



CERCO-NEWS

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Mission accomplished

We have just completed the reporting on the achievements made under our largest grant award for the past two years, provided by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. In submitting the final report, the successes stand out noticeably, and demonstrate clearly how much progress our programme has made during the term, and how we are set firm for continuing success and expansion.

IUCN is a hugely important organisation in the world of conservation for many reasons - two immediately relevant to CERCOPAN. Firstly they maintain an authoritative database on species extinction risk (the Red List). Kept up to date with input from the world's experts in their respective specialised domains, the Red List is the definitive scientific benchmark for prioritising conservation interventions on the basis of concern for species survival. Secondly, IUCN provides

direct grants to enable the conservation of species. Given the nature of IUCN, these grant awards are highly-informed, and in tune with the practicalities of conservation in the field. The award we received was a compliment to the importance and effectiveness of our programme.

The project supported our efforts to protect the community forest of Iko Esai (Rhoko). Funds were provided to increase the protection of the forest through expanded patrolling and enhancement of the conservation by-laws, collaboration with the neighbouring villages as an early in-road to extending our conservation model to encompass their own community forests, a reduction on the reliance of Iko Esai on the forest through the provision of alternative livelihoods, strengthening of the Community Conservation Development Committee (CCDC) to manage externally-funded projects, enhanced eco-tourism infrastructure, and finally an educational outreach programme in the neighbouring communities to improve conservation awareness there.

We received some notable setbacks - ironically a lack of timber for construction, due to the state-wide logging moratorium that was such a



notable conservation success early in the period, was one example. However, we successfully worked through the issues and finished on a high note with all of our major goals achieved.

An increase in wildlife sightings, a decrease in the number of primate orphans from the region, the closing down of an illegal logging infraction and of a commercial-scale Non Timber Forest Product operation, 120 people now engaged in alternative livelihoods projects, together with a now-flourishing CCDC and some enthusiastically successful exchange visits from the opinion leaders in the neighbouring communities all point to measurable positive progress from the project.

An enormous vote of thanks is extended to IUCN who took a considerable interest throughout, providing vital feedback and flexibility as we moved through implementation. We wish them every success as they continue their vital work globally.

Iko Esai's Hunters' Group visiting Rhoko: one of many successful activities within the IUCN project





Claire Coulson
CERCOPAN
Director

From the Director

With our 12th edition of CERCO-NEWS, join me in celebrating the 1-year anniversary! We started our monthly newsletter in the midst of the global financial crisis. You, our loyal individual donors, supported CERCOPAN and me personally through those trying times. Like a regular correspondent with a good friend, I've kept our communication going since then.

Shortly following the launch, we received an important first grant from Tusk Trust which gave us capital to purchase much needed equipment in the

field, making our forest protection patrols far more effective. Coinciding now with our commissioning the solar equipment from that grant (see final article), we have just received a new award from Tusk Trust to take us into 2011.

Another anniversary celebration is the receipt of a further annual grant from the International Primate Protection League (IPPL). While our friends at IPPL have always been remarkably loyal to our cause, I will never take their support for granted, and each yearly donation

is a cause for celebration.

What's better than a 1-year celebration? Well a 2-year one of course. In our lead article we look back on two years of conservation success in the field thanks to the grant from IUCN that underwrote much of our activity throughout that time period.

Our community-based forest conservation programme is stronger than ever, and our debt of thanks to IUCN likewise.

New to science

An unnamed butterfly species has been discovered in Rhoko, adding to our existing knowledge of the exceptional status of the forest in terms of micro-biodiversity. In proposing new species of butterflies care has to be taken. Some genera can exhibit significant diversity even within one species. However, this is not the

case with the three known species so far identified in Africa for the genus in question.

Aberrant specimens can also be observed, leading to claims of new species, so much greater credence is given when a series can be obtained. In this case a female was seen in February, and then in March further specimens

were observed at the same location of both males and females. We now know that single specimens have been located in collections from Cameroon, but the pairing of the males with the females from Rhoko means that it will now be possible for the species to be named formally in a scientific publication, possibly in 2011.



