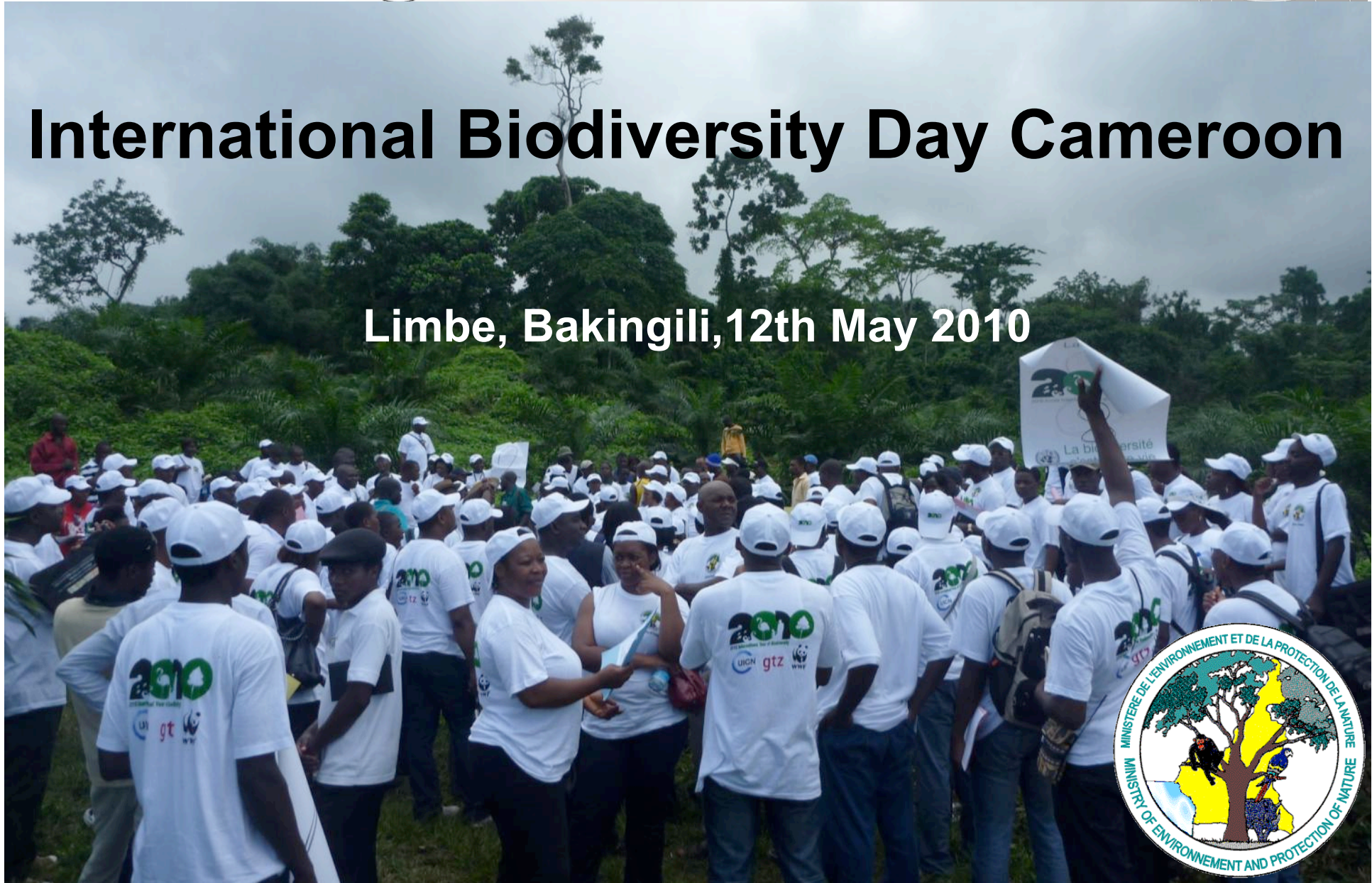
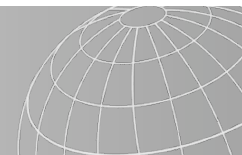


