

Project Update: January 2006

During the first 12 months of the study (from August 2002 to August 2003), 8 assistants were trained. Four of them monitored the success rate of 64 hunters living in the three communities and the other four carried out qualitative household surveys. In October-November 2002 and July 2003 we carried out mammal surveys on about 120 km of transect. A 'Community Management Committee for Hunting and Development was set up and legalised in April 2004. (See 'Rapport préliminaire Mars, 2004'). In March 2004 the results of the above mentioned studies were presented to the local community and discussed.

In this way, the local community concluded themselves that the conservation activities contributed to the development of their communities. They understand that a controlled management of their resources would provide long-term benefit. During this restitution the local communities made the following recommendations:

- Set up of a hunting management plan for prey species by the local communities of Malen V, Doumo-Pierre and Mimpala in their hunting territory;
- Development of alternatives for hunting; for example the support of small scale micro-projects;
- Reinforce the links between local community groups under the CWMC, conservation-development projects and the ministry in charge of the forest (MINEF) Ministry Dept. of Environment and Forests.

The CWMC is supported by PGS in order to help the communities manage their resources. In the first phase, the members of the community are been trained in basic techniques and methods on mammal surveys and data analysis. The final product will be the production by the communities themselves at the end July 2004 of a document presenting the faunal potentials of their forest, the human pressure on the animals, and the distribution of the prey species in the hunting territory.