

Project Update: March 2019

The project team (Manka'a Grace Niba and Acham Stanley) which is made of professionals with background in wildlife research and Natural Resource Management in January 2019 accomplished several tasks prior to field work such as reading of other scientific research documents, preparation of questionnaires, designing of hunting form, preparation of wildlife identification chart, and procurement of project equipment (five spring balances and one laptop).



Left: Manka'a Grace. Right: Acham Stanley (project assistant)

Our first fieldwork began in the last week of January 2019. The project team made a reconnaissance visit to three communities. The first visit was in Ekomtolo ($4^{\circ}5'4.378''N$ $9^{\circ}53'24.334''E$) a community at the foot of Mt Nlonako, Njoubeng ($4^{\circ}56'8.146''N$ $9^{\circ}48'41.867''E$) a community around Mt Manenguba and Kolla ($4^{\circ}48'23.892''N$ $9^{\circ}45'55.906''E$) a community around Mt Kupe. In these communities six hunters were randomly selected for pretesting of questionnaires. From this activity hunters understood the questions on the questionnaire. This activity also gave the team the opportunity to add more questions that will help us make meaningful conclusion.

In February 2019 the team purposely selected and trained four local field assistants based on level of literacy, communication skills and social status in their respective communities, personality and their willingness to assist in the survey; two assistants to record data around Mt Nlonako, one assistant for Mt Kupe and one assistant for Mt Manenguba. After the selection and training which took 2 weeks, the team continued working in the field in still the end of February visiting bushmeat markets. The team will continue working in the field together with the local assistants in March to June 2019 administering questionnaires in communities recording hunting data on the hunting forms and also visit bushmeat markets. The questionnaires will be administered to poachers, bushmeat vendors and local consumers.



Manka'a Grace pre-testing questionnaire with a hunter in Ekomtolo community.



Training of a field assistant on how to record data on hunting form



Acham Stanley Pretesting questionnaire with hunters in Njombeng community