



# CERCO-NEWS

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## Iko Esai United for Conservation

Last year, August 2011, implemented the CERCOPAN Education Officer Abakum Owai attended the Pan African Sanctuary Alliance (PASA) annual Education Workshop in Uganda.

Here, amongst many other activities, Abakum and the other participants were instructed on a Pan-African educational programme, organised jointly by PASA and Disney's Animal Programs and Environmental Initiatives, which was to be implemented in each member sanctuary's respective communities.

Over the past months, Abakum has successfully

implemented the *Community for Primate Conservation* programme in our host village Iko Esai. He has been assisted by Daniel Roper-Jones, a volunteer from the United States.

Together, they have succeeded to organise a conservation group of over fifty students. The conservation group called themselves "The United Group for Conservation", and over the course of weeks learned about primates, the rainforest, and what they can do to protect them. The group furthermore carried out an educational performance on Iko Esai's

market day, attended by several hundred villagers, including the village Chiefs. They also made a poster on Primate Conservation. The Chiefs have requested for this poster to be put in the town square on a permanent display.

The final activity, a village clean-up, is scheduled for next month. After this, Abakum will analyse pre- and post education questionnaires, filled out by all participants, to assess the effectiveness of the programme. We will continue organising activities for the conservation group. Well

done Abakum and Daniel, for educating the future generation of Iko Esai on the importance of primate conservation!

The United Group for Conservation





Nicolien Schoneveld  
CERCOPAN  
Director

## From the Director

As you have read in the CERCO-NEWS January 2012 edition, Claire has left CERCOPAN after five years, and has accepted the position as Chairman of the CERCOPAN Board of Trustees.

All the CERCOPAN staff wish Claire all the best in her new adventures, and we are very grateful she will still be part of the CERCOPAN team!

This year will be an exciting year, both for me personally and for the organisation. Obviously, moving to Nigeria is an exciting event in itself. While it is difficult to prepare yourself for Nigeria, a country incomparable to any other, the warm reception of the CERCOPAN staff makes everything easy! Being a part of this group of dedicated people, many working for CERCOPAN

for over a decade, has been a remarkable experience.

As you will see in this CERCO-NEWS edition, a lot is happening at CERCOPAN. And we have many more plans for the months to come... but let's not get ahead of ourselves. The milestones in this month are a cause for celebration!

*Nicky*

## Computer training Owai

CERCOPAN has provided the community based organisation (CBO) of Owai with a computer and a printer.

Community Conservation Manager BenJee Cascio gave three computer training classes to teach basic computer usage, such as

word processing and Microsoft Excel. Two representatives from the CBO received additional, more intensive, training.

Mastering basic computer skills means the CBO can apply for funds, and keep digital record of their minutes and other supporting

documents. It increases their ability to connect with external groups such as government agencies or NGOs.

The group looks forward to applying for grants and hopes to bring projects to help the community in the near future!



Computer training with  
CERCOPAN's BenJee

## Tusk Trust

We received good news this month: Tusk Trust has decided once again to sponsor our activities this year!

We are very grateful for their support, which will enable us to intensify the forest

patrols of the CERCOPAN core area and the larger community forest.

Also this month, we installed a road barrier funded by IUCN France and BBC Wildlife Fund, which will prevent

logging trucks from passing, but allow loaded motorbikes through.

With the arrival of NTFP coordinator Chris, we are well prepared to protect the forest and wildlife from illegal activities!



Road barrier

# New year, new beginnings

At Rhoko, there are numerous activities and projects planned for 2012 – this is going to be a good year! Two new volunteer huts have recently been completed (courtesy of Tusk Trust) and the volunteer showers have been upgraded. The solar power supply at camp has been improved and additional solar panels have been installed at the large open-topped mangabey enclosure to power the electric fence.

At the mangabey area, new bridges are being constructed which will enhance the mangabey viewing experience, and with roofs, these structures will be indispensable during the wet season.

This year there will be volunteer coordinators

covering education, primate research and reintroduction, non-timber forest products collection, and construction. CERCOPAN is looking forward to 2012 and relishing new projects and opportunities to advance and promote conservation.

International and national researchers are expected at Rhoko in the coming months to conduct their fieldwork which encompasses a range of diverse topics and species.

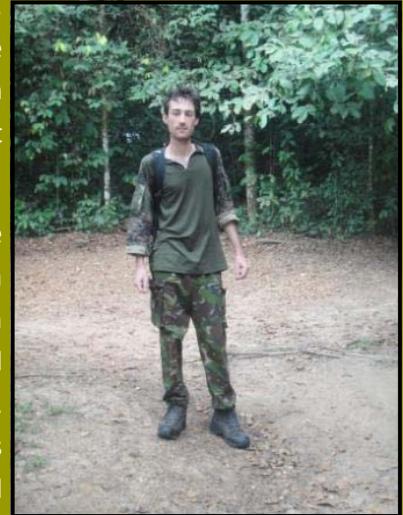
In February, Rhoko camp welcomed Chris Hamley as its NTFP Coordinator. This newly created position focuses on expanding current research on long term use and sustainability of forest product collection

in protected areas.

