

A Sympatric Observation in Nesting ecology of Gorillas and Chimpanzees, in the Bechati-Fossimondi-Besali forest, Southwest Cameroon.

Gorillas are terrestrial apes, and will spend a cross section of their time on the forest floor; eating and constructing both day and night ground nest, a critical case with the gorillas in the Bechati-Fossimondi-Besali forest, of the Lebialem Mone Forest Landscape, Southwest Cameroon. On the contrary, Chimpanzees in the Bechati-Fossimondi-Besali forest are more terrestrial, even though, they do spend a considerable time too feeding on the forest floor. They mostly construct tree nests and day ground resting nests which can easily be identified from the rough nature of its construction.

The constant bio-monitoring of these apes in this forest, is in a bid to understand the habitat utilization of these apes, their status and other common characteristics associated to these apes in this forest site. Recent data collected on these apes in this area, have repeatedly reported the con-



Fig 1 & 2: Chimpanzee tree and ground nests recorded in the Bechati-Fossimondi-Besali forest

struction of ground nests by Chimpanzees, a phenomenon which has commonly been observed with gorillas, (ERuDeF Research and Bio-monitoring Unit, April 2010). This however, poses a kind of controversy, and a sympatric behavior in the nesting ecology of gorillas and chimpanzees in this forest, and similar behaviors on both apes have occupied the minds of researchers for quite some time now. Similar sympatric nesting behavior has been noted for the

mountain gorillas and chimpanzees in the Bwindi forest. These are however just observations, as the continuing monitoring of these apes will give a clearer understanding in the ecology of these apes in this habitat.

By Alongamoh Edwin

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New gorilla rescue centre to open in eastern Congo

U.N. peacekeeping mission will airlift orphaned gorillas to new facility

April 2010. The first batch of 10 orphaned gorillas rescued from poachers in Rwanda and Congo are getting ready to be airlifted to the Democratic Republic of Congo, (DRC), where they will learn to behave like wild gorillas in the first-ever rescue centre for Grauer's (eastern lowland) gorillas. Starting in late April, the U.N. Peacekeeping Force in DRC will begin transporting the young gorillas to the new Gorilla Rehabilitation and Conservation Education Centre, called GRACE.

10 gorillas to start

Currently under construction, GRACE, which was initiated by the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International with advice on design and systems provided by experts from Disney's Animal Programs and Pan African Sanctuary Alliance (PASA), will initially house 10 orphaned gorillas currently living in temporary facilities under the care of the Congolese Park Authority (ICCN), the Rwanda Development Board (RDB), and the Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project (MGVP), as well as the Fossey Fund.

"This facility provides a critical opportunity for us to help many more young gorillas that have been victimized by poaching, armed conflict, or habitat destruction, and also to strengthen our partnership with the people who are the true stewards of the land and the animals," says Fossey Fund President and CEO Clare Richardson. "The gorillas that have come to our care have been traumatized



Kighoma, who arrived in May 2009 and is doing well.

by violence and mistreatment. They need a great deal of attention to help them recover physically and psychologically and to teach them how to survive in the wild."

Four adults killed for each gorilla rescued

While efforts to protect the gorillas and their natural habitat continue to increase in east Africa, the number of orphaned gorillas has also increased in recent years. In the past, most illegally trafficked gorillas died before they could receive proper care. In addition, it is estimated that for each rescued gorilla, four adults were likely killed during its capture. The existence of the new GRACE centre is expected to help end this illegal gorilla trafficking, since local authorities are more likely to rescue captured gorillas if they know there is somewhere they

can take them.

30 gorilla capacity

The new facility will be large enough to serve up to 30 gorillas when fully completed and will include a centre for conservation education and public information.

"A sanctuary in East Africa dedicated to gorillas has been one of PASA's priorities for almost a decade," says Doug Cress, executive director of Pan African Sanctuary Alliance (PASA). "Our member sanctuaries care for almost 100 gorillas, but none in East Africa, and many orphans confiscated over the years in the region died before we got them to safety. We are confident the GRACE centre will have a profound impact on conservation efforts in the region." The GRACE centre was built on land donated by the Tayna Center for Conservation Biology (TCCB), with initial support from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund and Disney's Animal Programs, and Pan African Sanctuary Alliance. The centre will be a joint initiative of the Congolese wildlife conservation authority (ICCN) and the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International, along with other groups.

