

Project Update: December 2015

The project implementation has started, and is going on successfully as planned. Community and school visits for project information and awareness were held around the site, in form of preliminary workshops in early November, 2015 to establish contacts with local authorities (state officers and delegates), traditional leaders, local hunters, and other key stakeholders in the fringe communities. Field reconnaissance surveys were then undertaken with assistance of Mefire Ahmadou, a junior assistant eco-guard (from local community) with no experience on the field. Ahmadou received 3 weeks of fieldwork training from mid-November to early 2015. He learned how to collect data on habitat characteristics and environmental variables, and also to survey birds using binoculars, acoustic recorders and bird identification guide.

In December 2015, few Pilot surveys have been carried out. This was to ensure about the precision and feasibility of field methods, of the accuracy of the study design, and of what time period the point count may be best, while comparing it with transect method; to check for evidence of major threats impairing the survival of birds of Mount Mbam forest and to familiarise with the areas where the endemic birds, including those of global conservation concern which are located in the Mbam Hill Forests and the geographic coordinates of these areas were taken for sampling.

The next stage of the project will be to conduct bird surveys throughout the Mount Mbam forest, allowing us to compare species diversity, to estimate population densities and distribution of species of global conservation concern.



Alain Senghor Ngute (sitting in blue wear), Mefire Ahmadou (sitting in green camouflage) having discussions about the project with a traditional chief and local peoples in the project area.

A side view of Mt Mbam highest peak





Alain Senghor (Second from left) and Ahamadou Mefire with teachers and local hunter after having a briefing about the project during a school visit.

Field assistant Ahmadou Mefire measuring trees high using a Laser rangefinder



Presence of discarded cartridges and feathers suggest that poachers are around, with birds being their targets