

REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES: Raising public awareness of the importance of conserving rangelands in the VINA and MBERE divisions

Title of Project: « Conservation of rangelands in Sudano-Guinean agroecological zone of Cameroon and its macrofungi diversity »

Team members

The awareness was carried out by:

- **Mr. Zouberou Mouanfon Njiaghait.** *Team manager.* Ph. D student. Doctoral training Unit of Biological Science (UFD-SB)/ University of Ngaoundere
- **Mme Mapiefeu melissa leonie.** Regional Social worker in delegation of Adamawa
- **Mr. Apana.** Botanist/ Ph. D student/ University of Ngaoundere
- **Aladji Mahamat.** Guide and translator
- **Mme Suzane mengue.** Worker regional of Ministries of Livestock and Fisheries in Adamawa
- **Mr Ousmane Bello.** Members representatives of the Ministries of environment and nature protection/ Adamawa region

Advisors:

Prof. Njouonkou Andre-Ledoux is an Associate Professor specialize in Botany and Mycology with keen interest on Biodiversity and Restoration of ecosystem/ University of Bamenda;

Prof. Mapongmetsem Pierre-Marie, Faculty of Sciences, University of Ngaoundéré, Biodiversity and sustainable development laboratory.

Others collaborations

- Biodiversity and sustainable development laboratory in university of Ngaoundere
- Chief of Idool village/ Nyambaka sub-division
- Chief of Ngaoui village and Djohong/ Mbere division
- MBOSCUDA (*Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association*) and Mr. Ismaila abo one of the leaders of UDENG (*Union des eleveurs de Ngaoundéré*)

Location and period of mission

The awareness held at the vina division (Ngoundaba, baledjam, Tournigal, Gounjel sub-divisions) and Mbéré division (Meiganga, Dir, Djohong, Ngaoui sub-divisions) in Adamaoua region of Cameroon from 24th April 2025 to 20th Mai 2025.

INTRODUCTION

1. Introduction

As part of the project entitled: **<<Conservation of rangelands in the Sudano-Guinean agro-ecological zone of Cameroon and its macrofungal diversity>>**, public awareness activities were carried out from 24 April to 20 May 2025 in several localities in the region (Ngaoundaba, Baledjam, Gounjel, Tournigal, Ngaoui, Djohong, Meiganga and Dir). The aim of the project is to promote sustainable rangeland management, strengthen ecosystem resilience and preserve the diversity of macrofungi, which are often overlooked but essential to ecological functioning and local livelihoods. This report presents an overview of the awareness-raising activities carried out, their scope, the results achieved and the difficulties encountered. The aims of the awareness campaigns were to Inform local people about the ecological, economic and cultural importance of rangelands and macrofungi.

- Promote sustainable management practices for natural resources, particularly rangelands.
- Encourage community participation in biodiversity conservation.
- To promote traditional knowledge linked to the use of mushrooms.
- Positively influence local decision-makers to integrate rangeland conservation into local policies.





Figure 1: raising public awareness of the importance of conserving rangelands in the Vina and Mbere divisions

2- Target audience

- Rural communities (livestock breeders, farmers, women, young people)
- Traditional and local authorities
- Civil society organisations (CSOs), NGOs and local associations

3. Activity carried out: Community awareness-raising workshops

Communication workshops were organised in each locality (Ngaoundaba, Baledjam, Gounjel, Tournigal, Ngaoui, Djohong, Meiganga and Dir). The theme was: << Rangeland degradation, the ecological role of fungi, sustainable management techniques>> with content adapted to different levels of understanding (illustrations, simple messages). We used a projector, the generator, loudspeakers and baffles, etc., as material support for awareness-raising.

4. Results

At the end of this phase of the project, we were able to:

- Direct awareness-raising among the local population
- Significant improvement in knowledge of macrofungi and rangelands according to post-workshop surveys.
- Commitment from some local authorities to support reforestation and rangeland zoning efforts.

5. Constraints encountered

We encountered:

- Difficulties in accessing certain isolated localities during the rainy season.
- Low literacy levels among certain target groups, requiring a high degree of adaptation of materials.

- Cultural reluctance towards certain species of mushroom considered taboo or useless.



Figure 2: road conditions in certain localities (Djohong, Ngaoui, Tournigal and Gounjel)

6. Lessons learned

- The involvement of traditional chiefs strongly encourages community support.
- The use of local languages and participatory approaches increases the impact of messages.
- Involving young people and women is a lasting lever for behaviour change.

7. Conclusion

The awareness-raising activities have created a local dynamic around the preservation of rangelands and macrofungal diversity. The results show that awareness is growing and that there is real potential for community action. It is essential to maintain and strengthen these efforts to guarantee the sustainability of the impacts and ensure the conservation of natural resources in this strategic agro-ecological zone of Cameroon.

Annex: Financial statement of the mission

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