

# CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

## I. BASIC DATA

**Organization Legal Name:** Department of Anthropology, University of Calgary (Canada)

**Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement):** Primate and Bird Diversity in the Fazao-Malfakassa National Park, Togo

**Implementation Partners for This Project:** Primates Action Fund and CEPA (Conservation des Espèces et Populations Animales)

**Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement):** February 1, 2005 – May 31, 2006

**Date of Report (month/year):** May, 2006

## II. OPENING REMARKS

**Provide any opening remarks that may assist in the review of this report.**

The Upper Guinean Forest Block has been highlighted as an area with a high degree of biodiversity and endemism. Fragments of dense forests are present in western Togo and constitute the eastern limit to the Upper Guinean Forest Block. Such fragments are protected within the Fazao-Malfakassa National Park (FMNP). The area that encompasses FMNP is significant because it supports forest vegetation in an area otherwise characterized by savanna woodlands. Thus, this region might have unique species composition and high primate and bird diversity, harboring both savanna and forest-dwelling species. Although this area is of primary biological concern, little is known about its flora and fauna. No official primate or bird lists are available for the FMNP, since no thorough surveys have been carried out there. However, threatened primate and bird species have been reported in this area. This project aimed to contribute to the knowledge on the fauna of the FMNP and to clarify past reports by conducting a primate and bird diversity assessment of the FMNP.

## III. NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

1. What was the initial objective of this project?

The main objectives of this study were to: 1) Document the presence of primate species within the FMNP, with particular interest in the endangered western chimpanzee and Roloway guenon; 2) Conduct preliminary assessments of primate abundance in the region; 3) Document the presence of bird species within the same area and finally; 4) Use this data to identify sites of special interests (high primate and/or bird diversity/abundance).

2. Did the objectives of your project change during implementation? If so, please explain why and how.

The objectives did not change during the course of this study. However, since we had few encounters with primate groups, we were not able to calculate primate abundance (objective 2). Instead, primate densities were presented in the form of encounter rates per hour of survey.

3. How was your project successful in achieving the expected objectives?

This study provided information on a poorly known area. It permitted to clarify reports of the presence of different primate species and to provide an up-to-date bird list for the FMNP. This study also reports the first record of the White-Browed Forest Flycatcher (*Fraseria cinerascens*) for Togo.

4. Did your team experience any disappointments or failures during implementation? If so, please explain and comment on how the team addressed these disappointments and/or failures.

The initial planned dates for this project had to be changed due to the political instability following the death of the country's president, Gnassingbé Eyadéma, in February 2005. This resulted in scheduling conflicts for the second field investigator, Sarah Wong, who had to withdraw from the expedition. Paul Radley replaced Sarah Wong as the ornithologist for this study. The team was disappointed by the low encounter rate with wildlife in the FMNP. Moreover, the dense forest cover was not as extensive as previously claimed and has been damaged severely by fires. Overall, we noticed a high incidence of anthropogenic activities in the park. Recommendations were made to help ameliorate the protection of the park.

5. Describe any positive or negative lessons learned from this project that would be useful to share with other organizations interested in implementing a similar project.

As more bird surveys are needed in the rainy season and further into the dry season to complement the current bird list, we would like to comment on a few aspects. It would be useful for future researchers to know that the western side of the park is accessible by a dirt road, which is impassable during the rainy season. Also, the trails inside the park are invaded by tall grass during the rainy season, which limit the access to certain areas of the park. The trails are maintained after the end of the rainy season, in November. Therefore, we would suggest surveys to be conducted early into the rainy season.

When conducting primate interviews, it was some time before we could determine with certitude the local names for the different primate species. Indeed, there are different languages spoken in this area and the names varied even within the same language (for example: in Kotokoli, *Colobus vellerosus* was called "Couboua" or "Kebika" and "Kebissi" when referring to more than one individual). If someone is interested in conducting primate surveys in Togo, we can provide local names for this area. Please use the contact below.

6. Describe any follow-up activities related to this project.

The results of this study will be share with the Franz Weber Foundation, the "Direction de la faune et de la chasse", IUCN Primate Specialist Group and Birdlife International. Furthermore, an article will be published in the *CEPA Magazine* and an article is in preparation to be submitted to the *Bulletin of the African Bird Club*.

Following interviews, conducted in villages surrounding the FMNP and in localities surveyed along the Togo-Ghana border, many people shown interest in finding remaining populations of the Roloway guenon (if this species is present in Togo). In most localities, leaders assure us that any new information would be communicated with personnel from the "Direction des Eaux et Forêts" of their region.

7. Please provide any additional information to assist CEPF in understanding any other aspects of your completed project.

#### IV. ADDITIONAL FUNDING

**Provide details of any additional donors who supported this project and any funding secured for the project as a result of the CEPF grant or success of the project.**

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
Primate Action Fund	A	4,500\$	Visa, vaccination, per diem
CEPA	A	3,500\$	Guide, transportation

**\*Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:**

- A** *Project co-financing (Other donors contribute to the direct costs of this CEPF project)*
- B** *Complementary funding (Other donors contribute to partner organizations that are working on a project linked with this CEPF project)*
- C** *Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF project.)*
- D** *Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)*

Provide details of whether this project will continue in the future and if so, how any additional funding already secured or fundraising plans will help ensure its sustainability.

This study was intended as a rapid assessment of the primate and bird diversity. It was not developed as a long-term research and therefore, no follow-up actions were attached to this project.

#### V. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

No further comments.

#### VI. INFORMATION SHARING

CEPF aims to increase sharing of experiences, lessons learned and results among our grant recipients and the wider conservation and donor communities. One way we do this is by making the text of final project completion reports available on our Web site, [www.cepf.net](http://www.cepf.net), and by marketing these reports in our newsletter and other communications. Please indicate whether you would agree to publicly sharing your final project report with others in this way.

Yes

No

If yes, please also complete the following:

**For more information about this project, please contact:**

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