Project Update: December 2017

The study site, Dipikar Island (2° 10'-2°18'N, 2° 17'-2°14'E), is located in the Campo Ma'an National Park (CMNP), in South Region, Cameroon. After the group's home range was better understanding we begin climate data collection, opened transects for phenology of trees consumed by gorilla and short botanical inventory (see figure 1 and 2). Also, we begin daily gorilla tracking and conduct nest/fecal sample for diet study and behavioral data collection on the study group. In general, Side charge plus loud vocalisation (silverback reaction) was the major reaction observed than the other reaction occurred (≥ 75%). In fact, THV feeding was the major activity recorded preferentially over traveling, resting, games. We rarely observe fear and ignorance so, it was very difficult for us to observe all the group individual giving the fact that the number of member in the group is too high (average number of nest per site was fifty). Dubscia macrocarpa was the major species of fruit found in fecal sample. Dubscia macrocarpa and Irvinaia gabonensis was the major fruit found as fruit food by the group during their daily tracking. Aframomun spp., Megaphrynium macrostachyum, Anchomanes difformes, Ancistrophylullum secundiflorum, Eremospatha macrocarpa and Haxalobus crispiflorus was the major THV species use as food daily and to build their nest.

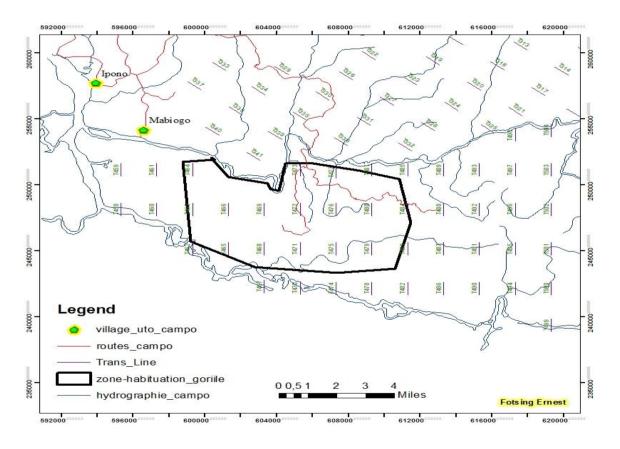


Figure 1: Transect within the core area of the group

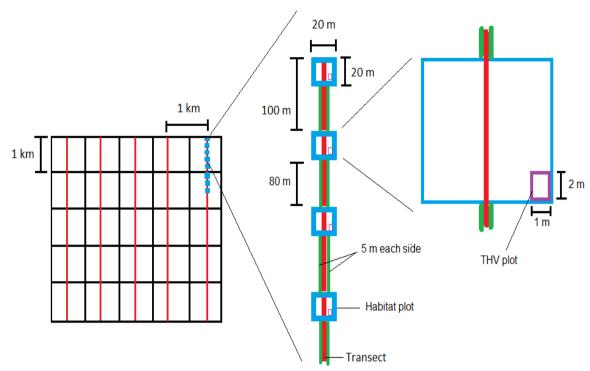


Figure 2: Grid of for example of 5 x5 km (black lines) with transects (red lines) running through the centre of the grid cells. The $20m \times 20m$ habitat plots (blue) are placed all the way along the entire length of the 4 km transect at an interval of 500 m. All trees with DBH $\geq 10 \text{ cm}$ within the habitat plots will be recorded. Within each habitat plot, consistently placed in one of the corners, is a 2 m2 THV plot (purple), in which the number of herbs < 2 m is counted.



One of several females within the group we're currently habituating.



Left: Irvingia gobonensis (fruit) eat by gorilla group. Right: Diospyros sp. Fruit eat by silverback.



Left: Big stone found in fecal sample, swallow by gorilla. Right: Some seed found in gorilla fecal sample during watching process.



Left: Ground nest of silverback. Right: No vegetation nest.



Left: Gorilla habituation camp. Right: Moving in the field.



Left: Ntem River who surround the study site (Dipikar Island). Right: Crossing Ntem River Bridge.



Left: Bark of Eyong (Eribloma oblongum) peeled and feed by gorilla group member. Right: Local botanist during measurement of DBH.