2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Key Achievements:

- Over 50 members trained on grant writing and other skills
- 3 project grants secured (IUCN-PPI, CEPF & Gov't of Alberta; over 65,000 USD)
- 3 Cooperation agreements signed with Bornfree Foundation, UK, University of Buea and Limbe Wildlife Center.
- Printed 2000 copies of wildlife story Books for school kids.

Contact

C/O P. O. Box 36, Mundemba,
Korup National Park
S W R, Cameroon.
Email: krcs4all@korup-conservation.org
Tel: +237 33777520, 676703079
www.korup-conservation.org

Compiled by: *Inyang Ambrose*
Secretary General

Introduction

The Korup Rainforest Conservation Society was founded in September 2009 by a group of indigenes from the Korup National Park (KNP) area committed to collectively assist in addressing some apparently burning issues threatening the integrity of the rich biodiversity of the park which were later highlighted in a conflict resolution and sensitization workshop organized by the park management in November 2009. Issues included;

- Insufficient participation of locals in park management.
- Insufficient benefits of local people from park management.
- Wide communication gap between park Management and local communities.
- Antagonistic relation between park service and local communities.
- Vandalism on park property by local communities.
- Insufficient information flow and conservation education in local communities.
- Wide gap between park users (researchers, tourists etc.) with local communities.
- Disorganized and indiscriminate recruitment of research assistants/guides resulting to some assistants later going into the park as poachers.
- Absence of a reservoir of local service providers for conservation activities.
- Insufficient involvement of local civil society in the park management.
- High pressure on park resources due to the absence of alternatives to livelihood.

KRCS seeks to address some of these issues in its objectives and activities. This annual report is therefore reporting on our activities for the period of **January to December 2017**. Even though the Anglophone crisis had a major impact on our activities due to the heightened insecurity situation, ***positive strides have being made in the right direction*** towards our resolve to building trust, mobilizing support from more followers and well-wishers from our target local communities as well as conservation and development partners, thereby making our impact felt. Our interventions and achievements are reported here under the six major sections as per our objectives;

I. General Administration and Finance
II. Locals' involvement in park management.
III. Sensitization through conservation advocacy and education in local communities.
IV. Capacity building and training for livelihood improvement.
V. Constraints
VI. Conclusions and Recommendations

Cover photos: *Left (2017 Annual Calendar with new logo), Right (Donating books; "wisp of wisdom" to schools)*

I - General Administration and Finanace

- Six (6) general assembly meetings were held.
- Eight (9) executive meetings were convened and eight (8) monthly planning were held for discussions on thematic issues including the 2016 evaluation and 2017 activities planning.
- Interested members list stands at about one hundred and forty one (141) with registered members increasing from 115 in 2016 to 139 in 2017 with members from over 21 out of 32 target communities.
- KRCS is still occupying an office space in a rented building few meters away from the korup information center due to the renovation works currently going on in the building donated to the group by the Korup park service at the tourist information centre.
- Reports for the CHICS and Bio monitoring were provided to donors and filed monthly.
- An equipment inventory was concluded in December 2017 and equipment included; KRCS received a new GPS from the team leader of the James Madison University visiting students.

Equipment	**Qty**	**State**	**Remark**
Wooden tables	02	In use	
Wooden shelves	02	In use	
Wooden glass cupboard	01	In use	
Wooden bench	01	In use	
Metallic Notice board	01	In use	
Dell computer screen	01	Still good	
Dell CPU	01	Still good	
HP deskjet printer	01	Bad	KRCs funds
HP scanner/printer	01	Obselete	
Cannon Photocopier N6317	01	Still used	Problematic
Camtel fixed phone*	01	Obselete	Used as internet modem
SINGSUNG 24" TV*	01	Good	For videos in villages
VCD player*	01	Good	,,
Casio solar energy Calculator	01	Still good	
1500W Voltage regulator	01	Good	
Electrical distributors	02	Still used	
Staplers	02	In use	Giant, bad and Medium size still used
Nikon video camera + SD card*	01	Good	Still used
Canon Photocopier/printer	01	Problematic	Regular break downs
Complete HP destop	01	Still good	GIZ funding 2014
HP 3025 printer	01	Still good New	GIZ funding 2014
Benq Scanner	01	New Still good	GIZ funding 2014
UPS	02	Still good	GIZ funding 2014

