

Project Update: May 2018

In April 2018, a first visit has been carried out in the Mount Manengouba to encounter local authorities (state officers and delegates), traditional leaders, local, and other key stakeholders in the fringe communities, in order to let them know about the project and acquire their permission for its implementation. Also, it was the first step to establish collaboration with local NGO Cameroon Herpetology - Conservation Biology Foundation (CAMHERP-CBF), dedicated to amphibian protection, and which is executing a project in the area to designate Mount Manengouba as Protected Area.

A few pilot surveys have been done in order to test the feasibility and the effectiveness of the chosen methods, and to familiarise ourselves with the site, its habitats type and topography important to refine our study design. Moreover our introduction in the site was facilitated by CAMHERP-CBF, and a field guide Sebastien Ekoume was recruited among villagers in Soung village. He worked previously with CAMHERP-CBF during mount Manengouba's amphibian survey. Very experimented and with good knowledge of the area, he received additional skills (to assist in data collection) such as how to use binoculars, player recorder, GPS, laser finder range and compass. Sebastien learned very fast, and I am confident that his formation on bird identification will go on very easily during field work. Neither more, this pilot survey enhance us to familiarise ourselves with endemic birds found in Mount Manengouba, have an overview about threats on species and associate habitats. It is also important to note that, during this pilot survey, species of global conservation concern such as Bannerman weaver (VU) *Ploceus bannermani* and Cameroon montane greenbul (NT) *Andropadus montanus* have been observed. I am confident that during upcoming intensive field work, more individuals as well as other threatened species will be recorded.

This step has been successful and the next step will be to conduct bird surveys throughout the Mount Manengouba, firstly during rainy season and secondly during dry season, in order to have a brief overview on Mount Manengouba's avifauna, estimate population, distribution and densities of species of global conservation concern found in the area.



View of Mount Manengouba's landscape from the summit.



Left: Meeting between Mr Tsetagho Guilain (in the left side of table) and Mr Fai, project manager of CAMHERP-CBF (in the right side of table with computer in front him); with aim to let them know about the project. Right: Working science between Guilain Tsetagho (in left) and Mr Fai (in right), with aim to provide more information about the site, as well as other essential elements necessary for our visit in the site.



Left: Guilain Tsetagho in right sitting on traditional chair, having discussion with local about threatened endemic bird species found in Mount Manengouba forest. Right: Field guide Mr Sebastien Ekoume, during his training on binocular using.



Guilain Tsetagho recording data during pilot survey.