

# CHANGEMAKER: Dr Serge A. Kamgang



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**Founder and CEO: BEDD.**

Biodiversity Environment & Sustainable Development.

**Visiting lecturer:** Garoua Wildlife School in Cameroon; ERAIFT/ UNESCO at the University of Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo.

**Member:** IUCN/SSC primate specialist group (section on great apes), the African lion working group and the IUCN World Commission on Protected and Conserved Areas.

**Whitley Award Winner 2023**



Cameroon fieldwork.



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Lion (*Panthera leo*).

IUCN Conservation Status: Vulnerable

In the landscapes of Central and West Africa, the commitment of Dr Serge A. Kamgang to biodiversity conservation and capacity building stands out. For over 16 years, he has been working to ensure that Africa’s unique biodiversity coexists harmoniously with human development.

Originating from the western region of Cameroon, Dr Serge A. Kamgang has delved deep into areas like great ape and carnivore ecology, human-wildlife interactions, and the management of protected territories, including notable national parks and biosphere reserves across the region. His approach combines both scientific

inquiry and hands-on action, further enhanced by his skills in cross-cultural networking and leadership.

His academic credentials, including a M.Sc. from ERAIFT/UNESCO MAB, a postgraduate degree from the University of Oxford (UK) and a Ph.D. from Abomey-Calavi (Benin), ensure that he bridges the practical and theoretical aspects of conservation.

Dr Serge A. Kamgang’s affiliations, such as with the IUCN/SSC primate specialist group (section on great apes), the African lion working group and the IUCN World Commission on Protected and Conserved Areas, emphasize his dedication to conservation.





Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*).  
Photo © USAID Africa Bureau

 IUCN Conservation Status:  
Endangered



Dr Serge A. Kamgang receiving the Whitley Award trophy from HRH The Princess Royal.  
Photo © Gabriel Bush

“ He is actively involved in nurturing future conservationists. ”


Further, as a visiting lecturer at both the Garoua Wildlife School in Cameroon and ERAIFT/UNESCO at the University of Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, he is actively involved in nurturing future conservationists.

Dr Serge A. Kamgang has several current roles – from being a National Geographic Explorer to being the driving force behind BEDD, a local NGO focusing on biodiversity conservation in Cameroon. Under his guidance, BEDD works towards a vision where biodiversity is preserved, the environment is safeguarded and communities thrive. BEDD focuses on sustainable resource management, battling the erosion of genetic resources and fighting environmental pollution, with the goal of enhancing the well-being of Cameroon’s communities.

BEDD’s initiatives across Cameroon include:

- A lion monitoring project in the Mpem and Djim National Park, which addresses the lion-herder conflict. This involves community education on lion behaviour, training for eco-guards and increased patrol efforts.

- The chimpanzee conservation project in the Mbam Djerem National Park and Yoko Council Forest, which studies the relationship between habitat changes, the chimpanzee population and local communities.
- Ecological monitoring of large carnivores in the Benue ecosystem.
- The women leadership and biodiversity initiatives in the Tchabal Mbabo Forest Massif, highlighting BEDD’s inclusive approach to conservation. Especially Dr Serge A. Kamgang’s work in the Mbam-Djerem landscape, spanning over eight years, has provided valuable insights into chimpanzee ecology.

 His conservation efforts with lion in Cameroon have been instrumental. For these, he has been awarded the prestigious Whitley Award 2023.

In Dr Serge Alexis Kamgang, Central and West Africa have a dedicated conservationist working towards a balanced and sustainable future for the region. ■



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Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN) is a UK fundraising and grant-giving charity, which supports conservation leaders working in their home countries across the Global South. <http://www.whitleyaward.org/>



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