

Project Update: April 2017

Activities

The main activities realised focused on engagement of local communities living around Ewè-Adapklame Relic Forest (EARF). Delegates from local leaders, National Herbarium of Benin, citizen sciences specialist, media, representatives of conservation NGO and reserve managers in Benin were informed of the Booster Grant project outlines.

On February 18th 2017, a workshop of meeting followed by discussions and visiting were organised for all of participants at the National Herbarium of Benin (HNB), University of Abomey-Calavi. A total of 38 participants shared through focus groups, their knowledge on EARF and native trees collected and preserved by the national herbarium during last 30 years.

Manuscripts describing significant results of our previous project with locals since 2014 (RSG1, RSG2) were also be considered for media coverage. This third Award (RSG Booster Grant) is newsworthy. The "Potential" local newspaper, public TV office ("ORTB"), "Carrefour" TV, public office radio ("ORTB") and "Radio Univer" (university radio) outlets were among media invited for the event coverage. In link with our previous projects, they widely disseminated this meeting in order to reach as many people as possible. Simultaneous release to media were carefully orchestrated so that the information is timely used to increase the likelihood that our story were written for another media outlets.

This workshop is necessary to improve classical research methods by opting for the effective valorisation of reasearch results. This justify the need to get local communities which are non-scientists to draw inspiration from professionals, in instance, learn from scientists of the national herbarium. By the same way, scientists, instead of teaching only learners who live far from conservation areas, have used this opportunity to share their knowledge with peoples in urgent needs.



Local communities in a meeting with Senior Lawani Chakirou and Dr Adomou Aristide at the National herbarium of Benin



Focus group of local communities and scientists exploring herbaria collected from Ewè-Adakplame Relic Forest





Other participants with local communities on the way to the unique university garden of Benin



Focus group of local communities visiting the university garden of Benin



End of workshop photo