

Project Update: April 2023

Context

My work in the Bouba Ndjidda National Park, Cameroon looks at recording data on the current status of Kordofan giraffe populations in the park, the threats on the species, the interactions between local communities around Bouba Ndjidda National Park and the giraffes; data which will allow us to set up an effective monitoring system focused on Kordofan giraffes in the areas of the park.



Activity undertaken

In the first 3 months of the project, my team and I conducted activities related to the local ecological knowledge: data collection on the perception of the local communities living around Bouba Ndjidda National Park on the giraffe.

We conducted the local ecological knowledge survey on Kordofan giraffe around BNNP through a semi-structured interview (Djiongo *et al.*, 2020; Mouafo *et al.*, 2021). The questionnaire was designed in Kobo ToolBox, deployed in Kobo Collect and accompanied by survey sheets for the interviews. It contained questions related to the presence and abundance of the giraffes in and around the BNNP, threats to the giraffes and their habitat, exploitation of giraffe parts in the local communities around the park, and other issues.

Results

As result of this fieldwork, we obtained a database of the perceptions of 160 local people living around Bouba Ndjidda National Park about the giraffe populations in the park and the interactions between giraffes and them. The data has been analyzed and a scientific paper is being prepared for submission under the title: Local knowledge and perceptions of Kordofan Giraffe (*Girafa camelopardalis* spp. *antiquorum*) population trends by local communities in Bouba Ndjidda national park, Cameroon.



Image 1: Interview with a Peulh (herder)



Image 2: Team members conducting survey with local people at Mbissiri.

Upcoming activities:

Over the next 9 months, we plan to conduct drone flights in the park during the dry and rainy seasons to compare giraffe densities and distribution in the park between

seasons, set up camera traps to track giraffes in the park, and to conduct walking counts on representative transects of the park. In situ training on drone piloting and cameras traps handling will be organised each time before the use of the different equipment for data collection.