



CERCO-NEWS

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Mr Bank - no longer hunting monkeys

Naira doubles - Bank delighted

CERCOPAN proudly announces the first ever successful breeding of Sclater's guenons in captivity. Mother Naira, whose name coincides with Nigeria's unit of currency, gave birth in July to great celebration in Calabar, and indeed around the world.

Dr. Lynne Baker, who is faculty in Environmental Science at Baylor University, Texas, USA, and has been at the forefront of identifying key requirements for Sclater's conservation long-term, takes up the story:

"When I came across Naira she was probably 5-6 months old and was tied up under a table in a dark room in the village house of a hunter named Mr. Bank in Kolo Town, Bayelsa State.



Mr. Bank also had a Mona called Billy Bank. There was another female Sclater's in Kolo called Uto who was tied up on a very short chain on a bird-stand outside another man's house. After many visits to Kolo and much discussion, I convinced the

two owners to donate their monkeys into CERCOPAN's care.

However, it was important to use the opportunity to increase awareness regarding unsustainable hunting, endangered species, and the problems of keeping monkeys as pets. Thus, in exchange for their donations, I

offered to sponsor each man to come to see CERCOPAN and the monkeys' new programme of care.

So very early one morning, I travelled from Rivers State south to Kolo Town in Bayelsa. We picked up the two monkeys and embarked with their former owners on an 11-hour drive to Calabar. Upon arrival and over the next day, CERCOPAN's educational staff were on hand and spent many hours with the two visitors.

Mr. Bank has not hunted since that time, and has stayed in contact with me over the years. After seeing the excellent condition and care of the monkeys at CERCOPAN, he later agreed also to donate Billy Bank.

With the arrival of Naira's baby, I thought it would be nice to sponsor a second visit to CERCOPAN by Mr. Bank, who visited just two weeks after the birth. His delight at seeing Naira once again, in loving care of her offspring, was a joy for all of us present. Sclater's monkey



Naira and her World first

(*Cercopithecus sclateri*) is endemic to the Southeast of Nigeria (which includes most of Igboland and the Eastern Niger Delta). Up until 1988, the species was thought to be extinct. However, surveys conducted in the late 1980's and early 1990's and between 2003-2006 led to the discovery of several isolated populations in forest fragments across the species' range.

Sclater's monkey is now listed as Vulnerable by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (Red List). Due to its range coinciding with extremely high human population density and continued habitat degradation and loss, its present status is given with caution.

CERCOPAN's ability to sustain a captive-breeding population adds essential scientific information to our knowledge of this enigmatic species and offers promise for its long-term future."

From the Director



Claire Coulson
CERCOPAN
Director

I sometimes fall into an escapist dream and think that one day I might win the lottery. All the things I want to do for the sake of wildlife, and then suddenly I have the means to achieve them? Maybe one day!

Back in the real world, it's successes following long spells of perseverance and painstaking dedication that give me that lottery win uplift. This month's news of the first captive birth of a Sclater's guenon comes after years of care and study by our staff, supported by knowledgeable specialists around the world.

Even in the last few weeks, I had to make decisions regarding mother Naira's well-being to ensure no last-minute glitches. The morning Naira gave birth, I certainly had a spring in my stride!

This chalks up another milestone during my time at CERCOPAN similar to the first release ever of primates in West Africa, in November 2007.

While these records are simply reckoning-points along an environmental conservation journey that itself is the real and far greater achievement, they nonetheless provide a symbolic reward for all of

us present and past who have dedicated their careers to this cause.

Moreover these landmarks will stand with CERCOPAN forever. You can win the lottery, and then lose your fortune. But you can't lose your achievements.

Memories of past success tell you that you can do it again, while a lottery win is just luck. Don't get me wrong, though – I'm all for a slice of good fortune as well!

Claire

"This is also an opportunity to say a special thank-you for your generosity and vision"

We report to you

Once a year we provide a full account of our activities first and foremost to you our sponsors, donors and supporters without whom we would not be able to carry out our vital work here in Nigeria.

