

***Trioceros wiersheimi wiersheimi* (Nieden, 1910)
is a Critically Endangered (CR) species found on
Mount Tchabal Mbabo (Adamaoua, Cameroon)**



Trioceros wiersheimi wiersheimi © FODER 2020

In November 2020, the Association FODER carried out herpetological studies on the Tchabal Mbabo forest massif¹. These studies were within the framework of the COGESPA-Tchabal Mbabo project². 14 species of Reptile were observed and listened, among which *Trioceros wiersheimi wiersheimi*.

Description: The Northern peacock chameleon is a subspecies of montane chameleon confined to the highlands of western Cameroon (including Tchabal Mbabo) and eastern Nigeria (Gonwouo *et al.*, 2006). It is a small chameleon, reaching only 8 inches in total length inhabiting low bushes of montane rain forests (Klaver & W Boehme, 1997). This chameleon can easily be identified by its "Dorsal knobs, temporal crest, lateral row of larger shields on the flank, and an indistinct groove on the upper lip from nostril to nostril." (Martin, 1992).

Taxonomy: This chameleon belongs to the Kingdom: Animal; Sub-Kingdom: Bilateria; Infra-kingdom: Deuterostomia; Phylum: Chordata; Sub-phylum: Vertebrates; Class: Reptiles, Genus: *Trioceros*; Scientific names: *Trioceros wiersheimi wiersheimi*.

Conservation status: *Trioceros wiersheimi wiersheimi* is a chameleon fully protected by Cameroonian law, therefore belongs to the "class A" of national protection in accordance with decree N ° 0053 / MINFOF / of April 1, 2020. This species is classified as critically endangered (CR) according to IUCN³ (2020).

Threats: The habitat of this endemic high-altitude chameleon species is deeply threatened by grazing activities and bush fires.

Protective measures: *Trioceros wiersheimi wiersheimi* is dependent on its habitat and very vulnerable to human activities. It was mainly found in the forest blocks of FUNGOI, DANOUA and LOGAKOUMBI. The conservation of these forest blocks of the massif becomes a major priority for this species.

**CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM
PARTNERSHIP FUND**

¹The Tchabal Mbabo forest massif is located in the Adamawa region, between the departments of Mayo Banyo and Faro and Déo, more precisely in the districts of Banyo, Galim Tignère and Kontcha.

²The "Projet d'appui à la conservation et à la gestion participative du Massif forestier de Tchabal Mbabo" is implemented in Cameroon by the Association Forêts et Développement Rural (FODER) in partnership with the NGO TRAFFIC thanks to the financial support of Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) through BirdLife International.

³ With the IUCN Red List system, each species or subspecies can be classified into one of the following nine categories: Extinct (EX), Extinct in the Wild (EW), Critically Endangered (CR), Endangered (EN), Vulnerable (VU), Near Threatened (NT), Least Concern (LC), Data Deficient (DD), Not Assessed (NE).