	Plant
<i>Costus albiflos</i>	Maas & Maas	2016	Cameroon, Gabon	Plant
<i>Costus fenestralis</i>	Maas & Maas	2016	Gabon, Republic of Congo	Plant
<i>Costus kupensis</i>	Maas & Maas	2016	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Costus lilaceus</i>	Maas & Maas	2016	Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Republic of Congo	Plant
<i>Costus louisii</i>	Maas & Maas	2016	Gabon	Plant
<i>Costus nimba</i>	Maas & Maas	2016	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Crateranthus cameroonensis</i>	Cheek & Prance	2015	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Craterispermum capitatum</i>	Taedayung & De Block	2017	Cameroon, DRC, Republic of Congo	Plant
<i>Craterispermum deblockianum</i>	Taedayung & De Block	2013	Gabon	Plant
<i>Craterispermum gabonicum</i>	Taedayung & De Block	2017	Gabon	Plant
<i>Craterispermum rumpianum</i>	Taedayung & De Block	2013	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Craterispermum sonkeanum</i>	Taedayung & De Block	2013	Equatorial Guinea, Gabon	Plant
<i>Crossopetalum bokdamii</i>	Breteler & Buerki	2016	DRC	Plant
<i>Crotalaria tchibangensis</i>	Maesen	2013	Gabon	Plant
<i>Crotonogyne micrantha</i>	Breteler	2018	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Crotonogyne neglecta</i>	Breteler	2018	Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea	Plant
<i>Crotonogynopsis korupensis</i>	Kenfack & Thomas	2015	Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea	Plant
<i>Cryptosepalum korupense</i>	Burgt	2014	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Ctenopterella gabonensis</i>	Parris	2013	Gabon	Plant
<i>Cyperus inselbergensis</i>	Lye	2013	Cameroon, Gabon	Plant
<i>Cyrtopera bamendensis</i>	Szlach	2021	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Cyrtorchis okuensis</i>	Droissart, Azandi & Simo	2021	Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea	Plant
<i>Cyrtorchis submontana</i>	Stévant, Droissart & Azandi	2016	Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea	Plant
<i>Dalbergia adiantifolia</i>	Lachenaud	2016	Gabon	Plant
<i>Dalbergia lancistipula</i>	Lachenaud	2016	Equatorial Guinea, Gabon	Plant
<i>Dalbergia nervosa</i>	Lachenaud	2016	Cameroon, Gabon	Plant
<i>Dalbergia obliquifoliolata</i>	Lachenaud	2016	Gabon	Plant
<i>Dalbergia semiapplanata</i>	Lachenaud	2016	Gabon	Plant
<i>Dalbergia stenopetala</i>	Lachenaud	2016	Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon	Plant
<i>Dalbergia xylocarpa</i>	Lachenaud	2016	Equatorial Guinea	Plant
<i>Decorsella arborea</i>	Jongkind	2017	Cameroon, Gabon, Republic of Congo	Plant
<i>Deinbollia onanae</i>	Cheek	2021	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Didelotia korupensis</i>	Burgt	2016	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Didymochlaena cameroonensis</i>	Zhang & Shang	2023	Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea	Plant
<i>Diospyros cleistantha</i>	Lachenaud & Schatz	2017	Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon	Plant

Species	Scientist(s)	Year	Distribution	Type
<i>Diospyros subargentea</i>	Lachenaud & Schatz	2017	Gabon	Plant
<i>Discoclaoxylon ikabangae</i>	Lachenaud	2023	Gabon	Plant
<i>Discoclaoxylon korupense</i>	Barberá & Quintanar	2023	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Disperis tomaszii</i>	Szlach., Grochocka, Dudek & Olędrz.	2017	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Distylodon sonkeanus</i>	Droissart, Stévert & Cribb	2014	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Djinga cheekii</i>	Ghogue, Huber & Rutish.	2013	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Dorstenia luamensis</i>	Leal	2014	DRC	Plant
<i>Dracaena bushii</i>	Damen	2018	Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon	Plant
<i>Dracaena haemanthoides</i>	Bos ex Damen	2018	Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon	Plant
<i>Dracaena laxissima</i>	Wiland & Luke	2018	DRC	Plant
<i>Dracaena litoralis</i>	Mwachala & Fisch.	2013	Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon	Plant
<i>Dracaena longipetiolata</i>	Mwachala & Fisch.	2013	Gabon	Plant
<i>Dracaena marina</i>	Bos ex Damen	2018	Cameroon, DRC, Gabon, Republic of Congo	Plant
<i>Dracaena rosulata</i>	Mwachala & Fisch.	2013	DRC	Plant
<i>Dracaena wakaensis</i>	Damen & Quiroz	2018	Gabon	Plant
<i>Dracaena waltersiae</i>	Damen	2018	Central African Republic, Gabon, Republic of Congo	Plant
<i>Drypetes aphanes</i>	Quintanar, Harris & Barberá	2023	Gabon	Plant
<i>Drypetes burnleyae</i>	Cheek	2021	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Drypetes cauta</i>	Harris, Barberá & Quintanar	2023	DRC, Gabon	Plant
<i>Drypetes morocarpa</i>	Léonard ex Harris & Quintanar	2020	DRC	Plant
<i>Drypetes palustris</i>	Léonard ex Harris & Quintanar	2022	Republic of Congo	Plant
<i>Drypetes stevartii</i>	Sonké & Quintanar	2023	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Drypetes umbricola</i>	Harris & Quintanar	2021	Cameroon, Central African Republic, DRC, Gabon, Republic of Congo	Plant
<i>Englerodendron nguemae</i>	Lachenaud & Bidault	2022	Gabon	Plant
<i>Englerophytum ferrugineum</i>	Gaut. & Lachenaud	2016	Gabon	Plant
<i>Englerophytum gigantifolium</i>	Lachenaud & Gaut.	2016	Gabon	Plant
<i>Englerophytum libenii</i>	Lachenaud & Gaut.	2016	Cameroon, Gabon	Plant
<i>Englerophytum paludosum</i>	Gaut., Burgt & Lachenaud	2016	Cameroon, DRC, Gabon	Plant
<i>Englerophytum sylverianum</i>	Kenfack & Gaut.	2016	Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea	Plant
<i>Erythrina wieringae</i>	Maesen	2013	Gabon	Plant
<i>Eugenia breteleri</i>	Jongkind	2015	Gabon	Plant
<i>Gambeya korupensis</i>	Ewango & Kenfack	2016	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Gilbertiodendron bambolense</i>	Burgt.	2015	DRC	Plant
<i>Gilbertiodendron breteleri</i>	Burgt.	2015	Gabon	Plant
<i>Gilbertiodendron ebo</i>	Burgt & Mackinder	2015	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Gilbertiodendron maximum</i>	Burgt & Wieringa	2015	Gabon	Plant
<i>Gilbertiodendron minkebense</i>	Burgt & Estrella	2015	Gabon, Republic of Congo	Plant
<i>Gilbertiodendron quinquejugum</i>	Burgt.	2015	Gabon, Republic of Congo	Plant
<i>Gilbertiodendron scutatatum</i>	Wieringa & Estrella	2015	Equatorial Guinea, Gabon	Plant
<i>Gilbertiodendron sulfureum</i>	Burgt	2015	Cameroon, Gabon	Plant
<i>Globimetula agelanthoides</i>	Lachenaud & Ndolo	2023	Gabon	Plant
<i>Globulostylis dewildeana</i>	Sonké, Lachenaud & Dessein	2013	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Globulostylis rammeloana</i>	Sonké, Lachenaud & Dessein	2013	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Globulostylis robbrechtiana</i>	Sonké, Lachenaud & Dessein	2013	Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon	Plant
<i>Gnetum interruptum</i>	Blye	2013	Cameroon, Central African Republic, DRC, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Republic of Congo	Plant
<i>Gnetum latispicum</i>	Blye	2013	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Grangea ogoouensis</i>	Lachenaud & Beentje	2020	Gabon	Plant