This is also an opportunity to say a special thank-you for your generosity and vision.

We certainly had a full

programme of activities in 2009, with sections on community development & forest protection, primate conservation & rehabilitation, research, and education fully covered, and a full Financial Report amongst the 18 pages.

For those of you who provided a specific donation, you will be able to find a full treatment of

how the funds were used effectively.

We also use the report to publicise our activities, and you can find special sections with background on our work, 'From the Director', Staff, Volunteers, and CERCOPAN in the UK.

Our 2009 Annual Report can be found on our website www.cercopan.org under 'Downloads'.

G'day Graham

Our new vet Graham Brown has joined the team to ensure all our primates get the highest level of veterinary care. Graham was born in England but has been living and working in Australia for the last 10 years. He studied veterinary medicine at Sydney University where he also spent a year researching techniques for anaesthetising primates for Taronga Zoo.

He has been a qualified veterinarian for 4 years, mainly specialising in treating injured Australian wildlife, but particularly reptiles and birds. Fortunately he does come with plenty of primate experience and prior time living in Africa.

Graham's workload will vary from performing health checks and screening for infectious diseases to relocating

animals, patching up "war wounds," looking after all the new arrivals and treating any other injured or sick domestic animals or wildlife that wanders in through the door.

Graham will also have mentoring of our Vet Assistant and Quarantine Keeper very high on his agenda.

He has signed up for a year but our volunteers never want to leave.....



New vet Graham Brown
- clearly popular with
his charges!

Wet weather get you down?

At the height of the rainy season it's always nice to find a dry place to work. Specifically an area where people can meet, discuss and plan future development for the area.

With the help of a grant from Esso Exploration and Production Nigeria Ltd., and the hard work of numerous CERCOPAN staff, volunteers, and contractors, we are pleased to announce the completion of the roof at the community centre in Iko Esai village.

The new roof marks the beginning of the final phases of construction. Doors, windows, electrical & plumbing work, plastering, and painting, can now begin. The bright forest-green roof has also turned the community centre into a landmark in the village.

Of course, things don't always go as planned (especially in rural Africa) but perseverance, quick thinking and everyone working together towards a common goal made the completion of the roof possible on time.

The first of many hurdles was transporting the sheets

of roofing down a seemingly endless road full of washouts and potholes.

After a full day of pushing and pulling the delivery truck, rebuilding a bridge that had washed downstream, and the combined efforts of almost a dozen people, the roofing material (a high quality product referred to as 'long-span zinc'

parts) finally arrived on site. With the sun quickly setting, our staff in the village welcomed the workers with a well deserved meal and a place to sleep for the night.

Day two of the roof construction was no less challenging, but again with everyone supporting from near and far, issues were sorted out and we stood back to view the new roof completed in its glory.

It was two very long days for everyone involved, but a fine example of how good communication and just



The roof - still on its way

simple hard work can accomplish large tasks in challenging conditions.

On final completion the Centre will be used as a focal point to provide alternative livelihoods training, and education (providing basic healthcare information, adult literacy classes, computer training, and environmental education). It will also act as a tourist centre, thereby creating employment and bringing in revenue for the village.

That will be something to celebrate, Iko style!

"...a fine example of how good communication and just simple hard work can accomplish large tasks in challenging conditions"

With the roof now on, Iko Esai's Community Centre nears completion



A good time to be a Mangabey

Breaking news – we've just been informed that our application for a grant from the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund has been approved.

The fund provides timely support for grass-roots initiatives which are making a real difference to species survival, and supports those whose

under threat. It is especially at danger from hunting pressures, both because of the large troop sizes and its terrestrial habits.

CERCOPAN provides sanctuary for more than 40 individuals, including a large, fully socialised and breeding group in Rhoko that is subject to extensive on-going research.

The award of this grant allows us to pursue vigorously our programme for this species, and takes us an important step further towards our goal of a fully thriving population in the protected wild of Rhoko forest.



