

Project Update: March 2001

We have now visited fourteen villages within the Takamanda Forest Reserve and on the outskirts of the Mone Forest Reserve. We have discussed in each village the forthcoming year's surveys and have disseminated the research findings from 1998/99: we have established good relations with the traditional chiefs and councils in these villages.

Several gorilla surveys have so far been undertaken, in both highland and lowland areas. One highland area just a new hundred meters from a village revealed several gorilla nests, thus calling into question the assumption that such areas would not harbour many animals. The area north of Matene was investigated to confirm the presence or absence of gorillas: it seems that this area is hunted by both Cameroon and Nigeria and although the local tradition outlaws the eating of primates, this does not prevent hunters from killing and selling them.