Species	Scientist(s)	Year	Distribution	Type
<i>Greenwayodendron glabrum</i>	Lissambou, Hardy & Couvreur	2018	Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon	Plant
<i>Greenwayodendron littorale</i>	Lissambou, Hardy & Couvreur	2018	Gabon, Republic of Congo	Plant
<i>Grossera angustifolia</i>	Barberá & Riina	2015	Equatorial Guinea	Plant
<i>Hibiscus minkebeensis</i>	Burg	2013	Gabon	Plant
<i>Hibiscus ngokbanakii</i>	Burg	2013	Gabon	Plant
<i>Hunteria maasiarum</i>	Jongkind & Bidault	2022	Gabon	Plant
<i>Hymenophyllum senterreanum</i>	Dubuisson & Deblauwe	2016	Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea	Plant
<i>Hymenostegia viridiflora</i>	Mackinder & Wieringa	2013	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Hypolytrum goetghebeurii</i>	They	2019	DRC	Plant
<i>Impatiens akomensis</i>	Janssens, Sonké & Lachenaud	2015	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Impatiens banen</i>	Cheek	2022	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Impatiens elwiraurzulae</i>	Fisch., Abrah., Holstein & Janssens	2021	DRC	Plant
<i>Impatiens etugei</i>	Fisch., Abrah., Holstein & Janssens	2022	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Impatiens lotteri</i>	Fisch., Abrah., Holstein & Janssens	2021	DRC	Plant
<i>Impatiens ludewigii</i>	Fisch., Abrah., Holstein & Janssens	2021	DRC	Plant
<i>Impatiens moutsambotei</i>	Cheek	2022	Republic of Congo	Plant
<i>Impatiens smetsiana</i>	Janssens, Taedoumg & Dessein	2022	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Inversodicraea achoundongii</i>	Schenk, Herschlag & Thomas	2015	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Inversodicraea ebo</i>	Cheek	2017	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Inversodicraea eladii</i>	Cheek	2017	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Inversodicraea senei</i>	Cheek	2017	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Inversodicraea tchoutoi</i>	Cheek	2017	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Inversodicraea xanderi</i>	Cheek	2017	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Isoetes hallei</i>	Fisch. & Lobin	2022	DRC	Plant
<i>Ixora kalehensis</i>	De Block	2018	DRC	Plant
<i>Jasminum mouilaense</i>	Breteler	2018	Gabon	Plant
<i>Justicia alchorneeticola</i>	Champl.	2013	DRC	Plant
<i>Justicia catenula</i>	Champl.	2013	DRC	Plant
<i>Justicia gladiatotheca</i>	Champl.	2013	DRC	Plant
<i>Justicia lenticellata</i>	Champl.	2013	DRC	Plant
<i>Justicia lovoiensis</i>	Champl.	2013	DRC	Plant
<i>Justicia nanofrutex</i>	Champl.	2013	DRC	Plant
<i>Justicia pedemontana</i>	Champl.	2013	DRC	Plant
<i>Justicia sejuncta</i>	Champl.	2013	DRC	Plant
<i>Justicia tutukuensis</i>	Champl.	2013	DRC	Plant
<i>Kalaharia schajjesii</i>	Bamps	2013	DRC, Gabon, Republic of Congo	Plant
<i>Kalaharia schajjesii</i>	Bamps	2013	DRC	Plant
<i>Keetia namoyae</i>	Lachenaud & Luke	2017	DRC	Plant
<i>Kihansia jengiensis</i>	Sainge & Kenfack	2015	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Kolobopetalum synsepalum</i>	Breteler	2021	Gabon	Plant
<i>Kosteletzkya rotundalata</i>	Blanch.	2013	DRC	Plant
<i>Kupeantha ebo</i>	Alvarez & Cheek	2018	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Kupeantha kupensis</i>	Cheek & Sonké	2018	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Kupeantha yabassi</i>	Alvarez & Cheek	2021	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Kylicanthe arcuata</i>	Stévant & Droissart	2018	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Kylicanthe cornuata</i>	Stévant & Droissart	2018	Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon	Plant
<i>Laccosperma cristalensis</i>	Couvreur & Niang.	2016	Gabon	Plant
<i>Landolphia anthonii</i>	Jongkind	2022	Cameroon, Gabon	Plant
<i>Landolphia coriacea</i>	Jongkind	2022	Cameroon, Gabon	Plant
<i>Landolphia dibatae</i>	Jongkind	2022	Gabon	Plant
<i>Landolphia obovata</i>	Lachenaud & Jongkind	2022	Cameroon, Gabon	Plant
<i>Landolphia persooniana</i>	Lachenaud & Jongkind	2022	Gabon	Plant

Species	Scientist(s)	Year	Distribution	Type
<i>Landolphia verrucosa</i>	Jongkind & Lachenaud	2022	Gabon	Plant
<i>Leptoderris gabonica</i>	Breteler	2016	Gabon	Plant
<i>Leptoderris robusta</i>	Breteler	2016	Gabon	Plant
<i>Leptonychia moyesiae</i>	Cheek	2013	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Liparis esmahaniae-hefiediae</i>	Fisch., Dumbo & Dumbo	2023	DRC	Plant
<i>Mapania pallescens</i>	Lye	2014	Gabon	Plant
<i>Massularia stevartiana</i>	Sonké, Bidault & Droissart	2015	Cameroon, Gabon	Plant
<i>Memecylon alipes</i>	Stone	2020	Gabon	Plant
<i>Memecylon biokoense</i>	Stone	2020	Equatorial Guinea	Plant
<i>Memecylon fugax</i>	Stone	2020	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Memecylon korupense</i>	Stone	2020	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Mendoncia camerounensis</i>	Breteler & Wieringa	2018	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Mendoncia rabiensis</i>	Breteler & Wieringa	2018	Gabon	Plant
<i>Mesanthemum alenicola</i>	Phillips	2019	Equatorial Guinea	Plant
<i>Microcoelia nguemae</i>	Farminhão & Stévert	2023	Gabon	Plant
<i>Microcos magnifica</i>	Cheek	2017	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Microcos rumpi</i>	Cheek	2023	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Millettia geerinckiana</i>	Lachenaud	2016	Gabon	Plant
<i>Millettia viridiflora</i>	Lachenaud	2016	Gabon	Plant
<i>Millettia wieringae</i>	Adomou	2016	Gabon	Plant
<i>Mischogyne congensis</i>	Gosline	2019	DRC	Plant
<i>Mocquerysia distans</i>	Breteler	2013	Gabon	Plant
<i>Momordica breteleri</i>	H.Schaeff.	2021	Gabon	Plant
<i>Monanthes aestivalis</i>	Hoekstra	2021	Gabon	Plant
<i>Monanthes bali</i>	Cheek	2023	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Monanthes bidaultii</i>	Hoekstra	2021	Gabon	Plant
<i>Monanthes confusa</i>	Hoekstra	2021	DRC	Plant
<i>Monanthes couvreurii</i>	Hoekstra	2016	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Monanthes hexamera</i>	Hoekstra	2021	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Monanthes latistamina</i>	Hoekstra	2016	Gabon	Plant
<i>Monanthes mcphersonii</i>	Hoekstra	2021	Gabon	Plant
<i>Monanthes paniculata</i>	Hoekstra	2014	Gabon	Plant
<i>Monanthes quasilanceolata</i>	Hoekstra	2021	Equatorial Guinea, Gabon	Plant
<i>Monanthes sterilis</i>	Hoekstra	2021	Cameroon, DRC, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon	Plant
<i>Monanthes submontana</i>	Hoekstra	2021	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Monanthes tripetala</i>	Hoekstra	2016	Cameroon, Gabon	Plant
<i>Monanthes vulcanica</i>	Hoekstra	2021	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Monanthes wieringae</i>	Hoekstra	2021	Gabon	Plant
<i>Monanthes zenkeri</i>	Hoekstra	2016	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Monotes duvigneaudii</i>	Meerts	2017	DRC	Plant
<i>Napoleonaea cuneata</i>	Jongkind	2015	Gabon	Plant
<i>Neobotrydium ense</i>	Chu & Zhang	2016	DRC	Plant
<i>Neuropeltis eladii</i>	Breteler	2014	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Noronhia cameroonensis</i>	Jongkind	2020	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Nothodissotis alenensis</i>	Lib. & Lachenaud	2019	Equatorial Guinea	Plant
<i>Oncinotis gabonica</i>	Lachenaud	2022	Gabon	Plant
<i>Ottelia profundecordata</i>	Symoens	2015	DRC	Plant
<i>Oxyanthus doucetii</i>	Sonké & Lachenaud	2016	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Oxyanthus lewisii</i>	Sonké & Lachenaud	2016	Cameroon, DRC, Gabon	Plant
<i>Oxygyne confusa</i>	Bidault, Merckx & Byng	2018	Central African Republic	Plant
<i>Oxygyne duncanii</i>	Cheek	2018	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Oxygyne frankei</i>	Cheek	2018	Central African Republic	Plant
<i>Palisota akouangouii</i>	Bidault & Burg	2019	Cameroon, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Republic of Congo	Plant

