



PROJECT UPDATE - JANUARY 2022

Distribution and Conservation Status of Medium and Large Mammals in Residual Forests of South-Eastern Region of Côte d'Ivoire

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I/ EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The project focuses on mammals present in residual forests of south-eastern Côte d'Ivoire. The region is part of the Upper-Guinean Biodiversity hotspot, but its biodiversity is largely unknown and information about the current status of numerous species is lacking. The goal is to update distribution and conservation status of medium and large mammals and identify the drivers of deforestation and wildlife depletion. Results of this study will permit to develop a rational conservation strategy of biodiversity in the region.

II/ PROJECT PROGRESS

Data collection was done for the dry and rainy seasons. A total of 93 912 photos and videos were collected. We have already analysed photos and videos from two sites and will continue with those of the two other sites. Data from cameras will be compare with those obtained with the linear transect and Recce methods. Funds for the project were received in August 2020, but activities of the project really started in December 2020. The first update report date from March 2021. The activities carried out between March 2021 and January 2022, are described in the following paragraphs.

1. Camera traps sessions

During the rainy season, between April and July 2021, we continued to set up camera traps (CT) in the four sites. The first site was the N'ganda N'ganda Classified Forest (NNCF), where we set up 26 camera traps lasting 21 days (April to May 2021). After this step, we set up 13 camera traps in the Soumié Classified Forest (SCF) for 21 days too (May to June 2021). Then, we put 17 CT in the third site that is the Comoé 1 Classified Forest (C1CF). After 21 days (June 2021), we uninstalled the devices of C1CF and we put 29 CT in the Ehotile Islands National Park (EINP). We trained a second student in this second session. We already analysed 55 756 photos and videos (59,37%). The table below is a summary of the number of camera traps that were laid on different study sites and the number of photos and videos per site.

Table 1: trapping program and camera trap performance

Study Site	Period	Number of CT laid	Number of photos/videos
EINP	December 2020 – January 2021 and July 2021	29	22 047
Soumié CF	January-February 2021 and May-June 2021	13	3 252
Comoé1 CF	February-March 2021 and June 2021	17	8 742
N'ganda N'ganda CF	March – May 2021	26	59 871
Total		85	93 912

2. Difficulties and hazards

Since we have the good model of camera traps, we didn't have any problem to implement the survey in the field, except the weather in rainy season that give us more difficulties to lay the camera traps. We have three camera traps that no longer work. Fortunately, our supplier has sent us replacements. The treatment of pictures lasted more time than planned, and we are late in our chronogram.

III/ Upcoming project activities

We are still analysing photos and videos collected in Classified Forests, and we will make posters and flyers exhibiting photo of medium and large mammals collected by the camera traps. We will go in riparian villages to share with them results of this project and to show mammals that we can see in their forests. There is also a scientific paper in preparation.

Table 2 presents the logical framework of the project.

Table 2: Project overall objective

Project overall objective: Update the distribution and conservation status of medium and large mammal species still present in selected residual forests in the Sud-Comoé region						
Project results	Indicators	Target/baseline	Progress	Source of verification	Outputs	Activities
R.1 A quasi-exhaustive inventory of mammals in the area with the support of images	IND.1.1 Number of camera traps laid simultaneously	Target: total of 20 CTs installed simultaneously	Between 13 and 29 CTs installed simultaneously, depend on study site	GPS Points per area, map	O.1.1 The distribution of the mammals and to identify their ecological preferences	A.1.1.1 Install of camera traps on the four sites
	IND.1.2 Total number of points where the devices could be placed on a site compared to the initial points of the grid	Target: Soumié CF 15 CT Comoé 1 CF: 24 CT N'ganda N'ganda CF: 21 CT EINP: 29 CT (Assoko: 13 CT, Balouaté : 4 CT, Niamoin : 4CT, Méa : 3 CT, Elouamé : 5CT)	Soumié CF: 13 CT Comoé 1 CF: 17 CT N'ganda N'ganda CF: 27 CT EINP: 29 CT (Assoko: 13 CT, Balouaté: 3 CT, Niamoin: 4 CT, Méa: 4CT, Elouamé: 5 CT)	GPS Points per area		A.1.2.1 Create a cartographic representation of the camera traps location
	IND.1.3 Number of weeks when camera traps are layed per study area	Target: six weeks per area	Six weeks for the Soumié CF, Comoé 1 CF N'ganda N'ganda CF and EINP.	Activity reports, map		A.1.3.1 Planning the schedule of camera traps
	IND.1.4 Number of pictures that can be used for all the points where the devices have been installed	Target: To have at least one exploitable image per day (on 89 points), so approximately 3 780 images	In progress: EINP = 4 581; Soumié CF= 1 527; N'ganda N'ganda CF = 3 173	Results of images of camera traps	O.1.2 A photographic database of mammals of the South-eastern Côte d'Ivoire	A.1.4.1 Create a collection of images based on camera traps A.1.4.2 Select the best images for the photographic database
	IND.1.5 Number of mammal species identified with each method	Target: more species identified with camera trap than linear transect method Baseline: Number with linear transect and Recce method and old reports	In progress: EINP: 8 mammal species identified with CT; Soumié CF: 8 mammal species EINP : 9 species from Recce, 15 from old reports;	Results of images of camera traps First results of my PhD, old reports	O.1.3 A quasi-exhaustive inventory of mammals in the area with the support of images	A.1.5.1 Inventory of mammals describe in reports evaluating the presence of mammals A.1.5.2 Analyse data collected with Recce and linear transect method A.1.5.3 Analyse images of camera traps

			N'ganda N'ganda FC: 13 from Recce/Transect and 11 from old reports; Soumié FC: 8 from Recce/Transect, 3 from old reports; Comoé 1 FC: 8 from Recce/Transect, 0 from old reports			
R2 Improvement of agent's capacities and knowledge of sites managers on mammals	IND.2.1 Number of agents trained to place camera traps on field	Target: 2 agents per institutions	2 agents for the OIPR and 2 agents for the SODEFOR were sensibilized and formed to camera trap directly on field	Photos, reports	O.2.1 Agents are qualified to use camera traps	A.2.1.1 Theoretical training about camera traps A.2.1.2 Training on field to place camera traps
	IND.2.2 Number of mammal species known by the agents responsible of the study sites	Target: The agents known also the cryptic animals of the area	First web questionnaires were diffuse to agents to know their knowledges about animals.	Before-and-after questionnaires	O.2.2 Agents know species that live in their protected area and can be more efficient in the surveillance and sensibilisation	A.2.2.1 Interview or web questionnaires diffuse to agents
		Baseline: The agents known the most common species present in the area				A.2.2.2 Presentation of result found with camera traps
						A.2.2.3 Posters of mammals in different site create and give to sites managers
R3 Diffusion of result in riparian village	IND.3.1 Number of village touch by the presentation of the results	Target: 20 villages	Expected in April 2022	Photos, reports, presence list	O.3.1 Local community is awareness about conservation status of mammals in their region	A.3.1.1 Presentations of result in villages
	IND.3.2 Number of flyers distributed to community about results of the project	Target: 100 flyers	Expected in April 2022	Factures, Photos, reports	O.3.2 Local community better known mammal species that are still present in the region	A.3.2.1 Distribution of flyers in sous-prefecture A.3.2.2 Distribution of flyers in village (chief and school)

IV/ ANNEXES



Photo 1 : Setting of camera traps under the rain.



Photo 2: Installation of camera traps in areas where water has risen during the rainy season.



Photo 3: Illegally cut trees on the border of one of the classified forests.



Photo 4: Last camera traps recovered indicating the end of data collection.