Female (left), male (right)
of an unidentified species
in the genus *Toxochitona*

Thanks again!

Two grant awards this past month are repeat donations from previous grant providers.

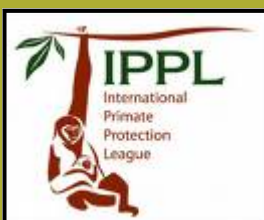
Tusk Trust (www.tusk.org) raises funds for projects across Africa that protect wildlife and work with the rural communities that live alongside. In December 2009 we became Tusk

Trust's first project in Nigeria, and now we are delighted that they have provided funding to take us into 2011.

The International Primate Protection League (www.ippl.org) grants financial assistance for programmes that protect primates and their habitat

within native countries. IPPL's grants to us go directly to our primate care and rehabilitation programme, specifically the feeding of our monkeys.

Such funds are amongst the hardest to obtain, so we are particularly grateful that IPPL continues to fund us year in, year out.



REDDy, steady,....

With forest protection a core objective of CERCOPAN, we continually look for schemes that will help Nigeria to conserve its outstanding forests.

With many communities dependent on local forest resources for their food, shelter, and main income, however, it can be difficult to provide economically viable substitutes that encourage and motivate them to reduce their levels of exploitation.

The global eye has been directed at the carbon emissions issue worldwide, and various ideas to combat and reduce the problems are being sought. Forests are one of the top 'sinks', meaning they reduce the carbon that is in the atmosphere. Inversely, the destruction of forests in the process of conversion to agricultural use accounts for more greenhouse gas emissions annually than the entire global transport industry.

REDD (Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation) aims to provide income for protecting the forest that

will substitute for current forest exploitation levels.

This scheme is still in its early stages but is being piloted in several countries including Zambia and Indonesia. Some of these projects are now up to 5 years old and are progressing, with new lessons being learnt every day. Nigeria has applied to be one of the new countries taking part.

This month a group from the United Nations (UN) came to assess how Nigeria was doing and whether it may be eligible to become a REDD Pilot country.

The visitors represented three UN programmes: UNEP (UN Environmental Programme), UNDP (UN Development Programme), and FAO (the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN).

CERCOPAN was invited as a stakeholder to a variety of meetings and a day-long workshop during their visit. It was full of information about what the REDD scheme was, and the next steps needed to be undertaken to ensure

Nigeria's place among the REDD Pilot countries.



Nigeria has selected a number of forested areas in Cross River State to protect through the REDD scheme, one of which is the area surrounding CERCOPAN between the villages of Iko Esai and Ekuri.

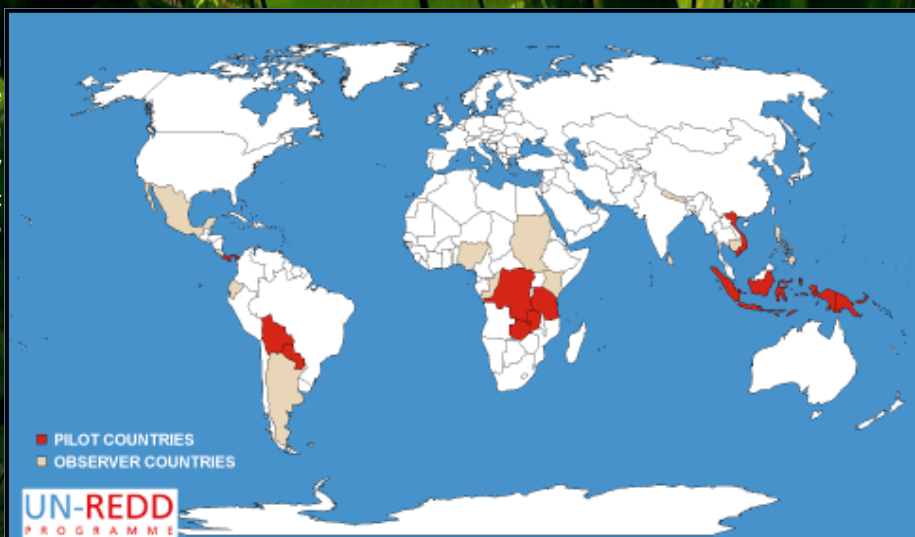
We are very excited that this innovative new scheme may be coming to this area, and feedback from the UN team was very positive regarding the progress made so far.

