

## Project Updates: March 2022

### Context

The disappearance of vultures through hunting and illegal trade would constitute a real tragedy for these species. To combat the illegal trade of the focal species, and consequently their extinction, we need to update information on their supply chain and the factors underpinning the illegal trade. This project aims to identify the habitats source of specimens recorded in the markets, transportation methods, and trapping methods, identify the stakeholders who are actively involved in the vulture trade, the diversity of vulture species found in the source's habitats, the most coveted species, and the most sought-after body parts.

This update covers the first project activity, market survey of vultures used in traditional medicine. The project began in the first week of December 2021. Initially, the surveys should cover the seven main traditional medicine markets but with information received on the first markets investigated, citing bordering countries as provision sites of vulture specimens, we extended our survey to these traditional medicine markets located in the north of Benin (eight markets).

### Progress of the fieldwork in traditional medicine market

By the LEK method, investigations were conducted through interviews among sellers in the 14 traditional medicine markets from southern to northern Benin. In total, 126 sellers were interviewed. Table 1 shows the markets surveyed.

Table 1 : Market surveyed

No.	Traditional medicine market	Number of sellers surveyed
1.	Dantokpa	16
2.	Calavi-tokpa	5
3.	Azovè	19
4.	Bohicon	17
5.	Abomey	16
6.	Dassa	04
7.	Kandi	4
8.	Banikoara	5
9.	Kérou	15
10.	Gogounou	10
11.	Sinendé	5
12.	Kalale	4
13.	Segbana	4
14.	Bembereke	2
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>126</b>



Picture 1: Traditional medicine market of Bohicon



Picture 2: vulture specimen on a stall in calavi-tokpa, Benin



Picture 3: vulture specimen on a stall in Banikoara market, Benin



Picture 4: vulture specimen on a stall in Dassa-zoumé market, Benin

### **Next steps**

Our next activities are:

- Survey of the populations around the most cited forests supplying the markets with vulture specimens.
- Data analyses.
- Education awareness and capacity building.
- Project evaluation, report writing, and dissemination.