



CONFERENCE INFORMATION PACKAGE

9th AFRICA ANIMAL WELFARE CONFERENCE - ACTION 2025

Theme:

Strengthening Actions for Animal Welfare and Environment for a Sustainable Future and Resilient Planet

Venue:

Hotel Franco

Yaounde, Cameroon

JULY 28 - 30, 2025





Table of Contents

ABOUT REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON	3
Currency	3
<i>Exchange Rates</i>	3
Language.....	3
Culture.....	4
Weather	4
History	4
Animal Welfare Status/Progress	5
<i>Laws and Regulations</i>	5
<i>Achievements in Animal Welfare</i>	5
<i>Challenges Faced</i>	5
PLACES TO VISIT	6
Waza National Park	6
Limbe Wildlife Centre.....	7
Mount Cameroon	8
Dja Faunal Reserve	8
The Coastal City of Limbe	8



ABOUT REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

Area: 475,442 km²

Capital: Yaoundé

Largest City: Douala

President: Paul Biya

Prime Minister: Joseph Ngute

Population: 18,060,382 inhabitants



Currency

The official operational currency is the “*Communauté Financière Africaine Franc*” (XAF, also referred to as the Central African CFA Franc), with the responsible authority being the Bank of Central African States.

Exchange Rates:

1 EUR = 655.957 XAF

1 USD = 575.77 XAF

1 CHF = 700.34 XAF

In Yaoundé, Douala and other major towns, there are automated teller machines (ATM) at the disposal of the public. Credit card acceptance is limited, so it's advisable to carry cash.

Language

English language and French language are the official languages, Cameroon being a bilingual country. The majority of the inhabitants in Yaoundé speak French. There are, however, 24 major African language groups used in the country.



Culture

- Cameroon is a melting pot of cultures, with a rich diversity of ethnic groups, languages, and traditions.
- Hospitality is highly valued, and it's customary to greet people respectfully.
- Music and dance play a significant role in Cameroonian culture.
- There is a national culture, and two distinct regional cultures: the Anglophone and Francophone regions, which primarily speak English and French and use different legal systems.
- The national culture is established through public institutions such as school, the multi-party political system and shared history of colonialism

Weather

- Cameroon has a tropical climate, with variations depending on the region.
- Climate change is an imminent threat to Cameroon's development due the country's dependence on natural resources and Cameroonians' dependence on agriculture.

History

- Cameroon's history includes pre-colonial kingdoms, German colonization, and French and British mandates. The earliest inhabitants of Cameroon were likely the Bakas (pygmies). They still inhabit the forests of the south and east regions.
- Yaoundé saw rapid growth and continued as the seat of government for the Republic of Cameroon upon its independence in 1960.
- During World War I, *Jaunde* was occupied by Belgian troops from the Congo. After Imperial Germany's defeat in that war, France held eastern Cameroon as a mandate of the League of Nations and Yaoundé was chosen to become the capital of the colony in 1922.
- Cameroon's history is full of stories of powerful kingdoms, and resilient people. The Duala people for example, where known for their trading prowess, and their ability to adapt to the changing colonial powers.



Animal Welfare Status/Progress

- Cameroon possesses a rich biodiversity, but its animal welfare status faces numerous challenges.

Laws and Regulations

- *Tougher Penalties:* Much higher fines and longer jail time for wildlife crimes, especially against endangered species.
- *Stronger Protection:* Increased protection for "Class A" species like the gorilla, the elephant, and the pangolin.
- *Community Focus:* More involvement of local communities in conservation.
- *Human-Wildlife Conflict:* Measures to address and reduce conflict.
- *Environmental Protection:* Broader focus on protecting habitats.
- *International Cooperation:* Increased cross border collaboration.

Achievements in Animal Welfare

- Increased NGO activity (OIPA, LWC) providing care and education.
- Improved wildlife protection in key areas.
- Growing public awareness of animal welfare.
- Progress in working animal welfare (donkeys, horses).
- Strengthened protected areas.

Challenges Faced

- Habitat loss due to deforestation and agricultural expansion.
- Poaching for bushmeat and the illegal wildlife trade.
- Limited resources for animal welfare enforcement.
- The expansion of human settlement, and the resulting human animal conflict



PLACES TO VISIT

Waza National Park

Waza National Park is located in the transition zone between the Sahel and Sudan savanna. The park, situated immediately east of the town of Waza, lies less than 10 km from the borders with both Nigeria and Chad.

The Waza National Park is Cameroon's most famous national park and is a renowned wildlife reserve with diverse animal populations. Visitors get a chance to observe various animals like the elephant, giraffe, ostrich, antelope, gazelle and lion. There are a variety of birds to be observed.



Source: Britannica



Limbe Wildlife Centre (LWC)

The Limbe Wildlife Centre (LWC), a wildlife rescue, rehabilitation and conservation education project, was founded 1993 and is managed by the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) and the Pandrillus Foundation. The centre provides care to animals in rehabilitation before being released back into the wild, or animals that cannot be released into the wild for numerous reasons. The animals at the centre have been rescued from the illegal wildlife trade, most arriving as tiny orphans after their mothers were shot for bushmeat.

The foundation aims to protect Cameroonian wildlife in collaboration with the government to enforce wildlife law, inspire a new generation of conservationists and bridge the gap between welfare and conservation.



Source: Born Free Foundation

It is a sanctuary for primates that provides valuable conservation efforts. It is open for visitors six days a week from 9am to 4pm (closed on Monday).



Mount Cameroon



Source: Britannica

Mount Cameroon, volcanic massif of southwestern Cameroon that rises to a height of 13,435 feet (4,095 meters) and extends 14 miles (23 km) inland from the Gulf of Guinea. It is the highest peak in sub-Saharan western and central Africa and the westernmost extension of a series of hills and mountains that form a natural boundary between northern Cameroon and Nigeria. The Englishman Sir Richard Burton (1821–90) climbed its summit in 1861. The volcano is still active.

The hills offer challenging hiking opportunities.

Dja Faunal Reserve

One of the largest and best-protected rainforests in Africa, Dja Faunal Reserve proudly boasts that 90% of its area has been left undisturbed. Almost completely surrounded by the Dja River, which forms a natural boundary, the reserve is especially noted for its biodiversity and a wide variety of primates. It contains 107 mammal species, five of which are threatened.



The reserve is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, known for its biodiversity.

The Coastal City of Limbe

Limbe, town and port located in southwestern Cameroon. It lies along Amba Bay in the Gulf of Guinea, at the southern foot of Mount Cameroon, just south of Buea.



The town was founded in 1858 by Baptist missionaries, and several historical monuments dating from the colonial 1890s have been preserved. Limbe is Cameroon's second largest port, after the nearby port of Douala. It depends on migrant labour and the export produce of nearby plantations: coffee, cacao, palm oil and kernels, tea, bananas, and rubber. A hospital and an airport serve the town, which also has beautiful black sand beaches and boating facilities.



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