International Biodiversity Day Cameroon

Limbe, Bakingili, 12th May 2010





The Idea

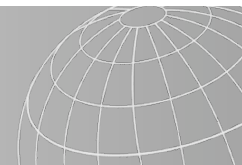
- **Global action day on biodiversity**
- **Get into the field with multi stakeholders**
- **Experience biodiversity**
- **Awareness raising for :**
 - **the need of biodiversity protection**
 - **the human benefits from intact biodiversity**
 - **benefits from ecosystem services**



The participants

▪ More than 200:

- Secretary general from MINEP
- 60 members from different ministries (Environment, Forestry, Agriculture, Tourism, Scientific research ...)
- 18 taxonomy experts
- 10 university professors and teachers
- 30 students
- 30 school children
- 30 representatives of civil society (NGO etc.)
- 20 local participants
- 20 media representatives

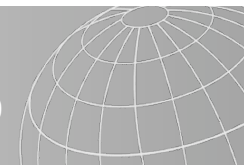


Meeting in the botanical garden in Limbe



- words of welcome and briefing of participants
- some first discoveries

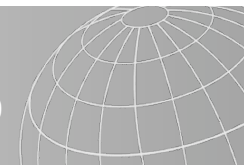




Drive from Limbe to Bakingili on the foot of Mount Cameroon

- **Fertile volcanic soil allows for the biggest plantations of the country (oil palms, caoutchouc, bananas, tea etc.)**





Getting ready for the field



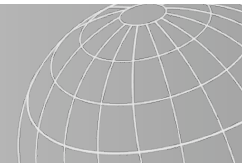
- After a 10 min. walk through oil palm plantations we reach the forest edge



- Warm welcome by local authorities



- Sub-division into 9 groups, each led by two of the taxonomy experts



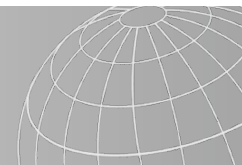
Let's go!





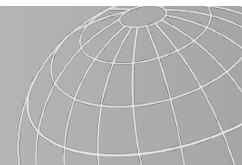
What kind of taxonomists?

- **Botanists**
 - **Plants**
- **Ornithologists**
 - **Birds**
- **Mammologists**
 - **Mammals**
- **Herpetologists**
 - **Amphibians and Reptiles**
- **Entomologists**
 - **Insects, in our case more specifically Ants and Butterflies**
- **NTFP-ists**
 - **Non Timber Forest Products**



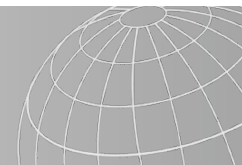
Some of the taxonomists at work





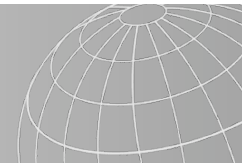
What we found





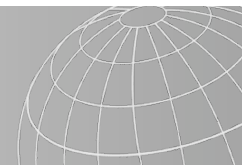
Some more examples





And again





Last one, I promise





Short presentation on what and how it was found by each of the experts





But the star was a 12 year old pupil who turned out to be very knowledgable on snails



He found, identified and presented 6 different snail species, some of which being rare in the area



Resumé of the experts

- **Heavily degraded forest**
- **Threat through growing oil palm plantations minimalized through declaration of community forest in 1999**
- **Forest is currently renaturalizing**
- **Increasing number of ecosystem/biodiversity services is being appreciated by the local population**
 - **For example:**
 - Protection from erosion
 - Gathering ground for numerous traditional food and medicinal plants
 - Hunting ground



Before we continue....

... make sure the message is passed on to a broader public:





Visit of a lava flow

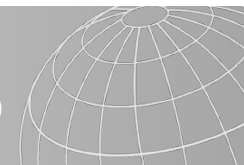
- In 1999 a part of Mount Cameroon erupted and sent a lava flow towards the ocean
- Many hectares of plantations and natural forest were being destroyed

But.....