Species	Scientist(s)	Year	Distribution	Type
<i>Palisota alboanthera</i>	Burg & E. Bidault	2019	Gabon	Plant
<i>Palisota cristalensis</i>	Bidault & Burg	2019	Equatorial Guinea, Gabon	Plant
<i>Palisota decumbens</i>	Faden, Burg & Bidault	2020	Gabon	Plant
<i>Palisota ebo</i>	Burg & Bidault	2018	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Palisota fadenii</i>	Burg & Bidault	2019	Gabon, Republic of Congo	Plant
<i>Palisota leewhitei</i>	Burg, Lachenaud & Bidault	2019	Gabon	Plant
<i>Palisota plicata</i>	Bidault & Burg	2019	Gabon, Equatorial Guinea	Plant
<i>Palisota repens</i>	Bidault & Burg	2019	Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Republic of Congo	Plant
<i>Palisota stevartii</i>	Burg & Bidault	2019	Gabon	Plant
<i>Pauridiantha gracilipes</i>	Lachenaud & Ntore	2019	Gabon	Plant
<i>Pauridiantha halleana</i>	Ntore & Lachenaud	2020	DRC	Plant
<i>Piptostigma goslineanum</i>	Ghogue, Sonké & Couvreur	2017	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Piptostigma macrophyllum</i>	Ghogue, Sonké & Couvreur	2017	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Piptostigma mayndongtsaeantum</i>	Ghogue, Sonké & Couvreur	2017	Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea	Plant
<i>Piptostigma submontanum</i>	Ghogue, Sonké & Couvreur	2017	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Pleiocarpa robusta</i>	Lachenaud	2022	Gabon	Plant
<i>Plukenetia kwangoensis</i>	Gillespie	2023	DRC	Plant
<i>Plumbago ituriensis</i>	Ntore	2015	DRC	Plant
<i>Polystachya bamendae</i>	Szlach., Baranow & Mytnik	2013	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Polystachya kathriniae</i>	Fisch. & Killmann	2020	DRC	Plant
<i>Pseudohydrosme bogneri</i>	Cheek & Moxon-Holt	2021	Gabon	Plant
<i>Pseudohydrosme ebo</i>	Cheek	2021	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Psychotria accumulans</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Gabon	Plant
<i>Psychotria acutigemma</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Gabon	Plant
<i>Psychotria adamawae</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Psychotria altimontana</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Psychotria anthocleistifolia</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Gabon	Plant
<i>Psychotria aquatica</i>	Lachenaud	2019	DRC	Plant
<i>Psychotria asterogramma</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Psychotria aurantiiflora</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Psychotria bampsiana</i>	Lachenaud	2019	DRC	Plant
<i>Psychotria basicordata</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Psychotria bilineata</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Gabon	Plant
<i>Psychotria blepharocalyx</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Gabon	Plant
<i>Psychotria breteleri</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Gabon	Plant
<i>Psychotria brevifissa</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Psychotria campoensis</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Psychotria champluvierae</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Gabon	Plant
<i>Psychotria cheekii</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Psychotria conica</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Psychotria crystallina</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Gabon	Plant
<i>Psychotria cussetii</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Republic of Congo	Plant
<i>Psychotria degreefii</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Gabon	Plant
<i>Psychotria descoingsii</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Gabon	Plant
<i>Psychotria desseinii</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Gabon	Plant
<i>Psychotria dewildei</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Psychotria droissartii</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Psychotria duncanthomasii</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Psychotria eladii</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Psychotria elephantina</i>	Lachenaud	2013	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Psychotria flagelliflora</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Gabon	Plant
<i>Psychotria geoscopa</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Psychotria gigantifolia</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Gabon	Plant

Species	Scientist(s)	Year	Distribution	Type
<i>Psychotria humifera</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Gabon	Plant
<i>Psychotria issembei</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Gabon	Plant
<i>Psychotria janssensii</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Gabon	Plant
<i>Psychotria kivuensis</i>	Lachenaud	2019	DRC	Plant
<i>Psychotria korupensis</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Psychotria koumounaboualiensis</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Gabon	Plant
<i>Psychotria kribiensis</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Psychotria laticalyx</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Gabon	Plant
<i>Psychotria laxithyrsa</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Gabon	Plant
<i>Psychotria leeuwenbergiana</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Psychotria longicalyx</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Psychotria longicornis</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Psychotria lophocarpa</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Psychotria maesenii</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Gabon	Plant
<i>Psychotria magnistipula</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Gabon	Plant
<i>Psychotria marantifolia</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Psychotria nereii</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Republic of Congo	Plant
<i>Psychotria neurosticta</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Gabon	Plant
<i>Psychotria nubisylvae</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Psychotria nzabii</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Gabon	Plant
<i>Psychotria onanae</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Psychotria orbicalyx</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Gabon	Plant
<i>Psychotria pachycalyx</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea	Plant
<i>Psychotria pendulothyrsa</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Psychotria radicifera</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Gabon	Plant
<i>Psychotria raynaliorum</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Psychotria reitsmarum</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Gabon	Plant
<i>Psychotria retrofracta</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Psychotria retrorsipilis</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Psychotria rhynchodiscus</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Psychotria rosulata</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Gabon	Plant
<i>Psychotria rubriflora</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Gabon	Plant
<i>Psychotria satabiei</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Psychotria senterrei</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Psychotria sitae</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Cameroon, Republic of Congo	Plant
<i>Psychotria stenostegia</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Psychotria sublyrata</i>	Lachenaud	2019	DRC	Plant
<i>Psychotria synactica</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Gabon	Plant
<i>Psychotria taedoungii</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Psychotria tchoutoi</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Psychotria titanophylla</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Gabon	Plant
<i>Psychotria uapacifolia</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Gabon	Plant
<i>Psychotria varians</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Psychotria villicarpa</i>	Lachenaud	2019	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Psychotria wieringae</i>	Lachenaud	2013	Gabon	Plant
<i>Psychotria yaoundensis</i>	Lachenaud	2013	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Ptisana senterreana</i>	Christenh.	2018	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Pycreus rubidomontanus</i>	Browning	2019	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Raphia gabonica</i>	Mogue, Sonké & Couvreur	2018	Gabon	Plant
<i>Raphia zamiana</i>	Mogue, Sonké & Couvreur	2018	Cameroon, Gabon	Plant
<i>Rhaphidophora bogneri</i>	Boyce & Haigh	2016	Gabon	Plant
<i>Rhaptopetalum cheekii</i>	Prance	2015	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Rhaptopetalum rabiense</i>	Kenfack & Nguema	2019	Gabon	Plant
<i>Rhipidoglossum montealense</i>	Descourv., Stévant & Cribb	2013	Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea	Plant

Species	Scientist(s)	Year	Distribution	Type
<i>Rinorea amietii</i>	Achound.	2021	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Rinorea calcicola</i>	Velzen & Wieringa	2014	Gabon	Plant
<i>Rinorea dewildei</i>	Achound.	2021	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Rinorea dimakoensis</i>	Achound.	2022	Cameroon, Gabon	Plant
<i>Rinorea faurei</i>	Achound.	2021	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Rinorea spongicarpa</i>	Achound.	2022	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Rinorea villiersii</i>	Achound.	2021	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Sabicea bullata</i>	Lachenaud & Sonké	2014	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Sabicea couteronii</i>	Lachenaud, Zemagho & Sonké	2020	Cameroon, Gabon, Republic of Congo	Plant
<i>Sabicea desseinii</i>	Zemagho, Lachenaud & Sonké	2018	Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon	Plant
<i>Sabicea dichrosepala</i>	Lachenaud, Zemagho & Sonké	2020	Gabon	Plant
<i>Sabicea ezangae</i>	Zemagho, Lachenaud & Sonké	2018	Gabon	Plant
<i>Sabicea golgothae</i>	Lachenaud & Zemagho	2015	Gabon	Plant
<i>Sabicea mabouniensis</i>	Lachenaud & Zemagho	2015	Gabon	Plant
<i>Sabicea mapiana</i>	Zemagho, Lachenaud & Sonké	2017	Gabon	Plant
<i>Sabicea ndjoleensis</i>	Zemagho, Lachenaud & Sonké	2017	Gabon	Plant
<i>Sabicea parmentierae</i>	Zemagho, Lachenaud & Sonké	2017	Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon	Plant
<i>Sabicea rubiginosa</i>	Lachenaud, Zemagho & Sonké	2020	Gabon	Plant
<i>Sabicea sciaphilantha</i>	Zemagho, Lachenaud & Sonké	2017	Gabon	Plant
<i>Sabicea uniflora</i>	Zemagho, Lachenaud & Sonké	2018	Gabon	Plant
<i>Sabicea urniformis</i>	Zemagho, Lachenaud & Sonké	2014	Gabon, Republic of Congo	Plant
<i>Salacia arenicola</i>	Gosline	2014	DRC, Gabon	Plant
<i>Salacia nigra</i>	Cheek	2014	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Saxicolella ijim</i>	Cheek	2022	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Scleria cheekii</i>	Bauters	2018	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Scleria pedicellata</i>	Bauters	2018	Gabon	Plant
<i>Sirdavidia solammona</i>	Couvreur & Sauquet	2015	Gabon	Plant
<i>Stolzia kalkhof-roseae</i>	Fisch., Killmann, Lebel & Delep.	2011	DRC	Plant
<i>Streptocarpus bampsii</i>	Fisch. & Darbysh.	2021	DRC	Plant
<i>Streptocarpus malachitica</i>	Fisch. & Darbysh.	2021	DRC	Plant
<i>Streptocarpus malaissei</i>	Fisch. & Darbysh.	2021	DRC	Plant
<i>Streptocarpus salesianorum</i>	Fisch. & Darbysh.	2021	DRC	Plant
<i>Streptocarpus schajesii</i>	Fisch. & Darbysh.	2021	DRC	Plant
<i>Synclisia oligogyne</i>	Breteler	2022	Gabon	Plant
<i>Ternstroemia cameroonensis</i>	Cheek	2017	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Tessmannia korupensis</i>	Burgt	2016	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Tetracera breteleri</i>	Niang., Lachenaud & Sosef	2022	DRC, Gabon	Plant
<i>Torenia daubyi</i>	Fisch. & Lachenaud	2013	Gabon	Plant
<i>Tricalysia elmar</i>	Cheek	2020	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Tricalysia lophocarpa</i>	Lachenaud & Sonké	2020	Gabon	Plant
<i>Tricalysia obovata</i>	Lachenaud & Sonké	2020	Equatorial Guinea	Plant
<i>Tricalysia wilksii</i>	Lachenaud & Sonké	2020	Gabon, Republic of Congo	Plant
<i>Trichoscypha wilksii</i>	Breteler	2017	Gabon	Plant
<i>Triclisia gabonensis</i>	Jongkind & Breteler	2022	Gabon	Plant
<i>Triclisia megacarpa</i>	Breteler	2022	Gabon	Plant
<i>Tridactyle elzbietae</i>	Szlach.	2021	Gabon	Plant
<i>Tridactyle minutifolia</i>	D'hajjère & Stévert	2015	Equatorial Guinea, Gabon	Plant
<i>Ureia gabonensis</i>	Pierre ex Friis	2018	Gabon	Plant
<i>Urobotrya gabonensis</i>	Jongkind	2018	Gabon	Plant
<i>Uvariadendron pilosicarpum</i>	Dagallier & Couvreur	2023	Gabon	Plant
<i>Uvariopsis citrata</i>	Couvreur & Niang.	2016	Gabon	Plant
<i>Uvariopsis dicaprio</i>	Gosline	2022	Cameroon	Plant

