

Project Update: December 2011

This project started in the rainy season in 2011 and has continued during the dry season. So far general data as well as samples of soil and water have been collected at 17 bais and plant samples at 11 bais in all three countries of the Trinational de la Sangha area. Preliminary field tests indicate a higher content of minerals in ground water in comparison to surface water at elephant feeding sites. Camera traps have been set up around seven bais for altogether 20 weeks. Many different species have been recorded from the giant pangolin (*Smutsia gigantea*) to the African forest elephant (*Loxodonta a. cyclotis*). In the north of Nouabale-Ndoki NP one camera provided evidence that there are spotted hyaenas (*Crocuta crocuta*) even in this forested area. During field missions' local assistants are continuously trained and we work in close collaboration with local NGOs providing reports on activities.



Left: Elephants feeding on *Spirogyra* sp. in Wali bai. Right: Gorilla at a bai bending down in order to feed.



Leopard looking at the camera trap.