Culled from Wildlife Extra News

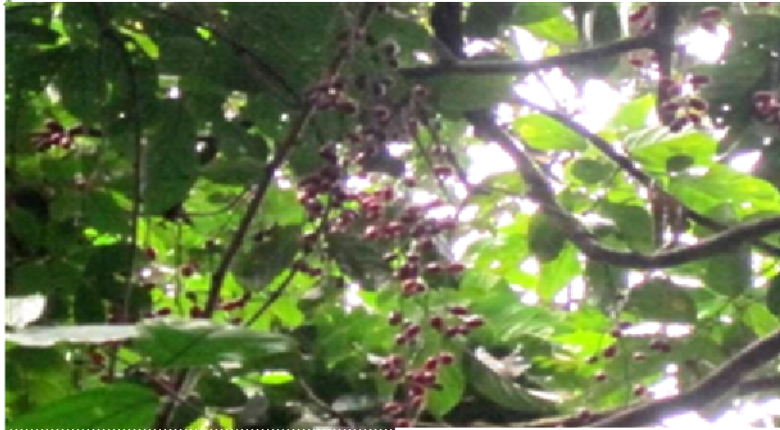
By Edmund Smith-Asante

"Chimpanzee Red Berries" in the Lebialem-Mone Forest

April is the "red berries" ripening season in the forest. "Red berries" are small spherical berry-like red wild fruits which have a pleasant scent that attracts chimps. Chimpanzees scramble for them in the forest. They spend considerable time feasting on them and throwing left over to the forest floor for hungry and exhausted field guards and staff who hike all day in the forest tracking Cross River gorillas.

Spending a day in the Lebialem-Mone Forest in April makes you feel the excitement of a rain forest jungle. This was the experience with the April GVI volunteer and the ERuDeF field staff who spent two weeks in the forest monitoring Cross River gorillas.

Chimpanzee vocalizations were heard all through the day as they feasted on the "red berry" wild fruits, making noises, throwing stones down the valley, hitting their chest or trees as they enjoy their meal and sorting out where to go build nests. The team found it exciting feeding left over fruits.. After having found the uneaten fruits, a few meters away, we



Bianca Knitter, ERuDeF volunteer enjoying 'Chimpanzee red berries' while tracking gorillas in the Lebialem-Mone forest.



ERuDeF staff enjoyibg 'Chimpanzee red berries'

found the chewed fruits (chaffs) which we recorded as a feeding sign and settled down to eat the fresh uneaten fruits besides chaffs.

When the left over on the forest floor were exhausted, we wished we could climb the trees like the chimps to harvest more as the fresh fruits were hanging on trees above us. It is a rewarding experience to visit the Lebialem-Mone Forest, taste and enjoy the

"chimpanzee red berries", experience a real rain forest jungle.

By Muh Bernice

Mapping the Regional Centre for Agro-forestry Training and Seed production (RCASTP) in Atullah (Lebialem Division)

As a means of alleviating poverty and improving incomes of rural households, TREES USA introduced improved agro forestry methods throughout Cameroon in the early 1990s. Throughout her stay in Cameroon TREES USA observed that due to increasing prices of fertilizers farmers could no longer produce enough for their households especially in the rural areas. In 2007, TREES Cameroon launched a country program in Cameroon. Since then, TREES Cameroon has been supporting intensive agro-forestry and has not been able to source sufficient seeds to distribute to farmers. The RCATSP is underway to address this need. The centre aims at producing, packaging and storing seeds. As the main centre for agro forestry and seed production in Cameroon, about 2000 seeds will be produced and distributed all over Cameroon and beyond.

March 15, 2010 a team



One of the sites at Fotaw, donated by the chief.

mence on the site. Thirteen sites were mapped out. These sites are to be used as nurseries, seed banks and demonstration sites. These plots were donated by chiefs and private land owners, ready to cooperate with TREE Cameroon for the success of this project.

The roads were traced from the catholic mission at Lewoh to Atullah the boundary with the Western Region of Cameroon. Land use such as settlements, chief palaces and agricultural land use

were also mapped out.

The team composed of five persons two readers and two recorders with a field guide. Tools used were the GPS, pens and an excel data sheet which was designed this purpose. The mapping exercise was a success and the map of the centre is under production. Work is also going on in the thirteen sites in upper Lewoh.

By Ngwa Magdalene

Taking Control of Your Time

If you checked off the second or third choice for most of the accompanying questions, you probably do need more time. And you are not alone. Almost everywhere people are under pressure to do what must be done. This may have nothing to do with what is truly important to them. Instead it may have everything to do with the demands of the moment. As you respond to one crisis after another, you may feel you have no control over how your time is spent. You may even feel that you are rushing through life without experiencing it. It is important to know your value, your goals, and the specific activities that support these. Clarify your values. You might try writing down every value that comes to your mind, such as family, friendship, hard work, education, accomplishment, good looks, physical health, and environment. Then ask yourself, 'which of these values are almost important to me?'

After that, consider all the goals that you would like to achieve in life. What is the difference between values and goals? For the purpose of discussion, we can say that values are ongoing, whereas goals can, at some point, should be achieved and marked off as completed.

What goals might be set for yourself? Do you want to spend more time with your

family? Find employment that is more suitable? Improve skills in your career? Develop a certain quality? Then decide which of these are most important to you. Make sure that they are compatible with your values.

How can this analysis help you?