Chris will also build and train the patrol staff on mapping, GPS use, and species identification. Watch this space for more news on Chris's forest excursions.

Chris, from the UK, has a BSc in Geography and an MSc in International rural development. Previously, Chris worked for several community based conservation NGOs in Belize, focusing on biodiversity monitoring and protected area planning.

We are looking forward to working with Chris and integrating him into the Rhoko volunteer team – we are sure he will fit right in!



Chris Hamley, our NTFP Coordinator

The Rhoko team!



## Growing trees



Starting to grow!

CERCOPAN has made significant advances in the development of our tree nursery at the secondary school in Iko Esai, funded by BBC Wildlife Fund.

We have renovated our five new shade beds. The outdoor classroom is finished, complete with chalkboard and benches. The classroom has already been used on several occasions by the school's biology teacher, and has

become the weekly meeting place for their Conservation Club.

CERCOPAN has reached 3,000 planted seeds representing six different species, and many of the seeds are beginning to germinate. Seed collection is ongoing, and the forest species raised by the school will eventually be purchased back by CERCOPAN for our reforestation efforts in

the buffer zone around our Core Area.

Training is ongoing with the students in preparation for the upcoming handover of the nursery site into the school's management.



Working in the nursery

## REDD+ in Iko Esai

This month, we were honoured to receive the Norwegian councilor for Environmental and Climate Change, Mr. Rider, accompanied by Mr. Arikpo Arikpo, Cross River State commissioner of Forestry, in Iko Esai village and Rhoko camp.

The delegation first visited CERCOPAN's forest camp to better understand the organisation and its activities.

The group then moved to Iko Esai

community where Mr. Arikpo Arikpo and Mr. Rider facilitated a meeting with members of the Iko Esai community to discuss the REDD carbon credit pilot project. Iko Esai was represented by the Chiefs' council, CBO chairman, youth president and about 50 other prominent community representatives.

Mr. Arikpo explained the goals of the REDD project and urged the community to continue working towards forest preservation. Mr. Rider stated he was pleased

with what he saw in Iko Esai, and he would relay this information to the ambassador and his country's REDD programme officers. The Chiefs of Iko Esai expressed their dedication to conservation and their excitement about participating in the REDD programme.

CERCOPAN is proud to be the facilitator for the REDD activities in Iko Esai, and pleased to see that the village's commitment is recognised by international and national delegations.



BenJee with the delegation

# CBO registration

Since June last year, CBOs filled out registration forms, submitted their constitutions and paid the registration fee. Mr. Simon spoke to the chairman of each CBO about the role of a CBO and asked them various questions about aspects of their constitution to make sure everyone understood the purpose and content. The CBO representatives also received some advice on the contacts and opportunities available through the Ministry of Youth and Sports and were encouraged to remain active in attracting programmes and trainings for their CBO.

As a last step, Mr Simon then visited the villages of Owai and Agoi Obami, where the CBOs were put through a screening including accounting procedures and bank statements. We are proud to say that Mr Simon was impressed with both CBOs, and the villages expect to receive their official registration forms in early March.

CERCOPAN facilitated a meeting with Mr. Simon of the Ministry of Youths and Sports to officially register the CBOs with the government. The

working with the communities of Owai and Agoi Ibami to facilitate the start-up of a community Based Organisation (CBO) in each village. After several meetings and workshops, representatives of the CBOs came to Calabar to start the official registration process. CERCOPAN facilitated a meeting with Mr. Simon of the Ministry of Youths and Sports to officially register the CBOs with the government. The

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CBO Inspection Agoi

# Welcome Laetitia!

In early January, Amy Rose Baxter, the Sanctuary Manager, left after three years working for CERCOPAN. She will be missed, but lucky for us, she is still very much involved with the organisation.

She has accepted a position on the CERCOPAN Board of Trustees, and continues to support us from her base in the UK.

Laetitia Coret has taken over Amy's position as Sanctuary

Manager. She will be responsible for the smooth operations and day-to-day running of the CERCOPAN activities in Calabar.

Laetitia has a degree in Agriculture & Environment, and research experience in the United States and South Africa. Furthermore, she has been a volunteer in several rehabilitation centres in South Africa and Costa Rica.

We welcome Laetitia to the CERCOPAN team! We are still awaiting the arrival of our construction

coordinator, and then the new CERCOPAN team in Calabar will be complete.



Laetitia at CERCOPAN

## 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 [claire.coulson@cercopan.org](mailto:claire.coulson@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>

<http://www.facebook.com/cercopan/>



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