



## Leaked WWF internal report points to Baka abuse

WWF statement to enquirers 2015	Internal WWF report 2015	What the Baka say 2016
<p>“WWF insisted on a high level of informed community consent for the creation of the three National Parks in south east Cameroon.”</p>	<p>“the Baka confirm that they have not been consulted but rather they have found their lands transformed into protected areas without their consent.” (p.8)</p>	<p><b>“We ask WWF... (to) speak to us and obtain our consent before carrying on with their work. We want to live like we did before. If we don't, we and our children cannot survive.”</b></p>
<p>“In the main, the ecoguards have been and are performing their designated function of protecting the forests and securing the access and areas of forest communities, including those of the Baka.”</p>	<p>Some ecoguards “behave like masters and lords towards communities,” mounting “crackdowns” that “are the most terrifying of all missions... most of the local villages are affected”. (pp. 40, 37)</p> <p>“The Baka have confirmed they have no peace because of the presence of the protected areas that threaten their land rights and means of subsistence.” (p.42)</p> <p>“In most of the ecoguards’ thinking, the legal restriction of communities in the parks shows that the communities have no rights.” (p.42)</p>	<p><b>“They started beating the children with their machetes, and an old woman... We don't want these people to come here any more. They are killing us off.”</b></p>
<p>“When unacceptable behaviour has come to WWF's attention... WWF has taken the issue up directly and emphatically with the Cameroon Ministry of Forests and Fauna and improved behaviour has seemed to follow.”</p>	<p>“Many cases of abuse and human rights violations are reported by the communities and their perpetrators are identified and known but not disciplined by their superiors, despite the communities’ condemnation, with proof, and the victims’ witness statements” (p.38)</p> <p>“there is no reliable mechanism for reporting allegations” (p.38)</p>	<p><b>“We... are suffering a lot with conservation. The ecoguards arrive and beat us. Even if a woman is pregnant, they beat her. Even if she has a child with her, they beat her. God created lots of things in the forest that our parents left to us. These are the things we grew up with. Now they are forbidden to us.”</b></p>