Species	Scientist(s)	Year	Distribution	Type
<i>Uvariopsis etugeana</i>	Dagallier & Couvreur	2022	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Vadensea testui</i>	Jongkind & Lachenaud	2019	Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Republic of Congo	Plant
<i>Vandenboschia confusa</i>	Dubuisson, Deblauwe & Bouch.-Dubuisson	2022	Cameroon, DRC	Plant
<i>Vepris adamaouae</i>	Onana	2015	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Vepris araliopsioides</i>	Onana	2015	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Vepris bali</i>	Cheek	2018	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Vepris letouzeyi</i>	Onana	2015	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Vepris mbamensis</i>	Onana	2019	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Vepris montisbambutensis</i>	Onana	2015	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Vepris onanae</i>	Cheek	2022	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Vepris teva</i>	Cheek	2022	Republic of Congo	Plant
<i>Vepris zapfackii</i>	Cheek & Onana	2021	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Voacanga bambidiensis</i>	Jongkind	2022	Gabon	Plant
<i>Voacanga bidaultii</i>	Jongkind	2022	Gabon	Plant
<i>Voacanga cornuta</i>	Jongkind	2022	Gabon	Plant
<i>Voacanga lachenaudii</i>	Jongkind	2022	Gabon	Plant
<i>Voacanga wieringae</i>	Jongkind	2022	Gabon, Republic of Congo	Plant
<i>Warneckea ngutiensis</i>	Stone	2018	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Wilczekra gabonica</i>	Breteler	2016	Gabon	Plant
<i>Xenostegia lomamiensis</i>	Sosef & Gereau	2019	DRC	Plant
<i>Xylopia calva</i>	Johnson & Murray	2018	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Xylopia globosa</i>	Johnson & Murray	2018	Gabon, Republic of Congo	Plant
<i>Xylopia monticola</i>	Johnson & Murray	2018	Cameroon	Plant
<i>Xylopia unguiculata</i>	Johnson & Murray	2018	Gabon	Plant
<i>Xysmalobium alatum</i>	Goyder	2020	DRC	Plant
<i>Zehneria palmatiloba</i>	Lachenaud & Schaefer	2021	Equatorial Guinea, Gabon	Plant
TOTAL	430			

INVERTEBRATES

Species	Scientist(S)	Year	Distribution	Type
<i>Aciagrion bapepe</i>	Dijkstra	2015	DRC	Dragonfly/ Damselfly Congo Slim
<i>Africallagma quingentum</i>	Dijkstra	2015	DRC	Dragonfly/ Damselfly Green-Fronted Bluet
<i>Africocypha varicolor</i>	Dijkstra, Mézière & Günther	2015	Gabon	Dragonfly/ Damselfly Polychrome Jewel
<i>Afrodiaphanes pulcher</i>	Fanti & Pankowski	2022	Central African Republic	Firefly
<i>Afromarengo ugandensis</i>	Azarkina & Haddad	2020	DRC	Spider
<i>Afromicracis concava</i>	Jordal	2021	Cameroon	Bark Beetle
<i>Allocnemis vicki</i>	Dijkstra & Schütte	2015	Cameroon	Dragonfly/ Damselfly Blue-Shouldered Yellowwing
<i>Anax gladiator</i>	Dijkstra & Kipping	2015	DRC	Dragonfly/ Damselfly Swordbearer Emperor
<i>Aradus congoensis</i>	Heiss	2023	DRC	Hemiptera
<i>Brasura piscinura</i>	Wang, Dietrich & Zhang	2018	Republic of Congo	Hemiptera
<i>Brasura sinistra</i>	Wang, Dietrich & Zhang	2018	Republic of Congo	Hemiptera
<i>Ceriagrion banditum</i>	Kipping & Dijkstra	2015	DRC	Dragonfly/ Damselfly Band-Eyed Citril
<i>Ceriagrion junceum</i>	Dijkstra & Kipping	2015	DRC	Dragonfly/ Damselfly Spikerush Citril
<i>Ceriagrion obfuscans</i>	Dijkstra, Mézière & Kipping	2015	DRC, Gabon	Dragonfly/ Damselfly Darkening Citril
<i>Chlorocypha aurora</i>	Dijkstra, Kipping & Schütte	2015	Cameroon	Dragonfly/ Damselfly Dawn Jewel
<i>Chlorocypha granata</i>	Dijkstra	2015	DRC	Dragonfly/ Damselfly Garnet Jewel
<i>Chlorocypha maxima</i>	Dijkstra, Kipping & Mézière	2015	Gabon	Dragonfly/ Damselfly Great Jewel
<i>Cichlidogyrus chrysopiformis</i>	Pariselle, Nyom & Bilong	2014	Cameroon	Flatworm

Species	Scientist(S)	Year	Distribution	Type
<i>Cichlidogyrus djietoi</i>	Pariselle, Nyom & Bilong	2014	Cameroon	Flatworm
<i>Cichlidogyrus mvogoi</i>	Pariselle, Nyom & Bilong	2014	Cameroon	Flatworm
<i>Cichlidogyrus sigmocirrus</i>	Pariselle, Nyom & Bilong	2014	Cameroon	Flatworm
<i>Coridiellus pseudocyclopeltus</i>	Kocorek	2020	DRC	Hemiptera
<i>Crossopalpus yaekela</i>	Grootaert & Shamshev	2013	DRC	Diptera
<i>Drapetis congoensis</i>	Grootaert & Shamshev	2013	DRC	Diptera
<i>Drapetis yaekelaensis</i>	Grootaert & Shamshev	2013	DRC	Diptera
<i>Drapetis zamba</i>	Grootaert & Shamshev	2013	DRC	Diptera
<i>Dwightla lancea</i>	Xu & Zhang	2019	Central African Republic	Leafhopper
<i>Drapetis denticulata</i>	Grootaert & Shamshev	2014	DRC	Diptera
<i>Drapetis yangambensis</i>	Grootaert & Shamshev	2014	DRC	Diptera
<i>Elaphropeza albistylus</i>	Grootaert & Shamshev	2014	DRC	Diptera
<i>Elaphropeza aseta</i>	Grootaert & Shamshev	2014	DRC	Diptera
<i>Elaphropeza asquamata</i>	Grootaert & Shamshev	2014	DRC	Diptera
<i>Elaphropeza dudui</i>	Grootaert & Shamshev	2014	DRC	Diptera
<i>Elaphropeza elassii</i>	Grootaert & Shamshev	2014	DRC	Diptera
<i>Elaphropeza kinshasensis</i>	Grootaert & Shamshev	2014	DRC	Diptera
<i>Elaphropeza leponcei</i>	Grootaert & Shamshev	2014	DRC	Diptera
<i>Elaphropeza pachystylus</i>	Grootaert & Shamshev	2014	DRC	Diptera
<i>Elaphropeza pulchra</i>	Grootaert & Shamshev	2014	DRC	Diptera
<i>Elaphropeza verheyeni</i>	Grootaert & Shamshev	2014	DRC	Diptera
<i>Elaphropeza wetsii</i>	Grootaert & Shamshev	2014	DRC	Diptera
<i>Elaphropeza baeloi</i>	Grootaert & Shamshev	2013	DRC	Diptera
<i>Elaphropeza congoensis</i>	Grootaert & Shamshev	2013	DRC	Diptera
<i>Elaphropeza excavata</i>	Grootaert & Shamshev	2013	DRC	Diptera
<i>Elaphropeza furcata</i>	Grootaert & Shamshev	2013	DRC	Diptera
<i>Elaphropeza infuscata</i>	Grootaert & Shamshev	2013	DRC	Diptera
<i>Elaphropeza interrupta</i>	Grootaert & Shamshev	2013	DRC	Diptera
<i>Elaphropeza juakalyi</i>	Grootaert & Shamshev	2013	DRC	Diptera
<i>Elaphropeza kona</i>	Grootaert & Shamshev	2013	DRC	Diptera
<i>Elaphropeza laudisoitae</i>	Grootaert & Shamshev	2013	DRC	Diptera
<i>Elaphropeza mai</i>	Grootaert & Shamshev	2013	DRC	Diptera
<i>Elaphropeza monoseta</i>	Grootaert & Shamshev	2013	DRC	Diptera
<i>Elaphropeza motane</i>	Grootaert & Shamshev	2013	DRC	Diptera
<i>Elaphropeza moyindo</i>	Grootaert & Shamshev	2013	DRC	Diptera
<i>Elaphropeza nuda</i>	Grootaert & Shamshev	2013	DRC	Diptera
<i>Elaphropeza yaekela</i>	Grootaert & Shamshev	2013	DRC	Diptera
<i>Elaphropeza zamba</i>	Grootaert & Shamshev	2013	DRC	Diptera
<i>Elaphropeza angulata</i>	Grootaert & Shamshev	2013	DRC	Diptera
<i>Elaphropeza incerta</i>	Grootaert & Shamshev	2013	DRC	Diptera
<i>Elatoneura aurifex</i>	Dijkstra & Mézière	2015	Gabon, Republic of Congo	Dragonfly/ Damselfly Goldsmith Threadtail
<i>Gynacantha congolica</i>	Dijkstra	2015	DRC	Dragonfly/ Damselfly Congo Duskhawker
<i>Gynacantha pupillata</i>	Dijkstra	2015	Cameroon, DRC, Republic of Congo	Dragonfly/ Damselfly Spectacled Duskhawker
<i>Hamma bouldardi</i>	Loudit, Durante & Susini	2014	Gabon	Hemiptera
<i>Hamma carlini</i>	Loudit, Durante & Susini	2014	Gabon	Hemiptera
<i>Hamma franciscae</i>	Loudit, Durante & Susini	2014	Gabon	Hemiptera
<i>Hapsimachogonia esociformae</i>	Prozorov & Zolotuhin	2016	DRC	Moth
<i>Kamakonocoris carinata</i>	Weirauch, Knyshev & Hoey-Chamberlain	2020	Cameroon	Hemiptera
<i>Leptometa adalensis</i>	Prozorov et al	2023	DRC	Moth
<i>Leptometa editae</i>	Prozorov et al	2023	DRC	Moth
<i>Leptometa knudlarseni</i>	Prozorov et al	2023	DRC	Moth

