



CERCO-NEWS

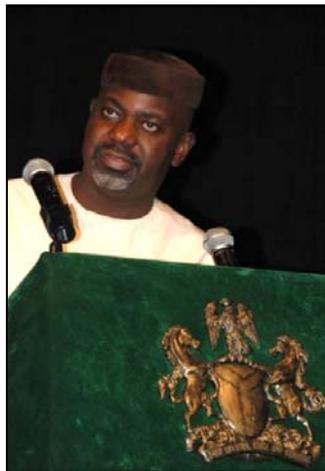
VOLUME 2, ISSUE 6

JUNE 2010

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With this festivity I thee WED



Governor Liyel Imoke addressing the packed audience

Like a happy couple that hosts a party to celebrate their anniversary, once a year on June 5th we bring together thousands in Cross River State, Nigeria on **World Environment Day** and go public on our love for our work. The WED events in Calabar organized by CERCOPAN mirror at the mid-point of the year the renowned Carnival events at Christmas.

For CERCOPAN, it's the high point of the year and a great opportunity to get across the message about the vital need to conserve the environment, Cross River's globally-important forests, and wildlife in particular.

All year round we undertake an environmental education outreach programme to spread the word about conservation

and the wonder of nature to rural and urban schools. This programme culminates in World Environment Day when all of the children involved come together for a carnival parade through the streets of Calabar and prize giving ceremony

This year's events were made even more special when Cross River's Governor Liyel Imoke used the day as a platform to let the world know about the State's 1 Billion Naira, 5 year tree-planting campaign.

The day was full of colour and excitement as huge waves of children arrived in costume to parade through the streets complete with marching bands. After the parade, children, government officials, and NGOs packed into the over-flowing venue where they were soon joined by the State Governor himself. Live televised speeches were given out by prominent national environmentalists including the State Commissioner of the Environment, the State Chairman of the Forestry Commission, Special advisor on Forests and Biodiversity and, not least, CERCOPAN!

In the interludes between speeches plays from three finalist schools were performed. The schools had been asked to produce a drama based on the

theme 'Biodiversity: Our Survival Depends On It'. The schools' performances had the audience rolling with laughter, and the children's enthusiasm and understanding for the topic shone through!

A tree-planting ceremony followed, and then the children returned to be awarded prizes for the environmentally themed competitions CERCOPAN had organised this year. A cleanest school competition, the drama performance, and the parade mascot competition all helped cement the theme of biodiversity firmly into the forefront of everyone's minds. The winning children also gained cash prizes to help improve the facilities in their schools.

While looking back on the stirring moments of the day, we would like to appreciate our many contributing sponsors, but in particular thanks go to Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Gardens who underwrote the main costs for the event for the third year in a row.





Claire Coulson
CERCOPAN
Director

From the Director

Ever arrived at your vacation destination and your baggage didn't come with you? Or ordered a parcel and it got lost in the post? Sometimes work in our operating environment gets to feel a little like that.

We can be all built up with excitement for the next stage of a project, and then there's a delay we can do nothing about – supplies unavailable, something broken down, a huge destructive storm – it happens here.

But this past month, we've passed a number of key milestones, and made

steady progress on multiple fronts. Our new long-term construction volunteer received his visa, and joined us in a very short time (see below). The alternative livelihoods programme in Iko Esai sustained its momentum, and we completed the latest step on the critical path towards our next primate release that will occur before the end of the year.

We also pulled off an organisational multi-tasking feat by successfully hosting World Environment Day in Calabar, while

simultaneously reinforcing CERCOPAN's reputation for delivering results, at IUCN's international conference in Burkina Faso.

I always find it difficult to tear myself away from the organisation, even for the briefest periods of time. With our programme running so smoothly however, I judged that this was a good time to take a short break back to the UK. So far so good...my luggage arrived safely!

Claire



Dallas already well settled in camp

Canada's Got Talent

Canadian Dallas Buleziuk has just arrived at CERCOPAN to take up a volunteer position co-ordinating our construction efforts. Dallas has 13 years of building experience and is also a whizz with electricals, auto-mechanics, and pretty much anything hands-on.

For volunteers there's a lot more to life than simply

making money. Last year Dallas gave his time to work on an orphanage project in Ghana building mud-brick buildings with limited tools. Now it's an even bigger step as he has left his home in Calgary for a full 12 months to support our cause.

Dallas will undertake supervision of our larger construction projects. His main focus will be on

project managing the community centre build (taking it to completion in the near-term), the construction of two new deluxe eco-tourist huts, and an extension of the Education centre to incorporate a move of our office facilities in Rhoko. With that and general maintenance tasks, we'll be sure to make maximum use of his skills.

