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872

PERCEPTIONS OF FLORA AND PRIMATE CONSERVATION BY THE BEAFADA: THE CASE OF THE LAGOAS DE CUFADA NATURAL PARK (GUINEA-BISSAU)R. Amador^{1,2}, C. Casanova^{1,2,3}, P. Lee⁴

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The main goal of the present project was to assess how the Beafada ethnic group perceived flora and fauna conservation in 16 small isolated rural villages located inside the Lagoas de Cufada Natural Park. The Park is characterized by fragment forests within a mosaic of mangroves, savannahs, fruit trees and other human agricultural fields. We aimed to contribute – in a long term – to develop a successful biodiversity conservation strategy. The study of the perceptions of the Beafada community – the major ethnic group present in the Park – is important to understand how these perceptions and attitudes can interfere or dictate the way natural resources are managed by local as well as their hunting habits. The study was conducted during two months (November and December 2009). Observation and survey questionnaires (N=129) were used for data collection. Since the universe is not known (official data is lacking), we used a gender and age quota balanced-sample: 22 individuals of each gender and 22 of each age interval (N=3). The sample used was a non-probabilistic one. Our data suggests locals perceive forest resources (and forest dependency) and primates are infinite resources as these are needed by humans to survival (and are guaranteed by God). Such findings, allow us to argue that before any campaign to be developed regarding biodiversity conservation (primates included), it will be necessary to explain human dependency of ecosystems and that resources (flora/fauna) are finite. Thus, religious beliefs will have to be deconstructed first for any biodiversity campaign to be successful.

Keywords: Perceptions_Primate Conservation_Beafada_Resources

873

BIRD: BIODIVERSITY INTEGRATION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENTC. Giacomina¹, G. Bounous², G. Beccaro², C. Peano², S. Bechis³, M. Gamba¹, V. Sorrentino¹, S. Audifredi¹, E. Miasa⁴, J. C. Rakotondravelo⁵, A. Ouledi⁶, C. Tan⁷, J. Ratsimbazafy⁸.

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According to the goals of ACP-EU « Science and Technology Programme » the 3 years project "Biodiversity Integration and Rural Development (Contract N.: FED/2009/217077) will develop new capacities of high level management and biodiversity conservation in the Maromizaha Forest (Madagascar) and the Karthala Forest (Comoros). BIRD network is formed by Torino University, Faculté des Sciences et Techniques Université des Comores, University of Antananarivo and Tamatave in Madagascar, and the association Groupe d'Etude et de Recherche (GERP). To reach the establishment of a biodiversity conservation policy BIRD will promote local poverty reduction by integrating biodiversity valorisation and rural development. BIRD will encourage researchers attendance and educational ecotourism together with disseminating innovative policies in sustainable agriculture, post-harvest management with the direct involvement of Anevoka community in Madagascar and the community of Ngnoumbadjou in Grande Comore. Within the first year of the project one multipurpose centre will be equipped in the 2 forest areas under the direct management of the 2 communities. The centre will serve the capacity building and training activities, both those directed to form new professionals and those aimed to improve livelihood activities of the local people. BIRD will strengthen the research and monitoring capabilities by running a 2 years training programme for 2 local research guides per Forest in order to teach them how to collect data on geography, climate, vegetation and fauna, how to implement the data in the more widespread software. BIRD will strengthen the management capabilities by organizing a 3 years training programme for managers.

Keywords: Conservation community Madagascar Comoros