

Project Update: January 2015

I. BUDGET

The Elliotti Project has been financed by the Primate Conservation Inc. (PCI) and The Rufford Foundation. Recently, the Waitt Foundation/National Geographic has accepted to send a grant of \$7810 in order to support the project. This third and last grant will help this project to be conducted in a larger area (i.e. including the forest outside of the originally targeted forest reserves, and the small forests which can play a role of corridors for chimpanzee populations).

II. SECOND TRAVEL TO CAMEROON

In late September 2014, the PI of the Elliotti Project (OA DOUMBE) travelled back to Cameroon. Due to an extended rainy season, the field work could not start in early October.

a. TOURING

I met the Mayor of Fundong Sub-Division, Mr Denis Awoh Ndong, during my first trip to Cameroon earlier this year, thanks to John DeMarco. Thanks to our good relationship and his interest in my project, I was invited to be a part of his delegation while touring in the small villages around and inside the forest reserve of Kom-Wum. I met the traditional authorities of each village and was properly introduced to them.

b. FIELD WORK

In late October 2014, field work started in Kom-Wum forest reserve. The dry season was arriving and the rains were more scarce and late in the day which was perfect for our field work. Mbi Crater Game Reserve and the forest of Ntem were also studied before the break of the end of the year. The findings are presented in the table below.

Survey Site	Status of the survey	Chimpanzee signs	Monkey signs
Kom-Wum Forest Reserve ¹	On-going	Seen twice 213 chimpanzee nests Monkeys (seen and/or heard):	Seen and heard: <i>Cercopithecus nictitans</i> , <i>Cercopithecus preussi</i> , <i>Chlorocebus tantalus</i> Heard: <i>Papio anubis</i> , <i>Cercopithecus mona</i>
Mbi Crater Game Reserve	Finished	None	None
Ntem Valley	Finished – may need to go back in the middle/end of the dry season	None	Seen and heard: <i>Cercopithecus nictitans</i> ²

¹ The actual area studied in this survey site is mostly located outside of the boundaries of the forest reserve, where the forest is still large and relatively well preserved. On the contrary the area surveyed inside the forest was suffering from an important anthropomorphic pressure (especially timber exploitation).

² The identification of the species was difficult on the field, a quick video was taken and snapshots of the footage (attached) were sent to Noel Rowe who then sent them to primatologists including John Oates and Rich Bergl. Despite the pictures taken from the side, they concluded it was *Cercopithecus nictitans*.