

**NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON PANGOLIN PROTECTION AND
INFORMATION SHARING**

Mbankomo, 09 August 2019



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FINAL COMMUNIQUE

On 09 August 2019, TRAFFIC with the assistance of the Cameroon Pangolin Working Group (CPWG) organized a national workshop on pangolin protection and information sharing at Mbankomo, Cameroon. This national workshop was chaired by Mr Joseph Lekealem, Director in charge of Wildlife and Protected Areas (DFAP) in the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF).

Participants at this workshop included representatives of MINFOF, US Embassy, MINFOF's technical partners (CABAG, CBI, CIRMAD, LAGA, USFWS, TRAFFIC, WWF, and ZSL), and researchers from academic institutions (Yaounde I, Yaounde II, Dschang, GWS, Stirling-UK) (See the list of the participants at the appendix 1).

After the protocol phase marked by the welcome address by Mr. Momballa Mbun, representing Mr Elie Hakizumwami the Director of TRAFFIC for Central Africa and the opening speech by the DFAP, several presentations were delivered and covered the following themes:

- **"Results of the pangolin market survey in South, East and Adamawa.**

This presentation highlighted the results of the market survey recently conducted by TRAFFIC. It was done by the consultant Mr Ichu who indicated the role of Cameroon as a source, a transit as well as a hub in pangolin trafficking in Central Africa to Asia. He then portrayed the primary trade chain for pangolin meat and scales in South, East and Adamawa Regions involving hunter, vendors, and traffickers. He also mentioned the challenges of pangolin protection, such as the lack of ecological data, weak law enforcement and insufficient awareness raising of projects working on pangolin. In the light of the discussions that followed this presentation, the participants accepted and validated the results of the TRAFFIC study on the illegal pangolin trade in the South, East and Adamawa Regions. They recommended to TRAFFIC to mobilize necessary resources that should allow to conduct an in-depth quantitative survey, build on the results of this survey and other surveys on pangolin that have been conducted in Cameroon. They also recommended to MINFOF's technical partners to carry out further studies on illegal trade on pangolin as well as its ecology that will enhance the CPWG and MINFOF to better guide their respective actions for the species conservation.

- **"Hunting and trafficking of African pangolin;"**

Dr Dan Ingram a researcher from the University of Stirling in UK based this presentation on a synthesis of various studies in Africa with a focus in the Gulf of Guinea. He pointed out the increase in price of pangolin in urban markets which explains why it constitutes an important proportion of vertebrates in the overall bushmeat market. Cameroon appears to be an exporter of pangolin products in the Gulf of Guinea meanwhile trafficking appears to be developing in Equatorial Guinea. He recommended amongst others for researchers, the pangolin population assessment, and to government institutions to enhance law enforcement at transit points and on snare ban. Some technical exchange dwelled on method of census of pangolin and he proposed camera trapping as the more accurate standard in this regard.

• **Overview of pangolin trade and law enforcement in Cameroon**

Presented by Mr Kaba of LAGA who came back on statistics on arrests and seizures of pangolin scales carried out in Cameroon from 2013 to 2019, noting that they have no records prior to 2013. From the law enforcement data available, it is indicated that a total of 9 313 kg of pangolin scales were seized and 62 traffickers arrested through 30 sweep operations. There was a net increase in both arrests and seizures over time, peaking in 2017. He explained that the law enforcement efforts should target kingpin traffickers controlling the market. According to him, exits points are areas where Chinese traffickers can be caught, with the help of intelligence system in place.

• **Pangolin Mapping Trafficking from Africa to Asia**

Dr Eric NANA presented the work undertaken by the Congo Basin Institute (CBI), specifically about mapping of Central African pangolins trafficking to Asia. The first phase is to develop a genoscape in order to determine the origin, and to describe the process in order to understand the transit routes. Network analysis revealed priority areas, key nodes of pangolin market (*Guangzhou, Fangchenggang, & Kunming*) for intervention in China. During the exchanges that followed, access to seizures data and products has been identified as a key points for the success of genoscape analysis. MINFOF accepted to forward samples of seized products to researcher of CBI at their formal request for this purpose.

• **"Camera trapping to monitor the giant pangolin in Mpem and Djim National Park (MDNP)"**

Presented by SIMO TALLA Franklin, researcher from University of Yaounde 1 whose research is based on the use of camera traps recommended techniques for assessing terrestrial mammal populations. Further, only two traceable camera trap studies of pangolin is known worldwide and both are from Cameroon (Wilcox et al 2019). In this study, a combination of burrow counts survey and camera traps deployed on both assumed giant pangolin signs and burrows were used to confirm their presence in MDNP and to make inferences on their ecology. He recommended to conduct a comprehensive inventory of the mammal fauna of the MDNP as well as conservation efforts in term of law enforcement.

This workshop also provided an opportunity for the CPWG Members to examine the draft of the CPWG Constitution. Their discussion resulted in the a validated of this constitution as well as the roadmap for the implementation of their activities. (see appendix 2 and appendix 3).

At the end of the workshop, participants all share a common enthusiasm for the CPWG and are committed to work together for the implementation of the activities agreed on the roadmap, the meeting was closed with a word of thanks of TRAFFIC from Mr Constant Momballa Mbun

Done at Mbankomo on 09 August 2019

THE PARTICIPANTS,

Appendix I: The attendance list of the national workshop on pangolin protection and information sharing

Mbankomo, 09 August 2019

N o	Participants	Organisation	Email	Telephone
1.	Luc Evouna	TRAFFIC	Luc.Evouna@traffic.org	679 61 05 58 / 698 40 22 02
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Appendix II: EVALUATION OF THE CPWG ACTION PLAN MARCH – JULY 2019

N°	ACTION	TIMEFRAME	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	COMMENTS
1	Draft the constitution, the internal rule and regulation (IRR),	1 month (22/03/2019)	Ekane (WWF), Eric (LAGA), Euphemia (Asongwe Chambers)	The constitution and the ToR done. IRR undone
2	Creation of WhatsApp group	1 week	TRAFFIC	Undone
3	Circulate the latest version of the TOR	1 week	TRAFFIC	Done
5	Circulate the report and attendance list	2 weeks	TRAFFIC	Done
6	Convene next meeting	Jul-19	TRAFFIC	Done

Appendix III : ACTION PLAN OF THE CPWG AUGUST 2019 – JANUARY 2020

N°	ACTION	TIMEFRAME	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	COMMENTS
1	Draft the internal rules and regulations,	By end Sept	ERIC Tah, Euphemia, Ekane, Luc, Constant	
2	Create WhatsApp group/ Facebook account	1 week	TRAFFIC	Whatsapp done and facebook to be done
3	Carry out public campaign (media, posters, radio footing) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project proposal - Circulate proposal - Validation - Next meeting 	December December January	CPWG, TRAFFIC, CABAG	
4	Create knowledge base platform	October	TRAFFIC	Dropbox, google etc
5	Identify and engage potential technical and financial partners willing to support the CPWG actions	Linked to point 4	Dan Ingram All members	
6	Support the revision process of the order of classification of wildlife species	December	TRAFFIC, MINFOF, CPWG	
7	Search and share information on Nachtigal environmental project assessment with Fopa Ghislain for further actions	February	All	