



CERCO-NEWS

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Adapt and Survive!

If you've read about Climate Change, you will know that there are two responses: **Mitigation** (how to stop it getting worse) and **Adaptation** (how to cope with its impacts). Both are vital. Yet there are few signs of adaptation around the world, and in nations that is rapidly becoming a problem. The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) have sought to develop momentum in Nigeria by funding pilot projects to 'Build Nigeria's Response to Climate Change' (BNRCC). CERCOPAN was selected to pilot adaptation strategies for the Rainforest zone, and we have just completed the 18-month project. We exceeded all of our original objectives, and have many learnings that will benefit our host village Iko Esai, and indeed all of the rainforest communities of Nigeria.

The approach of using alternative livelihoods options as an adaptation strategy is based on the

belief that reducing household poverty and improving the environment is achievable through sustainable management of forests, new forms of income, and improving farming systems. This approach is supported by research, and goes against the grain of thinking that a subsistence existence offers no hope for the environment.

Following a large-scale climate change awareness programme (that saw take-up beyond the villages of Agoi and Iko Esai which we targeted), we moved on to grow an understanding that the best response is sustainable management of forests. Maintain the backbone of subsistence and it will still be there when times are harsh.

The results are very encouraging for the future. Under the alternative livelihoods initiative we now have active programmes in pig farming, poultry farming,

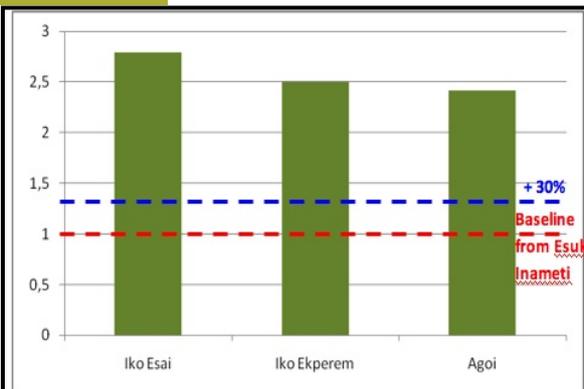
We trained a Surveillance Team in the use of GPS and they exceeded our expectations by gathering the data that has allowed them for the first time to map the boundaries of all existing farms (see Page 3). A Land Use Management plan that restricts farming to zoned areas can now be enforced for the first time.

Cocoa farming training was equally successful. Both Iko Esai and Agoi farmers reported average increases in earnings in excess of 50% for the 2010 season. 160 women were trained in fuel-efficient woodstoves.

Finally, on Climate Change awareness we developed the complete text of a 9-Lecture curriculum 'Introduction to Climate Change' for use at the University of Calabar. This will be used to provide a rapid upgrade of knowledge for the Cross River conservationists of the future at undergraduate level, and will also be disseminated throughout the Forestry and Environment professionals within State Government.

If you want to get yourself up to speed on Mitigation, Adaptation and the other key concepts in the science of Climate Change, there's no better primer. Watch our web space!

Climate Change awareness improved dramatically. Read our primer for similar results!



From the Director



Claire Coulson
CERCOPAN
Director

In a moment of reflection when Clyde, the patriarch of our Red-capped mangabeys, came to the end of his long life recently, it seemed to me that this was a moment for celebration rather than one of mourning.

CERCOPAN's role as a sanctuary allows monkeys like Clyde to enjoy the full-term of their lives that would otherwise be short and brutal as someone's pet, or worse. To have provided sanctuary so that primates have been able to live for up to 20 years in a rich environment, and fulfilling their natural roles, means we are

satisfying our founding goal of life-time care.

Every time I visit Rhoko in future Clyde's absence will show, but over 50 other Mangabeys there are living just as full a life as he did. And some of them will have a chance that even Clyde never had. With the return of Sagan Friant to Rhoko (see the final article), our plans for a re-introduction programme for the Mangabeys take another important step forward.

I sometimes think that Mangabeys look like they are wearing a red crash helmet of the kind worn by bikers in the 60's, with

no chin-guard. Our visitors, such as the group from Day Waterman College, always remember the Mangabeys! And with it they remember the conservation message that they carry: if the forests go, they go, and that's clearly too much of value to lose.

The impact of that message offers the hope that Mangabeys in the wild at Rhoko will be able to lead a life even more complete than Clyde did, and I can celebrate that!

Claire

"...conserved forests, which are carbon sinks, can reduce the global-warming impact of the polluters that generate greenhouse gases"

Time for a snack
in transit!

Green light for REDD

In September 2010 we reported on the hopes in time of Nigeria moving from being a Partner (Observer) country in the United Nations Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degredation (REDD) scheme to becoming a Pilot country.

REDD is a process that transfers money from polluters to forest owners so that conserved forests,

which are carbon sinks, can reduce the global-warming impact of the polluters that generate greenhouse gases.

The Nigerian initiative is continuing to gain momentum. The current status is that a proposal to demonstrate REDD readiness is actively under development.

