

## What to remember on our bush meat and NTFP users rights.

1. The politics of forestry law in our country emphasizes participatory forest management.
2. We local populations as principal users are the most important actors in this participatory management process.
3. We the local population have the user rights to collect less protected wildlife product (bush meat) and other non-timber forest products (NTFPs) around our forest (not in the park) only for consumption.
4. The law says we should not allow strangers from other villages or countries to hunt or collect forest products from our forest.
4. According to the law, we should avoid transporting wildlife products (bush meat) and NTFPs from one place to another even for personal use, without a permit.
5. Fortunately, we have been allowed to transport a maximum of 20 Kg of NTFPs around the Korup area for special reasons.
6. You can obtain a permit for bush meat transport or sales from the divisional delegation of MINFOF in Mundemba or Mamfe.
7. All class A and B animals should not be killed except with authorizations from MINFOF. Only class C animals can be hunted. Class C animals are porcupine, cane rat, frotambo, etc.

LET'S AVOID  
HARRASEMENT  
FROM  
FORESTRY  
OFFICIALS BY  
DOING  
WHAT IS RIGHT!

KRCS-SOMBO NEWS LETTER is a quarterly publication of our Action For Primates Conservation project. The editorial team includes;

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**Send your comments on the Bera road issue to us by email and visit us on facebook @ Korup Rainforest Conservation Society.**

Coaching from Joseph Mulema (WCS, Limbe)

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## KRCS, setting the pace !

The **Korup Rainforest Conservation Society** (KRCS) in collaboration with the Max plank institute for evolutionary anthropology shall soon start the first ever research project on Chimpanzee behavior here in Korup. This hopefully 2 years project is going to run along side another 3 years research project funded by the Darwin initiative in which we are collaborating with the University of Oxford, UK, James Madison and Cornell Universities, USA, the PSMNR-SWR, MINFOF (Korup Park service) and WWF-Coastal Forest Programme. This is also the first ever project focusing on Improving anti-poaching patrols evaluation and design in tropical rainforests of Korup National Park (KNP). These projects are bound to bring in much institutional exposure and training for many of our local members.

More so, we have not relented our efforts to impress local conservation partners and the local communities we represent and serve. Recently KRCS was fully involved in a biodiversity assessment project in different land use types by Denis Kuptch, a post doctoral researcher from Gottingen university, Germany. Our numbers and capacity have honestly been over stretched. Even though our membership is growing, the need for more capacity building is a priority.

Talking about capacity building, one KRCS member received a full scholarship from the **Conservation Leadership Programme** (CLP). Mr. Peter Ekpo (Erat village) has completed a training course in Project management at the Pan African Institute for developments, Buea here in Cameroon and is helping with new acquired skills. KRCS also signed the first ever under-taking with a notorious hunter who is willing to join KRCS as a wildlife research assistant. We have also made a significant impact with our CLP funded 'Action for Primates' project in KNP with letters of appreciation and encouragement received from 5 of our target villages (see more on page 3).

**Join us save the rich biodiversity of Korup, Our natural heritage !**



**Mission Statement**  
*...Involving Local people for a greener future*

*In one voice we say,*  
**THANK YOU CLP!**

### Killer Facts.

- Herakles farms joins list of TOP 10 MOST WANTED COOPERATE CRIMINALS for imposing unwanted 70000 hectares of oil palm farms in the Korup area; a biodiversity hotspot, seizing local farms, thereby violating human rights and the environment. (See more @ Global Exchange website).
- Elephant hunters continue to pose a threat in the north of Korup Park.
- High rates of wildlife hunting for bush meat can lead to local extinctions of some species.
- Volumes of forest products from Korup illegally end up in neighboring Nigeria.
- Crop damage from wildlife remains a challenge for the park service and local communities.



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**SOMBO—DRILL**

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**The New Collaborative Management Approach, What Next ?**

As mentioned in our last 2 issues of Sombo News, the Programme for Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Southwest Region (PSMNR-SWR) phase II (2011-2016) is bent on obtaining **Conservation Development Agreements (CDAs)** with all 32 target villages in and around the KNP. Communities that Sign the CDA with the KNP service will participate and benefit more from the management of the Korup park.

The Korup service is doing its best, using all means at its disposal to reach all target villages though not at the same time. The flooded rivers and poor roads resulting from the heavy rainy season have contributed to slow down the process.

Irrespective of the difficulties, it is important to note that significant progress has been made since the **debriefing meeting** held in February 2012. For instance;

- **Cluster sensitization** meetings held in all six cluster.