Visit of lava flow

- **Destruction created a new habitat at the same time**
- **10 years later biodiversity is taking over again in terms of a slow succession:**
 - **Lichens settle first and break down rocks > together with the winds new sediment is being created in cracks and crevices**
 - **Ferns and mosses occur > more sediment**
 - **Higher plants settle**
 - **All this is constantly being accompanied by the respective associated fauna**
 - **A new ecosystem is born**
- **The nowadays fertile soils (plantations) of the region have all gone through the same processes**

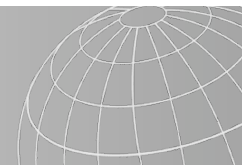


- **View from lava flow onto cloud- and forest covered Mount Cameroon reserve**



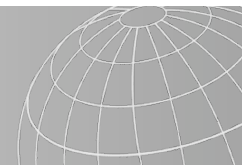
- **Other view from lava flow onto the Atlantic with a mineral water factory in between**
 - **Forest reserve and rock formations filter water**
 - **Direct economic benefit from biodiversity protection**



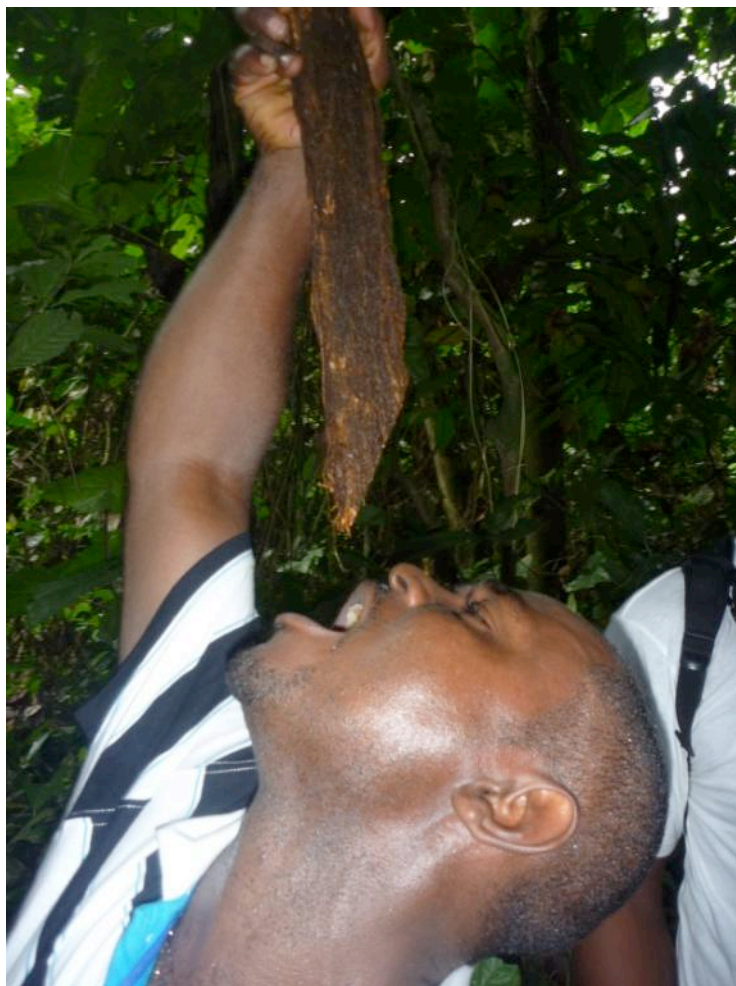


Marine biodiversity for sale at the foot of the lava flow





Some other direct uses of biodiversity

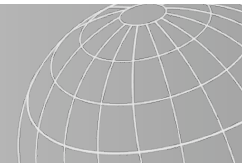




Gala Dinner in the spirit of biodiversity

- Participants of local authorities, ministries, media and action day participants
- Cultural program
- Prizes for winners of pupil-, students- and media-competition

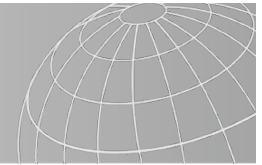




Biodiversity has never decreased as fast as in the last 50 years



On May 20th, Cameroon celebrated its 50th
anniversary of independence



**Let us together make sure that the next 50 years
are going to be used to reverse the trend**