Sow and piglets doing fine

Regular readers will recall our article in April on the alternative livelihoods programme.

Our pilot project with pig farming has continued successfully through June with the birth of the first litter of piglets, and more are on the way with the pregnancy of the second



sow in the sty. Staying on plan, we will shortly complete the purchase of three further sows.

For the youths involved, the relatively low effort required, and rapid results are proving the concept that a living can be made without reliance on vulnerable natural resources which can only retain their value to the community if reserved for sustainable use.

".....a living can be made without reliance on vulnerable natural resources which can only retain their value to the community if reserved for sustainable use"

Putting the Fun in Fundraising

It might come as a surprise to you to find out that in some years more than a quarter of CERCOPAN's income comes from private donations. When times are hard and Corporate and Foundation grants are squeezed, our very ability to survive depends on the amazing generosity of individuals like you!

thing to do. **The CERCOPAN Fundraising Pack** demonstrates that very much the opposite is true. We've produced this brochure to provide all the ideas, materials, and support information that the amateur CERCOPAN fundraiser needs!

The pack explains how

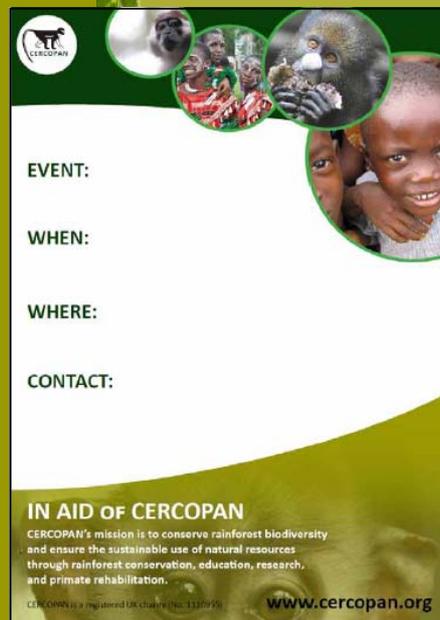
each time they backslide. Everyone wins!

Not every idea will suit you, so we've gone some way to list a wide range of possibilities, from clearing out your attic, and sponsored challenges, to a bake sale. There are plenty more ideas in the Fundraising Pack, together with tips from those who have been there before successfully.

We've also got pre-printed sponsorship forms, invitation cards, posters and more tools like this... so some of the work has already been done for you! Head to our web sites (see the back page of CERCO-NEWS) from 15th July and you'll find the pack available to download.

And when you do hold a successful event, we'd love to tell everyone about it. Please send us photos and a short description, and you'll soon be featuring right here in CERCONews.

Use our on-line posters to publicise your event



"We've produced this brochure to provide all the ideas, materials, and support information that the amateur CERCOPAN fundraiser needs!"

FUNDRAISING NEEDS YOUR COMMITMENT

- **Give up a Vice**
Try giving up smoking, biting your nails or your daily packet of crisps! Perhaps you can even donate the money you would have spent on your habit!
- **Get a Trim**
Get sponsored to shave your head or beard. The brave can even try a chest shave!
- **Sponsored Silence**
Are you a loud or noisy person? How much do you think that people will pay for some peace and quiet?
- **Sponsored Reading**
Maybe you are a bookworm or maybe not, but this is great way to earn some money and read some interesting books at the same time.
- **Use your Skills**
Are you particularly good at something? Teach your friends how to do it!



Don't charge for attendance at events, ask for donations instead! You will be surprised how much people will give!

Get stuck in and get better fundraising results!



Recycle for charity

A spring clean of your house not only refreshes your personal environment but selling all those unwanted items at a boot sale also helps raise cash.

Sell unwanted Christmas gifts at a big event in your community to raise funds.

Used aluminium cans and ink cartridges can be sold back to companies to generate money and also feels good with all that green recycling!

Hold a bake sale in your community to get to know your neighbours!



One of eight pages loaded with information

For anyone who is considering giving again, or for the first time, there is always the option of fundraising. An event can raise much larger sums than any one individual can afford to give. What puts most people off fundraising is that they've never done it before, and assume it's a difficult and uncomfortable

and ask the manager if they would place a CERCOPAN donations jar in a prominent position for the long-term.

How about those team-building events at work where you get to discuss your colleagues' most irritating habits? Back in the office, they'll have to place cash in the CERCOPAN jar

The front page of our fundraising pack



Award & Recognition



Administration and Operations Manager, Amy Baxter, accepting the award

The University of Calabar (UNICAL) is one of our most important partners. It's very natural for two institutions that are both conducting research in the same areas of interest to look for collaboration opportunities. However, our relationship goes a lot further than that.

Our long-term future lies at the UNICAL site, with 11.2 hectares there granted to us to develop a Rainforest Conservation Institute.

