

Project Update: June 2019

The Douala-Nkongsamba Highway is in the Mungo division, littoral region of Cameroon. It is one of Cameroon's busiest roads linking the Littoral and Southwest regions to West and Northwest regions. The Mungo division is located at latitude N4.5000° and longitude E9.8333°. This division partly hosts three major biodiversity hotspots in Cameroon; Mt Kupe, Mt Muanenguba and Mt Nlonako. These biodiversity hotspots account for the high rate of bushmeat consumption along the Douala-Nkongsamba Highway.

From mid-February to mid-June 2019 socio-economic and biological data was generated by the project team. The team administered questionnaires and also recorded bushmeat data in communities along the Douala-Nkongsamba Highway. Socio-economic data was generated using purposive sampling and unmatched count technique while biological data was generated using guided recce walk method. Communities were purposefully selected based on the following criteria: proximity to the mountains, accessibility and significant hunting population.

Poaching is the main human activity to most of the young men in the communities. It constitutes the main source of animal protein and one of the principal sources of income to the local population. The team worked with 35 poachers and five bushmeat vendors. 18 poachers and two bush meat vendors on Mt Nlonako, 12 poacher and two bush meat vendors on Mt Kupe, and five poachers and one bushmeat vendor on Mt Muanenguba. Also we administered 115 questionnaires to poachers, vendors and bushmeat consumers.



Left: Manka'a Grace Niba recording bushmeat data. **Right:** Field assistant administering questionnaire.



Field assistants recording bushmeat data

Bushmeat Harvest

From mid-February to mid-June a total of 2130 animals were killed with biomass of 12821kg (12.821 tons) by 35 poachers. Mt Nlonako recorded the highest numbers of animals killed (1254) followed by Mt Kupe (1105) while Mt Muanenguba recorded the least amount of bushmeat (24). Mt Nlonako and Mt Kupe recorded the highest numbers because of the dense equatorial forest used by diverse primate species while Mt Muanenguba is dominated by grassland interspersed with montane forest thus used by fewer primate species. Also around Mt Nlonako and Mt Kupe poaching is done by young men who are specialised in poaching using guns and dogs while around Muanenguba poaching is done by farmers who from time to time engage in poaching using snares.

Common wildlife species hunted



Left: Civet and pangolin. **Right:** Pangolin and porcupine.



Left: Pruess monkey. **Right:** Goliath frog.