Species	Scientist(S)	Year	Distribution	Type	
<i>Leptometa sophiae</i>	Prozorov et al	2023	DRC	Moth	
<i>Lestinigomphus calcaratus</i>	Dijkstra	2015	DRC	Dragonfly/ Damselfly	Spurred Fairytail
<i>Lestinigomphus nefrens</i>	Dijkstra & Mézière	2015	Gabon	Dragonfly/ Damselfly	Small-Toothed Fairytail
<i>Lestinigomphus venustus</i>	Dijkstra & Mézière	2015	Gabon	Dragonfly/ Damselfly	Lovely Fairytail
<i>Lyroda centralafricana</i>	Schmid-Egger & Al-Jahdhami	2021	Central African Republic	Wasp	
<i>Malgassophlebia andzaba</i>	Dijkstra & Mézière	2015	Gabon	Dragonfly/ Damselfly	Redwater Leaf-tipper
<i>Manota geniculata</i>	Hippa, Söli & Kurina	2019	Gabon	Diptera	
<i>Mckenziana ciani</i>	Prozorov et al	2023	DRC	Moth	
<i>Mckenziana roganæ</i>	Prozorov et al	2023	DRC	Moth	
<i>Metapone africana</i>	Taylor & Alpert	2016	Gabon	Ant	
<i>Microborus angustatus</i>	Jordal	2017	Cameroon	Bark beetle	
<i>Myrmarachne salongensis</i> *	Pett, Iyomi & Mbende	2023	DRC	Spider	*WWF DRC species discovery (insert as footnote on page)
<i>Neodythemis infra</i>	Dijkstra, Diedericks & Mézière	2015	Gabon, Republic of Congo	Dragonfly/ Damselfly	Blackwater Junglewatcher
<i>Neodythemis katanga</i>	Dijkstra & Kipping	2015	DRC	Dragonfly/ Damselfly	Katanga Junglewatcher
<i>Nimbarus nimbus</i>	Szűts & Maddison	2021	Cameroon	Spider	
<i>Notogomphus bosumbuli</i>	Dijkstra	2015	DRC	Dragonfly/ Damselfly	Congo Longleg
<i>Notogomphus cobyæ</i>	Dijkstra	2015	Cameroon	Dragonfly/ Damselfly	Coby's Longleg
<i>Notogomphus gorilla</i>	Dijkstra	2015	DRC	Dragonfly/ Damselfly	Gorilla Longleg
<i>Notogomphus intermedius</i>	Dijkstra	2015	DRC	Dragonfly/ Damselfly	Katanga Longleg
<i>Onychogomphus undecim</i>	Dijkstra	2015	DRC	Dragonfly/ Damselfly	Katanga Claspertail
<i>Orientaltractis brycini</i>	Gonzalez-Solis & Mariaux	2017	Gabon	Nematode worm	
<i>Orthetrum kafwi</i>	Dijkstra	2015	DRC	Dragonfly/ Damselfly	Bog Skimmer
<i>Orthetrum lusinga</i>	Dijkstra	2015	DRC	Dragonfly/ Damselfly	Spring Skimmer
<i>Orthetrum umbratum</i>	Dijkstra & Mézière	2015	Gabon	Dragonfly/ Damselfly	Shadow Skimmer
<i>Orthobula marusiki</i>	Haddad, Chi Jin & Platnick	2022	Cameroon, Central African Republic	Spider	
<i>Pachyna arienne</i>	Prozorov et al.	2023	DRC	Moth	
<i>Pachyna stella</i>	Prozorov et al.	2023	DRC	Moth	
<i>Paragomphus clausnitzerorum</i>	Dijkstra, Mézière & Papazian	2015	Gabon	Dragonfly/ Damselfly	Clausnitzers' Hooktail
<i>Paragomphus darwalli</i>	Dijkstra, Mézière & Papazian	2015	Gabon	Dragonfly/ Damselfly	Darwall's Hooktail
<i>Paragomphus dispar</i>	Dijkstra, Mézière & Papazian	2015	Gabon	Dragonfly/ Damselfly	Amazing Hooktail
<i>Paranataretus albertinus</i>	Gnezdilov	2023	DRC	Leafhopper	
<i>Pentaplebia mangana</i>	Dijkstra, Lambret & Mézière	2015	Gabon, Republic of Congo	Dragonfly/ Damselfly	Black Relic
<i>Pergalumna grebennikovi</i>	Sergey, Ermilov & Stary	2018	Cameroon	Mite	
<i>Phyllogomphus bongorum</i>	Kipping, Mézière & Dijkstra	2015	Gabon	Dragonfly/ Damselfly	Bongo Leaf-tail
<i>Platypalpus bolikoi</i>	Grootaert & Shamshev	2014	DRC	Diptera	
<i>Platypalpus ikoso</i>	Grootaert & Shamshev	2014	DRC	Diptera	
<i>Platypalpus lokonda</i>	Grootaert & Shamshev	2014	DRC	Diptera	
<i>Platypalpus manjano</i>	Grootaert & Shamshev	2014	DRC	Diptera	
<i>Platypalpus saffradi</i>	Grootaert & Shamshev	2014	DRC	Diptera	
<i>Platypalpus yangambensis</i>	Grootaert & Shamshev	2014	DRC	Diptera	
<i>Polychorum centroafricanum</i>	Gnezdilov	2023	DRC	Leafhopper	
<i>Porpax mezierei</i>	Dijkstra & Kipping	2015	Gabon	Dragonfly/ Damselfly	Blue-Spotted Pricklyleg
<i>Pseudagrion aureolum</i>	Dijkstra, Mézière & Kipping	2015	Gabon	Dragonfly/ Damselfly	Nugget Sprite
<i>Pseudagrion dactylidium</i>	Dijkstra & Mézière	2015	Gabon	Dragonfly/ Damselfly	Gabon Slim Sprite
<i>Pseudagrion munte</i>	Dijkstra	2015	DRC	Dragonfly/ Damselfly	Upemba Sprite
<i>Rhynchobombyx anthonychristophereaton</i>	Prozorov, Saldaitis & Müller	2021	DRC	Moth	
<i>Rhynchobombyx ariakefriend</i>	Prozorov, Saldaitis & Müller	2021	DRC	Moth	
<i>Rhynchobombyx avadomenicarocchio</i>	Prozorov, Saldaitis & Müller	2021	DRC	Moth	

Species	Scientist(S)	Year	Distribution	Type	
<i>Rhynchobombyx gavinfilippone</i>	Prozorov, Saldaitis & Müller	2021	DRC	Moth	
<i>Rhynchobombyx julianjameseaton</i>	Prozorov, Saldaitis & Müller	2021	DRC	Moth	
<i>Rhynchobombyx madisonellafriend</i>	Prozorov, Saldaitis & Müller	2021	DRC	Moth	
<i>Rhynchobombyx nicolasroberteaton</i>	Prozorov, Saldaitis & Müller	2021	DRC	Moth	
<i>Rimanannus camerunensis</i>	Weirauch, Knyshev & Hoey-Chamberlain	2020	Cameroon	Hemiptera	
<i>Sciophila tchabalensis</i>	Kurina	2020	Cameroon	Diptera	
<i>Scolytoplatypus unipilus</i>	Jordal	2018	Gabon	Bark Beetle	
<i>Smeringopina bamenda</i>	Huber	2013	Cameroon	Spider	
<i>Smeringopina bayaka</i>	Huber	2013	Central African Republic, Republic of Congo	Spider	
<i>Smeringopina belinga</i>	Huber	2013	Gabon	Spider	
<i>Sonitha sara</i>	Prozorov et al	2023	DRC	Moth	
<i>Sonitha sophia</i>	Prozorov et al	2023	DRC	Moth	
<i>Stilpon congoensis</i>	Grootaert & Shamshev	2013	DRC	Diptera	
<i>Stilpon variabilis</i>	Grootaert & Shamshev	2013	DRC	Diptera	
<i>Syndyas zamba</i>	Grootaert & Shamshev	2013	DRC	Diptera	
<i>Tialidia hama</i>	Wang, Dietrich & Zhang	2018	Republic of Congo	Hemiptera	
<i>Trithemis hinnula</i>	Dijkstra, Mézière & Kipping	2015	Gabon	Dragonfly/ Damselfly	Mule Dropwing
<i>Trithemis legrandi</i>	Dijkstra, Kipping & Mézière	2015	Cameroon	Dragonfly/ Damselfly	Robust Dropwing
<i>Typhonoya kravchenkoi</i>	Prozorov, Müller & Zolotuhin	2021	DRC	Moth	
<i>Umma gumma</i>	Dijkstra, Mézière & Kipping	2015	Cameroon, DRC, Gabon, Republic of Congo	Dragonfly/ Damselfly	Robust Sparklewing
<i>Urothemis venata</i>	Dijkstra, Mézière & Kipping	2015	Gabon	Dragonfly/ Damselfly	Red-Veined Basker
<i>Zygonyx denticulatus</i>	Dijkstra & Kipping	2015	DRC	Dragonfly/ Damselfly	Pale Cascader
<i>Zygonyx dionyx</i>	Dijkstra & Mézière	2015	Gabon	Dragonfly/ Damselfly	Eastern Double-Hooked Cascader
TOTAL	140				

