

Project Update: February 2012

From September to November 2011, we collected mushrooms in our locality of study. Thanks to GTI grant, we identified some species with the help of some Belgian mycologists.

On 2nd February 2012 we organised a seminar at the cultural house of Foumban on the importance of fungi and the conservation of the environment. Participants were representatives of eight villages and local NGOs. Main items where:

- Importance of forest;
- General knowledge on fungi;
- Consequences of environmental disturbance;
- Collection, identification and conservation of edible mushrooms.

After discussions the main observation was that, there were many species of mushrooms that were used in Bamoun Kingdom; due to ecosystem's destruction, many species became rare or disappeared. Nowadays, there is a lost in the traditional knowledge on fungi.

If nothing is done to stop the actual rate of environmental destruction in this division which was known as "seedman of central Africa", in 15 years it will import forestry and agricultural products. At the end of the seminar, each delegation received posters prepared as 2012 calendar with pictures of mushrooms and shorts information in French and Bamoun languages about importance of mushrooms and environmental protection to be distributed to leaders in villages while transferring knowledge received during the seminar.