

## Project Update October 2014

Hugues Akpona has participated to the International Union of Forest Research Organizations XXIV World Congress in Salt Lake City from October 5<sup>th</sup> to October 11<sup>th</sup> 2014 and has given an exciting talk on the spotted necked otters vs. fishermen conflict mitigation in Benin result of his 2nd Rufford Small Grant funded Project. He participated to the Session A-12 (174) entitled "Participatory Protected Area Management at the Human Needs and Sustainable Wildlife Conservation Interface". This study suggested that otter damage could be reduced if fishing equipment were checked at least twice a day by fishermen, and recommended a maximum interval between checks of 12 hours. A general discussion at the end of his talk highlight the necessity to improve modelling of otter – fishermen conflicts and to test findings in the ground with expectations of improving conflicts mitigation effectiveness.