- **Cluster facilitators** recruited for all clusters;

Cluster A.....Mr. Uro John Mosembe

B.....Mr Ayuk Robert Mbi

C.....Mr. Motobo Cosmas

D.....Mr. Mokeo Clifford

E.....Mr. Nkwoi Bodie

F.....Mr. Orume Gregory

- **Village sensitization** meetings plus a short **Agro-socio-ecological assessment (ASEA)** have taken place in more than 20 villages. For this KRCS has been very instrumental to speed up the process.

- **CDA Negotiations** have started in a few pilot villages but no CDA has been signed yet with any village.

**What next?**

- The park needs to complete the village sensitisation meeting/ASEA in all villages.
- CDA negotiations need to be initiated and completed in all target villages so that CDAs can be signed.
- Village Forest Management Committees (VFMC) and Cluster facilitators need to be trained.
- Cluster platforms need to meet and plan activities.

**“ Communities that sign the CDA with the KNP service will participate and benefit more from the management of the Korup park. ”**

- Villages need to support conservation efforts to benefit from the **conservation bonus and credits** by end of 2013.

- PUZ elaboration for in-park villages.

*Fortunately, implementation of income generating activities (IGAs) and development measures can go on, provided villages show interest in the CDA.*

PSMNR-SWR is a cooperation between the governments of Cameroon and Germany, run through the Ministry of forestry and wildlife (MINFOF) with other partners such as GFA, GIZ, WWF and WCS. PSMNR is **conservation focused and cannot meet all our needs. Other government ministries/NGOs can help with other development needs.**

**KRCS, touching little things that matter for conservation.**

Atlast! the cries of more than 700 inhabitants of the enclaved communities of Erat and Ekon 1 were finally heard when KRCS donated fifty (50) meters of life-saving line across the dangerous Akpasang river.



The Akpasang river is noted for disturbing the free movement of basic life support goods and person to/from these villages during the rainy. Hopefully this gesture can also serve the Korup Park staff and our KRCS field teams.

In another development, KRCS signs the first ever undertaking



**“...conserving the rich biodiversity of the Korup area can bring the much needed development and employment opportunities in our area”.**

with a notorious poacher, Mr. Awoh Daniel from Ikondo kondo1 whom we have already succeeded to convert into a devoted wildlife research assistant and farmer.

**CLP funded Action for Primates Project (AFP) so far.**

The 1 year AFP soon comes to an end in September 2013. The project has so far made a significant impact in the target communities.

Though with a few obstacles, our conservation messages, football games between eco-guards and target village youths and school outreach activities have first and foremost, set an unprecedented grass root action record in the Korup area with an impact and legacy that shall surely be remembered for a long time.

Preliminary results from our pre-project survey suggested a negative attitude towards park eco-guards for most respondents in target villages. A significant positive change of attitude towards eco-guards in target villages has been our key achievement. This is also highlighted in letters of appreciation from 5 of our target villages.

Additional to achievements mentioned in our previous issues, are the following;

- Award of prizes to school EE clubs that participated in our primates art quiz, including a visit to Limbe zoo, books, wall paintings etc.
- Confidence building including sensitization talks and handing of materials in 4 target villages that never received replies from the KNP service after requesting for the football game.



**1<sup>st</sup> prize winners, GS Ekon 1 visit Limbe Zoo.**

**Take home books for EE clubs.**



**Paintings on school walls.**

**Ikenge youths get materials without the football game.**



**What makes news from Korup Park?**

As mentioned in our previous issue, our advise for all of us to stay **patient and prepared!** for the CDA process.

Yes, the heavy rains have slowed down the progress of CDA activities in the Korup area but the park team shall be in your village as soon as possible.

**Did you know that ...**

- The Ministry of Forestry (MINFOF) has sent a condolence package of 1 million francs CFA to the family of late Mr. Nikobo Davidson the ex-ranger who was attacked and killed by an elephant in his farm last November 2012 ?
- Studies were finalised on the establishment of permanent use zones for Villages inside the park and that the results from the studies shall be made known to the villages soon?
- Sadly, another elephant was killed around Ikenge village, this time the village reported the illegal inci-

dent, probably thanks to KRCS sensitization talks. Keep it up ! Ikenge village. That two suspects were arrested and prosecution is ongoing?

- Target villages in and around the park shall benefit from their first conservation bonuses by end of this year 2013 if they continue to support conservation and participate fully in co-management activities?

- Studies are ongoing to examine the possibilities of opening moto-bike roads leading to some remote villages inside the park like Esukutan and Erat ?

- It is a very good idea for Bera village (inside the park) to have atleast a motorbike road **BUT** that according to the law a road passing especially through a national park should be assessed for impacts and mitigating measures sought? Recently 2 Km of road have been bulldozed through the park towards Bera by an elite. No impact studies, or prior notice to the park service, **What do you think ??**