

Tandy's Smalltongue Toad © David C. Blackburn



Ursula's Sunbird © Agami Photo Agency

## Create a Safe Haven for Cameroon's Endangered Species

Some of western Africa's oldest and most biologically rich montane, evergreen and cloud forests are found along the Cameroon Line chain of volcanoes that stretches 1,000 miles from Annobón Island in the Gulf of Guinea inland to the Cameroon Highlands. The Rumpi Hills of southwestern Cameroon, which rise to 5,900 feet atop Mount Rata, are an extremely important, biodiverse region, due in large part to the area's heavy rains and ancient, volcanic history. It is rich in endemic species—especially amphibians and plants—that live only here.

These intact, low-altitude rainforests of western Cameroon shelter endemic species of note, including the Critically Endangered Smooth Egg-guarding Frog and the Endangered Rumpi Mouse Shrew. Tandy's Smalltongue Toad and Cameroon Wolterstorff Toad are also critically endangered, and highlight the importance of this region for rare amphibians.

The area is home to Critically Endangered African Forest Elephants, Endangered Chimpanzees and various antelope species as well. Human activities have grown along with the population in the region, resulting in increased land-clearing for commercial and subsistence agriculture, and illegal timber exploitation and poaching. These activities threaten the rich biodiversity of the area, and especially the rare, endemic amphibians and plants living here.

Rainforest Trust and our partner, AJEMALEBU Self Help (Ajemalebu meaning "Nature's Gift for Man"), seek \$1,503,001 to support the project to merge and upgrade the two contiguous forest and mountain ecosystems here—the Rumpi Hills Forest Reserve and Mount Rata Proposed Forest Reserve—into one National Park called Rumpi Rata National Park.

### FORTIFY PROTECTION OF IMPORTANT AFROMONTANE HABITAT IN CAMEROON

The land's current status as a Forest Reserve in Cameroon provides low protection, because the designation historically set forest reserves aside for logging. The absence of law enforcement and unregulated access has already led to destructive deforestation and poaching with associated loss of biodiversity.

The new National Park will create a safe haven and contiguous habitat where some of the world's most threatened mammals can flourish. It is expected to serve as a key



**106,900**  
ACRES

**\$1,503,001**  
PROJECT COST

**\$14.06**  
COST PER ACRE

**25,568,556 mT**  
CO<sub>2</sub> EQUIVALENTS  
STORED

#### KEY SPECIES:

Smooth Egg-guarding Frog (CR),  
Tandy's Smalltongue Toad (CR),  
Cameroon Wolterstorff Toad (CR),  
African Forest Elephant (CR),  
Chimpanzee (EN),  
Rumpi Mouse Shrew (EN),  
*Microcos rumpi* (not assessed)

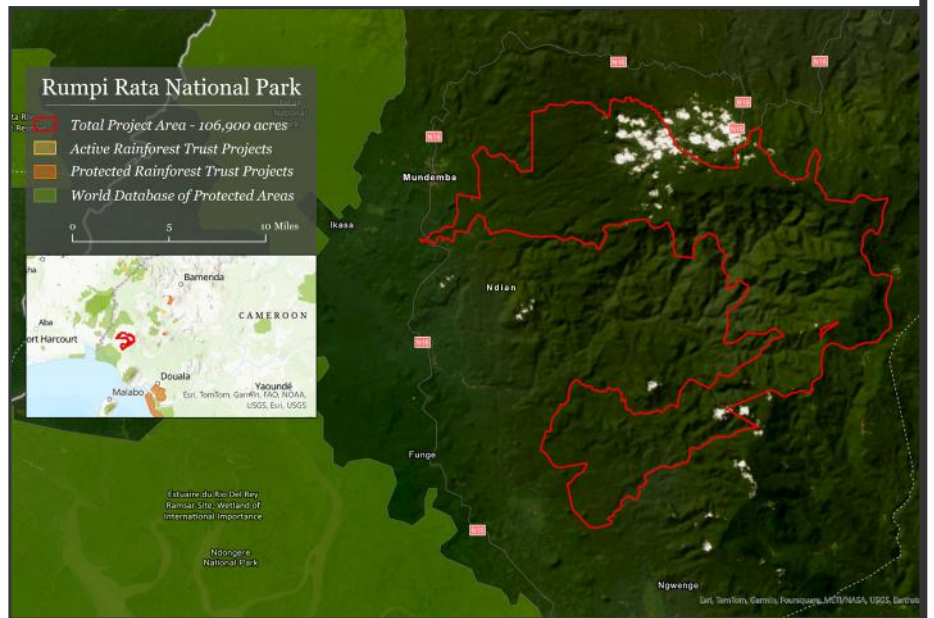




eco-corridor for forest elephants migrating between it and the neighboring 311,040-acre Korup National Park to the north and west. By allowing wildlife to move freely and safely between habitats, human-wildlife conflicts will decrease.

## SAVE A RARE, ENDEMIC CLOUD FOREST TREE SPECIES

The Rumpi Hills region has exceptionally high numbers of threatened and endemic tree species. In 2022, Kew Royal Botanic Garden discovered a massive cloud forest tree, *Microcos rumpi*, that is endemic to the project area. Scientists assessed it as critically endangered and it awaits formal listing on the IUCN Red List. This large tree can grow to 115 to 130 feet high and 30 inches in diameter.



Cameroon's newly adopted national guidelines for the involvement of local communities and Indigenous people in the creation and management of protected areas will be put into practice for the first time in this project. This will ensure communities are fully informed and consent to the creation and management plans for the new protected area. Communities will be supported to strengthen and diversify sustainable livelihoods around the future National Park.

Mount Rata from AJEMALEBU Self Help