The proposal will address requirements firstly at the Federal level,

and secondly at specific site locations for expected implementation.

Of greatest importance to us is that the latter are all in Cross River State, including an area that is centred on Iko Esai's community forests. Our continuing work to expand our conservation influence into neighbouring communities could not be more appropriate and timely.

Mona, mona on the wall...



Looking at the picture you might well ask what is a Mona monkey doing admiring itself in the mirror in someone's bedroom!

This little monkey has had quite an adventure. Originally purchased as a pet in Sapele, in the south-west of Nigeria, we were asked by his

owner to give him a better life by taking him into care in Calabar.

A day's drive brought him to Lagos, and it was clear that he needed a little freedom for a while, so we allowed him to roam the room, and the mirror immediately entranced him.

A quick check up from CERCOPAN's vet, and he

was ready for the next stage in the journey.

That involved a one-hour flight down to Calabar and then a short drive to Headquarters.

There will surely be further adventures ahead for this one, but for now it's a spell in quarantine so that we can give him a clean bill of health before he meets his new Mona partners in life.

Know your limits

In the Oct 2010 edition of CERC NEWS we reported on training we had given members of Iko Esai's Surveillance Team in GPS technology. We've been amazed at how useful this has proven to be.

The group worked extremely hard over the following months, and they have now completed surveying all of the boundaries to existing farms that border forest. The importance of this cannot be overstated.

Realistic environmental conservation focuses on sustainable management. The village's Land Use Management Plan (LUMP) - see map below - restricts farming to the periphery of the forest, so that the protected zones are unspoilt. Prior to the plan being accepted, there was even an incentive to farming deep in the forest as this established claims to large tracts of acreage according to established custom.

To date the LUMP has been successful in

establishing the principle of zoning, but it was vital to see the current state of

we provide the means of monitoring actual practice, and determining if any corrective action is needed.

Finding the limits of farming is actually quite difficult in practice. Former farmland becomes overgrown and it can be hard to find a way through the regrowth and understory vegetation.

In the North of the area farms lie mainly off forest trails, and the boundaries of each farm can be estimated visually when walking the trails. The final map of these boundaries is shown to the upper right.

To the South the farming has encroached along a continuous line from the West, so this limit can be mapped by walking along its entire extent - an arduous exercise.

Using Geographical Information Systems technology we were able to place the LUMP into its true geodetic space. By adding the GPS points we can now

see the current state of



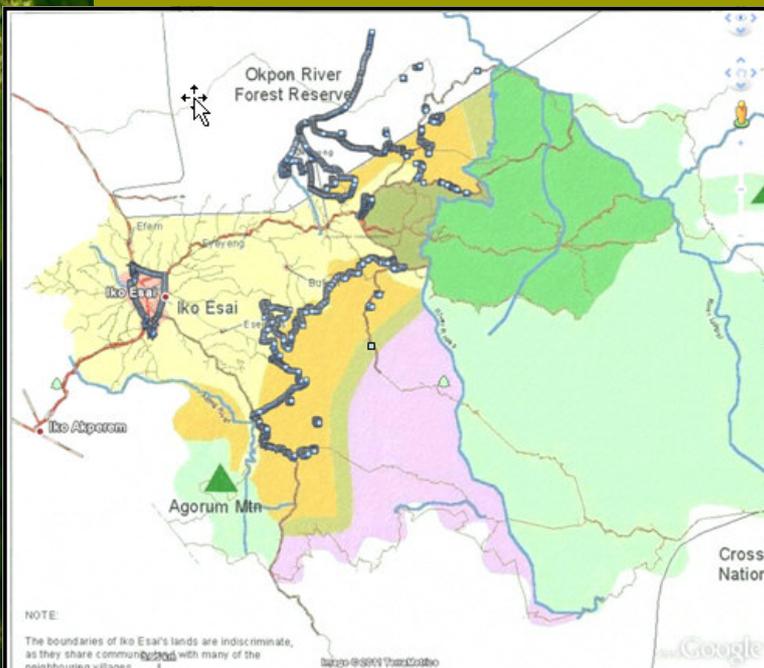
Forest-Farm boundaries in the northern half of the mapped area

It shows that one farm alone has strayed beyond the acceptable boundaries. However, the pattern of encroachment at the southern end could lead to concerns in the future, while there is still plenty of available acreage further west. This might be addressable by providing new access routes.

The new farming season is now underway, and the Surveillance Team's role is to ensure that any new farms are sited strictly within the Farm Extension Zone through dialogue with each of the farmers, and further regular monitoring.

"To date the LUMP has been successful in establishing the principle of zoning, but it was vital to provide the means of monitoring actual practice, and determining if any corrective action is needed"

Land Use zones are shown in different colours. The Farm Extension Zone is in orange. GPS Tracks and Way-Points are the small squares



The Cleveland Greens

We were delighted to discover this month, that we had been awarded a grant from Cleveland Metroparks Zoo as part of their 'Zoo Futures' programme.



