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MISSION REPORT: TRAINING PARK AND FORESTRY STAFF IN THE USE OF CYBERTRACKER

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World Wide Fund For Nature
South East Forest Program

**Mission Report to Moloundou, Libongo,
Mambele and Ngatto to Train PAs, SFAs and
MINFOF staff in the use and manipulation of
Cybertracker, February 17-27, 2007**



By

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1. INTRODUCTION

During the Month of February 2007, the GISO and the SRA undertook an important field mission to four project bases in a quest to dispatch relevant scientific materials and to train project staff and MINFOF staff on the use and manipulation of the Cybertracker. The field staff involved in the training included the Park Assistants, Senior Field Assistants Junior field Assistants, Ecoguards, Chiefs of Forestry Posts and Conservators for Lobeke and Boumba-bek National Parks.

In order to improve data collection for biological inventories (plants, birds, large mammals, and butterflies), anti-poaching activities, hunting studies, data from ecological monitoring (monitoring of the clearings in the forest, monitoring of the bush meat availability in several villages and road censuses) and taking cognizance of the fact that the project intends to continue data collection in and around these areas, there was therefore the need to acquire relevant scientific materials to ensure that this objective is met to facilitate the data collection procedure.

In this light the project has invested in major scientific equipment which are being dispatched to various field sites and followed by training on how to use and manipulate them. Training sessions focused on the use and manipulation of the cybertracker for field data collection with intensive practical sessions for field testing. Trainings of field staff and distribution of scientific equipment to various sites is in line with the recommendations made during the Mambele meeting on the 18th to the 21st of January 2007. Detail lists of various scientific equipment distributed are included in the appendix to this report.

The trainings was tailored to ensure that both field staff and government staff have the capacity to collect accurate and reliable information and are able to carryout preliminary analysis to provide decision support to meet conservation needs. The training methodology had to do with instrument manipulation, data collection, data download, data export and import from and to other software programs such as excel and how to carryout preliminary analysis on the collected data.

Training has been completed in the following field sites as per the schedule below. Attendance lists for each base are included in the appendix.

2. Participation during the cybertracker training for Pas, SFA and MINFOF staff

Date	Project Base	#Persons	#Project staff	MINFOF	Others
17/02/2007	Moloundou	6	2	4	
20/02/2007	Libongo	5	1	4	
22/02/2007	Mambele	13	3	10	
24/02/2007	Ngatto	9	2	7	
Total		33	8	25	

2.1 TRAINING IN RETROSPECT

Key elements handled during the training included but were not limited to; a presentation on what a cyber tracker is, why the cyber tracker, the major features and the computer interface to cyber tracker, their functionalities, how to use the

cybertracker for data collection in the field and how to manage and maintain the cyber tracker.



Photo 1: Installation of different software and programs to be used to transfer or synchronize the different databases into the Handhelds using the desktop computer.

Prior to the beginning of each training session are the installations of various software and databases which are at same time synchronized into the different handhelds using the desktop computer or the laptop in bases where the Desktop is absent before training proper.

Each training sessions involved presentations, discussions, a question and answer session and lastly an intensive practical field exercises on manipulation of the cyber tracker handheld, data collection and data storage, backups, exports and imports into and from other programs such as excel for example. Staff were made to work in focused groups led by the GISO and the SRA. Staff were also trained on how to undertake preliminary data analysis using excel spread sheet for their personal use. The method used here had to do with “Participatory Learning and action” or simply “Learning by doing”



Photo 2: The GISO and the SRA provide leadership in the manipulation of the Cybertracker

Training and distribution of field material for the project base of Ngoyla will be scheduled and affected in the coming week so that this mission is completely effective.

3. MAJOR OUTPUTS

3.1. DISTRIBUTION OF SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT

A large number of scientific equipment have been made available to all field sites for use by field staff and conservation services around field bases such as Moloundou, Libongo, Mambele and Ngatto as planned. See certificates of reception in the appendice below.



Photo 3: The team hands over scientific equipment to the field team in Lobeke base.