Camtel internet modem	01	Out of use	GIZ funding 2014
Workshop pin board	01	Still good	GIZ funding 2014
External hard drive	01	Still good	GIZ funding 2014

We also received additional field equipment from the PSMNR as part for field supplies for the bio-monitoring contract executed for the PSMNR since 2015 and continued till August 2017. The list of equipment is as follows;

Item	**Number**	**Condition**
Marmot tungsten 3 people's tent	2	OK
NRS green dry bag	5	OK
Marmot limelight 4 person's tents	4	OK
Green poncho	5	OK
Suunto compass	3	OK
Germin GPS map 64s	3	OK
Z-rest sleeping pad	8	OK
Rite-in-rain spiral note books	5	OK
Rite-in-rain bond note book	3	OK
Ben merdows all-weather orange notebook	2	OK
Petzltikking headlamps for field teams	5	OK
Phantom aquatic dry bag	1	OK
Timex marathon watches for field teams	2	OK
Vortex day pech	3	OK
9x12 tarpaulin	2	OK
Rite-in- rain yellow spiral	3	OK
Western digital 2TB hard drive	2	OK
Rite-in- rain pens	5	OK
AA batteries for ARUs	384	OK
GPS	01	OK

- The secondary account established at Express union, Mundemba to avoid several expensive bank trips to Eco-bank, Kumba and cash handling by members is still in use.

- The volunteer Administrative and Financial Assistant (Mr. Sumbede Anthoine – BSc. Economics) who was recruited has maintained permanent presence at our office, providing clerical and accounting services and has also run our **outreach documentation project.**

- An office assistant Mr. Konja Morel Namata who doubles as the communication and liaison officer of KRCS took up volunteer service at the KRCS head office to help out the administrative and financial Assistant taking the number of permanent office staff to 2.

- KRCS recruited 2 field staff to man the Elephant Guidant project jointly implemented in Banaynag Mbo wildlife sanctuary (BMWS) in partnership with the Bornfree foundation as from November 2017.

- Three (3) KRCS members where accorded 10 months contract each to assist the Programme for sustainable management of natural resources (PSMNR-SWR) in the delivery of wildlife monitoring interventions in KNP, BMWS and MCNP using Camera trapping.

KRCS was invited and participated in the following meetings:

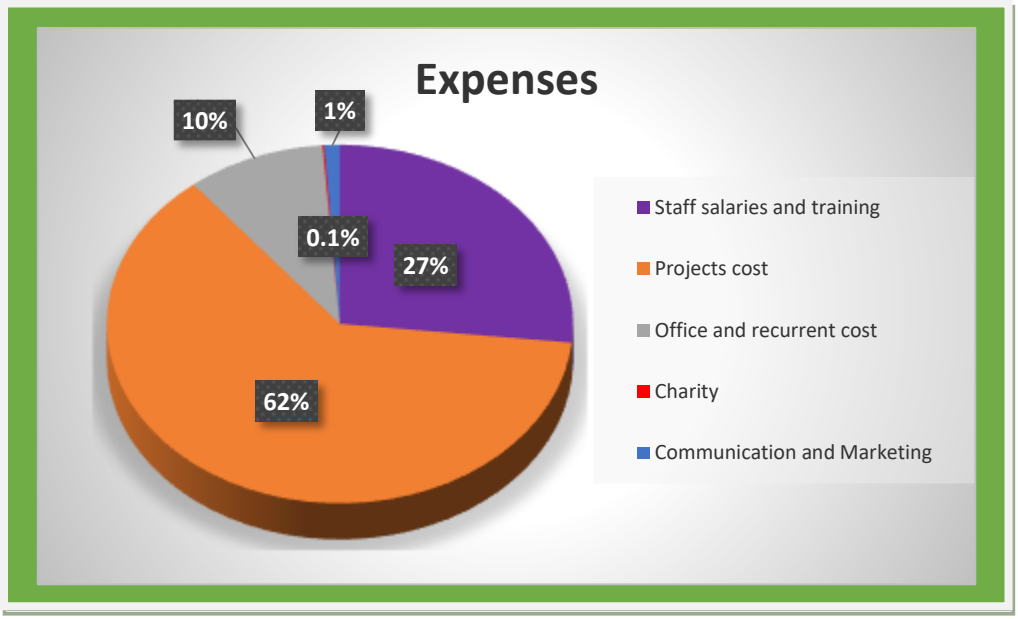
- KNP co-management approach sensitization workshop for MINFOF and stake holders at Ekondo Titi.
- On 6th June, 2017, participated in sensitization meeting on mangrove exploitation at Illor- Balondo.
- From the 12th to the 14th July 2017, 5 KRCS members participated in the institutional Fundraising workshop organized by SWECSON in Buea.
- July 2017. Participated at the PINESMAP- BPCE inception workshop in Buea,
- From the 24th to 27th July 2017, participated in the Red Columbus Action plan workshop in Abidjan, Ivory Coast.
- On the 8th of August, 2017, participated in the commemoration of the International Rangers Day at the KNP Headquarters in Mundemba.
- Over 20 of our members were co-opted as local service providers, researcher assistants etc. for park activities and complied with payments of their Green contributions (constitutionally accepted contribution of 10% kept aside for funding office running and recurrent cost).
- As from the 1st of January 2017, KRCS changes its logo and brand from the old one to reflect our new vision og grassroot action for people and wildlife. New introduced logo looks thus;

