

2nd Rufford Small Grant

Project number: 45899-2

Combining camera trapping and local hunters monitoring approaches to assess status of the African wild dog in a key ecological area (Adamawa-Cameroon)



Family photograph taking in front of the Lamidat of Dodeo after the meeting

Progress Report

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Project Update

Overall objective: Raise awareness among local people on the safety of camera traps and to train local hunters and assistants.

Specific objectives:

- Presentation of the new project;
- Selection of the hunters and assistants;
- Training of the hunters/assistants in data collection and equipping them with smartphones to document sightings of the evidence of African wild dogs;
- Raising awareness among local communities on the camera trap security to prevent theft after deployment.

Fieldwork preparation

Before the first field trip, we prepared a datasheet for data collection (see Appendix 1) and started the process of obtaining the necessary documents for the study, such as the Research permit from MINRESI and the letter from the Kontcha Divisional Officer. We also ordered the field equipment online from the United States (25 camera traps and 27 SD memory cards) and obtained 10 camera traps from Idea Wild. Two smartphones to be used by the assistants/hunters in the field as well as batteries for camera traps were purchased directly here in Cameroon.

Methods

The first fieldwork was carried out from 9 to 18 March 2025 in the Tchabal Mbabo mountain range, particularly in the village of Dodéo, where the meeting took place. The meeting was attended by 34 participants, including the Lamido of Dodéo (chief of 2nd level traditional authority), five “Djaouro” (village chiefs representing five villages), 17 hunters, six shepherd chiefs, two local assistants, one local translator, one research assistant, and the project leader (see the list of all participants in Appendix 2).

Presentation of the project

During this section, the project was presented to the local people to inform them of the study's aims and importance. We also reminded the local people that some of our camera traps and SD memory cards were stolen during the first study, which had a detrimental effect on the research. After the project presentation, the local people were invited to participate by asking some questions and sharing their thoughts. These discussions were very productive, with the local

people expressing their willingness to contribute to the success of the new project by raising awareness of camera trap security in their local communities.



Figure 1: The project leader presenting the project in the meeting room.

Selection of the hunters and assistants

At the end of the project presentation, local hunters and assistants were selected based on the following criteria: (1) knowledge of the ecology of the African wild dog, (2) the ability to identify the species, (3) the ability to record data on a datasheet, (4) the ability to use a smartphone to photograph all evidences signs of the target species, and (5) availability during the survey period. Five hunters and two local assistants were selected (see the list in Appendix 3). Datasheets and other equipment, such as smartphones, pencils, erasers, and razor blades, were regrouped in the flap shirts (Fig. 2a), placed in plastic bags and distributed to the selected hunters and assistants (Fig. 2b).



Figure 2: Selection of local hunters/assistants: a) preparation of datasheets, b) local hunters/assistants selected and distribution of the data sheets and work equipment to each data collector.

Training local hunters and assistants

Local hunters and assistants were trained on how to record data on the datasheet (Fig. 3a) and how to use smartphones to accurately photograph signs of African wild dogs (Fig. 3b). Given the low level of education in the study area, the datasheet was designed in French to make it easier for the hunters to use. To this end, images of various signs indicating the presence of wild dogs were used (see Appendix 1).



Figure 3: Training session with local hunters and assistants on: a) how to record data in the field, b) how to use smartphones to document target species.

Next step

The next step of this project will be the deployment of camera traps in the field, camera traps service, camera traps recovery and awareness campaigns.

Some pictures from the field



Legend: a) Field team with their motorcyclists in the village of Sambolabo; b) Project leader in the field; c) Lamido of Dodéo with his guards; d) Local leader during the meeting.

Appendix

Appendix 1: Datasheets used by hunters and local field assistants

Fiche de collecte des indices du lycaon (chien sauvage) dans les chaines de montagne de Tchabal Mbabo

Entre Numéro :

1) Date entrée :/...../.....

2) Date sortie :/...../.....

3) Assistant N° 1 2 3 4

4) Chasseur N° 1 2 3 4



Présence d'adultes

Oui ☐

Non ☐

Nombre d'adulte vu

1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10
11 12 13 14
15 16 17 18
19 20



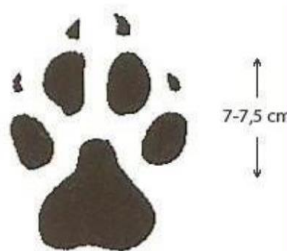
Présence des petits

Oui ☐

Non ☐

Nombre de petit vu

1 2 3 4 5 6
7 8 9 10 11
12 13 14 15
16 17 18 19 20



Empreintes

Oui ☐

Non ☐

Nombre d'empreintes

1 2 3 4 5 6
7 8 9 10 11
12 13 14 15
16 17 18 19 20

Age d'empreintes

- Fraiche
- Récente
- Vielle
- Très vielle



Crottes

Oui ☐

Non ☐

Nombre de crottes

1 2 3 4 5 6
7 8 9 10 11
12 13 14 15
16 17 18 19 20

Age des crottes

- Fraiche
- Récente
- Vielle
- Très vielle



Peau

Oui ☐

Non ☐

Nombre de peau

1 2 3 4 5 6
7 8 9 10 11
12 13 14 15
16 17 18 19 20

Cri Oui ☐

Non ☐

Nombre de fois : 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

Appendix 2: List of participants

Datede le 19 Mars 2015

2nd Rufford Small Grant: Combining Camera trapping and local hunters monitoring approaches to assess status of the African wild dog in a Key Ecological Area (Adamawa - Cameroon).

