



CERCO-NEWS

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Our Research Coordinator running through GPS fundamentals

'Turn left at the third tree...'

Global Positioning Systems (GPS) are becoming commonplace enough in cars these days that many of us are starting to get comfortable with taking instruction from a disembodied voice to get us from A to B.

But in fieldwork hand-held GPS's have been in use for over 10 years and have been an indispensable tool for CERCOPAN. We are passing on our skills to our host community to enhance their efforts in sustainably managing their natural resources.

Iko Esai's farming is reliant on the forest. 'Slash and Burn' methods utilise the thin fertile soil created by the trees, and farm it for the short period of time before it is washed away

revealing the underlying barren bedrock.

Given the destructive nature of this method it is critical that sustainable practices are introduced for long-term conservation. A vital role we play in this equation is to facilitate agreements in the community targeting sustainability.

We took the first step in this direction in 2006, through the adoption of a Community Land Use Management Plan (CLUMP) where boundaries were outlined on a map, including a Farm Zone and a Farm Extension Zone.

After this comes the complicated and time-consuming process of monitoring the situation and ensuring this agreement is adhered to by everyone.

In the past this has been carried out by CERCOPAN employees reporting breaches and working alongside the village council on sanctions.

But a preferable solution is for the community to supervise its own agreements. The Community

Conservation and Development Committee (CCDC), newly elected last year, has formed a surveillance team to monitor the land use in the area (as well as bushmeat hunting).

They have undertaken preliminary training in operating GPS units from CERCOPAN to allow them to mark exactly where each farm is located. This enables the team easily to verify whether farming is taking place in a land zone not designated for this purpose, and it also allows them to mark the zone boundaries on the ground along the main trails that are used to make everyone aware.

Four members of the surveillance team attended initial CERCOPAN-run workshops at our forest site on the basics of GPS usage. This was followed up by their first live project where the team mapped the urban area of their village.

The team did superbly, grasping the basic concepts taught to them. The team is now busy mapping all of the land-use zones as part of the ongoing monitoring needed to ensure compliance with the LUMP. We hope to encourage grant support for them so that the CCDC can afford their own GPS unit and other equipment necessities.





Claire Coulson
CERCOPAN
Director

From the Director

Many people will take on almost any challenge because they are naturally competitive. They just have to win! With me, though, the challenge has to be important. If it fits my goals of animal welfare and environmental conservation, you won't find anyone who will try harder.

On the next page you can read the story about a young Patas monkey, Jumper, who was brought to us in such a poor state that he had actually lost the will to live. No amount of coaxing would convince him to eat or drink, and my heart sank when I thought of what sort of a

life had been imposed on him to bring him to this point.

I can stay up for 48 hours and longer to bring a suffering animal through their trauma. And I'll be there to the end even if I don't succeed.

With Jumper, I could clearly see the writing on the wall, and for several days my long experience told me that all I could do was ease his pain a little. But after many trials, we found a way to convince him to eat, and then to drink, and at the moment my hopes are raised. In any event, myself and our staff are here for him and his kind.

Meanwhile, for those of you who are of a competitive nature, you may be qualified to take on our Web-site challenge. Re-design our Home Page, and you may win a free flight! Read on below for more details.

And for those of you who don't have that competitive instinct, I hope you relax and enjoy another month's news of our progress here protecting the wildlife and forests of South-Eastern Nigeria!

Claire

"There is no easier way to be environmentally friendly – so why not recycle your old car in the UK and help conservation in Nigeria at the same time!"

Auto-donate

CERCOPAN has recently signed up to be part of a new innovative scheme, which aims to turn old cars into cash for charities. 'Give a Car' works alongside the largest UK car recycling network to coordinate car donations.

All cars donated are either sold at a salvage auction or disposed of at an Authorised Treatment Facility, but money is always donated to the charity regardless of the cars condition or mode of disposal!

If you have an old car that you would like to 'donate' to CERCOPAN, contact 'GIVEACAR' at www.giveacar@co.uk or by calling 020 0011 1664.