FISH

Species	Scientist(s)	Year	Distribution	Type
<i>Alestion rapax</i>	Roberts	2019	DRC	Fish
<i>Amphilius frieli</i>	Thomson, Page & Hilber	2015	DRC	Fish
<i>Aphyosemion aurantiacum</i>	Agnèse, Chirio, Legros, Oslisly & Bhé	2018	Gabon	Fish
<i>Aphyosemion barakoniense</i>	Agnèse, Chirio, Legros, Oslisly & Bhé	2018	Gabon	Fish
<i>Aphyosemion bitteri</i>	Valdesalici & Eberl	2016	Gabon	Fish
<i>Aphyosemion cryptum</i>	van der Zee, Walsh, Boukaka Mikembi, Jonker, Alexandre & Sonnenberg	2018	Republic of Congo	Fish
<i>Aphyosemion cyanoflavum</i>	van der Zee, Walsh, Boukaka Mikembi, Jonker, Alexandre & Sonnenberg	2018	Republic of Congo	Fish
<i>Aphyosemion fellmanni</i>	Van der Zee & Sonnenberg	2018	Republic of Congo	Fish
<i>Aphyosemion flammulatum</i>	Agnèse, Chirio, Legros, Oslisly & Bhé	2018	Gabon	Fish
<i>Aphyosemion flavocyaneum</i>	Agnèse, Chirio, Legros, Oslisly & Bhé	2018	Gabon	Fish
<i>Aphyosemion grelli</i>	Valdesalici & Eberl	2013	Gabon	Fish
<i>Aphyosemion mandoroense</i>	van der Zee, Walsh, Boukaka Mikembi, Jonker, Alexandre & Sonnenberg	2018	Republic of Congo	Fish
<i>Aphyosemion mengilai</i>	Valdesalici & Eberl	2014	Gabon	Fish
<i>Aphyosemion pamaense</i>	Agnèse, Legros, Cazaux & Estivals	2013	Cameroon	Fish
<i>Aphyosemion pusillum</i>	Agnèse, Chirio, Legros, Oslisly & Bhé	2018	Gabon	Fish
<i>Aphyosemion rubrogaster</i>	Agnèse, Chirio, Legros, Oslisly & Bhé	2018	Gabon	Fish
<i>Aphyosemion mitemelense</i>	Malumbres, Sonnenberg & Van der Zee	2022	Equatorial Guinea	Fish

Species	Scientist(s)	Year	Distribution	Type
<i>Apletodon gabonensis</i>	Fricke & Wirtz	2018	Gabon	Fish
<i>Bathyaethiops baka</i>	Moritz & Schliewen	2016	Cameroon	Fish
<i>Bathyaethiops flammeus</i>	Moritz & Schliewen	2016	DRC	Fish
<i>Brycinus epuluensis</i>	Decru, Vreven, Sadio & Snoeks	2016	DRC	Fish
<i>Chiloglanis mongoensis</i>	Schmidt & Barrientos	2019	Equatorial Guinea	Fish
<i>Chiloglanis msirii</i>	Kashindye, Katemo Manda, Friel, Chakona & Vreven	2021	DRC	Fish
<i>Clarias monsebulai</i>	Bernt & Stiassny	2022	DRC	Fish
<i>Clypeobarbus breviclipeus</i>	Stiassny & Sakharova	2016	DRC	Fish
<i>Congochromis rotundiceps</i>	Wingi, Schedel & Schliewen	2022	DRC	Fish
<i>Cryptomyrus ogoouensis</i>	Sullivan, Lavoué & Hopkins	2016	Gabon	Fish
<i>Cryptomyrus ona</i>	Sullivan, Lavoué & Hopkins	2016	Gabon	Fish
<i>Cyphomyrus lufirae</i>	Mulelenu, Manda, Decru, Manda & Vreven	2020	DRC	Fish
<i>Distichodus ingae</i>	Moelants, Snoeks & Vreven	2018	DRC	Fish
<i>Distichodus kasaiensis</i>	Moelants, Snoeks & Vreven	2018	DRC	Fish
<i>Distichodus mbiniensis</i>	Schmidt, Knobloch & Barrientos	2021	Equatorial Guinea, Gabon	Fish
<i>Distichodus microps</i>	Schmidt, Knobloch & Barrientos	2021	Equatorial Guinea	Fish
<i>Distichodus polli</i>	Abwe, Snoeks, Manda & Vreven	2019	DRC	Fish
<i>Doumea skeltoni</i>	Ferraris & Vari	2013	Republic of Congo	Fish
<i>Enteromius pinnimaculatus</i>	Mipounga, Cutler, Mve Beh, Adam & Sidlauskas	2019	Gabon	Fish
<i>Enteromius radari</i>	Kisekelwa, Snoeks, Decru, Schedel, Isumbisho & Vreven	2022	DRC	Fish
<i>Enteromius thespesios</i>	Manda, Snoeks, Decru, Bills & Vreven	2020	DRC	Fish
<i>Enteromius validus</i>	Stiassny, Liyandja & Iyaba	2016	DRC	Fish
<i>Enteromius walshae</i>	Mamonekene, Zamba & Stiassny	2018	Republic of Congo	Fish
<i>Epiplatys atratus</i>	Van der Zee, Munene, Mbimbi & Sonnenberg	2013	DRC	Fish
<i>Eugnathichthys virgatus</i>	Stiassny, Denton & Iyaba	2013	DRC, Republic of Congo	Fish
<i>Hemichromis camerounensis</i>	Bitja-Nyom, Agnèse, Pariselle, Bilong-Bilong, Gilles & Snoeks	2021	Cameroon	Fish
<i>Hylopanchax leki</i>	van der Zee, Sonnenberg & Schliewen	2013	DRC	Fish
<i>Hylopanchax moke</i>	van der Zee, Sonnenberg & Schliewen	2013	DRC	Fish
<i>Hylopanchax multiscquamatus</i>	Bragança, van der Zee, Sonnenberg & Vreven	2021	Gabon	Fish
<i>Hylopanchax ndeko</i>	van der Zee, Sonnenberg & Schliewen	2013	DRC	Fish
<i>Hylopanchax paucisquamatus</i>	Sonnenberg, Friel & Van der Zee	2014	Republic of Congo	Fish
<i>Hylopanchax thysi</i>	Bragança, van der Zee, Sonnenberg & Vreven	2021	Gabon	Fish
<i>Hypsopanchax stiassnyae</i>	Bragança, van der Zee, Sonnenberg & Vreven	2015	DRC	Fish
<i>Labeobarbus nzadimalawu</i>	Vreven, Musschoot, Decru, Lunkayilakio, Obiero, Cerwenka & Schliewen	2018	DRC	Fish
<i>Labeobarbus nzadinkisi</i>	Vreven, Musschoot, Decru, Lunkayilakio, Obiero, Cerwenka & Schliewen	2018	DRC	Fish
<i>Lacustricola nitida</i>	Nagy & Manda	2020	DRC	Fish
<i>Lamprologus markerti</i>	Tougas & Stiassny	2014	DRC	Fish
<i>Marcusenius kaningini</i>	Kisekelwa, Boden, Snoeks & Vreven	2016	DRC	Fish
<i>Marcusenius verhejenorum</i>	Baba, Kisekelwa, Mizani, Decru & Vreven	2020	DRC	Fish
<i>Marcusenius wamuinii</i>	Decru, Sullivan & Vreven	2019	DRC	Fish
<i>Mastacembelus kadeiensis</i>	Roberts	2020	Central African Republic	Fish
<i>Mastacembelus ubangipaucispinis</i>	Roberts	2020	Central African Republic	Fish
<i>Mesoaphyosemion losantosi</i>	Malumbres, Sonnenberg & Van der Zee	2022	Equatorial Guinea	Fish
<i>Mesoaphyosemion montealenense</i>	Malumbres, Sonnenberg & Van der Zee	2022	Equatorial Guinea	Fish
<i>Micropanchax petnehazyi</i>	Malumbres, Sonnenberg & Van der Zee	2018	DRC	Fish
<i>Monopterus luticolus</i>	Britz, Doherty-Bone, Kouete, Sykes & Gower	2016	Cameroon	Fish
<i>Monsebulia Iyaba</i>	Stiassny, Liyandja & MonseIyaba	2016	DRC	Fish
<i>Nannocharax chochamandai</i>	Manda, Snoeks, Decru, Brecko & Vreven	2023	DRC	Fish
<i>Nannocharax dageti</i>	Jerep, Vari & Vreven	2014	DRC	Fish
<i>Nannocharax hadros</i>	Manda, Snoeks, Manda & Vreven	2021	DRC	Fish

