

Project Update: December 2012

A combination of direct search and guided reconnaissance has been employed to ascertain the current status of the Nigerian-Cameroon chimpanzee population in Ise, Akure-Ofosu and Idanre forest reserves. Thus far, at least 60km have been surveyed within the study areas and preliminary results reveal that remnant chimpanzee populations are mostly threatened by habitat conversion to other land use types. Current project efforts are focused on stakeholders' consultations with communities and Ondo State Ministry of Natural Resources for immediate demarcation of 100 km² area within the Akure- Ofosu forest reserve as chimpanzee sanctuary. In addition, the project team is set to conduct further surveys in other areas within the Idanre cluster including gallery forests adjacent the Ise forest reserve during the peak of the dry season December/January.



Left: Chimp head, hands and feet fetch top price used by traditional rituals. Right: Massive habitat loss in Ise.