



BAT FIELD TECHNIQUES WORKSHOP

Maroua June 26-28, 2012



WORKSHOP REPORT

Compiled by Eric Moise Bakwo Fils

Workshop Steering Committee

- BANGA CLAIR RENE; Far North Regional Delegate of Ministry of Environment, Protection, Nature and Sustainable Development;
- ERIC MOISE BAKWO FILS, Lecturer-researcher; Department of life and Earth Sciences, University of Maroua;

Introduction

Cameroon is a highly diversify country with a relatively large bat fauna. To date, at least 75 species of bats have been identified. With the current habitat loss due to human activities, many species are predicted to decline. Thus, this country needs urgent conservation action with an interest by active research and education. Ideas about bats among Cameroonians' population are formed based on very little face to face experience and bats are viewed with suspicion. Indeed, rarely do humans come into close contact with bats and their knowledge is based on folkloric tales of vampires and little or no correct information. Community education is important in area where bat conservation and the value of bats to healthy ecosystems are unknown. It is well known that human understand only what he experienced and learned. It is beneficial to teach youths to form different impressions about bats and to develop empathy and understanding the interdependence between bats and ecosystem.

The goal of this workshop which was sponsored by the Rufford Small Grant and Bat Conservation International was to build up a community of bat researchers in Cameroon. This was also an opportunity to celebrate the year of the bat in Cameroon.

Seven representatives from the Ministry of Environment, Protection, Nature and Sustainable Development, five representatives of Ministry of Forest and Wildlife, and eight from the University of Maroua attended the workshop.

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

The overall workshop findings were:

- improve handling, field and lab techniques for scientific studies.
- build up a community of bat researchers in Cameroon

INAUGURAL

ERIC MOISE BAKWO FILS; University of Maroua

BANGA CLAIR RENE; Far North Regional Delegate of Ministry of Environment, protection, nature and Sustainable development.

Eric Bakwo began the workshop by stating the main objectives of this first workshop on field techniques for ecological studies of bats in Cameroon. He also state about the importance to conserve bats in Cameroon and the celebration of year of the bat.



Inaugural lecture of Mr Banga Clair René

Day 1

LECTURE 1: IUCN RED LIST CRITERIA AND CATEGORIES by Adamou Yaya

- Criteria of classification
- Categories of the red list



Mr Adamou Yaya during his presentation

LECTURE 2: ANATOMY AND ECOLOGY OF BATS by Bol A Anong Alima

- Morphological adaptation
- Skin and bones
- Muscles
- Skulls and teeth
- Reproduction
- Diet
- Migration



Mr Anong lecturing participants on bats anatomy

LECTURE 3: ECHOLOCATION by Dr David Emery Tsala

- Principle of echolocation
- Adaptation of the auditory periphery of bats for echolocation
- How echolocating bats search and find food



Dr. Tsala during his presentation on echolocation

Day 2

LECTURE 1: BATS AND ZONOSSES by Aaron Manga

- Viruses transmitted by bats
- Bacteria transmitted by bats

LECTURE 2: ECOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE OF BATS by bol A Anong

- Importance of frugivorous bats
 - seed dispersal
 - pollination
- Importance of insectivorous bats
 - pest insects control



Mr Anong explaining the importance of bats to the participants

LECTURE 3: STANDARD METHODS FOR THE STUDY OF BATS by Eric Moise Bakwo Fils

- Mist nets
- harp traps
- bats detectors



Eric Bakwo explaining how to use a bat detector



Eric bakwo lecturing participants

LECTURE 4: FIELD WORK by Eric Moise Bakwo Fils and Bol A Anong

- demonstration of mist nets erection



Mr Anong demonstrates erection of mistnets



Miss Nicaise from the University of Maroua setting up a net

- releasing bat from mist net



Participants learning how to remove bat from net

- Collecting bat's faeces



Participants learning how to keep bat in bag



Mr Kounga explaining participants how to use a GPS

Day 3

LECTURE 1: BAT'S TAXONOMY by Eric Moise Bakwo Fils and Bol A Anong

- Morphometric measurements



Mr Anong demonstrating how to measure bats

- Morphological identification of bats using identification key (Rosevear 1965, Hayman, 1971)



Mr Anong explaining how to identify bats with a key



Mr Meva'a and Miss Manga at the end of the workshop

List and contacts of Participants

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