



CERCO-NEWS

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Loud and clear!

After months of hard work and planning, we were finally able to unveil our new look Calabar education centre this month! Thanks to a generous grant from Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, the aging and lacklustre education centre, last fully refurbished back in 2002, was almost entirely rebuilt.

In addition to a new roof, concrete floor and plywood mounts we were able to replace all of the old laminated paper displays with bright and colourful Dibond boards, to match those installed at Rhoko earlier this year.

The weatherproof themed boards cover a wide



One of the 6 Species boards, plus the new fencing

range of topics ranging from primate behaviour and the importance of rainforests, to climate change, why monkeys don't make good pets and the work undertaken to protect Nigeria's biodiversity. The grant also allowed us to add new interpretive boards in front of the primate enclosures, showing detailed information about each of the 6 species we house. In conjunction with the education department's refurbishments, we also took the opportunity to give the rest of the rehabilitation

centre an overhaul, repainting the office inside and out, installing a new colourful public barrier around the enclosures and placing new signs around the site and on the highway. Last year over 20,000 people visited the centre and heard our conservation message. We hope that these improvements will allow us to reach an even greater audience, with a stronger message, in the coming year.



Before
and
After!



One of our new street signs

From the Director



Claire Coulson
CERCOPAN

Often it's a set of connections that can make the difference in my line of work, as the last story demonstrates. Getting an important equipment donation was only possible thanks to one CERCOPAN friend who heard about it, another who collected it, and yet another who was able to have it delivered from the UK to Nigeria.

In a similar manner, another fortuitous series of connections started firstly with our Blog. It was

the stories there that inspired the National Wildlife Humane Society in the U.S. to give us publicity on their web site, and this was then seen and acted on by our generous donors in the article below. If just one of the connections had not been made in these cases, there would be no story.

I'd like there to be no story about the hunting of primates. We appeal to break a connection that leads to hunting in our

article 'When spending does harm'. Do not pay for a primate you see for sale, however sorry the condition!

Not everyone can be a donor, but anyone can be a connection. Please see the back page of our newsletter for ways to stay in touch and be a link. Thank you.

Well remembered



Chief Patrick:
not forgotten

July 15th marked the two-year anniversary of the passing of beloved former Rhoko staff member, Chief Patrick Arong Mbang. A former hunter, Chief joined CERCOPAN as a member of security in 2002 and was still with the organisation when he became terminally ill in 2009.

A formal occasion was held in Iko Esai, and Chief Patrick's son invited all CERCOPAN staff and volunteers to attend as

special guests. Rather than a sombre event, the memorial was a vibrant and colourful celebration of Chief's life and gave all of his friends and loved ones the chance to reminisce and share their personal stories about him. The kind of special man Chief was meant that there was no shortage of people with things to say, and the party continued long into the night.

Chief's family presented CERCOPAN staff with a crate

of soft drinks, a bottle of kai kai (the locally distilled spirit) and a smoked blue duiker, indicating the importance Chief Patrick placed on his work and friends in the organisation. In memory of Patrick and also former Rhoko Head Keeper, Eno Okom, whom we lost in 2008, memorial plaques will be erected in the newly refurbished education centre. Both men are greatly missed by the entire CERCOPAN family.

New beginnings

A generous cheque out of the blue from Sacramento Zoo, with a covering letter from Kansas Zoo, is all thanks to the 'Species Survival Plan' (SSP) of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). SSP's are set up as a cooperative effort across zoos in North America.

SSP's focus firstly on

their own captive breeding programmes in order to ensure a healthy, genetically diverse, and demographically stable population. But the Plan goes well beyond this, and includes support for protecting the species in the wild, which is precisely where we come in. The Mangabey SSP focusses on

two species, of which our Red-capped mangabey is one. We are delighted to have gained the support of such an important and knowledgeable interest group, and we look forward to sustaining the relationship.

We also want to thank the National Wildlife Humane Society, whose website established the connection.