KORUP
RAINFOREST
CONSERVATION
SOCIETY

Our **financial accounts** for the year stand as follows:

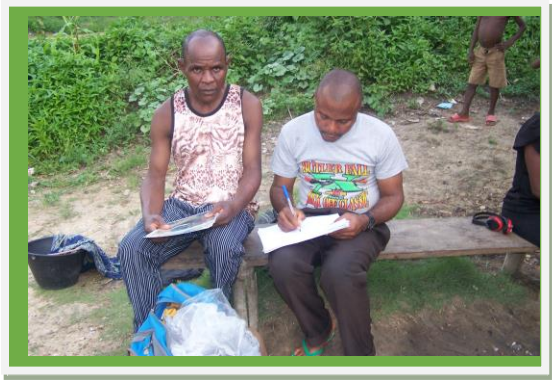
DESCRIPTION	PROJECTED	ACTUAL (FCFA)	ACTUAL (EUR)	REMARK
Balance from 2016	2,123,000	21,123,000	3,241	
Members registration fee	250,000	123,000	188	5000 one-off registration for men and 3000 for women based on the constitutional amendments
Members green contribution fees	3,000,000	2,155,450	3,291	
Financial aid from existing partners	30,000,000	29,323,490	44,769	PSMNR-SW and Rotary Club for Peace River & Alberta government grant
Financial grants from prospective donors	20,000,000	9,535,363	14,558	WildCRU Oxford University, Primate Conservation Inn, Cornell University and BornFree Foundation
Community outreach project surplus	300,000	72,000	110	
Gifts, donations and fees	200,000	250,000	382	
Total Revenue	**55,873,000**	**43,582,303**	**66,538**	
EXPENDITURE				
Salaries	10,500,000	10,500,000	16,031	Office and field staff
Projects cost	30,000,000	24,778,303	37,829	As per agreed budgets
KRCS Contributions to projects	2,000,000	1,215,000	1,855	
General Administrative costs	5,000,000	3,500,000	5,344	Banking related cost and recurrent cost
Equipment and maintenance	1,000,000	500,000	763	
Charity donations	200,000	45,000	69	To local tribal development associations
Staff training	1,000,000	594,000	907	Fund raising/Use of GPS

Communication and Marketing	500,000	450,000	687	Telephone/internet
Total	**50,200,000**	**41,582,303**	**63,484**	
Net Balance		**2,000,000**	**3,053**	



II – Locals involvement in Park activities and training (Research, tourism and collaborative management activities).

- Between the 26th May and 15th of July, 2017, KRCS member where involved in the implementation of the Cameroon Preuss's Monkey survey in/around the TOFALA wildlife sanctuary. This was a reconnaissance survey aimed at collected presence/absence data for the area using hunter focus group interviews.



KRCS staff admistering hunter questionnaires in a villages around Tofalla reserve

- Since 2016 Six (6) KRCS members have been fully employed by the PSMNR and are involved in collecting bio-monitoring data on the permanent transect/recee as well as using acoustic devices in KNP. Their contracts ended in August 2017. Fund were secured from the Cornell university, USA to complete acoustic surveys from when PSMNR funding ended in November upto January 2018 to also cover the peak hunting period of December.

