

FIELD TRIP REPORT FOR THE RUFFORD FOUNDATION

Submitted by: Doumtsop Keanyem Joelle

ID:45349-1

Date of Submission:07/01/2026

Mission Dates: [10/12/2024 to 21/12/2024]

Location of Field Work: MINTOM Subdivision (Villages of Akom and Nkolemboula), Cameroon

MISSION OVERVIEW

A field mission was conducted in the MINTOM subdivision to investigate the socio-economic and ecological dimensions of *Garcinia kola* (*G. kola*) exploitation and conservation. The primary objectives were to:

1. Document the socio-cultural context and traditional ecological knowledge associated with *G. kola*.
2. Assess the species' socio-economic significance and the market dynamics driving its exploitation.
3. Identify and evaluate the viability of existing local conservation practices and regulations.

The methodologies employed included household surveys, market surveys, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs).

KEY ACTIVITIES AND FINDINGS

1 Data Collection Summary

Household Surveys: 20 households were interviewed (Akom: 10, Nkolemboula: 10).

Focus Group Discussions (FGDs):8 FGDs were conducted, segmented by gender and participant profile to ensure comprehensive perspectives.

4 Women's FGDs

4 Men's FGDs

Participants included palm wine producers, traditional healers, bark harvesters, Garcinia traders, and community elders.

Key Informant Interviews (KIIs): 16 interviews were held with village chiefs, officials from the Ministry of Forestry and Fauna (MINFOF), representatives from WWF and CIFOR, and leaders of Non-Timber Forest Product (NTFP) cooperatives.

2. Primary Findings

Conservation Knowledge and Practice: The Baka community holds significant traditional ecological knowledge relevant to the conservation of *G. kola*. However, despite this knowledge, the species is not being managed sustainably. The high income generated from its sale is a primary driver of over-exploitation.

Primary Use: The bark of *G. kola* is predominantly used in the production of palm wine.

Institutional Initiatives: Nurseries for *G. kola* have been established in the area by CIFOR and WWF. However, there has been a critical lack of accompanying awareness campaigns to educate the local population on the importance of planting more *G. kola* or its conservation status (e.g., IUCN listing).

CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED

Communication was a significant challenge, particularly when engaging with the Baka communities.

The absence of electricity posed difficulties for evening work and data management.

NEXT STEPS AND ACTION PLAN

Based on the findings, the following immediate actions are planned:

Data Entry: completed already

Data Analysis: Commence on 15/01/2026.

Community Awareness Campaign: An outreach campaign, informed by the results of this field trip, is scheduled for 30/01/2026. This will address the identified gap in knowledge regarding G. kola's status and cultivation.

Nursery Establishment; The initiation of additional community-supported nursery establishment is planned for 01/02/2026.

ATTACHMENTS

The following supporting documents are appended to this report:

1. Mission Order from Tropical Green Builder.
2. Photographic documentation of field activities (household surveys, FGDs).

The field team extends its gratitude to the Rufford Foundation for its support, and to the communities of Akom, Ekombite, and Nkolemboula, as well as all key informants, for their time, knowledge, and hospitality.