

Project Update: August 2018

After the pilot study in April 2018, the study design has been refined, and 200 points have been selected randomly for data collection following the stratification sampling method.

For the success of this work, a research assistant, Njie Motombi Francis, has been recruited. Njie was among the few experimented ornithologists formed in Cameroon in 2000 by BirdLife International. Acting as bird guide tour affiliated in Mount Cameroon National Park, he has several ornithological experiences and has participated in several bird studies at national and international level. Also given that the Mount Manengouba is a vast area, our guide Mr Sebastien Ekoume (living in the northern part of the mountain) did not have good knowledge of the southern part of the study area, so we recruited a second field guide, Abdou Babale (through the recommendation of the local NGO Cameroon Herpetology - Conservation Biology Foundation). Abdou is a herder living on the mountain and has participated in several studies done in this mountain. He is knowledgeable of the area and was trained for 2 weeks prior to field work on using equipment such as a tape recorder, compass, binoculars as well as basic techniques for bird identification.

From July to August 2018, rainy season data was collected by moving around various villages bordering the Mt Manengouba forest. We have been conducting point counts and Mackinnon's list surveys to record bird species constituting the avifauna of the area found in rainy season, along with data on the habitat characteristics. Despite high rain this step was a success, and many bird species have been recorded including those of global conservation concern such as green-breasted bushshrike (VU), Bannerman's weaver (VU), white-throated mountain babbler (EN) and grey-headed greenbul (NT).

In January 2019, we will return to collect data for dry season session, and coupled with those of rainy season, we will have a good idea about avifauna of Mount Manengouba proposed National Park.



Team members, from left to right: Njie Francis (research assistant), Guilain Tsetagho (principal investigator) and Abdoul Babale (second field guide).



Left: Abdoul during training, with Guilain using binoculars. Right : Francis using bird guide.



Left: Team members during data collection. Right : Consultation between Guilain Tsetagho and Francis Njie on the field.



Left: Bannerman's weaver *Ploceus bannermani* (VU). Right : Yellow-breasted Boubou *Laniarius atroflavus* (restricted range species).