Both our future relationship and today's are grounded on the fact that

our work in Rhoko and Iko Esai provides a 'living classroom' for students in which to learn how effective environmental conservation is carried out in this part of the world.

For many years now, the Unical students have taken their field-based training from us. In 2008, a group of Forestry and Wildlife students spent a week in Calabar understanding primate taxonomy, primate care, and the principles behind community-based conservation. Then they spent a week at the field site learning the methods of

behavioural studies, surveying and census methods, and then the practical aspects of community work such as alternative livelihoods. In 2009, we had to conduct the training in two successive programmes as the demand was so high.

Last month completely out of the blue, the students themselves presented us with an Award of Excellence in recognition of our work. It was a wonderful thought, and a heartening experience, and represents the promise we have for continued success together into the future.

Release moves a step closer

Our efforts to undertake a successful release of mona guenons into Rhoko Forest have taken us yet another step closer to our goal. Last week, our small group of monas, headed by the



Vet nurse Austin darting the mona's ready for their move

dominant male July, were moved to a forest enclosure far from their current living accommodation.

The move is an important part of the carefully considered

reintroduction protocol designed to ensure the successful release of eight monas currently housed in Calabar. Learning from the last release, we decided to move all of our other Rhoko captive monas into forest enclosures, to prevent the release group from being attracted by a large group of primates calling from the main primate centre. This plan will also facilitate the release of an additional two Mona groups in the near future given that the primates will be housed at their future release sites (spaced in the forest in accordance with natural Mona home range size) and will therefore have an opportunity to acclimatize.

The relocation of July's group went very smoothly with July, Noname

and Wanna all successfully moved with the help of our vet nurse, Austin, and our tireless research assistants. A decision to wait to move Bebe & Bosco was made due to the age of the new infant, but they will be reunited with their group very soon.

Moving home can be stressful for monkeys and as a result, our research assistants have watched them constantly for the past week, just to make sure that they settled comfortably into their new home. Thankfully all of the group seem to be enjoying the new sights, sounds and smells – in fact they actually seem to prefer being located deeper inside their forest home!

Two cute for words

We have recently received two extra monkeys voluntarily donated to CERCOPAN by compassionate owners who understood they would live

better lives in our care. Just a few months old, Bingo, a putty-nosed guenon, thankfully arrived in good condition. As the first stage for our new intakes is solitary observation and testing in quarantine, you could not fail to feel for her at the absence of her mother, killed for bushmeat, and the need for comfort from her own kind.

A few days later Casper, a Mona guenon, even smaller and more desperate for affection, arrived in similar circumstances and the pair quickly became inseparable.

Currently living together in a large travel box, they are too small for other monkeys to play with and they have to

stay inside the office in the warm. The two are enjoying their regular milk and the rope swings our keepers have set up for them inside their cosy new home. They were both very nervous when they arrived, but are finding solace in each other's company. Everyone needs hugs don't they?

The important next step is to integrate them with a larger group of their own species, where surrogate mothers can secure the full development of their natural instincts. We ensure minimal possibility of human dependence for the monkeys in CERCOPAN's care. One day either or both Bingo and Casper will hopefully need to defend themselves back in the wild.



Bingo and Casper: finding solace in each others arms



Bingo: I'm not sure...

"Everyone needs hugs don't they?"

The benefits of Union support

CERCOPAN Director Claire Coulson traveled to Ouagadoudou, Burkina Faso from 1st to 5th June to take part in a forum organized by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) on the place, role, experiences and future of NGO's in West African Protected Areas management.

IUCN is a hugely important organization in the biodiversity conservation world. The IUCN Red List of threatened species is the definitive catalogue for focusing species conservation efforts globally. IUCN's grants sustain the efforts of NGO's such as CERCOPAN in providing a viable response

on a scientifically prioritized basis.

The conference was attended by representatives from 34 NGO's from 14 West African countries and provided an excellent opportunity for the organisations, all working on similar issues but in different countries, to learn from each others' experiences and successes.

The sessions included presentations, discussion groups, workshops and site visits.

CERCOPAN was one of the NGO's selected to give a presentation at the forum and Claire chose to highlight the role of community conservation in protected areas management, using

CERCOPAN's work in Iko Esai as a case study.

CERCOPAN has received support for Community Conservation work from IUCN Netherlands since 2007 and so this was the perfect occasion at which to showcase all of the amazing work our organisation has been able to achieve thanks to their support.

The IUCN Ecosystem Grants Programme funded project ends in August this year, but we hope to continue to work with IUCN on other projects in the future.



Claire's talk at the conference

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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Design & Layout by Claire Coulson; Written by Claire Coulson, Amy Baxter
Edited by Claire Coulson