

Project Update: August 2018

1. Direct sightings, camera trap footages and vocalisations of chimps

We heard and subsequently saw a group of about nine Nigerian-Cameroon chimpanzees moving with a group of mona monkeys (*Cercopithecus mona*) on 27th July 2018 at 4:20 pm in Mbongkissu segment of the forest. The chimpanzees moved slowly behind the group of mona monkey and were seen eating the fruits of 'caraboard tree' (*Pycnanthus angolensis*) also eaten by these monkeys. All except one female chimp fled into the forest. This female chimp quickly climbed a tree and observed me from the top while I took a video shot and pictures of it.

A pair of chimps (one male and one female) was photographed by a camera trap in Mbongkissu on 8th July 2018 at 7: 48 am. Another pair (one male and one female), probably the same couple, was photographed on 29th June 2018 at 7: 48 by the same camera trap now moving in the opposite direction to the camera trap with one baboon.

The chimps went in front while the baboon followed them 35 seconds after. We heard chimps vocalising on 17 occasions during this phase of our research. Three times in Mbonkissu, nine times in Mbengkas and four times in Baiso.

2. Chimpanzee diet in Kom-Wum Forest Reserve

Ten faecal samples were collected from 10 different chimpanzee dungs in this phase of the research. We found seeds of seven species of plants in the dung of the Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee by observing directly. We subsequently found the fruit skin remains, endosperm, and full fruits of all seeds identified in chimpanzee faeces on the ground along the chimpanzee track while we followed them. Of the seeds found in chimpanzee dung, three are from nesting trees. Tree species identified in chimp dung encountered include giant yellow mulberry (*Myranthus arboreus*), landolphia (*Landolphia* sp.), bitter cola (*Garcinia cola*) and caraboard tree (*Pycnanthus angolensis*). Of the plant species identified, *Myranthus arboreus* and *Landolphia* sp. were found in all chimpanzee dung encountered. Three fruiting tree species are still to be identified. We also observed a partially digested leaf of an unidentified plant species and the fragment of army ants in one chimpanzee's dung. A honey feeding source of the Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee was found in a tree trunk above with a recent nest on it.

3. Tool used behaviour.

We recorded five more ant feeding sites and tool used sites of the Nigeria-Cameroon Chimpanzee. Of the five sites, two were in Baiso segment of three in Mbengkas.

4. Population genetics

116 air samples have been collected during this phase of the research. Twenty were collected directly from arboreal nests while the others were collected from the playground and feeding sites of chimpanzees.

5. Nest discovery

Chimpanzees have repeated nesting in five out of 33 sites within 3 months of the survey. New nesting sites have been discovered off transects in most of the forest fragments in

Kom-Wum Forest Reserve. The frequent transect re-walks may have influenced the nesting behaviour causing them to nest further away from line transects.



Dung of chimpanzee encountered in Kom-Wum Forest Reserve © Fotang Chefor



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