

Project Update: October 2023

I have visited key stakeholders, including officers from the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission and the Digya National Park. Key stakeholders reached the relevance of my project and expressed their willingness to support it, especially considering that the wildlife laws of Ghana do not offer compensation to farmers for crop raids caused by wild animals.

An emerging issue in the area is alarming incidence of crop raids caused by patas monkeys (*Erythrocebus patas*). These are ground-dwelling monkeys commonly found in semi-arid areas of West and East Africa. Patas monkeys are further undermining the livelihoods of resource-poor farmers who are already struggling with elephant raids. Against this background, I would be monitoring closely whether the beehive fences could also provide co-benefits in terms minimising the incidence of crop raids caused by patas monkeys. It would really be fascinating to understand it.

I am preparing for a baseline survey (biophysical and socioeconomic) in October/November 2023. I would submit a comprehensive progress report after that. Thanks once again for giving me the opportunity to safeguard nature and vulnerable communities.



Forest-Savannah Landscape outside the Digya National Park. © Ishmael Hashmiu.



Forest-Savannah Landscape outside the Digya National Park. © Ishmael Hashmiu.



A visit to the Regional Wildlife Office. © Ishmael Hashmiu.