

Conservation of the Vulnerable Population of the Northern Ground-hornbill: A Community-Based Survey and Conservation Education Program in Bauchi State, Nigeria.

Project Activities Update:

Meetings with stakeholders

We began this project by informing the management of Yankari Game Reserve of the projects plan and activities afterwards we commence meetings with community chiefs and youths leaders across the communities. The details of the project were revealed to stakeholders from each communities on the planned activities and the duration of the work (Figure 1).



Figure 1 (a): Meeting with village heads and youth leaders.



Figure 1 (b): Meeting with youth leaders.



Figure 1 (c): Team member addressing the community youths.



Figure 1 (d): Community chiefs attending stakeholder meetings with team members.

Interview and Field Survey

We carried out community based survey by interviewing the local people across all communities (figure 2). During this phase we interacted with different members of the communities including chiefs, farmers, traders and hunters. And we carried out field survey within the reserve and around the communities close to the reserve boundary (Figure 3). During the field survey we searched for nest and observed some threats to the species habitat such as tree felling and agricultural activities close to the reserve boundary.



Figure 2 (a): Team members interviewing some community members.



Figure 2 (b): Team members interviewing some community members.



Figure 2 (c): Team member interview with the local people.



Figure 3 (a): Team members during field activities.



Figure 3 (b). Picture of Northern Ground-hornbill sighted with a juvenile during field activities.

Conservation Education

We carried out our conservation education activities by visiting different communities and interacted with local people including chiefs, students, traders, youths and hunters. We enlightened the public on the status and importance of the Abyssinian Ground-hornbill in the ecosystem and the need for protecting this threaten species and its habitats. From these engagements we were able to secure the Chiefs commitment to enforce local laws prohibiting the hunting of this species and all other illegal activities in the Reserve.



Figure 4 (a): Team members visit to communities for conservation awareness and education activities.



Figure 4 (b): Conservation awareness and education activities with locals in the palace of the chief.



Figure 4 (c): Team members visit to communities for conservation education.



Next Plan

We are currently drafting the manuscript and preparing the final report for this project. The questionnaire data on local perceptions has been analyzed, and the results are being interpreted and discussed.