3.2 PROGRESS MADE WITH RESPECT TO TRAINING

In total 33 persons including both project staff and MINFOF staff now have the capacity to manipulate, collect, store field data using the two versions (version 2.75 and version 3.072) of cybertracker installed on the Palmtop and pocket PC respectively for subsequent analysis.

4. CONSTRAINTS

Some chiefs of forestry post did not take part in the training, in which they have been informed well ahead of time. This means that they were not interested in the training and maybe their interest is somewhere and not in conservation.

The second and the most major constraints we had during the training was the trouble shooting with some of the apparatus such as the cybertracker such as the new recon. Some of the Recons functioned well while others still continue to trouble shoot.

In some instances the handheld computer functions well for a few minutes if not hours and then gets implanted. This experience was largely with the Bluetooth wireless GPS. In others the handheld get satellite communication but does not fix or marks a point when requested to. This has been due to the insufficient understanding on the functioning of this equipment.

Due to logistic difficulty and budgetary constraints to displace other Ecogards and MINFOF staff based at Kika and Djembe, the staff from these sites did not benefit from the training. An attempt was made to pickup MINFOF staff and Ecogards in salapoumbe for the training in Mambele, but unfortunately due to the provincial delegate's visit they could not participate in the training as they were still waiting to receive the delegate.

Most of the IQue 3600 cybertracker are damaged and not functioning. The few of them that are functioning still have the problem with power storage and can only be used for a few minutes if not hours. In this light some of the cyber trackers destined for some project sites such as Ngatto have been returned for checking and possible repairs.

5. OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff training should be an ongoing activity and should be organized in more conducive and in a professionally manner to avoid rush and unexpected results. This means that before training is affected, the available resources, materials are mobilized to meet the objective for which the training is intended.

In the future sufficient time should be given so that field materials are tested well ahead of time so that the lessons learnt during manipulation of the equipment can be shared during the trainings.

More research should be done to identify the gaps that led to the malfunctioning of some of the field equipment and more specifically the Bluetooth wireless GPS and also on the fact that sometime the recons regularly gets planted.

I would suggest that these trouble shootings are rectified before effective data collection in the field takes off else there are going to be many frustrations when the equipment turn to behave somehow abnormally.

Due to planning and budgetary constraints the trip to the Ngoyla base was cancelled and rescheduled for the coming weeks in the first week of March.

Regular follow-up field missions to all project sites will be required during the first month of commencement of data collection to provide initial backstopping to field staff at each project area where a mission is taking place.

Scientific equipment should be purchased based on staff requests and needs assessment and when available this should be made available to field teams ASAP to facilitate field mission.

Possibilities could be explored elsewhere if these cyber trackers can be repaired if possible abroad.

Some measurements at the level of “ Patrouille de Reconnaissance” are confusive and we don’t know exactly what should be quantified either the number of fruits or a basket of fruits. This is also the same case with fishing what should be measured a pile of fish or the number of fishes or kilograms of fish. More precision is need as to what has to be measured.

6. OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

It is worth noting that this field work was also taken as an opportunity to begin mapping and verifying villages and roads around the project area. It is hoped that this exercise will continue with subsequent field work opportunities. In these villages along the Moloundou Yokadouma highways and the Mambele Libongo roads were verified and this information will be incorporated into our SIUSE. The training gave the GISO and the SRA on the job experience in identifying some practical application of the cybertracker which are workable.

7. INCIDENCES AND EVENTS

During the training sessions our field visits happened to have coincided with the visit of the provincial MINFOF delegate, a visit which to our view was of great importance to boast our conservation effort. The provincial delegate while in Mambele alluded the Ecogards to be of exemplary behavior and that the ministry was making efforts to regularize their status with regards to their absorption into the civil service.

It is unfortunate to note here that during our trip to Ngatto and on our arrival for the training the Park Assistant had an accident in one of our project cars on a convoy with the provincial delegate’s tour of the UTO Southeast region. The positive side of it is that after all the training still went on well as planned.

8. REMARK ON STAFF CONDUCT

Experience has shown that there is a lot of laissez faire in the behavior of most project drivers who sometime feel behave as if they have the overall authority over the movement of vehicles. I had a bitter incident when the driver named Zambo was on mission with me for the training in Ngatto and was actually assigned on a second mission to Yokadouma without my concerned. It is strange that I am head mission

with a car assigned to me but a driver has the will to ignore me by taking instructions from the Park Assistant who himself did not concerted with me for any decision to be taken on the new mission.

