

Project Update: November 2018

The second fieldwork trip has just finished and I carried out all activities as planned. First, I carried out a short market survey of bushmeat traded in Kindu town, to compare with findings on bushmeat trade from the village survey. I interviewed 30 vendors on a voluntary basis and I asked about the species they traded, the prices and volumes, the origin of the species traded and other information, such as which species have become difficult to find in the past 10 years.

Then, I went to some villages sampled during my first fieldtrip to collect plant samples of the tree species mentioned before, which could not be identified. Some of these samples have already been identified by GIZ/DFS experts in Kindu (after my trip to the villages), and the remaining ones will be taken to the Herbarium of Lwiro next week (where a colleague will help me identify them). During this short visit to some villages, I distributed a preliminary report (in French) to the village chiefs. They were very keen to learn what did the other villages and ethnic groups had said, which were they preferred forest ecosystem services, animal and plant species, and the suggestions others made for improved management.

Upon my return to Kindu, taking advantage of a GIZ project meeting which involved several village chiefs and my supervisor Dr Imani, I distributed more copies of the preliminary report. I also shared a copy with the park manager of Lomami National Park (see photo) and other conservation organisations such as GIZ and GFA. I will integrate their comments and feedback and produce the final report.

Now I will focus on data analysis (bushmeat vendor study, medicinal plant vendor study), add the species identified in Lwiro, and incorporate all comments made during this trip to complete the final report, and write a publication. The aim of this research is to better understand how local communities use Lomami forest, so that some activities could be regulated and some alternative ones identified and promoted.



Smoked monkey meat at Kindu market (left) and a hunter with a fresh monkey he just

killed (right).



Collecting leaf samples in the forest (Rodrigue left and field assistant right).



Sharing the preliminary report with park manager and Dr. Imani (left) and village chiefs during GIZ meeting in Kindu (right).