

Project Update: July 2016

Field Survey

Beginning from February 2016 to June 2016, our research team completed questionnaire surveys in 15 communities living in proximity of major protected areas in across Cross River State. During this phase of our study, we focused on understanding the prevalence and drivers of the trade in wildlife derivatives in the Cross River region. We also collected information on the factors that influence compliance with wildlife laws in the region. We interviewed at least 10 people across different age classes and occupational types in each of the visited communities. Structured questionnaires designed to capture: 1) the prevalence of trade on wildlife derivatives, 2) economic and cultural drivers of trade on wildlife body parts, and 3) determinants of compliance with wildlife laws were presented to interviewees. So far, we have interviewed 167 people.

Awareness Campaign

Our survey team has so far visited and held conservation awareness meetings with at least one focus group in each of the already surveyed communities. In every community where awareness meetings have been held, we worked closely with community and youth leaders to ensure good attendance. An average attendance of 29 people per meeting was achieved during this phase of the project. We have printed 1000 copies of our conservation awareness poster, and have distributed over 700 copies in all surveyed communities. Posters were distributed during awareness meetings with community chiefs and leaders, around town halls, restaurants, and during house-to-house visits. To reach a wide audience, some posters were posted in public places including market squares, drinking bars and other areas that are frequently visited by villagers. So doing, we are confident that many people who could not attend our awareness meetings, nor received personal copies of the awareness posters will still be able to access them and hopefully comprehend the message.

Work in Progress

We are currently working on completing our surveys in 12 remaining communities that we selected for this study. We are also planning conservation enlightenment meetings in the communities that are yet to be surveyed.

We have already secured a spot on the Cross River Broadcasting Cooperation's weekly TV show "the Ecosystem" for an opportunity to present our project to a wider audience.