

FINAL REPORT

Society for Marine Mammalogy- Small grant in aid of Research

Awardee: EDUKE BRIDGET AKUME

Institution: The University of Yaoundé 1

Project region: Cameroon

Project Title: A plant-based study of the feeding ecology of the African manatee in the lower Ntem River of Campo Ma'an National Park.

Project goal: The project's objective is to identify plant species eaten by the African manatee in the Ntem River.

Research Method: Questionnaires were used to collect data from respondents. 100 fishermen from three fishing ports located along the Ntem River were randomly selected and interviewed

Result: Five plant species were identified as the African manatee vegetal diet; *Echinochloa pyramidalis*, *Rhizophora mangle*, *Phragmite australis*, *Vossia cospidata*, and *Eichhornia crassipes*, *Rhizophora mangle*, especially its propagule is the main plant species mostly consumed by the African manatee in this area.

One more time I thank the Society for Marine Mammalogy for their financial assistance