Read more at
www.speciesconservation.org

This is an exceptional fund, endowed through the generosity and vision of His Highness General Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces.

passion, dedication and knowledge is the key to saving species. The grant will fund our complete Red-capped mangabey programme. Rescue, vet care, shelter, rehabilitation, education, research and monitoring are covered for a full 12 months.

The Red-capped mangabey is a Vulnerable species with a restricted range that is seriously

Agoi there partner!

While CERCOPAN's host village is Iko Esai, our path for future growth in our conservation efforts lies with the neighbouring communities whose forest is contiguous with that of Iko Esai, and who share their unique language.

Community Conservation Manager has been particularly active in the village immediately to the North, Agoi.

The youth group here as well as the hunters have separately established livelihoods cooperatives. In both cases pig farming is being trialled. For the former it is seen as an adaptation strategy addressing the changing climate, and construction work has started. For the latter the motivation is to provide income and a source of protein away from hunting and bushmeat. Both initiatives will reduce pressure on the community forests and its wildlife inhabitants.

Meanwhile back in Iko Esai, CERCOPAN's work with the hunters is moving



Cocoa farming tuition

forward quickly with the provision of training on improved cropping methods for cocoa farming, an important cash crop in Nigeria. The facilitator providing the training has proved to be an excellent teacher and the participants are all excited at the prospect of improving their cocoa yields whilst reducing the use of chemical inputs.



The start of a new piggery

Welcomed warmly in these villages, our conservation inroads lie with education and our offers of help with alternative livelihoods. In the past month our

Showing our class

There's never been a more important time to build the capacity of Nigeria's youth in the environmental disciplines than now. As the world develops its solutions to trade forest protection for investment, the question remains as to who will actually ensure that protection on the ground. They are studying in our universities right now.

Rhoko forest is a living classroom for these students. In addition to direct access to the home species of the forest, our participatory community conservation processes with the village of Iko Esai is the perfect case study for applied students of conservation in Nigeria — forest protection in practice.

With expert ecologists, primatologists, and applied conservationists on staff, one of our contributions to Nigeria's urgent capacity enhancement needs presently is through hosting students of Calabar's universities over weeks at a time for accelerated learning in the living classroom. We have eight students from Cross River University of Technology (CRUTECH) on-site at the moment for a month. Following training at Calabar HQ by Education Officer Abakum Owai and Education Assistant Martina Ebokpo they have travelled to our Rhoko site for an additional two weeks. Topics being covered include:

- Animal behaviour
- Feeding ecology
- Behavioural data collection
- Species identification

- Tour guiding
- Raising awareness of conservation issues
- Conservation of flora and fauna
- Sustainable hunting practices

CRUTECH students at Rhoko Education Centre



Our goal to build a Rainforest Conservation Institute in partnership with the University of Calabar would upscale this process by several orders of magnitude and is therefore a pressing funding need. But more of that another time.

“There’s never been a more important time to build the capacity of Nigeria’s youth in the environmental disciplines than now.”

Double trouble

Another month and more babies have been surrendered. July saw the arrival of a baby Mona, Chelsea, and a baby Red-eared Guenon, called Flexi.

us in a box barely big enough to contain her. She has settled in and is best mates with Casper, her new inseparable twin. On the odd occasion when he is not hanging on to her she is very playful.

Flexi the new Red-ear is about a year old and a barrel of energy. When he gets let out, nothing is safe as he bounces off the walls making as much noise and trouble as he can.

His journey to us was an eventful one. When we were told about a young monkey being kept on the outskirts of Calabar we sent one of our vehicles to rescue the orphan. But the truck broke down on the way back so Claire was forced to rush out and pick up the



Flexi—he does keep still sometimes!



Chelsea

Chelsea is about 2 months old and was surrendered by a man who arrived on a bicycle and delivered her to

monkey, driver and education staff and tow the truck home.

The new additions join a growing crèche that now includes a Putty-nosed Guenon, 2 Mona's and a Red-eared Guenon.

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, Iko Esai or Agoi by staff, volunteers and visitors.

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