

Project Update: July 2021

- **Socio-economic surveys**

From February to early May 2021, we completed questionnaire surveys in 15 communities living around our study sites: 12 around the Mount Mbam-Minkom forest and three around the mount Nlonako forest. During this phase of our study, we focused on understanding the perception and attitude of local population towards the grey-necked picathartes. Structured questionnaires were designed to capture: 1) local ecological knowledge of the picathartes, 2) Trade and cultural importance of picathartes, and 3) threats on picathartes. So far, we have interviewed 248 people (207 around Mount Mbam-Minkom forest and 41 around Mount Nlonako forest).

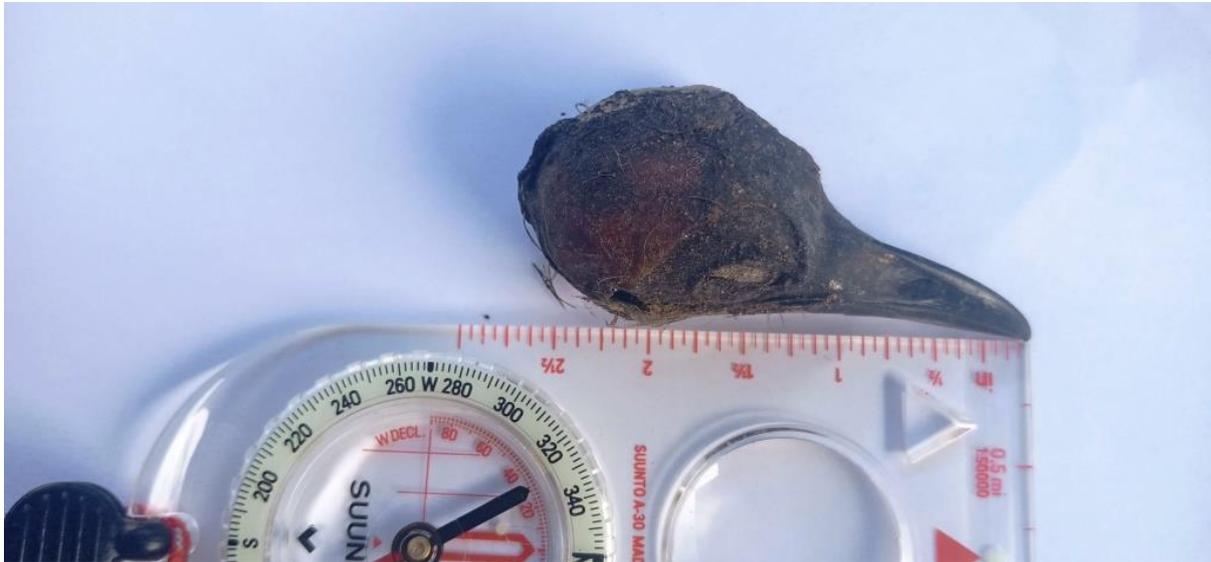


Guilain Tsetagho during questionnaire surveys

- **Awareness campaign**

In June and July 2021, after fieldwork and socio-economic surveys, conservation education and awareness campaign through workshops and nature classes were held in each of the surveyed communities for results presentation and talks to engage local communities and students in biodiversity conservation, as well as highlight the negative effects of unsustainable use of their natural heritage. In each community where awareness meetings and workshop were held, we worked in close collaboration with traditional authorities to ensure that the participants are representative of all socio-economic groups including farmers, hunters, timber exploiters, non-timber forest product gatherers, etc. First round of a set of questionnaires was administered at the beginning of the workshop to assess the level of knowledge of participants about the species/biodiversity conservation. At the end of the meeting, a second round of the same set of questionnaires was used to reevaluate their knowledge. The results obtained from these questionnaires were used as indicator/ metric for evaluation. An average attendance of at least 30 people per meeting was achieved during this phase of the project. We have printed 300 t-shirts, 400 flyers and 200 copies of our conservation awareness posters and distributed in all surveyed communities. Flyers were distributed during awareness meetings with communities. To reach a wide audience, some posters were posted in public places including drinking points and other areas that are frequently visited by villagers. Also, sensitisation radio programme on "the importance of biodiversity conservation" with focus on picathartes was held at the Cameroon Radio and Television (CRTV), Littoral

regional station, through the Bio-Littoral weekly program presented by Miss Louanga Esther. So doing, we are confident that many people who could neither attend our awareness meetings nor receive personal copies of the awareness posters will still be able to access them and hopefully understand the message.



Head of Picathartes hunted: evidence of Picathartes hunting



Dead Picathartes caught by a snare