Species	Scientist(s)	Year	Distribution	Type
<i>Nannocharax hastatus</i>	Monseiyaba & Stiassny	2013	DRC	Fish
<i>Nannocharax rubensteini</i>	Jerep & Vari	2013	Republic of Congo	Fish
<i>Nothobranchius chochamandai</i>	Nagy	2014	DRC	Fish
<i>Nothobranchius ditte</i>	Nagy	2018	DRC	Fish
<i>Nothobranchius flagrans</i>	Nagy	2014	DRC	Fish
<i>Notoglanidium pembetadi</i>	Vreven, Zamba, Mamonekene & Geerinckx	2013	Republic of Congo	Fish
<i>Orthochromis gecki</i>	Schedel, Vreven, Manda, Abwe, Manda & Schliewen	2018	DRC	Fish
<i>Orthochromis indermauri</i>	Schedel, Vreven, Manda, Abwe, Manda & Schliewen	2018	DRC	Fish
<i>Orthochromis katumbii</i>	Schedel, Vreven, Manda, Abwe, Manda & Schliewen	2018	DRC	Fish
<i>Orthochromis kimpala</i>	Schedel, Vreven, Manda, Abwe, Manda & Schliewen	2018	DRC	Fish
<i>Orthochromis mporokoso</i>	Schedel, Vreven, Manda, Abwe, Manda & Schliewen	2018	DRC	Fish
<i>Parakneria alytogrammus</i>	Mutambala, Abwe, Schedel, Manda, Schliewen & Vreven	2022	DRC	Fish
<i>Paramormyrops ntotom</i>	Rich, Sullivan & Hopkins	2017	Gabon	Fish
<i>Parananochromis elobatus</i>	Lamboj	2014	Cameroon	Fish
<i>Parananochromis orsororum</i>	Lamboj	2014	Cameroon	Fish
<i>Parauchenoglanis zebratus</i>	Sithole, Musschoot, Huyghe, Chakona & Vreven	2023	Republic of Congo	Fish
<i>Petrocephalus arnegardi</i>	Lavoué & Sullivan	2014	DRC, Republic of Congo	Fish
<i>Petrocephalus boboto</i>	Lavoué & Sullivan	2014	DRC	Fish
<i>Petrocephalus leo</i>	Lavoué & Sullivan	2016	Central African Republic	Fish
<i>Phenacogrammus concolor</i>	Stiassny, Alter, Iyaba & Liyandja	2021	DRC	Fish
<i>Phenacogrammus flexus</i>	Stiassny, Alter, Iyaba & Liyandja	2021	DRC	Fish
<i>Plataplochilus eliasi</i>	Walsh, de Bragança & van der Zee	2022	Republic of Congo	Fish
<i>Poropanchax pepo</i>	van der Zee, Bernotas, Bragança & Stiassny	2019	DRC	Fish
<i>Raiamas brachyrhabdotos</i>	Manda, Snoeks, Manda & Vreven	2018	DRC	Fish
<i>Raiamas marqueti</i>	Manda, Snoeks, Manda & Vreven	2018	DRC	Fish
<i>Serranus inexpectatus</i>	Wirtz & Iwamoto	2018	Gabon	Fish
<i>Synodontis denticulatus</i>	Ilunga, Abwe, Decru, Manda & Vreven	2020	DRC	Fish
<i>Teleogramma obamaorum</i>	Stiassny & Alter	2015	DRC	Fish
<i>Thysochromis emili</i>	Walsh, Lamboj & Stiassny	2020	Republic of Congo	Fish
TOTAL	96			

AMPHIBIANS

Species	Scientist(s)	Year	Distribution	Type
<i>Afrivalus phantasma</i>	Greenbaum, Portik, Allen, Vaughan, Badjedjea, Barej, Behangana, Conkey, Dumbo, Gonwouo, Hirschfeld, Hughes, Igunzi, Kusamba, Lukwago, Masudi, Penner, Reyes, Rödel, Roelke, Soraya Romero & Dehling	2022	DRC	Spiney Reed Frog
<i>Afrivalus lacustris</i>	Greenbaum, Portik, Allen, Vaughan, Badjedjea, Barej, Behangana, Conkey, Dumbo, Gonwouo, Hirschfeld, Hughes, Igunzi, Kusamba, Lukwago, Masudi, Penner, Reyes, Rödel, Roelke, Soraya Romero & Dehling	2022	DRC	Spiney Reed Frog
<i>Cardioglossa annulata</i>	Hirschfeld, Blackburn, Burger, Greenbaum, Zassi-Boulou & Rödel	2015	Republic of Congo	Annulated Long-Fingered Frog
<i>Cardioglossa congolia</i>	Hirschfeld, Blackburn, Burger, Greenbaum, Zassi-Boulou & Rödel	2015	DRC	Congolian Long-Fingered Frog
<i>Congolius robustus</i>	Nečas, Badjedjea, Vopálenský & Gvoždík	2021	DRC	Africa Reed Frog
<i>Hyperolius jacobseni</i>	Channing, Hillers, Loetters, Rödel, Schick, Conradie, Roedder, Mercurio, Wagner, Dehling, Du Preez, Kielgast & Burger	2013	Central African Republic	Jacobsen's Long Reed Frog
<i>Hyperolius rwandae</i>	Channing, Hillers, Loetters, Rödel, Schick, Conradie, Roedder, Mercurio, Wagner, Dehling, Du Preez, Kielgast & Burger	2013	DRC	Rwanda Long Reed Frog
<i>Leptopelis anebos</i>	Portillo & Greenbaum	2014	DRC	Itombwe Forest Treefrog
<i>Leptopelis mtoewaate</i>	Portillo & Greenbaum	2014	DRC	Kabembe Treefrog
<i>Phrynobatrachus amieti</i>	Dolinay, Nečas, Zimkus, Schmitz, Fokam, Lemmon, Lemmon & Gvoždík	2021	Cameroon	Amiet's Puddle Frog

Species	Scientist(s)	Year	Distribution	Type
<i>Phrynobatrachus arcanus</i>	Gvoždík, Nečas, Dolinay, Zimkus, Schmitz, & Fokam	2020	Cameroon	Hidden Puddle Frog
<i>Phrynobatrachus horsti</i>	Roedel, Burger, Zassi-Boulou, Emmrich, Penner & Barej	2015	Gabon, Republic of Congo	Horst's Puddle Frog
<i>Phrynobatrachus jimzimkusi</i>	Zimkus & Gvozdik	2013	Cameroon	Jim Zimkus' Puddle frog
<i>Phrynobatrachus mayokoensis</i>	Roedel, Burger, Zassi-Boulou, Emmrich, Penner & Barej	2015	Gabon, Republic of Congo	Mayoko Puddle frog
<i>Phrynobatrachus mbabo</i>	Gvoždík, Nečas, Dolinay, Zimkus, Schmitz & Fokam	2020	Cameroon	Tchabal Mbabo Puddle Frog
<i>Phrynobatrachus njiomock</i>	Zimkus & Gvozdik	2013	Cameroon	Lake Oku Puddle Frog
<i>Xenopus allofraseri</i>	Evans, Carter, Greenbaum, Gvoždík, Kelley, McLaughlin, Pauwels, Portik, Stanley, Tinsley, Tobias & Blackburn	2015	Cameroon, DRC, Equatorial Guinea	False Fraser's Clawed Frog
<i>Xenopus eysoole</i>	Evans, Carter, Greenbaum, Gvoždík, Kelley, McLaughlin, Pauwels, Portik, Stanley, Tinsley, Tobias & Blackburn	2015	Cameroon	Bamiléké Clawed Frog
<i>Xenopus fischbergi</i>	Evans, Carter, Greenbaum, Gvoždík, Kelley, McLaughlin, Pauwels, Portik, Stanley, Tinsley, Tobias & Blackburn	2015	Cameroon, Central African Republic, DRC	Fischberg's Clawed Frog
<i>Xenopus kobeli</i>	Evans, Carter, Greenbaum, Gvoždík, Kelley, McLaughlin, Pauwels, Portik, Stanley, Tinsley, Tobias & Blackburn	2015	Cameroon	Kobel's Clawed Frog
<i>Xenopus mellotropicalis</i>	Evans, Carter, Greenbaum, Gvoždík, Kelley, McLaughlin, Pauwels, Portik, Stanley, Tinsley, Tobias & Blackburn	2015	Cameroon, Central African Republic, DRC, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Republic of Congo	Gabonese Clawed Frog
<i>Xenopus parafraseri</i>	Evans, Carter, Greenbaum, Gvoždík, Kelley, McLaughlin, Pauwels, Portik, Stanley, Tinsley, Tobias & Blackburn	2015	Cameroon, Gabon, Republic of Congo	Upland Clawed Frog
TOTAL	22			

