

Project Update: February 2011

The first step of this project has been done from August 2010 to January 2011, when the major traditional markets have been explored using a total of 117 interviewees. In total, 23 markets were investigated: 10 markets with 60 interviewees in the southern part; eight with 35 interviewees and five with 22 interviewees respectively in the centre and northern part. This activity was more developed in the southern part considering the number of the markets visited. The data collected were species richness and abundance, occurring frequency, provision sources, zoo-therapeutic uses, the commodity chain trade, the species sold alive or dead, and the price of the item. The investigation of the local markets showed that the majority of taxonomic categories of Benin are represented including rare, vulnerable and threatened species. The taxonomic group most represented are the mammals (42 % of the species inventoried) followed by birds (25 %), reptiles (25 %), amphibians (3 %) and fishes (1%).

Some specific analyses are being made at the species level, inputting all the recorded parameters to highlight the status of each species in order to propose the adequate conservation actions including an education awareness guide which will be validated during the analytic workshop planned to be organised on March 2011.

This analytic workshop will involve the participation of scientists, decision makers, forest officers, traditional practitioners and animal merchants. After the validation of the conservation and education awareness plan, the third part will be the restitution and the result and sensitisation activities among local merchant communities.