Here you will speak to a GiveaCar employee who will take down your details and ask which from the many charities they support that you would like to benefit from the cash raised from your vehicle donation.

Within 7 days your car will be collected free of charge, even if a tow truck is required. Once the car is

auctioned or destroyed, Giveacar sends your donation to CERCOPAN and you will receive a receipt both from Giveacar and from us!

There is no easier way to be environmentally friendly – so why not recycle your old car in the UK and help conservation in Nigeria at the same time! Be sure to tell all of your friends and family about the scheme as the more old cars that are donated the more monkeys and rainforest we can save.



GIVEACAR
AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Back from the brink

Here at CERCOPAN we have just experienced a few quiet months on the monkey front, where not a single animal was donated or confiscated. We should have realised that this was the calm before the storm however, as just when we become accustomed to the lull, not one, not two, but three monkeys suddenly arrived in just one week!

Cranny, a young putty-nosed guenon, was the first to be brought through our gates, thankfully in relatively good health. Two employees from an environmental company saw the orphan being kept as a pet in Akampka, a rural village outside Calabar, and rescued him specifically to bring him to CERCOPAN.

Not long after settling Cranny into his travel box, we received a phone call

regarding another primate in need of our help, this time a young male mangabey named Ekun.

Ekun was placed straight into the large travel box with Cranny and whilst the two babies were initially wary of one another, within hours they became absolutely inseparable.

The pair are still living inside due to their small size, but spend much of the day jumping around the office, climbing up people's legs and generally causing complete mayhem!

The third and most heartbreaking of our rescues this month was 'Jumper', an older Patas monkey brought in by his owners when his health began to deteriorate.

Jumper arrived terrified, dirty and very weak. He refused to eat or drink and

as a result, CERCOPAN staff and volunteers have been providing him with round the clock care in an attempt to coax him back to health. Although his blood and faecal tests came back clear, sadly his neglect had been such that he had simply lost the will to live.

Jumper has now begun eating small amounts of food on his own, but it will be a number of weeks before we can be sure that he will survive his ordeal.

Each day our veterinary staff give him fluids as he will not drink himself, and we spend the day tempting him to eat with mixtures of baby food and raspberry ice cream syrup, fruit smoothie (with a good mix of fruit, oats, raw egg, honey, salt, and added vitamins), and his favourite food, orange.

The best way we have found to persuade him to eat has been to smear liquidated food onto his hands so that he is forced to lick it off in order to clean himself!

If you wish to follow Jumper, Cranny and Ekun's progress, check out our regular updates on the CERCOPAN facebook fan page at www.facebook.com/



A very dejected 'Jumper' during his first days at CERCOPAN

"Although his blood and faecal tests came back clear, sadly his neglect had been such that he had simply lost the will to live."



Cranny (right), Ekun (left)



It's still early days, but 'Jumper' is already looking brighter

Webmasters: win our big prize!

If you think you are good at designing and developing websites, and you fancy a two-month spell in Africa (Feb, March 2011), then get



Ready for our challenge?

in line, sharpen your skills and your wishes just might come true!

We want to completely rebuild our web-site and we are looking for a volunteer to do it. In return you get:

- Free return flight to Nigeria
- Free Board & Lodging

You will be asked to build the new site (in consultation with our senior management) and in addition provide

training in Windows fundamentals to a small group of our senior National staff.

And here's the first challenge. Visit www.cercopan.org and then rebuild that page the way you think it would best sell our cause. Then when you are ready contact Claire.coulson@cercopan.org

Submissions close Dec 20th.

500 and still going strong

In 2010, the United Nations International Year of Biodiversity, Rhoko forest has clocked up another milestone achievement.

After three years of surveying the butterflies within the 200 sq km area, the 500th species so far has just been confirmed.

