

Cooperation for sustainable development – Royal Museum for Central Africa

Coopération pour le développement durable –
Musée royal de l'Afrique centrale (MRAC)

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Contributing to Africa's sustainable development is one of the missions of the Royal Museum for Central Africa (RMCA). A significant part of its activities is aimed at promoting development cooperation, towards which the RMCA can use its scientific expertise, collections, documentation, and infrastructure to advantage.

The museum's main partner in this area is the Belgian Development Cooperation (DGD). Activities are varied and are directed at:

- transferring knowledge about Africa and development issues, primarily through educational workshops for schools, exhibitions for the general public in Belgium, and international conferences for academics and professionals.
- implementing research projects in a wide range of disciplines (zoology, wood biology, geology, history, musicology) with partner institutes mostly in Central Africa. For example, long term collaboration projects work towards prediction and monitoring of geological hazards, towards integrated fruit fly pest management and towards sustainable management of forests and fish resources in the Congo Basin.
- reinforcing the capacities of African institutions through cooperation projects, training for African scientists, and sharing of digital information systems and /or sources.

The RMCA's data and collections in the natural and human sciences are one-of-a-kind, and the museum makes this information available to African institutions, researchers, and students.

Specifically for biodiversity researchers, the following activities can be highlighted:

- FishBase is the largest online fish encyclopedia. As partner of this international network, the museum focuses on information of African fishes.



FishBase

All information on www.fishbase.org



All information on www.fishbaseforafrica.org

- The RMCA created the African Biodiversity Information Center (ABIC). This initiative allows each year visits of African scientists to the Museum to share the data on African biodiversity of the collections in entomology, herpetology, ichthyology (lacustrine and riverine), mammology, non-insect invertebrates, ornithology and wood biology. Since the start of the ABIC visits 10 years ago, the RMCA has welcomed 162 African scientists (most from DR Congo, but also from Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Kenya, South Africa, Burundi, Benin, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Tanzania etc.).



2011 - Otiobo Atibita Esther Nadine, Cameroun -
Activité de butinage et de pollinisation des
insectes floricoles à Yaoundé



2012- Nebesse Mololo Casimir, DR Congo -
Réévaluation taxonomique du genre
Céphalophus - stratégies de conservation
durable



2014- Assemian N'Guessan Emmanuel, Côte d'Ivoire -
Impact de la fragmentation des forêts sur la distribution
spatiale des amphibiens : cas de région agricole de la côte
d'Ivoire appelée « Boucle du cacao »



Centre de Surveillance de la Biodiversité (CSB) in Kisangani, RD Congo

- Since 2010, the Consortium Congo 2010 has been active to create the 'Centre de Surveillance de la Biodiversité' in Kisangani to facilitate interactions and collaborations among Congolese, Belgian and international teams and experts involved in various fields of biodiversity-related research in the Congo Basin. This Consortium consist of the University of Kisangani, the Royal Museum for Central Africa, the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences and the National Botanic Garden of Belgium.

For more information on our activities, you can consult the website of the RMCA: www.africamuseum.be.