

Presentation of the Botanical Garden and zoological of the UAC

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Structure and surface

Abomey-Calavi, current city of the Republic of Benin, in the Gulf of Guinea, was the capital of an old kingdom. It is located approximately fifteen kilometers from Cotonou, the economic capital. In the heart of the city, the greatest center of knowledge of the country: the University of Abomey-Calavi, which shelters a splendid botanical garden and zoo. The Botanical Garden and zoo of the university campus of Abomey-Calavi was renovated in 1994 by the Beninese State with the assistance of partners to protect some species of threatened plants. This reserve of the biodiversity of the plants of Benin and Africa covers a surface of 15 hectares. It is a high place of the biodiversity apart from the parks of Pendjari and W. It includes three parts: the botanical garden, the zoo, and reception centre or leisure.

The botanical garden: An amazing diversity

The botanical garden has several levels. The first that of the exotic plants is dominated by species such as: *Ravenala Madagascariensis* (Musacées) or tree of the traveller, *Bougainvillea Glabra* (Nyctaginaceae), *Tabebuia Pallida* (Bignoniaceae), *Mammea Americana* (Chisiaceae), *Garacum Officinal* (Zygphyllaceae). The batch, one finds there plants decorative such as *Asparagus Drepanophyllus* and *Asparagus Lumosus* (Liliaceae). The second part is made for Beninese plants, *Adansonia Digitata* or Baobab tree (Bombaceae), *Cortus Afer* Zingiber, *Jatropha Curca* (Euphorbiaceae) or “gbonkpotin in language fon”, *Nephrolepis Biserrata* (Polopodiaceae), *Croton Zambesicus* (Euphorbiaceae). The third is reserved for the medicinal plants with beninese predominance: *Stophanthus hispidus*, *Bridellia Ferruginea*, *Monodora mycistica*, *Steroospermum kunthianum* (tonic, bite of snake, cough cephalgias), *Tamarindus indica*, *Rauvolfia vomitoria* (bark of the root pulverized in water more of pepper is used to fight the madness), *Cola gigantea* (leprosy and female sterility), *Combretum micranthum* (paludism), *Strophantus sarmentosus* (bite of snake). The botanical part of the reserve has a shade (for the plants sciaphyles) of the orchids and the ferns epiphytes such as: *Newboulda laevis*, *Catharanthus roseus* (terrestrial orchids), *Epicia cupreata*, *Peperomia obtusifolia* (orchises épiphytes), *Platycerium angelense*, *Platycerium stemaria*, *Adiantum sp*, *pellea doniana* (ferns épiphytes). On the whole, at least 400 varieties of plants distributed in more than 50 different families grow in this ecosystem.

The zoo

Fauna is populated mammals: antelopes, short-nap cloth of Gambia, of the tortoises, of the crocodiles (large basin), five species of primates (monkeys): *Cercopithecus mona* (monkey with white belly), *Papio doguera* (baboon), *Cercopithécus Aethiops* (green monkey), *Erythrocebus patas*, *Cercopithecus erythrogaster* (monkey with red belly). These species constitute the principal tourist attraction of the center. If you want to study creatures a little closer to the ground, there is no problem. The garden accommodates species of batrachians, and reptiles, of

which the viper, pythons, varans which are in pits. With regard to the avifauna, many species of birds enchanting the visitors. The center lodges populations of pigeon, parrot, turret and hummingbird.

In the garden, it is prohibited to visitors of touching with the plants, to take them. It is also prohibited to give to eat to the animals. These prohibitions are marked on small plates. It as should be noted as the visit of the center costs 200fcfa for the children, the pupils and students and 500fcfa for the adults and civil. A guided is going to visitors in group.

Infrastructures

The botanical garden and zoological of the university campus of Abomey-Calavi has several alleys of walk: alley of the “filaos,” “badamiers” etc. They all are practicable in rainy season as in dry season for “tourism of vision”. There are also areas, of relaxation, plays, and “panoramic sights”... as many cultural, gravitational and instructive installations. Buildings are established in the center for the lodging of the agents of management and the guides. The center shelters a restoration for the relaxation of the visitors.

Conclusion

The garden is face to a lot of challenges. The staff is not in number, no means to care for the species, absence of means of communication to reveal the garden to the students or the populations so that more resources can be generated out of it.