If your goals harmonize with your values and you carry out the activities that contribute to achieving your goals, your career takes a unified direction. You will find yourself spending more time on what matters to you. Of course that does not mean you should be callous to the needs and desires of others. It means you would be able to identify and turn down opportunities that have nothing to do with what is truly worthwhile. Admittedly there will be challenges. Some tasks may be relatively unimportant but are necessary nevertheless. These may threaten to fill your day, leaving little or no time for what is important to you. Emergencies may arise. And changes in your career situation may throw your schedule out of balance.

But by taking practical steps to spend more time on the thing that matter, you will have more control over how you spend your time. Everyone in any organization needs to work within deadlines. Time management therefore becomes the greatest asset we can bank on. Remember, a minute lost cannot be regained.

By Tamambang Didacus

The North West people and their unsustainable farm practices , 'Ankara'.

Something needs to be done about the burning of savanna especially in the North West region of Cameroon. Bush burning otherwise known as slash and burn (traditionally called 'Ankara') practiced by the people is the cause of degraded soils in the North West region. These people are ignorant and adamant to change. They believe in putting fire in their farms after clearing and wait for the grass to get dry. They feel that the ash coming out from the burning grasses would fertilize their soils. They forget to consider the fact that, this burning alone does not only dry off the soil but also kills the micro-organisms which mix with the soil to make it loose and increase soil fertility. Burning pro-

duces lots of black carbon in the form of dark smoke which pollutes the atmosphere causing the climate to change.

The end results of this practice are very disastrous, though the local farmers whose life ought to be improved upon are barely not aware of the impacts. Their soil already degraded eventually leads to drop in productivity and hence cause food crises. As a result of this, these people have to work extremely hard, cultivating hectares of lands to produce the quantity of food they now produce. ERuDeF in partnership with Trees for The Future TTF-Cameroon are working to educate these communities and propose sustainable options such as the planting of some multipurpose fast growing trees. Calliandria, Leucaena and Accacia are examples

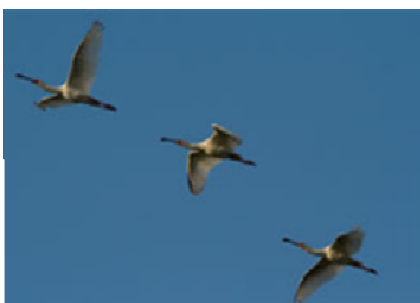
and their leaves are used for soil fertility. Other convincing practices against the 'Ankara' practice could be; the use of grass, animal dung, wood ash to produce compost. These three components including water and are mixed in a pit and allowed there for some time to ferment after which it is used on the farm as manure. So reducing the rate of 'Ankara' would improve the soil fertility thus reducing the time they labor in the farm.

If we succeed in reducing the rate of 'Ankara', we would have succeeded in reducing the amount of black carbon released, which pollutes the environment leading to global warming. The impact of climate change would continue to increase in case we do not act fast in order to solve the problem of food crises in the North West region.

By Payong Marquise

Why Birds Migrate

Avian migration is a natural process, whereby different birds fly over distances of hundreds and thousands of kilo meters in order to find the best ecological conditions and habitats for feeding, breeding and raising their young. When the conditions at breeding sites become unfavorable due to changes in temperature, migratory birds fly to regions where conditions are better. Many bird species migrate in order to survive. However, migration is a perilous journey and involves a wide range of threats.



Migratory birds from Australia

Only a small number of birds are actually threatened by natural events. Human activities are the source of threats for most migrating birds.

The loss of habitats due to pollution or exploitation caused by encroachment for settlement, agriculture, grazing etc. are the main threats migrating birds face,

as they are dependent on finding suitable breeding and wintering grounds as well as stop-over sites along their flyways where they can rest and feed. Most of the threatened Migratory birds within the Lebalem highlands/Mt Bamboutos suffer the above effects. Hence measures have to be taken to remedy this situation that may lead to some species. Extinction.

Increase awareness, conservation education, Public lectures, research and Training etc on how to conserve these species of birds could be of great importance to avoid their extinction.

By Egbe Confidence

Water Smart Innovations Conference & Expo

October 6-8, 2010 Las Vegas, Nevada

Water-efficiency professionals from across the United States and around the world combined to submit 267 papers for consideration as presentations and panel discussions at the WaterSmart Innovations Conference and Ex-

position. The number is a record for the conference, now heading into its t h i r d y e a r .

SAFARICOM MARATHON 2010

The 11th Safaricom Marathon and Half Marathon will take place at the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, 140 miles north of Nairobi on **Saturday 26th June 2010**. Organised by Tusk and supported by Safaricom this fundraising event will host 1,000 runners from 20 different countries. The Safaricom Marathon is regarded as one of the toughest marathons in the world. However, runners of all abilities take part, from fun runners, walkers and amateurs, to professionals like Paul Tergat the Kenyan international and former world record holder.

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