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NHPC carries out the first environmental DNA (eDNA) study in Cameroon

A pioneering scientific mission in the Mpem and Djim National Park

From August 27 to September 4, 2025, NHPC, in partnership with the UK-based company NatureMetrics, conducted an environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling mission in the Mpem and Djim National Park (PNMpD).

Environmental DNA (eDNA) is a technique used to detect and identify species present in a given environment (water, soil, air, etc.) through their genetic traces. This innovative and non-invasive approach does not require capturing the species directly.

Carried out for the first time in Cameroon, the mission aimed to confirm the presence of certain fish species in the park, which has been designated as a biodiversity offset site to compensate for the environmental impacts of the Nachtigal project.

Located in the Centre Region, the park covers 97,840 hectares and already hosts 22 of the 26 fish species impacted by the construction of the Nachtigal facility, according to a study conducted by the local body SEEB (Services Eaux – Environnement – Biodiversité).



 ${\it Practical training of the teams by the Nature Metrics expert}$





Water sampling and filtration in a tributary of the Mpem

From sampling to strategy ...

Over the course of one week, a NatureMetrics expert trained NHPC teams, as well as staff from the Park Conservation Service, SEEB, and the Park's Technical Assistance, on eDNA sampling and collection techniques.

The teams then conducted an initial round of sampling at 27 water points across the rivers of the PNMpD. A second campaign is planned during the dry season (December 2025 – January 2026), with sampling at around 30 additional sites.

The collected samples will be sent to a laboratory in the UK for analysis. The results will help refine the biodiversity offset strategy related to the impacts of the Nachtigal project on fish species.

This innovative initiative reflects NHPC's commitment to combining sustainable energy production with biodiversity preservation.