"We are delighted to have gained the support of such an important and knowledgeable interest group"

Not in our normal state

CERCOPAN friend Dr Lynne Baker reports on her recent visit to Nigeria, when she was joined by two of our staff on a mission to further the protection of the Sclater's monkey:

'In July and August, I visited Nigeria to conduct environmental education programmes in primary and secondary schools in two communities in Enugu and Imo States. I have worked for several years in these Igbo-speaking communities (Akpugoeze and Lagwa-Umunokwu) as part of my research on the rare Sclater's monkey (*Cercopithecus sclateri*), Nigeria's only endemic primate species.

Sclater's monkey has no official protection and is hunted across its range. However, in Akpugoeze and Lagwa-Umunokwu, the species is considered sacred and thus not harmed. These sites are unique globally, as primates are often hunted for food or other uses (e.g. to keep as pets, for use in medicine, etc.).

I had previously found that local people were mostly unaware of the

species' uniqueness and rarity and thus I knew it was important to create awareness in the community, particularly among children.

Fortunately, Abakum Bassey Owai, education officer at CERCOPAN, was available during the time of my trip so I was able to hire him to assist with my programme. His experience working with schools and conservation clubs in Calabar proved invaluable.

We designed and co-conducted programmes for primary and secondary schools that covered such topics as environmental services, pollution, primates (with a focus on Sclater's monkey), and the concepts of endangerment and extinction.

The children enjoyed playing a "chutes and ladders"-type board game that addressed major threats to primates and their forest habitats.

They also took a quiz based on the main lecture, and those who scored highest won a prize (such as books called "100 Facts About Monkeys and Apes"

and "100 Facts About Endangered Animals"). Not only did the school children learn many new ideas and concepts, but the teachers and other community members who attended the presentations informed us that they did as well. They encouraged us to return to conduct similar programs for the entire village.

During our time in both communities, Glory Ajah, a primate keeper at CERCOPAN for the past 15 years, also assisted us with our work. Many thanks to CERCOPAN for sharing its expertise and staff members outside of Cross River State!

The education program was funded by the Rufford Small Grants Foundation, and I was supported by a summer sabbatical from Baylor University.'



Abakum getting (most children's) attention!

"I knew it was important to create awareness in the community, particularly among children"



Dr. Baker with students, teachers, and community leaders at Government Technical College (secondary school) in Akpugoeze, Oji River LGA, Enugu

New Mates

Ekun has moved in with his own kind



It was time for some young orphans to be introduced into their new groups this month. Up to now they have been growing up in a mixed species group of orphans about their own age. They are now big enough to join older groups of their own species.

Three female Putty-nosed Guenons, Mimi, Angel and Cranny were added to the bachelor group of Cross, Akampa and Tom. Cross's young band of males are between the ages of 4 and 6

years old so they were quick to welcome in their new buddies as their ranks doubled in size.

Robotta was another young female entering a bachelor group, this time of Red-eared Guenons. The group already has youngsters in its midst with Rudolph slightly older and Jerry actually younger than her. The three youngsters hit it off and were quick to bond while the senior pair (by 15 years) of Emmanuel and Anakui looked on knowing that their peace would be disrupted further as each new level of raucous behaviour began.

Soon they will be getting another young Red-eared by the name of Flexi who is almost ready to join this band of delinquents.

Ekun was another orphan on the move. He joined Jacob's group of Red-capped Mangabeys together with another newcomer Mfamosing who returned from Rhoko a few weeks ago. While older, she was quick to take Ekun under her wing. The rest of the group were also enamoured with young Ekun who is already by far the noisiest of the orphans and is working on being the noisiest primate on the whole compound.

When spending does harm

Quite a significant number of our recent newly-arrived orphan monkeys have been brought to us from expatriates living in the Southwest of Nigeria, and it is therefore an opportune time to reiterate a vital message to aid monkeys in the wild:

Please, for those of you who live in Nigeria, DO NOT PAY FOR A PRIMATE you see for sale.

