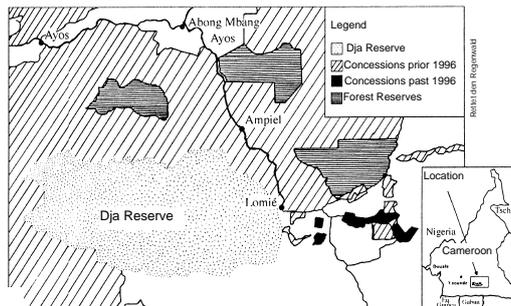


**The Dja Wildlife Reserve in Cameroon comprises 526,000 ha and consists of a variety of habitats ranging from swamps to rainforests. In 1987, its rich biodiversity led to its declaration as a World Nature Heritage. But even here protected species are hunted to an alarming extent.**



In just two months, 13 tonnes of bushmeat were sold in a village at the Northern park border. Almost all this meat originated from the Reserve and was sold on distant markets. The Dja Reserve is surrounded by timber concessions. Surveys showed that personnel of the French logger Pallisco rented guns to hunters for a part of their catch, which then was brought to the markets on timber lorries.

- ☛ In the forest area of Lomié, Ngaila-Youkadouma and Mouloundou at least 330 elephants are killed each year.
- ☛ Within a 60 km-radius of Lomié at least 6 gorillas, elephants and chimpanzees are shot every month.

Some companies try to decrease hunting by blocking old transport roads, but without appreciable success. Official authorities are intimidated if they want to control transport vehicles. Some officials are entangled in the bushmeat trade and issue bogus "hunting permits", which have no legal basis.

## EU Financial Aid

### ECOFAC-Project

The conservation organisation ECOFAC is funded by the EU. One of its projects is situated in the Dja Wildlife Reserve and aims to control poaching through "eco-rangers". In addition, there are plans to promote environmental education in the communities surrounding the park.

### Road development project

At the end of the 90s, Cameroon applied for an EU-project to "renovate existing roads". These roads gave access to the Eastern border of the Dja Reserve. The EU offered US\$ 50,000,000 - but investigations by the independent **Rainforest Foundation** showed the following:

- insufficient information given to people who were affected
- increased timber exploitation because of improved access
- discovery of nine new logging concessions
- In 1998, a pygmy village was flattened in order to gain area for a sawmill.
- Increase of poaching, and a large number of hunting camps (27!) up to 50 km into the Reserve
- approx. 10 tonnes of bushmeat per week

The European Commission denied these allegations and even maintained that poaching can be controlled better by improving the road system! For the first time, worldwide protest by nature conservation organisations actually halted one of these projects on the grounds of ecological concerns, but only temporarily!



**These skulls are from animals that were poached in a National Park, just a portion of those that fall victim.**

## Financial Aid by the World Bank

### Pipeline Project

With support from the World Bank (appr. US\$ 240 million), a 880 km oil pipeline (for Exxon, Shell and Elf Aquitaine) is planned to be laid from the Tschad via Cameroon to the Atlantic coast, close to the border of the Dja Reserve. Justification of the World Bank: poverty alleviation. But it is certain that such funds do not benefit the majority of the population. Despite the route supposedly running along existing roads and railways, the facts are:

- some tracts lead through pristine forests and settlements of forest dwellers
- construction and work related noise will have a negative impact on the wildlife
- animal trails (e.g. of elephants) are being cut off
- approx. 2,500 workers will cut wood for building their huts and feed on the wildlife in the surrounding forests

The pipeline ends at a port, where the village is surrounded by the Campo and Douala Edea reserves, which are also funded by the World Bank. (The World Bank is funded by the industrialised nations - with tax payers' money!) **Two opposing projects are being funded by one and the same body - who didn't think here??**