



# CERCO-NEWS

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## Tree Planting Kick-off

The seedlings in the tree nursery in Iko Esai's secondary school have been growing well. Out of the 3,000 seedlings, about 1,300 were deemed ready to be planted out.

CERCOPAN agreed with the school to buy the seedlings from them, to be planted out in the community. In the future, the seedlings will be purchased by the Cross River State Forestry Commission as part of their campaign to plant 5 million trees a year.

A ceremony was organised to kick off the tree planting activities. Amongst the attendants were the Commissioner of the Forestry Commission Mr. Arikpo Arikpo; a representative from UN-REDD, Mr. Ochuko Odibo; and the clan head and Chiefs' Council of Iko Esai.

CERCOPAN's Director Nicky gave a speech,



*Iko Esai's Clan Head planting a tree*

congratulating the school on their efforts to keep up the tree nursery and stressing the importance of the community's reforestation efforts.

Mr. Arikpo Arikpo complimented the school on their project, and explained about the Forestry Commission's programme to pay for each seedling that is successfully planted. In the future, this will ensure benefits to the school from running the tree nursery. Mr. Arikpo promised that the Forestry Commission will purchase the next batch of seedlings from the school.

Mr. Odibo of UN-REDD explained the link between tree planting and REDD+, stressing the importance of the tree planting activity. Finally, Iko Esai's Clan Head, Chief Nelson Etan, emphasised the community's commitment

to conservation. The school children performed a song about conservation for the attendants under guidance of their teacher Mr. Hans.

A tree was planted by Mr. Arikpo, Mr. Odibo, Chief Etan, CERCOPAN's Director, Mr. Hans, and a student.

These first six trees were planted in the area of the tree nursery, which acts as living classroom. Here, the children can observe the trees growing.

The event was featured on television and in the local newspaper, thereby giving wide publicity to the efforts of the community.

This flag-off event marked the start of the wider community tree planting, which is currently being organised. The community wants to make a regular village event out of this.

Mr. Arikpo Arikpo giving a speech to the children



## From the Director

*"Happy families are all alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way."* The Ana Karenina principle applies to both conservation and Nigeria; many factors have to align for an activity to be successful, and a deficiency in any of these factors will lead to failure.

Indeed, in any of our activities, Nigeria will have a surprise in store for us! As we don't accept failure, we have to be resourceful and continuously adjust our plans to fit the new circumstances. The successes we share with you are not always easily obtained!

In the composition of monkey groups, we encounter the same issues; there are many reasons why a monkey might not be accepted in a group, and this is difficult to predict in advance. We keep trying until we have the best fit!

At CERCOPAN we now enjoy the lives of several happy monkey families - for example Precious Love's group (see page 5). With twelve youngsters ready to leave quarantine in the coming months, we still have some work ahead in keeping all families happy. We have made our own plans, but I

am sure the monkeys will have some surprises in store for us... We will keep you updated!

Of course, none of this would be possible without the dedication of our staff. Team work and team spirit are key ingredients for the success in primate conservation, and our staff works tirelessly to ensure we are successful in whatever we do!

And a big thank you goes to our supporters... without you there would be no successes to report!

See you next month,

*Nicky*



Nicolien Schoneveld  
CERCOPAN Director  
and the Calabar team



Egu, our head keeper,  
learning some veterinary  
checks

## Thank you Columbus Zoo

CERCOPAN would not be able to carry out our work if it were not for our supporters, which include private individuals, grant agencies, and zoos.

One of our loyal supporters is Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, whose Conservation Grants Program has contributed to CERCOPAN since 2002.

This month, we received the good news

that we will receive another grant from Columbus Zoo in 2012.

The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium Grant has contributed to our veterinary programme, enabling us to purchase medical supplies for the monkeys in our care.

Furthermore, the Columbus Zoo grant provides opportunity for capacity building of our

local veterinary staff as well as the quarantine care-taker. Continuous training of local staff in veterinary practices and procedures is one of the key areas where our animal care standards can make tremendous advancements.

We are very grateful to Columbus Zoo for their loyal support over the years!

## Welcome to Rhoko!

In Rhoko camp, CERCOPAN runs several programmes, including phenology research, forest patrols, and primate reintroduction surveys. For our staff and volunteers it is no holiday destination!

However, for tourists Rhoko forest camp is a paradise get-away. The air is clean, the river is

beautiful, and the forests are waiting to be explored.

With four tourist bungalows (one of which even has power and its own en-suite shower!) and a brand new tourist kitchen and dining area, CERCOPAN can comfortably receive groups of tourists.

This month, a group of

eight expats working in Calabar visited the camp.

