

An aerial photograph of a river meandering through a vast, dense green forest. The river is a light brown color, contrasting with the dark green of the trees. The river's path is highly curved, forming several large loops. In the lower right, there is a sandy or cleared area with some sparse vegetation.

PRESS KIT

# GOING BACK TO THE ROOTS: THE PAPILLON SOURCE'S INNER AFRICA LABEL

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## Once upon a time, the Congo basin



The Congo basin's forest is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest after the Amazonia and represents 8% of the world's forest area. The forest is shared among six countries namely Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the Centrafrican Republic.

It is a tropical evergreen rainforest, a type of forest declining on all continents and only existing in a fragmented way in Africa.

The Congo's basin forest is the richest in specific diversity, for both flora and fauna in general (up to hundreds of trees species per hectare against a maximum of 10 in mild weathers). It is the most important niche of biodiversity in Africa and more than 80 million of people live in or nearby the forest.

The forest is threatened by the cutting and illegal trading of wood, but also agricultural expansion and urbanization. Many people, like the pygmies, animal and floral species depend on the forest to survive.

The Papillon Source project gave itself the mission to be a force for the salvation and rise of this forest.

## The African Butterfly



The Papillon Source is a network of green and autonomous cities promoting scientific partnership and the return to the roots.

Project under the EL4DEV program, the Papillon Source cities will be open to all world's citizens and will reunite on all five continents today's actors for a better tomorrow. Depending on the geographical areas of implantation, the project will count multiple labels dedicated to the cities in specific geographical areas.

The Inner Africa label of the Papillon Source covers all the countries on the continent, from the Mediterranean coasts to the Indian Ocean's islands. It means that the African countries that are members of the Papillon Méditerranée label are also part of the Inner Africa label.

Africa, the cradle of humanity. The continent is often represented under a dark light, as a land of violence and lacks. It couldn't be further from the truth. Africa is home to great civilizations, and a land of unique material, cultural and demographical wealth.



It was therefore logical for the continent to have its own label.

The Inner Africa label was first launched by a project of agro-climatic and touristic city in Cameroon's forest region, within the Congo basin's forest. The primary objectives of this project are the practice of sustainable forestry management, the conciliation between economic and human development, and nature's preservation.

## Cameroon : the 1<sup>st</sup> ambassador



*« Cameroon has birthed me and seen me grow. I was born to Cameroonian mother in Edea, in the Littoral region. I grew up in Douala, the economic capital of this beautiful country. As the promoter of this project, it was natural for me to choose my maternal roots to host the first city of the Papillon Source in sub-Saharan Africa.»*

*Paul Elvere DELSART, creator of the Papillon Source*

### Africa's miniature

Located at the junction of West and Central Africa, Cameroon has been chosen as the first ambassador country of the Inner Africa label for several reasons. Cameroon is a concentrate of all the diversity of the African continent. Indeed, there we can find the coast, the desert, volcanic landscapes, savannas, and the primary forest. The country is home to more than 250 languages and ethnic groups, practicing Christianity, Islam, and animism in harmony.



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Cameroon is also the only African country to be a member of both the Commonwealth and the Francophonie.

The country has been going through a crisis in the anglophone region for some years now. Nonetheless, the anglophone region is very keen on technological development and scientific cooperation. We do hope that our sustainable city project, champion of scientific collaboration, will be a vector of peace for the nation.

# The city of Ngompen : the jewel of the forest

A new forest governance: that's what the first city of the Inner Africa label wants to introduce. The city will be touristic and agro-climatic but will be quite different from what each of us had the occasion to witness. Immersed in the forest and pioneer of agroforestry, it will carry the Congo basin's forest message to the international community.



## The location of the forest's city

The village of Ngompen, located in the Littoral region halfway between Yaoundé and Douala, will be the host of our sustainable city.

The city will be implanted on a delimited private land of 40 hectares, belonging to Mr DELSART's family. About 70% of the land is occupied by a humid equatorial forest. The area can be extended to 100 hectares in the future.

## A high city

Ngompen city's particularity is that it will be partly built on the canopy, in order not to occupy the soil or cut trees.

The city will be designed in partnership with ecological artists and architects. The forest is a sacred place for the local populations. The city will therefore have an appeasing, spiritual and fairy-like atmosphere. The execution will be done in collaboration with specialists and students from Cameroon, France, and other countries.



# The city of Ngompen : the jewel of the forest

## What the city has to offer...

The city of Ngompen will embody many roles :

- Fauna and flora's conservatory, it will also be an observation and experimental field for scientists and researchers from all over the world.
- The food bank thanks to forestry activities that will be practiced there, it will also constitute a real showcase for typical crops from this region of Cameroon.
- Place of spiritual and emotional recentering, due to the cultural significance of the forest.
- an illustration of the planet's forests, so that humanity becomes aware of their role in its survival, its restauration, and its management.