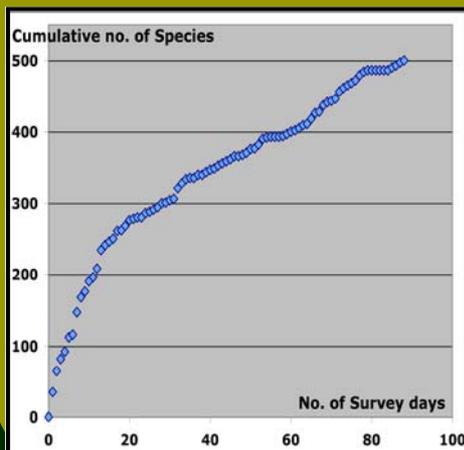
Is that a big number or a small number? You may well ask. There are just over 700 butterfly species in the whole of the North American continent, and around 70 in the U.K. So 500 in just 200 sq km is very impressive.

But in any case, biodiversity is higher in tropical than in temperate

climes, so a local comparison is more appropriate.

There is just a handful of surveys in Africa that have confirmed more than 500 species for a single location. The record for West Africa is 650 species confirmed, in this case for a larger forested area, and with the total being all but complete, after extensive work by multiple scientists.

The graph here shows how the Rhoko 500 total was achieved in successive days, and demonstrates that the survey is a long way from being complete. Will we get past 650? 800? You can make your own estimate.



The Rhoko butterfly survey results to date

And what does this mean for biodiversity? Rhoko is a part of the largest remaining contiguous forested area in West Africa (the Oban-Korup block). Incorporating the Rhoko results, that much larger area now has 1,032 confirmed butterfly species - the

highest butterfly diversity in Africa. Butterflies are the most readily surveyable type of insect, and insects (or more generally arthropods) make up the bulk of species numbers globally.

If you take a line of argument that butterfly diversity is representative of general arthropod diversity, then it would be hard to argue against the hypothesis that Rhoko forest lies within the most biodiverse area in the whole of Africa.

Developing Eggspertise

In recent months considerable progress has been made on our livelihoods programmes in Agoi Ibami and Iko Esai communities. The programme seeks to assist vulnerable people to cope and adapt to the observed and expected impacts of anthropogenic climate change.

The construction of the Agoi pig sty is now almost complete and 5 pigs will be sent in the coming days to start this project. The initiative will assist the Agoi community in a number of ways. Reducing the demand for bushmeat helps protect the forest ecosystem on which so many depend for their livelihoods, while providing support for vulnerable people to

diversify their income streams will enable them to better withstand climatic shocks such as drought that causes crop failure.

In order to ensure that the project has local support and is sustainable over the long term, CERCOPAN is supporting the creation of an indigenous Community-Based Organisation (CBO) in Agoi who will take responsibility for supporting our livelihood work on a day to day basis and addressing or referring any problems that may arise.

Under the egg production project we have now provided chickens to 11 households between Iko Esai and Agoi. The women involved in the project were required to construct chicken coops as part of their 'buy-in' to the project.



More women are currently constructing coops, and over the following weeks 9 additional participants will be brought into the scheme and will be provided with chickens and the training required to run a successful egg production business.

“Reducing the demand for bushmeat helps protect the forest ecosystem on which so many depend for their livelihoods”

Meating the demand

CERCOPAN's Abattoir cooperative is going from strength to strength and is now for the first time in Iko Esai's history, regularly providing fresh meat to the village that has not been sourced from forest wildlife.

The Abattoir initiative, jointly funded by IUCN and Toronto Zoo, includes 2 sites: one for slaughter away from the village, and one for storage and sales on the main road.

Micro-credit funds provided by the IUCN Netherlands grant were provided to the cooperative to initiate the purchase of animals, but now the profits attained from meat sales

are being ploughed directly back into the business.

The group of ex-hunters managing the project have worked extremely hard publicising the venture and if demand continues to increase we expect this project will result in a dramatic decline in the demand for bushmeat in the area.

To ensure the venture survives as a successful business, the Abattoir group has been assisted in developing a binding constitution to determine how profits are shared and how to manage their finances transparently.

In addition, Iko Esai's indigenous Community

Conservation and Development Committee (CCDC) are assisting with the management of the project to foster long term sustainability and to evaluate and monitor record keeping and animal welfare standards.

The Abattoir group planning their future sales



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/>



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