Tourist royalties are a valuable source of income for our conservation work. Furthermore, two-thirds of eco-tourism entrance fees go directly to the Community Conservation Development Fund and the Chiefs Council to benefit the community.

*"Two-thirds of eco-tourism entrance fees go to the Community Conservation Development Fund and Chiefs Council"*

# Land use mapping Owai

Owai is a small village (population around 2,000) enveloped by tropical rainforests. The border of Cross River National Park is close-by, and the community relies heavily on resources from the forest for food and income.

With a growing population and increasing pressures from farm expansion, illegal logging and bushmeat hunting, Owai is at risk of clearing important conservation zones, thereby risking to lose the forest they are so dependent on.

CERCOPAN helps to avoid this by assisting the community in the formulation of a land use management plan.

A land use management plan allows for controlled development, balancing socio-economic and conservation needs.

Most villagers have never seen a map before. Community members use certain shared landmarks to demarcate their lands and to mark important areas. Depicting these on a map will make it comprehensible for all.

This month, the first

steps were taken to create such a map for Owai community.

CERCOPAN organised a focus group meeting, facilitated by CERCOPAN's Community Conservation Manager, BenJee Cascio, Community Liaison & Education Officer, Mike Ekpe, and the Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) Coordinator, Chris Hamley.

This focus group meeting was attended by 27 community members, including representatives from the Chiefs' council, hunters group, women's group, forest management committee and youth group. Having a large representation from the major groups in the community is important to ensure all stakeholders are represented in the ultimate plan, and will help in the acceptance and awareness of the final land use management plan.

The participants identified significant natural features in their surrounding area such as streams, roads, forest trails and mountains. These were drawn onto a map and the groups then identified what



Owai village with the forest in the background

activities they practice in each area surrounding their village.

Uses such as NTFP extraction, hunting, farming and forest regeneration were identified.

CERCOPAN's NTFP coordinator will now ground truth certain locations using GPS technology. Together with the Owai Surveillance Team, several trips will be made to take exact coordinates of the landmarks. Chris will then use satellite images to produce a map to scale, depicting actual forest cover and land use.

With an up-to-date map we can measure the growth and expansion of forest use and farming, allowing the community to better plan for their future land use management.

*"A land use management plan allows for controlled development, balancing socio-economic and conservation needs."*

Land use mapping in Owai



## Repairs in Rhoko



Replacing poles without disturbing the mangabeys



As we all know, prevention is better than cure. Taking advice from this well-known saying, staff at our Rhoko site have been carrying out necessary routine maintenance of the 1-hectare electrified enclosure which is home to a group of 53 red-capped mangabeys.

The enclosure is constructed from approximately 100 large wooden fence posts, to which the electric cables are attached. Despite having been treated beforehand with solignum, the very wet conditions we experience in the rainforest slowly eat

away the wood. Every year we therefore check all posts to see if any need to be replaced.

This year, several of the posts had become rotten at the point they entered the ground and there was a potential risk of them falling over in the future. Our Construction and Maintenance team set off to Rhoko to assist the groundkeepers.

To replace the damaged posts, holes were dug to the side of the existing posts, into which new pre-drilled and treated posts were placed and then concreted in position. Following this,

the insulated parts that hold the electric cables were transferred over to the new posts, and then the cables were re-attached. Finally, once the concrete surrounding the new posts had completely set, the old posts were taken down and removed from the enclosure.

By carrying out the repairs in this manner, there was no risk of escape by the monkeys and therefore they were able to carry out their normal lives with minimal disruption throughout the process. A total of 21 posts were replaced during the period of a week.

## REDD+ and FPIC

This June, the Cross River State Forestry Commission together with UN-REDD and Stanley Osimise Obo of the CCDC organised a workshop in Iko Esai.

The purpose was to inform the community of certain processes involved with REDD+, and more specifically FPIC: Free, Prior, Informed Consent.

REDD+ involves remote communities that often have little information access. It is therefore very

important that they are informed properly on the REDD+ process, and to explain to them what their rights are.

Communities should be involved as much as possible, should not be pressured in any way, and should receive all information before choosing whether to get involved with REDD+ or not.

CERCOPAN of course fully supports this concept, which means that communities embrace conservation and REDD+ rather than having it imposed by outsiders. More importantly, it ensures that the community itself benefits from REDD+, and prevents conflicts of interest.

We are pleased that

our host communities are well prepared for the expected REDD+ implementation, and that they are trained by professional organisations on all aspects of REDD+.

The community was very interested; both days saw more than 250 participants! The attendants showed their comprehension of the information in the various exercises that were presented to them.

On the second day, surveillance team gave a performance to the community, explaining their role in the battle against illegal logging. Mr. Arikpo of the Forestry Commission commended them, and praised their efforts to preserve the community forests for generations to come.