It is important that the drivers should be cautioned else with the present behavior we shall one day be in troubles

9. CONCLUSION

In the overall the entire training process went on well but for the fact that the training was rushed and budgeting did not take into account the aspect of displacement of some of the Ecoguards like those of Djembe and Kika who were supposed to participate in the training was not budgeted in advance. Photos taken during the training can be downloaded in the backup available at the GIS Unit.

10. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS DURING THE TRAINING

LISTE DE PRESENCE
TRAINING IN CYBERTRACKER

S/L: LIBONGO Date: 21.02.07

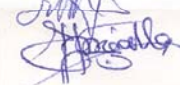
1.	BASSARA C. D.	R. A Libongo	
2.	Maga Jean Placide	Eco-garde libongo	
3.	EMA'A Samuel Rodolph	ECO-GARDE libongo	
4.	NGUNDUM KOUAMANDA Ange ^{Valery}	ECOGARDE libongo	
5.	NGALLA PATRICE TAAH	GIS Officer	
6.	Jean Paul Oahy	Assistant CS	
7.	MATOUKOU APO YAYA et al	Eco garde Libongo	
8.			
9.			

FORMATION SUR LE CYBER TRAKER

NOM ET PRENOM	Fonction	Emballage
GUEDOGUENA B. Remuvalol	Eco garde	
BILANDI MAROT JEAN BAPTISTE	Eco garde	
DUSMAN ANOUREU	Eco garde	
KAPITAINE PROSPER	-11-	
CHARTIER MBELE Fatrick René	Eco garde	
KOSSOUKOU MOKOU J. Roger	Eco	
Louis NGONO	CMO PA pi-PAL	
Kouamoung Daniel	Eco	
Magnan Aurore Atemengue	FAA	
Jean-Paul Nahap	Brit. CS	
NGALLA PATRICE TAAH	GISO	
DJAFSIA	ECOGARDE	
MONTSEKI PLACIDE	Vigile	
ASSE JACQUE	Magasinier	

Fiche de Presence
Formation cybetracker P.C.F.C. de NGATTO.

25.02.07

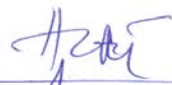
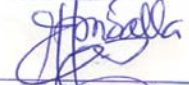
Nom et Prenom	Fonction	Signature
MBOT BANGJOURA	C/PNBB	
TSINDA MOISE	CPCFC Ngatto	
Louis Paul Bouru	Eco garde / Ngatto	
LAWA Richard	ECogarde / Ngatto	
SOUAWE BEGNANG	Ecogarde / Ngatto	
PIAL MERSELE Damien	JFA / BB	
NDARAMA GREGOIRE	Eco - garde / Ngatto	
NGOUNAM TEGOMO OLIVIER	SFA PNBB	
NGALLA PATRICE TAAH	GIS officer	
MAHOF JEAN - PAUL	Assistant / CS	
TOUBA EXPEDIT	Park Assistant	

TRAINING IN CYBERTRACKER

18.02.2017

Site: MOLOUMBOU

LISTE DE PRESENCE

N°	Nom & Prénom(s)	Fonction	Signature
1.	ANONG Vincent	SRA PNNKI	
2.	DONTEGO Desire'	JFA PNNKI	
3.	ALI MOUSSA	Ecogarde	
4.	ASSENE Sidonie	Ecogarde	
5.	NGOMBI Roger	Ecogarde	
6.	Atangana	Ecogarde	
7.	Ngalla Patrice Taah	GISO / WWF	
	MAHOP Jean-Paul	SRA WWF	

11. CHECKLIST FOR DISTRIBUTED SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT DURING THE TRAINING



WWF - World Wide Fund for Nature

Cameroon Country Programme Office

Inventaire du materiel

Site: Jengi
Localité :
Bureau :
Titulaire:

