

First Project Update: February 2025

Description of project update:

We initiated our project at Gashaka Gumti National Park in the second week of February by training local people in butterfly identification and monitoring protocols. The training included park field assistants and rangers. We conducted both theoretical and practical sessions with the participants, ensuring they learned how to use sweep nets to capture butterflies, handle and identify them. Additionally, they were taught how to deploy and bait traps, as well as how to extract and identify butterfly species caught in the traps.



Photo by Conscience (PI)

Plate 1: Field assistants deploying butterfly traps and baiting them with fermented banana. They were also thoughts how to document variables in the field note.



Photo by Ajang

Plate 2: Principal investigator (PI) showing a field assistant how to safely and properly handle a butterfly for identification



Photo by Conscience

Plate 3: Field assistants practicing how to use the sweep net to catch butterflies



Photo by Conscience

Plate 4: Photo of some butterfly species encountered during field training sessions (from left to right: *Bicyclus* sp, *Acraea pseudegina*, and *Eurema brigitta*)



Photo by Conscience

Plate 5: Photo showing Park field assistants and Rangers who all participated in the training sessions



Photo by James

Plate 6: Photo showing the training participants and the PI (middle)

In conclusion, our training successfully equipped local participants, including park field assistants and rangers, with essential skills in butterfly identification and monitoring. This aspect of the project is important as it will facilitate the establishment of a long-term butterfly monitoring scheme in the park.