



Mobilizing and making data available for identification, taxonomy, socioeconomic importance, and conservation assessment of Bryophytes in Benin (**BryoBen**)



Working visit of the Executive Director of the JRS Biodiversity Foundation in Benin



Introduction

On the September 22, 2023, the National Herbarium of Benin was honored by the visit of Mr. Matthew CASSETTA, Executive Director (ED) of the JRS Biodiversity Foundation. The Bryoben project coordination team, the Director and members of the National Herbarium of Benin, researchers from other laboratories, ACCES NGO, and the media were present at this session.



The National Herbarium of Benin team and other participants (Photo: Communication service of BryoBen Project)

The purpose of the meeting was to inform the ED on the progress of the Bryoben Project. Two talks were given: (i) the initial report of Bryoben project by the Principal Investigator, and (ii) overview on JRS Biodiversity Foundation by the ED.

Activity 1: Presentation of the initial report of the BryoBen Project by the PI and presentation of the JRS Biodiversity Foundation by the ED



Presentation of the initial report of the BryoBen Project by Hospice



Presentation of the JRS Biodiversity Foundation by the ED

The talks were followed by a question-and-answer session, notably on the types of projects funded, the criteria for applicants, the application timeline, and much more, allowing participants to find out more about the foundation.

Activity 2: Visit to the laboratory and presentation of the equipment purchased for the implementation of the project.



Matthew observing a bryophyte specimen collected during the field mission with the partners Lova Marline (Madagascar) and Terry Hedderson (South Africa) (Photo: Communication service of BryoBen Project)

Activity 3: Visit to the collections of the National Herbarium of Benin and the Botanical and Zoological Garden Edouard Adjanohoun of UAC.



Visit of the collections of the National Herbarium of Benin by Matthew (Photo: Communication service of BryoBen Project)



Hospice (Left) and Matthew (Right) in the Botanical Garden of the University of Abomey-Calavi (Photo: Communication service of BryoBen Project)

Activity 4: Gift of a copy of the Analytical Flora of Benin as a token of thanks to the JRS Biodiversity Foundation.



Donation of the book "Flore Analytique du Bénin" to the DE JRS Biodiversity Foundation (Photo: Communication service of BryoBen Project)

Activity 5: Meeting with the Vice-Chancellor in charge of the University Research

Matthew also met the Vice-Chancellor in charge of the University Research who welcomed and thanked JRS Biodiversity Foundation for the financial support. Other discussions were done on perspectives of future collaborations between JRS and University of Abomey-Calavi.



Family photo after session with Vice Chancellor. From left: Hospice DASSOU (Principal Investigator), Matthew CASSETTA (Executive Director, JRS Foundation), Aliou SAIDOU (Vice-Chancellor in charge of the University Research) (Photo: Communication service of BryoBen Project)