Please aim to follow this rule no matter how desperate the conditions, or how difficult it is to walk away.

By purchasing primates, or in fact any wildlife, you only encourage further trade in live animals - the price people pay is much higher than the animal would be sold for as meat. You are therefore continuing a threat to

seller and persuade them to give up the animal for free. Remind them that their trade is illegal. If you live in Lagos, you can contact the Nigerian Conservation Foundation on Lekki Peninsula (TEL: 01 264 2498; 0702-846-9598; 0702-850-7912) and request their assistance.

The animal will likely still be there later in the day, or the next. And if they are not, you can take heart in the knowledge that you have done your best for primate conservation in Nigeria, or wherever you happen to be.

If you are resident in Calabar or elsewhere in Cross River State, and see a monkey either for sale or held as a pet, please contact Cercopan immediately on 0806-360-3360.



Buying one condemns many

wildlife populations with your purchase.

It is much more important to try to drive these people out of business.

So as an alternative, try and talk to the

Education starts at the top

As part of a new grant, CERCOPAN has been able to continue extending our work to the village of Agoi, neighbouring Iko Esai. Sharing a contiguous forest area, Agoi was recently involved in livelihood projects but we now aim to implement a comprehensive education programme, support of conservation by-laws and further our livelihood projects.

After gaining approval from the Chiefs, we organized the influential groups in Agoi for an educational and sensitization workshop. We invited representatives from youth, the women's group, hunters' group, cocoa farming, town council, timber council, forest management committee, church and Chiefs' council.

We had excellent attendance with two or more representatives from each group. Our approach was to address the leaders of the groups, and then have them disseminate the information to their respective groups.

We had designed a poster highlighting forest ecology, primate ecology

and conservation by-laws. We left the poster with the community to inform those who had not attended the meeting.

After introducing CERCOPAN and clarifying our goals and objectives, Our Community Conservation Manager, BenJee, turned the workshop over to our Education Officer Mike Ekpe. Mike led the group through various exercises explaining the basics of forest conservation, the importance of primates, and proposed by-laws to conserve the forest.

The by-laws include agreements to manage the forest sustainably, including banning the hunting of primates, no poisoning of streams, and not allowing

commercial logging. The group was very responsive and repeatedly stated that the facts they were learning were new and interesting.

A question and answer session followed and the group asked many questions that were useful: is CERCOPAN taking our forest? (No). Is the ban on hunting monkey CERCOPAN's law? (No, it is Nigerian Federal law). How will CERCOPAN help the people if they can't use the forest? (We will supply livelihoods projects).

Overall, the educational workshop was a success and in the following weeks we hope the Chiefs will meet with our representatives and sign bylaws showing their support of forest conservation.

“The by-laws include agreements to manage the forest sustainably, including banning the hunting of primates, no poisoning of streams, and not allowing commercial logging.”



BenJee, and Mike (holding the poster), with the Agoi workshop participants

Newly arrived in Calabar

A knock-out donation

Thanks to a series of lucky connections we have been able to further enhance our veterinarian laboratory with the addition of an anaesthetic machine.

Fabian Schmidt, a Ph. D student at the Vet school in Cambridge University, who we collaborate with, heard that GlaxoSmithKline were selling off second-hand machines and arranged instead for a donation.

A colleague, Jude Heaney, kindly collected the machine and subsequently we were able to have it delivered to Nigeria with an expatriate's shipment.

Currently we have to maintain animals under anaesthesia by injection, but this new machine allows us to use gaseous anaesthesia. This will not only make anaesthetics safer, particularly on longer procedures, but also

reduce recovery times. Recovery times are reduced because the drugs used are eliminated from the animal's system sooner.

In addition, in emergency situations it may enable us to stabilise critical patients with better access to providing oxygen. The accompanying surgical table is also a much needed improvement on our current model.

Thanks to all involved!



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 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/>



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