REPTILES

Species	Scientist(s)	Year	Distribution	Type
<i>Afrotrophlops chirioi</i>	Trape	2019	Central African Republic	Snake
<i>Afrotrophlops rouxestevae</i>	Trape	2019	Cameroon	Snake
<i>Atheris hetfieldi</i>	Ceríaco, Marques & Bauer	2020	Equatorial Guinea	Snake, Bush Viper
<i>Atheris mongoensis</i>	Collet & Trape	2020	DRC	Snake, Bush Viper
<i>Boaedon fradei</i>	Hallermann, Ceríaco, Schmitz, Ernst, Conradie, Verburgt, Marques & Bauer	2020	DRC	Snake
<i>Boaedon littoralis</i>	Trape & Mediannikov	2016	Gabon, Republic of Congo	Snake
<i>Boaedon longilineatus</i>	Trape & Mediannikov	2016	Cameroon	Snake
<i>Boaedon montanus</i>	Trape, Mediannikov, Hinkel & Hinkel	2022	DRC	Snake
<i>Boaedon parolineatus</i>	Trape & Mediannikov	2016	Central African Republic	Snake
<i>Boaedon perisilvestris</i>	Trape & Mediannikov	2016	Cameroon, Central African Republic, DRC, Gabon, Republic of Congo	Snake
<i>Boaedon radfordi</i>	Greenbaum, Portillo, Jackson & Kusamba	2015	DRC	Snake
<i>Boaedon subflavus</i>	Trape & Mediannikov	2016	Cameroon	Snake
<i>Dasypeltis congolensis</i>	Trape, Mediannikov, Chirio & Chirio	2021	DRC, Gabon, Republic of Congo	Snake
<i>Echis romani</i>	Trape	2018	Cameroon, Central African Republic	Snake
<i>Hemidactylus biokoensis</i>	Wagner, Leaché & Fujita	2014	Equatorial Guinea	Lizard, Gecko
<i>Hemidactylus coalescens</i>	Wagner, Leaché & Fujita	2014	Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Republic of Congo	Lizard, Gecko
<i>Hemidactylus eniangii</i>	Wagner, Leaché & Fujita	2014	Cameroon	Lizard, Gecko
<i>Hemidactylus gramineus</i>	Ceríaco, Bauer, Kusamba, Agarwal & Greenbaum	2021	DRC	Lizard, Gecko
<i>Kinyongia itombwensis</i>	Hughes, Kusamba, Behangana & Greenbaum	2017	DRC	Lizard, Chameleon

Species	Scientist(s)	Year	Distribution	Type
<i>Kinyongia mulyai</i>	Tilbury & Tolley	2015	DRC	Lizard, Chameleon
<i>Letheobia weidholzi</i>	Wallach & Gemel	2018	Cameroon	Snake
<i>Lycophidion chirioi</i>	Trape	2021	Central African Republic	Lizard, Gecko
<i>Lycophidion tchadensis</i>	Trape	2021	Central African Republic	Snake
<i>Lygodactylus gamblei</i>	Lobón-Rovira, Bauer, Pinto, Trape, Conradie, Kusamba, Júlio, Cael, Stanley, Hughes, Behangana, Masudi, Pauwels & Greenbaum	2023	DRC	Lizard, Gecko
<i>Lygodactylus karamoja</i>	Lobón-Rovira, Bauer, Pinto, Trape, Conradie, Kusamba, Júlio, Cael, Stanley, Hughes, Behangana, Masudi, Pauwels & Greenbaum	2023	DRC	Lizard, Gecko
<i>Lygodactylus kibera</i>	Lobón-Rovira, Bauer, Pinto, Trape, Conradie, Kusamba, Júlio, Cael, Stanley, Hughes, Behangana, Masudi, Pauwels & Greenbaum	2023	DRC	Lizard, Gecko
<i>Lygodactylus leopardinus</i>	Lobón-Rovira, Bauer, Pinto, Trape, Conradie, Kusamba, Júlio, Cael, Stanley, Hughes, Behangana, Masudi, Pauwels & Greenbaum	2023	DRC	Lizard, Gecko
<i>Lygodactylus mirabundus</i>	Lobón-Rovira, Bauer, Pinto, Trape, Conradie, Kusamba, Júlio, Cael, Stanley, Hughes, Behangana, Masudi, Pauwels & Greenbaum	2023	DRC	Lizard, Gecko
<i>Mecistops leptorhynchus</i>	Shirley, Carr, Nestler, Vliet & Brochu	2018	Cameroon, Central African Republic, DRC, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Republic of Congo	Crocodile
<i>Myriopholis occipitalis</i>	Trape & Chirio	2019	Central African Republic	Snake
<i>Naja nana</i>	Collet & Trape	2020	DRC	Snake, Cobra
<i>Naja savannula</i>	Broadley, Trape, Chirio & Wüster	2018	Cameroon	Snake, Cobra
<i>Pelomedusa schweinfurthi</i>	Petzold, Vargas-Ramírez, Kehlmaier, Vamberger, Branch, Du Preez, Hofmeyr, Meyer, Schleicher, Široký & Fritz	2014	Central African Republic	Turtle
<i>Philothamnus chifunderai</i>	Greenbaum, Pauwels, Gvoždík, Vaughan, Chaney, Buontempo, Aristote, Muninga & Engelbrecht	2023	Cameroon, DRC	Snake
<i>Philothamnus mayombensis</i>	Trape, Collet, Hughes & Mediannikov	2021	DRC	Snake
<i>Polemon ater</i>	Portillo, Branch, Tilbury, Nagy, Hughes, Kusamba, Muninga, Aristote, Behangana & Greenbaum	2019	DRC	Snake
<i>Rhampholeon hattinghi</i>	Tilbury & Tolley	2015	DRC	Lizard, Chameleon
<i>Toxicodryas adamanteus</i>	Greenbaum, Allen, Vaughan, Pauwels, Wallach, Kusamba, Muninga, Aris-Tote, Mali, Badjedjea, Penner, Rödel, Rivera, Sterkhova, Johnson, Tapondjou & Brown	2021	DRC, Equatorial Guinea	Snake
<i>Toxicodryas vexator</i>	Greenbaum, Allen, Vaughan, Pauwels, Wallach, Kusamba, Muninga, Aris-Tote, Mali, Badjedjea, Penner, Rödel, Rivera, Sterkhova, Johnson, Tapondjou & Brown	2021	DRC	Snake
<i>Trachylepis gonwouoi</i>	Allen, Tapondjou, Welton & Bauer	2017	Cameroon, DRC	Lizard, Skink
<i>Trachylepis raymondlaurenti</i>	Marques, Ceriáco, Bandeira, Pauwels & Bauer	2019	DRC	Lizard, Skink
<i>Tricheilostoma kongoensis</i>	Trape	2019	DRC	Snake
TOTAL	42			

BIRDS

Species	Scientist(s)	Year	Distribution	Type
<i>Otus bikegila</i>	Melo, Freitas, Verbelen, Da Costa, Pereira, Fuchs, Sangster, Correia, De Lima & Crottini	2022	Príncipe Island, Gulf of Guinea off coast of Equatorial Guinea	Príncipe Scops-Owl
<i>Stiphormis rudderi</i>	Voelker, Tobler, Prestridge, Duijm, Groenenberg, Hutchinson, Martin, Nieman, Roselaar & Huntley	2016	DRC	Rudder's Forest Robin
TOTAL	2			

MAMMALS

Species	Scientist(s)	Year	Distribution	Type
<i>Cercopithecus lomamiensis</i>	Hart, Detwiler, Gilbert, Burrell, Fuller, Emetshu, Hart, Vosper, Sargis & Tosi	2012	DRC	Lesula Monkey
<i>Colomys lumumbai</i>	Kerbis Peterhans, Giarlac & Demos	2020	DRC	Semi-Aquatic Mouse
<i>Crocidura fingu</i>	Ceríaco, Marques, Jacquet, Nicolas, Colyn, Denys, Sardinha & Bastos-Silveira	2015	Principe Island, Gulf of Guinea off coast of Equatorial Guinea	Fingu's Shrew
<i>Crocidura lwiroensis</i>	Kerbis Peterhans & Hutterer	2013	DRC	Misotshi-Kabogo Shrew
<i>Hylomyscus pygmaeus</i>	Kerbis Peterhans, Hutterer & Demos	2020	DRC	Pygmy Wood Mouse
<i>Hylomyscus thornesmithae</i>	Kerbis Peterhans, Hutterer & Demos	2020	DRC	Mother Ellen's Wood Mouse
<i>Myosorex kabogoensis</i>	Kerbis Peterhans & Hutterer	2013	DRC	Kabogo Mouse Shrew
<i>Rhinolophus kahuzi</i>	Fahr & Kerbis Peterhans	2013	DRC	Kahuzi Horseshoe Bat
<i>Rhinolophus willardi</i>	Fahr & Kerbis Peterhans	2013	DRC	Willard's Horseshoe Bat
<i>Scutisorex thori</i>	Stanley et al	2013	DRC	Thor's Hero Shrew
TOTAL	10			

TOTALS BREAKDOWN

	Plants	Invertebrates	Fish	Amphibians	Reptiles	Birds	Mammals	TOTAL
Cameroon	190	19	6	11	12	0	0	238
Central African Republic	6	5	2	3	9	0	0	25
Democratic Republic of Congo	73	89	52	10	25	1	9	259
Equatorial Guinea	44	0	6	2	5	1	1	59
Gabon	206	30	18	3	5	0	0	262
Republic of Congo	32	8	15	5	5	0	0	65

Plants	430
Invertebrates	140
Fish	96
Amphibians	22
Reptiles	42
Birds	2
Mammals	10
TOTAL	742

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