

Project Update: April 2018

Akara Hills Forest Survey

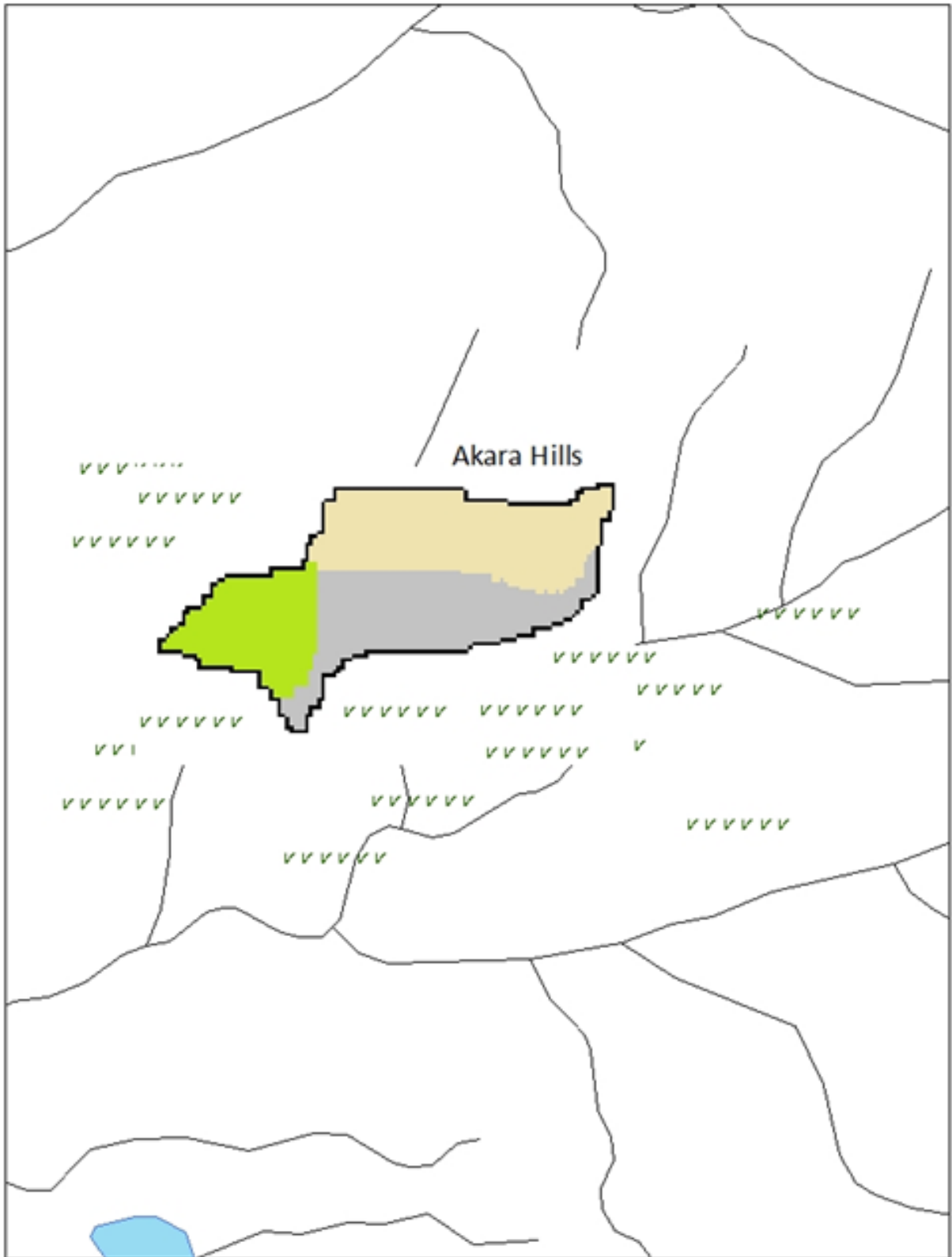
This project phase implementation was initiated in March 2018 and is currently in its second month. This is a report of on the updates of the activities that have been conducted.

This has been successfully conducted and a comprehensive inventory of wildlife species inhabiting the forest has been developed. During the three weeks exercise, 53 different bird species, 17 mammal species, six types of snakes and 28 different species of trees were identified. The checklist also includes both the common names, the scientific and IUCN conservation status of each species identified. Of great concern, the ecosystem hosts the globally endangered grey parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*) and critically endangered hooded vulture (*Necrosyrtes monachus*) that requires urgent conservation interventions due to their rapid population decrease.

During the survey, we observed that much of the farming activities take place on the windward side of the forest with most people growing crops such as maize, beans and vegetables. The most commonly practised farming method is contour ploughing and very low usage of fertilisers. While conducting this, we also considered development and production a geographical map of the forest which is almost complete with preliminary ones already out.



Aaron identifying plants during the forest survey. ©Zeph.



Preliminary map of the Akara Hills Forest