The Surveillance Team presenting themselves to the community

# Reaching out

This month was a busy month for our Calabar education team Abakum and Martina. For weeks, they had been working with the Ministry of Environment and the Forestry Commission to organise a tree planting activity for World Environment Day. This celebration was cancelled at the last minute due to the national mourning period for the Dana Air accident in Lagos, in which all 153 passengers lost their lives.

Abakum and Martina still wanted the children to learn something about the environment in that week, so they invited the schools to CERCOPAN after the national mourning was over. Over the course of several days, more than 300 school children,

accompanied by their teachers, visited CERCOPAN to receive an educational tour by Abakum and Martina.

These were busy days for Martina and Abakum! The school children were welcomed in the education centre where they received a talk from one of the education officers about CERCOPAN and our monkeys. The talk of the education team is interactive and they incorporate some games to keep the children's attention. The children were interested, which was obvious from the many questions they asked, most of them about the monkeys.

After this introduction, the children were split in smaller groups and could observe the monkeys directly. Abakum and Martina explained some fun facts about the monkeys. Also the children were told

about the problems of keeping a primate as a pet. Finally, the students made a drawing for the monkeys.

One school made a day out of it, and organised a picnic and games in the grass field in front of CERCOPAN to entertain their students while others were in CERCOPAN premises.

Although Abakum and Martina were disappointed that the World Environment Celebration was cancelled, this was a very good alternative where a lot of children have learned about the environment and monkeys in the week of June 5th!



Martina with a group of students in the education centre

***“The talk of the education team is interactive and they incorporate some games to keep the children’s attention.”***

# One happy family

Precious Love and her baby are doing very well. As you can see, she has grown considerably, and with that came a quest for independence!

While Precious Love – always the protective mother – had difficulties to let her baby stroll around the enclosure alone, she could not keep up with the little one's inexhaustible energy and eventually had to settle for watching her from a corner.

By now, we have been able to determine that the baby is a girl. In order to facilitate tracking family lines, our baby monkeys receive a name with the same first letter(s)

as their mother.

Having observed Precious' Love's baby for over five months, we have seen an adventurous little monkey who is also very attached to her mother.

She is assertive, and loves to play and tumble.

What better name for her than Pippi Longstocking, the famous red-haired, freckled girl from Astrid Lindgren's stories!

While we toyed with the

idea to use her full name *Pippilotta Delicatessa Windowshade Mackrelmint Ephraim's Daughter Longstocking*, the animal caretakers were afraid they would never remember this, so we decided to settle on the more commonly known and easier-to-remember Pippi Longstockings.

Pippi, the excentric little girl living with a squirrel monkey and a horse but without any adults in Villa Kallekula, is resourceful, adventurous, and unbelievably strong.

We wish little Pippi all the happiness and strength of the little red-haired character, however with her mother close by her side in their own Villa Kallekula in Calabar.



**Pippi Longstockings**  
[www.astridlindgren.com](http://www.astridlindgren.com)

## WANT TO BE A PART OF IT?

- Stay in touch with our on-going programme by bookmarking our home page <http://www.cercopan.org/> and our Blog site <http://cercopan.wildlifedirect.org/> and joining our Facebook fan page <http://www.facebook.com/cercopan/>
- Volunteer for CERCOPAN in either Nigeria or the UK. We offer a range of different programmes so there is something for everyone! Visit our website volunteer section for further details.
- Help CERCOPAN attain corporate funding. If you work for a corporate sponsor who may be interested in funding CERCOPAN please contact [nicolien.schoneveld@cercopan.org](mailto:nicolien.schoneveld@cercopan.org)
- Undertake a sponsored event to raise funds for CERCOPAN. Use the Fundraising Pack on our web site to help you.
- Make a cash donation to CERCOPAN via our website...every little helps!
- Buy a gift for friends or family from the Good Gifts Catalogue ([www.goodgifts.org](http://www.goodgifts.org)). You can buy a month's supply of fruit for growing CERCOPAN orphan monkeys - called in the catalogue 'A-peeling Monkeys' for only £20! The price of the gift is passed on to CERCOPAN. So, it is an excellent way of solving your gift problems, and supporting our work! Alternatively visit the CERCOPAN gift shop on our website today.
- Donate useful goods and equipment such as building and fencing materials, veterinary medicines, old laptop computers etc. or services such as printing, blood testing and architectural design.

[www.cercopan.org](http://www.cercopan.org)

<http://cercopan.wildlifedirect.org>

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All photos in this newsletter were taken at CERCOPAN, Iko Esai, Owai, or Agoi Ibami by staff, volunteers and visitors.

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