Lobeke

Mambelle

reçu.
D. N. NGONO
Quo PA p.i PNC

Description	Lobeke WWF (mambelle et libongo)	Service de Conservation	Observations
appareil photo Canon power shot S2IS	1		
Boundary pack	5		
Chargeur piles radio		2	
écouteur radio recepteur		2	
Fmontre Foret CASIO	4 (Bassama, Milong Theodore, 2 JFA)		
Manteau large		3	Lors de la premiere dotation, les manteaux ont ete distribuer aux postes forestiers et service de la
Manteaux large		3	conservation pour les Ecogardes
Matela gymes		10	
petit sac de tente	3	3	
plastique de bas de tente	3	3	
Radio émeteur recepteur		2	Un paire des anciennes Radio doit etre remise au Service de la Conservation; car elles ont ete achetes pour les patrouilles
Sac Foret noir (hydration)	1	1	Sac des Cadres qui vont en foret (RA et Conservateurs)
Sac vert GFA Ecogardes		15	Certains ecogardes doivent avoir les anciens sacs, et les autres les nouveaux; Les ecogardes inaptes pour la foret ne doivent pas avoir de sacs
Scinture Hip-chain			
Tente 2 place	3	3	
testeur piles radio		2	
Jumelle à infra rouge	2		
Cybertracker Complets (Recons et GPS Fortuna Bueltooth		4	Les unites sont bases de controle
Petite batterie		4	(Kika, Libongo, Djembe, Mambelle)
Cybertracker pour vehicule		3	

Pour le. coordonnateur
Regional
Po Scientific Advisor
17/02/07



WWF - World Wide Fund for Nature

Cameroon Country Programme Office

Inventaire du materiel

Site: Jengi
Localité :
Bureau :
Titulaire:

NKI

Description	Nki				Observations
	WWF Ndongo	WWF Ngola	Service Conserv Nki-Sud (Ndongo)	Service Conserv Nki-Nord (Ngola)	
appareil photo Canon power shot S2IS	1				
Boundary pack	3	3			
Chargeur piles radio	1	1	1	1	
écouteur radio recepteur			2	2	
Fmontre Foret CASIO	2	2			
Manteau large			2	1	Lors de la premiere dotation, les manteaux ont ete distribuer aux postes forestiers et service de la conservation pour les Ecogardes et conservateurs. Le PA s'assurer que ce complement permet a chaque Ecogarde d'avoir un
Manteaux large			1	2	
Matela gymes			2	4	
petit sac de tente			1	1	
plastique de bas de tente			1	1	
Radio émetteur recepteur			2	2	Un paire des anciennes Radio doit etre remise au Service de la Conservation; car elles ont ete achetes pour les patrouilles
Sac Foret noir (hydratation)	1	1		1	Sac des Cadres qui vont en foret (SFA et Conservateurs)
Sac vert GFA Ecogardes			4	4	Certains ecogardes doivent avoir les anciens sacs, et les autres les nouveaux; Les ecogardes inaptes pour la foret ne doivent pas avoir de sacs
Scinture Hip-chain					
Tente 2 place			1	1	
testeur piles radio			1	1	
Cybertracker Complets (Recons et GPS Fortuna			1	1	
Petite batterie			1	1	
Cybertracker pour vehicule			1	1	



Pour le CR WWF Jengi
Po. le SA.
17/02/07



WWF - World Wide Fund for Nature

Cameroon Country Programme Office

Inventaire du materiel

Site: Jengi

Localité :

Bureau :

Titulaire:

Boumba Bek

Ngatto - Maléa Ancien

	Boumba Bek		Observations
Description	WWF (Ngatto et Malea Ancien)	Service de Conservation	
appareil photo Canon power shot S2IS	2		
Boundary pack	5		
Chargeur piles radio		1	
écouteur radio recepteur		2	
Fmontre Foret CASIO	4		
Manteau large		4	Lors de la premiere dotation, les manteaux ont ete distribuer aux postes forestiers et service de la conservation pour les Ecogardes et conservateurs. Le PA s'assurer que ce complement permet a chaque Ecogarde d'avoir un 'menteau ✓
Manteaux large		4	
Matela gymes		8	
petit sac de tente		2	
plastique de bas de tente		1	
Radio émeteur recepteur		2	
Sac Foret noir (hydratation)		1	Sac des Cadres qui vont en foret (SFA et Conservateurs)
Sac vert GFA Ecogardes		6	Certains ecogardes doivent avoir les anciens sacs, et les autres les nouveaux; Les ecogardes inaptes pour la foret ne doivent pas avoir de sacs
Tente 2 place	4	2	
testyeur piles radio		1	
Cybertracker Complets (Recons et GPS Fortuna Bueltooth		2	Les unites sont pour bases de controle (Salapoumbe et de Ngatto)
Petite batterie		2	
Cybertracker pour vehicule		2	

