

Project Update: June 2016

Summary report for the meeting between CRSN and ICCN - Management of Protected areas

A mission from ICCN Kinshasa was sent to discuss the research conducted by CRSN and other research institutions in protected areas in the eastern DR Congo. This comprised the mammals' group by headed by Dr. Prince Kaleme and herpes, under supervision of Mr. Zachary Chifundera.

We highlight only the Mammals section. Research on mammals are conducted in five sites among which, Mount Hoyo Forest Reserve. The sites are mostly forested. Two of them (Virunga NP and Mount Kabobo) have savanna ecosystems with most of them, made of forest and swamps.

Mount Hoyo is the only site located in the lowland (entirely below 1500 m). The total mammal species number in the explored site is 270. Mt Hoyo is not the least but on samples but possesses 65 mammal species among which 45 small mammals with 16 bat species. Flagship species comprise the Okapi (also endemic to the DR Congo) and the Chimpanzee; there are also some primate species such as the black and white colobus, the red colobus and the owl faced monkey. This highlights the importance of this site on its diversity and also conservation in the Albertine Rift, as well as the DR Congo as a country. Apart from it biodiversity, the site is of importance for ecotourism in its caves that make it outstanding in attracting visitors. There is need to increase the lobbying in promoting the site outside by the tour and tourism industry. But there is also need from the DRC officials to improve security so that peoples could be attracted to visit the site. Eleven (11) primate species are present in the site, which makes it outstanding for conservation. The bats are the most numerous in individual number as each cave harbors thousands of individuals. Following the species accumulation curve that is still ascendant, there is need for more sampling until it reaches the plateau (meaning that more species not yet collected can still be found in the site).



Left: Kizito, one of ICCN representatives. Right: Prince in the room during the introduction of the ceremony



Left: Part of the audience, showing the one of the wardens. Right: Prince Near a warden before starting the talk.



Left: Prince starting the talk. Right: Prince during the talk.