

Project Update: May 2023

Details of the Project Update:

We first met with the management of our study sites to discuss the project's potential approaches, and the meeting served as the project's kick-off. We also met and discussed with the local field assistants (Figure 1). After that, we conducted social science surveys with the local people to learn about their historical knowledge of our target species, including the historical distribution of the species, the most effective technique to protect the species, etc. In light of the social science survey findings, we selected the localities for the ecological field survey. Based on the social science survey, we used visual encounter surveys and opportunistic observations (Figure 2-3) to search and record amphibians and reptiles in the mountain (Figure 4).



Figure 1: Discussion with the local field assistants



Figure 2: Field activities in one of our project sites – Idanre hills



Figure 3: Group pictures with the local field assistants





Figure 4: Some of the amphibians and reptiles recorded.

We organised conservation education programmes (CEP) in a school (Methodist High School Odode-Ilanre) covering more than 60 local students (Figures 5-6). Picture documentaries, posters, and discussions were used during CEPs.



Figure 5: Group pictures with the local teachers and field guide



Figure 6: One of the team members educating the local students about herpetofauna conservation.

We also conducted a community-based conservation awareness programme in Obatedo village within Idanre Hills to educate locals on the need for conserving amphibians and reptiles and their associated habitats (Figures 7-9).



Figure 7: Presentation of conservation materials to community members





Figure 8: Amphibian conservation outreach in Obatedo village, Idanre hills





Figure 8: Group picture with some of the community members of Obatedo village in Idanre Hills, Nigeria.

Next Plan

We also plan to revisit the school (Methodist High School Odode-Idanre) for the establishment of the Herp Conservation Club and also conduct capacity-building workshops for the students in the club, especially on the use of iNaturalist in biodiversity documentation and inventory. We also plan to complete the field surveys across other montane regions in the last phase of this project.