Left (KRCS field team set to leave the camp) Right (Spent catridge shells collected during surveys)

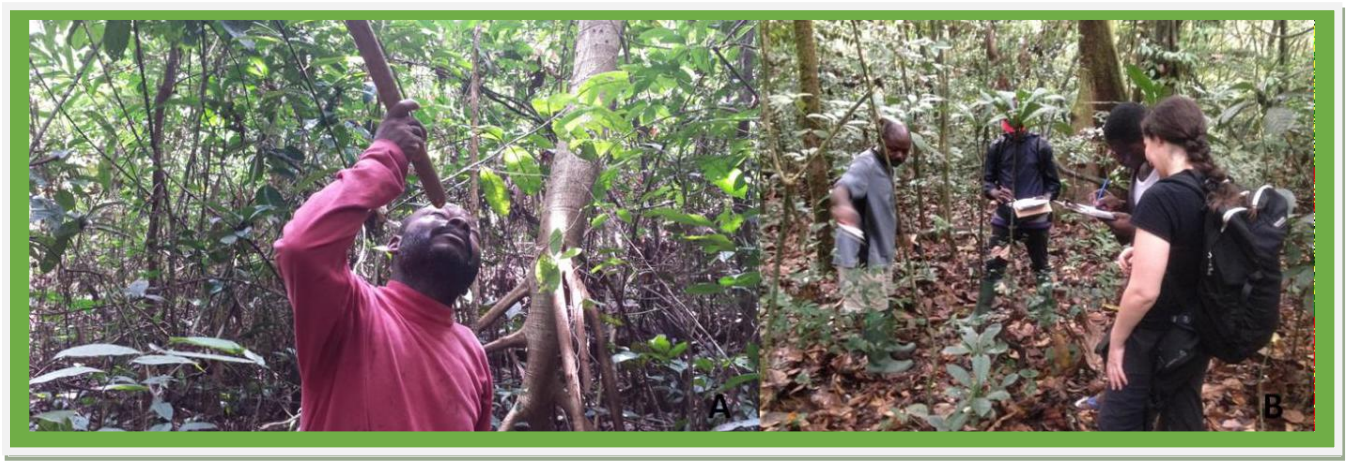
- Since November 2017, 2 KRCS members have been involved in the elephant guidance project sponsored by Born Free Foundation in the Bayang Mbo Wild Life Sanctuary. The project is aimed at mitigating human-elephants conflicts using pepper fences while also sensititising target communities in abid to minimize retaliatory killings and elephants poaching at the BMWS.

Elephant guidance project team set up pepper fences (behind) to deter elephants from crop damage in the BMWS

- Together with students from James Madison Unversity, USA, KRCS organized and hosted a study abroad programme in April 2017 under the supervision of Dr. Caroline Robinson.

Group discussion between KRCS members and the study abroad team.

- Together with the students from Gottingen University, Germany, KRCS organized and hosted a study abroad programme in March –April 2017 under the supervision of Denis Kuptch.



KRCS teams drill visiting students on bio-monitoring in tropical forest settings

III – Sensitisation through Conservation advocacy and education

- On the 4th and 25th of February.2017, KRCS ran a sensitization Campaign on wild life and forestry law vis- a- vis users rights at the NCUDA Cutural festival at Meangwe l and at the BOBOMBI WA BATANGA at lipenja l respectively which are annual tribal association events bringing together hundreds of people from many villages.

- On the 4th of November and 9th of December 2017, KRCS launched the distribution of 2000 copies of "Wisp of Knowledge" story book in Buea and Mundemba respectively together with conservation and education stakeholders in the region with support from WildCRU, Oxford University.

Lunching of wisp of knowledge story book in Buea (Left) and Mundemba (right)

- From the 9th to the 21st of December, 2017, the distribution of "Wisp of Knowledge" story books in 10 the communities of Cluster D,E, F and G of KNP. In all more than 700 copies of the book were distributed including distributions to schools around Mundemba the divisional headquarters. Distribution exercise was accompanied by sensitization talks in the importance of nature.

