

Project Update: July 2019

As planned in our project, we carried out in the forest area of Mpem et Djim National Park MDNP, Cameroon another field round trip with the objective of assessing the suitable area for the white-bellied pangolin monitoring in the wild using camera traps and thus assessing the effectiveness of using camera trap to locate the white-bellied pangolin.

1- Purchase of camera traps

Thirty camera traps have been bought from Amazon US and transported to Cameroon by one of our mentor to whom we are very grateful.



Figure 1: New camera traps bought for the white-bellied pangolin monitoring in MDNP

2- Camera traps establishment in Mpem et Djim National Park

Thirty camera traps have been established in the forest area of the MDNP on the assumed white-bellied pangolin pathway and signs of activity.



Figure 2: Establishment of one camera trap in Mpem et Djim National Park, Cameroon

3- Monitoring areas for the white pangolin

Sites chosen for the white bellied pangolin monitoring in the wild include areas of suspected recent and high white-pangolin activities and logs which was assumed to be preferably used by the white-bellied pangolin as pathway.



Figure 3: Camera trap established on area of suspected recent and high white-pangolin activities. Figure 4: camera trap established to monitor the white bellied pangolin activities on log (dead tronc).

4- Giant pangolin monitoring in the forest area of Mpem et Djim National Park

The forest part of the protected area has been surveyed and all sign indicating giant pangolin activity was recorded. Only two abandoned assumed giant pangolin burrows was identified with local guides help in the survey area. Given that the giant pangolin is not known to dig it burrow itself, we made the reasonable assumption that this could be because aardvark burrows on which they rely for nesting are mostly distributed in the savannah part of the park. Giant pangolin are known from the forest and the savannah. We don't know much about factors affecting giant pangolin distribution in their home range and further studies into this aspect may be useful to inform action toward their conservation.



Figure 1: Assumed giant pangolin burrow found in the forest area of the Mpem et Djim Nation Park, Cameroon

Next steps include camera traps retrieval in the forest area of MDNP and final report compilation.

Acknowledgment:

Thank you to the Rufford Foundation for providing us with financial support to carry out this research. We are also very grateful to the conservator of Mpem et Djim National Park M. Bissek Jean Pierre for assistance and support in conducting this research. We Thank Dr Kevin NJABO for helping us transporting the cameras from US to Cameroon. We acknowledge Galandi Bertin, Ndjibe Issa, Ngomane Lazard, Ngoura Jean Bosco and Ngomane Pierre for help in the field.