



**SOS Fund number - # 6b.034**

**Proposal Title: *Biotic Surveys of Bioko and Mbini, Equatorial Guinea***

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Start date: **2/1/98**  
Duration: **8 months**  
Total Grant amount: **\$84,900**

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Abstract
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Equatorial Guinea consists of three geographic regions; a continental region, Mbini (formerly Rio Muni, bordered by Cameroon to the north and Gabon to the east and south) and two off shore islands, Bioko (formerly Fernando Po) and Pagalu (formerly Annobón). Until recently little attention has been paid to the biodiversity of this region. Since 1993 periodic biological research on several species has taken place on the island, and a network of protected areas has been proposed for the country (Fa 1991). However, these areas remain generally unprotected, and for many taxonomic groups of organisms, especially on the mainland, there is little available information regarding species richness and abundance.

It is proposed to gather baseline data on the biodiversity of Equatorial Guinea in order to develop conservation priorities for the country. On Bioko, where the diversity of the birds and larger mammals is already well documented, work will focus on conducting arthropod and herpetological surveys on the southern mountains and Pico Basile. Obtaining a solid baseline of amphibian diversity, in particular, will be helpful in monitoring potential biotic effects of climate and local environmental changes. On Mbini, where species diversity for most taxonomic groups is poorly documented, bird and large mammal surveys both will be conducted, with a focus on four designated protected areas. However, as many sites in the country as possible will be visited. Biogeographic, morphological and molecular genetic information will be used in order to place the biodiversity of Equatorial Guinea in the context of the larger Congo Basin, and endemic or genetically distinctive populations in need of targeted conservation efforts will be identified. The socio-economic setting of each surveyed area will be assessed through interviews with indigenous people, NGO's and government agencies. In addition, an annotated bibliography of all available biological and socio-economic literature germane to conservation will be developed. Finally, using all available information, conservation priorities for the country will be set.