## Benefits for the entire nation

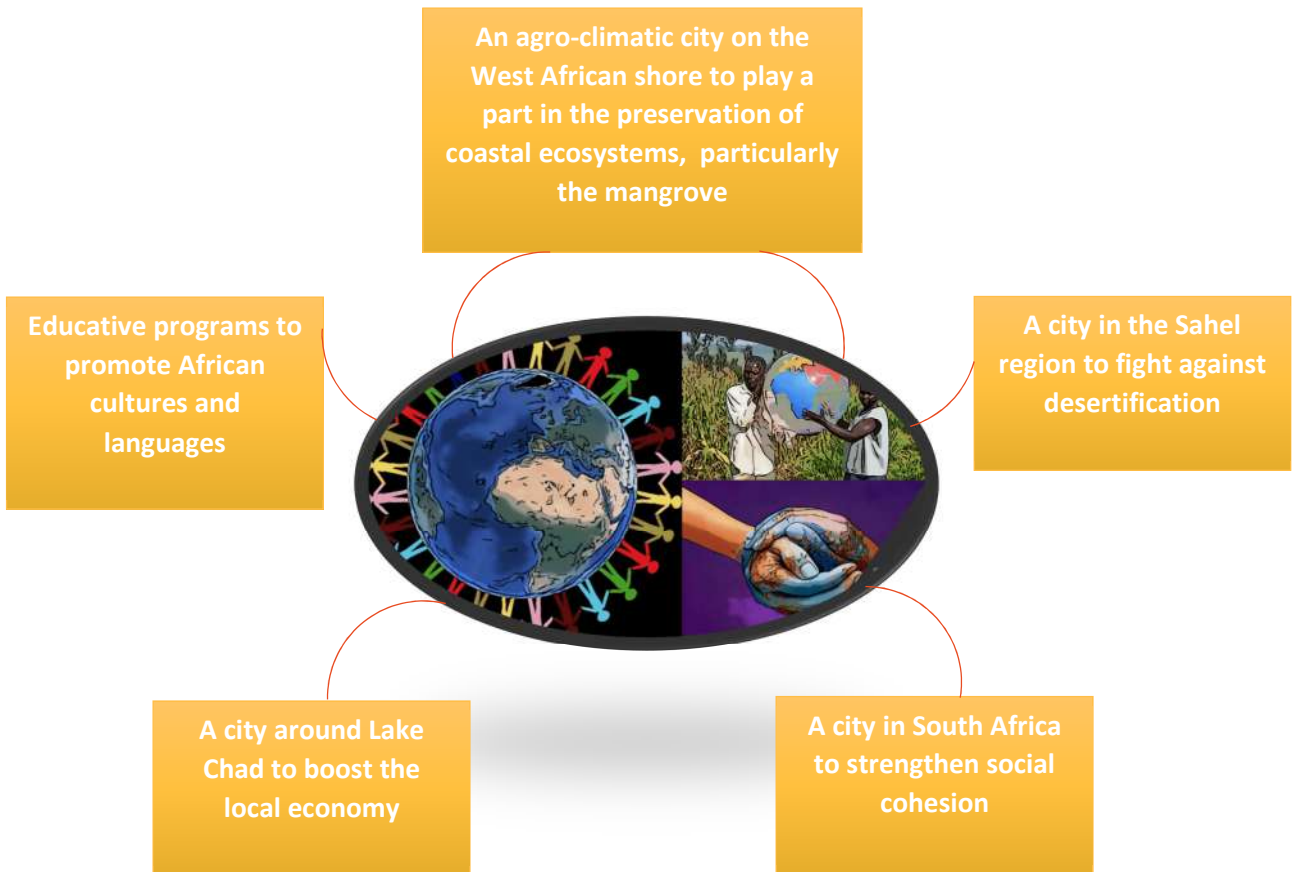
Since 2011, Cameroon has adopted an ecotourism policy. The Papillon Source's Cameroonian city will be a non-negligible asset for the country, and the Congo basin in general.

Also, the transnational intellectual and artistic events that will take place in Ngompen will constitute real assets for the host country's scientific diplomacy.

The unique location and activities of the city will attract scientists, intellectuals, and nature lovers from all over the world, thus opening incredible opportunities for the local youth.

## Africa, cradle of change

*The Inner Africa label could also be :*



The possibilities are endless !



## Our vision for the continent



The African continent is full of opportunities, unexplored potentials and is gifted with wealth that the other continents do not have. We chose to launch the label in Cameroon, and we are fully convinced that the forest's sustainable city will be a catalyzer of lasting peace and unification within the region.

We want to do the same for each country of this great continent.

By becoming a member of the Papillon Source's Inner Africa label, you will also be a driving force of real mutual aid and partnership between Africa and the rest of the world.

African nations, join the movement and let's write together the future of the continent !



**Join the movement !**

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