

CEPF Project « LOGOMANI » (Updating the Key Biodiversity Areas of Lofa-Gola-Mano & Mount Nimba complexes) - Newsletter #1

The project now has a nickname! « LOGOMANI », as for « Lofa Gola Mano & Nimba ».

Between September 16th and November 2nd, a first field mission was performed by the Missouri Botanical Garden team in Guinea and Liberia. **Ehoarn Bidault**, project coordinator, **Tariq Stévant**, Director of the Central & West Africa Program, Red List specialist and trainer on vegetation transects, as well as **Bruno Senterre**, habitat and ecosystem specialist, finally met the Guinean team coordinated by **Moussa Diabaté** (IRAG): **Kolou Koïvogui** (flora technician), **Mohamed Diabaté** (flora student), **Oumar Traoré** (habitats student) and **Lansana Konaté** (habitats technician). An official visit of the SERG herbarium of Sérédou was organized by Moussa Diabaté.

A launch meeting was organized in Sérédou. Many local stakeholders on knowledge and conservation of biodiversity were invited. The results of the gap analysis were presented by Ehoarn Bidault (concerning flora) and by Bruno Senterre (concerning ecosystems). The 21 Key Biodiversity Areas of the project were reviewed on the basis of accessible data. Some sites appear as relatively well known, others as largely under-sampled. Tariq Stévant made a presentation on the Red Listing process, and presented the orchid shadehouse network in Africa and Madagascar. A visit of the Portères Botanical Garden was organized by Moussa Diabaté.



At Ziama forest, in Guinea, a first field campaign was performed, where the MBG team had the opportunity to train the Guinean botanists to the different field activities that will be implemented during the project. Tariq Stévant trained a team of 3 to do vegetation transects, Ehoarn Bidault trained one botanist to the general collecting of plants, and Bruno Senterre trained one to gather ecosystemic data.

A new orchid shadehouse for Guinea! Tariq Stévant trained three people to collect and cultivate living orchids in a shadehouse. The new shadehouse was built in Sérédou's Portères Botanical Garden, in order to grow the living orchids collected during the several field trips that will be made outside of Nimba Mountains, during the project. The team will be trained to implement the scientific management of the shadehouse, and the collection of samples for taxonomical studies. After the first field trip, ca. 20 orchids were cultivated in the Sérédou shadehouse.



Part of the team then visited Nimba mountains, which cover 4 of the project's KBAs. Field activities were performed in the mining perimeter thanks to SMFG's support, as well as the World Heritage site, in Guinea. The main purpose of the visit was to identify the threatened habitats and to consolidate the knowledge on threatened species. Management of the orchid shadehouse was also performed with the onsite team.



Heading to Liberia. The team then went to Wologizi Mountains, where 10 days of field work were spent on the exploration of Mount Wuteve and surroundings. Vegetation transects were made and herbarium specimens as well as ecosystemic data were collected. The training went along with two additional team members from Liberia Forestry Development Authority, **Philomena Yarwoah** et **Ezekiel Gaye**. Field activities performed in Ziama, Nimba and Wologizi totalize 361 herbarium specimens, tens of ecosystemic observations, and 11 vegetation transects. These data will soon be uploaded on TROPICOS, MBG's online database, as well as in two databases dedicated to vegetation transects and ecosystemic data. Those data will allow to better identify the threatened species and threatened habitats in order to update the KBA analyses.



Focus on... the genera *Kylicanthe*. Recently described (Descourvières *et al.* 2018), this genera of epiphytic orchids includes 7 species, 3 having recently been described from West and Central Africa. One species, *Kylicanthe perezverae*, is endemic to the Guinean part of Nimba Mountains and Monts des Dan (Ivory Coast). During this field campaign, the genera was spotted for the first time in Ziama forest, with a yet undetermined species, which represents the westernmost population of the African genus.

