

Conservation education for secondary school students

Students from three Yaoundé schools attended a conservation education forum in Yaoundé, January 15th. The students from BHS Akai, College Adventist and GBHS Etoug Ebi, all in the city of Yaoundé, followed a similar programme to students at three secondary schools in England. Forests and disappearing wildlife were the topic of discussion. The students watched some short films, listened to an international environment expert present different perspectives, interpretations



and approaches to forest and wildlife management and conservation, and then contributed their own ideas and experiences. Many examples of traditions involving wildlife were given, from the use of gorilla bones to heal fractures, to the right of traditional rulers to wear leopard and other animal skins. The significance and implications of traditional values and modern interpretations were discussed, as well as our different views on how and if species can be saved from extinction.

The students left with a bag of resource materials and an assignment. They will re-group at a second, international forum in March, when each school (Cameroonian and British) will present and justify a list of actions that they can take to improve the management and conservation of our forests and wildlife. The presentations will be followed by live Q & A between the continents.



“Silent Forest” forum participants with their speaker Environmentalist Penny Fraser, in Yaoundé, January 15th 2011

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