

## Project Update: July 2016

Mfombo and team have carried out the first phase of the planned field survey in all known habitats of the Bannerman's turaco, except the Fossimondi forest block. Surveys were also carried out in some unreported habitats of the species. These are the species habitat that the Mfombo Foundation has identified through her research work in this area. This include portions of the Bafut-Ngamba forest. Survey were carries out in the Bamendankwe hills, Batibo, Sabga and Wum forests.

Socio-economic survey aimed at investigating the sociocultural push to the harvesting of the feather of the species has also begun in some villages in all the tribes in the landscape.

Some results:

- a. A total of 215 count stations were set out in the landscape.
- b. Sub population of the species was found in a traditionally protected forest in Bamendankwe, Batibo and Wum.
- c. Preliminary data analysis indicate the Killum Ijim forest has a high species encounter rate, bird abundance and bird population density compared to other forests of the landscape.
- d. Forest fires, charcoal business, feather harvesting, forest clearing still remain greatest threats to wildlife species in this landscape.
- e. Socioeconomic questionnaires have been issued to over 25 villages in the landscape (mostly, questionnaires were issued to villages close to the forest and make maximum use of the forest). Targets included hunters, farmers, honey farmers, notables, traders of wildlife hunted parts, herbalists and government officials.
- f. Over 10,000 trees have been nursed, including both native and fast growing agroforestry tree species in nurseries in communities; and are awaiting transplant. Over 3500 seeds have been distributed to over 300 farmers to be nursed and planted on their group and individual farms.
- g. In collaboration with the delegation of agriculture and some research institutes, improved seed varieties have been distributed to about 80 farming groups. This is aimed at evaluating productivity.
- h. The Mfombo Foundation research team has established collaboration with a Rufford small grant grantee, Alain Senghore, to complete survey in the Mt Mbam.



Mfombo and Senghore on bird survey in the Mt Mbam.



Left: Tree nursery of native tree species (*Prunus africana*) established Oku village. Right: Mfombo, investigating from a notable, the importance of feather to the decoration to elders in Fundong village.