ACTIVITE : Sensibilisation des populations sur la sécurisation des caméras traps et formation des chasseurs / Assistants

LISTE DE PRESENCE













NOM ET PRENOMS	FONCTION	TELEPHONE	SIGNATURE
1- Souleymanou BAH MANGA	LAMIDO	674891222	
2- Hassana MOHOMADOU	Wadjiri	681435018	
3- Alabban	Sarki Fada	681435280	
4- AHMADOU ABD OU	Assitant (Project)	670764354	
5- YA OUBA Bello	OSC 7 →	670774831	
6- Goumarou ABouBAKAR	OSC (Foder)	652468212	
7- DEWA ABDOU	CB VL	674876408	
8- DEWA ISMAILA	Mission		
9- MOHAMADOU ABouBAKAR	DJAOURO	681437695	
10- Goumarou DJODA	SARKI SAANGOU		
11- SOUABOU DJODA	DJAOURO	654238364	
12- Goumarou MANOU	DJAOURO		
13- MALAN TOUKOUR	C.V		

Ndoto, le 17 Mars 2025

2nd Rufford Small Grant: Combining camera trapping and local hunters monitoring approaches to assess status of the African wild dog in a key Ecological Area (Adamawa-Cameroon).

ACTIVITE : Sensibilisation des populations sur la sécurisation des caméras traps et formation des chasseurs/Assistants

LISTE DE PRESENCE (SUITE)

NOM ET PRENOMS	FONCTION	TELEPHONE	SIGNATURE
14-ABDOULLAH YAMOURE	C.V	672425674	-
15-Souleymanou Abdoullahi	C.V	680343770	- 
16-IBRAHIMA Hamadina	C.V		
17-Abdoumoufou BOUBA	C.V		
18-MISSA YAMOURE	C.V		
19-BOUBA Hamadou	Eleveur		
20-Abdoukarimou Haman	C.V		
21-ADAMOU XOGGOUBA	SARKI NOMA		
22-IBRAHIMA Souley	Cultivateur		
23-TERLUMUNSOLOMON	Agriculture	071995861	
24-ISMAILA YAYA	C.V	652420084	
25-ABOUBAKAR DJINGUI	C.V		
26-IBRAHIMA BOUBA	C.V		
27-Gusmanou DJABI	C.V		
28-YAYA Djingui	C.V	681200828	
29-AMAROU ROUFAY	C.V		

Dodé, le 12 Mars 2025

2nd Hafford Small Grant Combining camera trapping and local hunters monitoring approaches to assess status of the African wild dog in a Key Ecological Area (Adamawa, Cameroon).

ACTIVITE : Sensibilisation des populations sur la sécurisation des caméras traps et formation des chasseurs / assistants

LISTE DE PRESENCE (SUITE)

NOM ET PRENOMS	FONCTION	TELEPHONE	SIGNATURE
30-YOUSSOUFA DJAOURO	ARDE	677340321	☆
31-SOLOMON KANAN	CV		SR
32-MASSOH GERTRUDE DALILA	PROJECT LEADER	679592346	SR
33-WANDJI ALAIN CHARISTEL	PROJECT ASSISTANT	676 67 75 95	Wandji



Sa Majesté
Soulouma
Lamido de DODEO








Appendix 3: List of local hunters and assistants

Dodeo, le 19 Mars 2025

2nd Bufford Small Grant: Combining camera trapping and local hunters monitoring approaches to assess status of the African wild dog in a Key Ecological Area (Adamawa-Cameroon).

ACTIVITE : Sensibilisation des populations sur la sécurisation des caméras traps et formation des chasseurs / assistants

LISTE DES CHASSEURS / ASSISTANTS

NOM ET PRENOMS	FONCTION	TELEPHONE	SIGNATURE
1- OUMAROU HAROU	chef Visilant	652468212	
2- ABDOU YAMOURAI	(MC) Visilant	672425674	
3- OUSMANOU DJADI	visilant		
4- ABDOU KARIMOU	visilant		
5- IBRAHIMA	visilant		
6 YAOUBA Belle	P.F	670774821	
ZAHMADOU ABDON	P.F	670764357	

Sa Majesté
Souleymanou Bah Manga
 Lami de DODEO