Cleveland

Metroparks Zoo is a new and very welcome ally to our cause

The grant will allow CERCOPAN to entirely redesign our Headquarters' Education Centre, which was in urgent need of an upgrade.

Our primate rehabilitation centre in Calabar provides the perfect backdrop for our educational message about protection of Cross River State's unique habitat and its wildlife inhabitants.

That message can have a direct impact on the lifestyles of the 20,000 visitors we receive each year, for example resulting in their giving up the consumption of bush-meat or the keeping of monkeys as pets.

The support given by Cleveland Metroparks will be used not only to replace parts of the Headquarters

Education Centre's decaying infrastructure, but also to replace our ageing laminated posters with high visibility durable Dibond boards.

The new, colourful look and feel to the centre will provide maximum visual impact, and ensure that a visit to CERCOPAN and the lessons learnt are not forgotten!

This is the first time we have applied for a grant from Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, and we welcome them as a new partner to the cause of conservation in Cross River State.

Never too young to learn

A group of twelve schoolchildren aged between 12 and 14 accompanied by 3 teachers from Day Waterman College, an impressive modern school near Abeokuta in south-western Nigeria, has just visited Rhoko camp.

This year for their annual school excursion they chose to see the

environmental highlights within Cross River State which of course included Rhoko.

Attracted by the exceptional wildlife, the students (6 boys and 6 girls) spent three days in Rhoko and Iko Esai, learning about our partnership efforts to conserve the forest, including our monkey rehabilitation programme.

Combining the discovery of Nigerian wildlife with the learning of adult responsibilities, the students had to prepare and organize themselves for their journey and they were asked to fulfil daily tasks in turns, always keeping in mind a

conservation and eco-friendly attitude.

Between the walk on the nature trail, the night walk where they learnt the different nocturnal primates present in Rhoko, and the enjoyment of Rhoko River, the students appreciated the two species of monkeys that we host.

They were very interested and enthusiastic to learn about the primates, and they all felt so lucky that their country possesses such beautiful nature.

They completed their journey by visiting Iko Esai community where they were introduced to the different alternative livelihoods projects implemented by CERCOPAN.

Thomas' Galago, a Rhoko night walk spectacle
(Photo: Simon Bearder)



Sad news from Rhoko

One of our founding, and oldest Red-capped mangabeys, Clyde, passed away peacefully in his sleep last month. It was a very sad day for CERCOPAN as Clyde had been with us since December 1993 and was possibly the most well known character of all of the Rhoko monkeys.

In his early years at CERCOPAN, Clyde was involved in a fight for dominance, and sustained a nasty laceration to his lip which left his front teeth on full display. It was not the most attractive look, but it certainly didn't affect his ability to lead the group...or his popularity with the ladies!

Every visitor to the open topped enclosure remembers Clyde, not only for his distinctive

appearance, but also because he constantly patrolled the perimeter fence threatening any stranger who dared to approach his group!

Clyde originally came to us from Lagos. He was surrendered into the care of CERCOPAN when he was about two and half years old, making him around twenty when he died.

He was in the first group to be moved out to Rhoko forest in November 2003 and was the alpha male for many years. He was an excellent father and leader and although he is gone, he has left a conservation legacy behind as some of his offspring will no doubt be part of the first Mangabey reintroduction into Iko Esai community forest.

A formal burial was attended by all the staff near



Farewell Clyde

his enclosure, and kai kai (local firewater) was poured to the ancestors, as is the tradition in Iko Esai. He will be sadly missed by all at CERCOPAN.

"...he has left a conservation legacy behind as some of his offspring will no doubt be part of the first Mangabey reintroduction into Iko Esai community forest"

Doctor, Doctor!

Two PhD students who have worked before at separate times in Rhoko are back, as luck would have it, at the same time to further their research studies.

Carrie Vath, a PhD student from the University of Florida has just begun her 12 months field season. She is interested in the effectiveness of the community forest in socio-ecological terms. To investigate her ecological questions, she will use line-transects to census the large vertebrates in the Core Area, Research Area and conservation zones.

She is particularly interested in primate abundance and distribution. In order to assess the social

aspects of the design, she will interview and survey the hunters and chiefs in 4 villages (Esai, Ekperem, Owai, Agoi) to understand their attitudes, values, and beliefs about the community forest.

Sagan Friant, from the University of Wisconsin (Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies; Environment and Resources Program) has come back to CERCOPAN's Rhoko research station to study the behaviour and health of Red-capped mangabeys before they are released into the wild.

The re-introduction of species provides a unique opportunity to understand how sudden and dramatic

changes in environment alter behavior and impact health. She will use non-invasive techniques to look at faecal parasites and bacteria, and to relate these to behaviour. This information will help us to understand the health risks with re-introducing species into the wild.

Carrie (left) and Sagan (right) happy to be back in Rhoko camp



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
- 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). 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://cercopan.wildlifedirect.org>
<http://www.facebook.com/cercopan/>



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

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