Distribution of free books to kids in schools

- On a daily basis wildlife documentaries are used to sensitize members of the public visiting our head office besides the KNP information Centre in Mundemba.

IV- Capacity strengthening/building and training.

In a bid to boost the organization development capacity and performance we embarked on the following;

- Three Memoranda of understanding (MOUs) were established with Bornfree Foundation, University of Buea and the Limbe Wildlife Center.
- One KRCS member took up a volunteer service at the Limbe Wildlife Center.
- KRCS enrolled 4 members in institutional fundraising course for African NGOs in Buea. The course is aimed at sharpening the capacity of members on project proposals writing.
- The second edition of the Namata Memorial scholarship was awarded to the pilot beneficiary at the KRCS office in the presence of his parents and wife of Pa Namata.
- From the 8th to 12th of December,2017, KRCS organized a training workshop for Executive members on project proposals writing and the use of GPS in Mundemba.

KRCS members during training workshop

- Following this workshop 2 project proposals were conceived, elaborated and submitted in 2017 with very positive feedback for possible funding received by the donors. The IUCN-small scale initiative grant was willing to fund our Climate sensitive protected area management (CLISPAM) and therefore conducted a field verification missions pending final grant decision.
- In a bid to pilot a scholarship scheme in support of 10 less privileged kids in communities around Korup National Park, the PSMNR and KRCS initiated the Chimpanzee scholarship scheme (CHICS) in 2016/2017 academic year with initial support from Rotary club of Peace River, Canada and later in 2017 from the Alberta government international development grants.

  Even though all schools were closed prematurely in 2016 because of security concerns resulting from the Anglophone crisis in Oct/Nov 2016, by September 2017, we decided to bring back the kids for the 2017-2018 academic year. thanks the *CHICS Emergency Continuity Plan* jointly put in place together with the PSMNR in June 2017. The academic year started timidly but later smoothly till X-mass break.

V - Constraints

- Prolonged rainy season and its associated impacts such as poor roads and flooding of rivers.
- Long distances and difficult means of communication with very remote target villages.
- Limited funds also limiting our ability to intervene in other priority conservation issues in the area.
- Hesitant attitude of some villagers due to unmet expectation from past projects and the government.
- The Anglophone crisis and the high level of insecurity in the region hindered our CHICS scheme as well as many other activities in the area.
  https://www.crisisgroup.org/africa/central-africa/cameroon/130-cameroon-worsening-anglophone-crisis-calls-strong-measures

VI - Conclusions and Recommendations

KRCS has made giant positive strides this year in especially in research and capacity building. Major achievements have been the progress made in building more partnership and synergies with local and international stakeholders, partners and donors thereby widening or human and financial resources base and networks. We also recorded achievements in other respect such as increase in number of registered members (mostly local villagers), conservation education and awareness and recognition mostly from our partners especially the PSMNR-SWR and the local communities were we work. The CHICS was one of the most supported programmes we have implemented in the KNP area as it had tangible long term benefits to less privileged households that otherwise could not afford secondary education for their kids. Unfortunately this scheme has been marred with irregularities due to the insecurity in the region due to the Anglophone crises.

Despite the security situation in the region we have recorded satisfactory success so far. However, we do not need to relent our efforts. We need to extend to more villages and intensify our activities in the dry season, fish more members and solidify ties with our partners and networks so as to have even greater impact in the area and meet our objectives. We also need to improve our collaboration with other partners working around the park in identifying and promote reliable alternatives to livelihoods so as to minimize pressure on park resources. For 2018, our strong resolve is to encourage more local support for eco-friendly nature based livelihood improvement initiatives and mobilize local communities to stand participate in climate change adaptation measures so as to improve their resilience and that of the ecosystem on which we all depend and we shall need our future generations to depend on. Ending the year on a very good note with possibilities for even more funding in 2018, our resolve is only stronger to do even more for wildlife and people around KNP.

The following are going to become our key resolve for 2018 going forward;

- Strengthen our human resource capacity for more efficient and results based organizational development.
- Increase our networking and lobby to gain support and funding needed to sustain the delivery of our services towards attainment of our goals and objectives.
- Continue to seek means to build the capacity of our local communities to effectively and equally participate in the management of KNP while also contributing in the improvements of their livelihoods though nature based solutions that minimize threats to endangered species and increase our resilience to impending impacts of climate change.