Ngatto, le 18/02/07

Ngatto DANJUMA c/PN

Pour le CR WNF Jengi
Po le SA

TSVP - 18/02/07



WWF - World Wide Fund for Nature

Cameroon Country Programme Office

Inventaire du materiel

Site: Jengi

Boumba Bek

Localité :

Ngatto - Maléa Ancien

Bureau :

Titulaire:

	Boumba Bek		Observations
Description	WWF (Ngatto et Malea Ancien)	Service de Conservation	
appareil photo Canon power shot S2IS	2		
Boundary pack	5		
Chargeur piles radio		1	
écouteur radio recepteur		2	
Fmontre Foret CASIO	4		
			Lors de la premiere dotation, les manteaux ont ete distribuer aux postes forestiers et service de la conservation pour les Ecogardes et conservateurs. Le PA s'assurer que ce complement permet a chaque Ecogarde d'avoir un
Manteau large		4	menteau
Manteaux large		4	
Matela gymes		8	
petit sac de tente		2	
plastique de bas de tente		1	
Radio émetteur recepteur		2	
Sac Foret noir (hydratation)	1	1	Sac des Cadres qui vont en foret (SFA et Conservateurs)
			Certains ecogardes doivent avoir les anciens sacs, et les autres les nouveaux; Les ecogardes inaptes pour la foret ne doivent pas avoir
Sac vert GFA Ecogardes		6	de sacs
Tente 2 place	4	2	
testyeur piles radio		1	
Cybertracker Complets (Recons et GPS Fortuna Bueltooth		2	Les unites sont pour bases de controle (Salapoumbe et de
Petite batterie		2	Ngatto)
Cybertracker pour vehicule		2	

Pour le CR WWF Jengi
R. le SA.

13/02/07



WWF - World Wide Fund for Nature

Cameroon Country Programme Office

Inventaire du materiel

Site: Jengi

Localité :

Bureau :

Titulaire:

NKI

Ndongo

Ndongo

Ngwanya Vincent

[Signature]

Description	Nki				Observations
	WWF Ndongo	WWF Ngoila	Service Conserv Nki-Sud (Ndongo)	Service Conserv Nki-Nord (Ngoila)	
appareil photo Canon power shot S2IS ✓	1				
Boundary pack ✓	3	3			
Chargeur piles radio ✓	1	1	1	1	
écouteur radio recepteur			2	2	
Fmontre Foret CASIO ✓	2	2			
Manteau large			2	1	Lors de la premiere dotation, les manteaux ont ete distribuer aux postes forestiers et service de la conservation pour les Ecogardes et conservateurs. Le PA s'assurer que ce complement permet a chaque Ecogarde d'avoir un
Manteaux large			1	2	
Matela gymes			2	4	
petit sac de tente			1	1	
plastique de bas de tente			1	1	
Radio émetteur recepteur			2	2	Un paire des anciennes Radio doit etre remise au Service de la Conservation; car elles ont ete achetes pour les patrouilles
Sac Foret noir (hydratation) ✓	1	1		1	Sac des Cadres qui vont en foret (SFA et Conservateurs)
Sac vert GFA Ecogardes			4	4	Certains ecogardes doivent avoir les anciens sacs, et les autres les nouveaux; Les ecogardes inaptes pour la foret ne doivent pas avoir de sacs
Scinture Hip-chain					
Tente 2 place			1	1	
testyeur piles radio			1	1	
Cybertracker Complets					
(Recons et GPS Fortuna			1	1	
Petite batterie			1	1	
Cybertracker pour vehicule			1	1	