

Project Update : September 2023

From July 25 to August 31 2023, we carried out surveys on the use and management of *Diospyros crassiflora* in the peripheral areas of Campo-Ma'an National Park. The surveys took place in eight villages (Assok I, Bifa, Minko, Mabiogo, Aloum II, Mvini, Ebinemeyong and Aloum I) peripheral to the Campo-Ma'an Park. Structured and semi-structured interviews were conducted between July and August 2022 with 301 people between the ages of 20 and 75, with 36.9% women and 63.1% men (Table I).

Table I : Socio-demographic characteristics of participants

	Categories	Total of participants	Percentage %
Gender	M	190	63.1
	F	111	36.9
Age			
	[20 ;30]	68	22.6
	[31 ;41]	89	29.6
	[42 ;52]	78	25.9
	[53 ;63]	52	17.3
	[64 ;75]	14	4.6
Familial situation	Single	106	35.2
	Married	189	62.8
	Divorced	6	1.9
Education	Primary	89	29.6
	College	134	44.5
	High school	70	23.2
	University	8	2.6
Locality	Assok I	33	10.9
	Aloum I	32	10.63
	Aloum II	41	13.62
	Bifa	30	9.9
	Ebinemeyong	40	13.3
	Mabiogo	45	14.9
	Minko	31	10.3
	Mvini	49	16.3

The results obtained showed that several organs of the plant are used, namely the wood, the seed, the bark, the leaf, the fruit and the root. With a relative frequency of mention (FRC = 49%), wood represents the most stressed organ. The cut is the most important collection method with a relative frequency of citation (FRC = 49.1%).

These organs are valued in six categories of use such as : animal feed, crafts, timber, traditional medicine, ritual and energy. Lumber was the largest use category, with use value (Vu = 49.1%). Wood is the only organ of the plant that generates a substantial annual income of 31, 680, 000 FCFA. Ebony is also used in the treatment of diseases. Gastric ulcer was the most cited disease, with a frequency of citation (Fc = 36.7%). The *D. crassiflora* vulnerability index was determined in each of the eight neighboring villages. Overall, the vulnerability index is (Iv = 2.5).

I am sending you some pictures to update the profile of my webpage on the site of The Rufford Foundation.



Figure 1 : I fill out the survey sheets with two loggers (I'm in an orange T-shirt). Figure 2a : This picture shows an example of products obtained by the sculptors.



Figure 2b : This picture shows an example of products obtained by the sculptors.



Figure 4 : This picture shows an example of products obtained by the sculptors.
Figure 5 : Here we met a sculptor in full activity, his sculpture concerns only the species *Diospyros crassiflora*.



Figure 6 : This picture shows *Diospyros crassiflora* bundles of timber already sawn inside a house converted into a sawmill. In this house, only ebony wood is transformed. Taking pictures is strictly prohibited.

Nevertheless, this project experienced a delay due to the University of Maroua. I received the funds at the end of June, but they had been available since April 21.