

THREATS TO BIODIVERSITY IN THE TCHABAL MBABO FOREST MASSIF

CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM
PARTNERSHIP FUND





01

OVERGRAZING

Overgrazing is a main threat observed in the Tchabal Mbabo massif. It is an obstacle to the natural regeneration of woody species. In fact, cattle, well known for their appetite for young plant shoots, consume the regenerating stems, thus preventing their growth. In addition, this young plant shoots which are generally small, are crushed during the passage of herds which also contributes to their death. Added to this is the pruning of certain plant species such as the African mahogany (*Azelia africana*) to feed livestock. Overgrazing is a danger not only for large and medium-sized mammals which could be contaminated by livestock in the event of zoonosis but also for ground-nesting birds such as the Brown nightjar (*Caprimulgus binotatus*), Long-tailed Nightjar (*Caprimulgus climacurus*), Black-shouldered Nightjar (*Caprimulgus nigriscapularis*), and Freckled nightjar (*Caprimulgus tristigma*).



POACHING

02

Poaching in the Tchabal Mbabo Massif is a real threat to plant and wildlife resources. Indeed, evidence such as; Camps, cartridge casings, traps and trails have been observed in the forest massif thus indicating an active presence of poaching. This activity though illegal is a priority to the riparian populations living in and around the forest massif, not forgetting transhumant shepherds. These poachers exert pressure on the flora and fauna resources in the cause of carrying out various activities such as; chopping wood for the construction of camps, cutting firewood for cooking and smoking game and others. This illegal activity carried out by migratory poachers, riparian population and also by shepherds living in the massif could as well be redirected towards large birds in case of game scarcity. Most of the poachers migrate particularly from neighboring Nigeria.



BUSHFIRES

03

Bushfires represent a threat that strongly contributes to the destruction of the flora and fauna resources of the Tchabal Mbabo massif. Indeed, in order to promote the regeneration of herbaceous plants used as fodder, the local populations and especially the shepherds set up uncontrolled fires in the massif. These fires set during their passage cause damage both to young shoots (generally fragile) and larger stems, thus slowing their growth in height and especially in diameter.

Pygeum leaves used as fodder and gallery forest are often subject to bushfires. these also contribute to soil degradation in the massif and to the destruction of habitat and bird nesting sites.

04

ANARCHICAL EXPLOITATION OF FLORIST RESOURCES

In the forest of Tchabal Mbabo, the exploitation of floral resources is carried out anarchically. There is no way to manage the area's resources. The populations according to their needs, enter the massif and take all kinds of resources without prejudice. Plants of interest are used for various purposes (firewood, medicinal plants, etc.). Trees located on steep sloppy areas or in watersheds can be felled, leading to leaching in the passage of water and loss of the capacity of forests to recycle water. The Adamawa region being the water tower of Cameroon, is gradually losing its hydrological network.



05

AGRICULTURE AND GALLERY FOREST DESTRUCTION

In the forest of Tchabal Mbabo, agricultural expansion is manifested by the deforestation of gallery forests which are fertile areas. This transformation of the land into arable area around the mayo by the riparian populations has a critical consequence on the amphibian populations via the destruction of their habitats. The use of pesticides (agriculture), on the other hand, is believed to be the source of contamination of running water and wetlands, which are the preferred habitats for amphibians.