Nigeria is now left to prepare a final presentation that will be given in Washington DC to a panel who will decide whether the country is eligible to participate - fingers crossed!

Find out more about REDD at <http://www.un-redd.org/>

“...the destruction of forests in the process of conversion to agricultural use accounts for more greenhouse gas emissions annually than the entire global transport industry.”

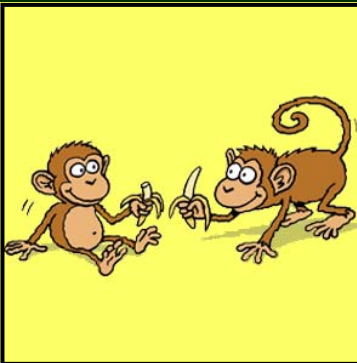
How soon can Nigeria move from being an Observer country to being a Pilot country?



There's a monkey in my stocking!

As we move closer to the festive season we are already making our plans: preparing for the staff Christmas party, getting decorations for the compound..... but have you thought about your Xmas gifts yet?

Good Gifts 'A-Peeling Monkeys'



Why not try something environmentally friendly, unusual and one that fulfils the message of 'good will to all'? You can find a variety of choices under:

http://www.cercopan.org/CERCOPAN_Merchandise.htm

Try giving a gift of monkey food on behalf of your family and friends and help support our monkeys here in Nigeria. You can tuck in to your Christmas dinner knowing that over 170 monkeys are enjoying tasty pineapple and orange at the same time!

The A-Peeling Monkeys option is under Good Gifts on our merchandise page. Every gift purchased helps CERCOPAN to care for the orphaned monkeys we rescue here in Nigeria.

Alternatively, why not adopt a monkey for someone and let

them become one of our elite adopters? They will receive an initial adoption gift pack followed by exclusive news on their monkey and friends every 3 months!

Choose from a range of species (putty-nosed guenon, red-eared guenon, mona guenon, Pruess's guenon, red-capped mangabey) and from our many characteristic individuals! Check out: http://www.cercopan.org/DONATE/adopt_a_monkey.htm to meet the clan and pick a favourite for your loved one!

Reaching out to young minds

On a yearly cycle we conduct an intense environmental education programme in the schools around Calabar and in the neighbourhood of our field site at Rhoko.

Referred to as 'Outreach', October marks the beginning of the programme, and sees our education team rushing around Calabar with sheets of paper and pens falling

out of their bags, and sweat trickling from their foreheads. Not surprising when you realise that our Education Officer and Assistant visit over 70 schools in both urban and rural areas!

Each school receives an environmental talk, information regarding the year's theme, and we also hand out educational leaflets for the school-children to take home and share with their families.

This year's theme concentrates on the balance of nature, how humans affect it, and what the consequences of tampering with that balance can be. In particular our team will be teaching about soil erosion, desertification, drought, flooding, deforestation, and

pollution. We try for a mix of lessons and interactive games to really instil the information!

Usually we link the Outreach programme to World Environment Day in June. Competitions leading up to the day are highly motivating, as the winners are celebrated publicly as part of the large-scale rally we organise in Calabar on the day, providing a big incentive to work hard throughout the year.

At the moment we are still seeking a primary sponsor for World Environment Day, without which we will be unable to organise the rally, which will have obvious results for the Outreach programme. We will be making further grant applications in November.

Cross River State's environmental future in their hands



Best of Breed

While ‘unwanted pregnancies’ and ‘taking precautions’ are phrases usually associated with education for teenagers, they are also part of everyday vocabulary in a primate sanctuary as well.

Not that a lecture to monkeys would be of any value, so in our case we are talking about vasectomies and contraceptive implants. While we provide a far better life for the animals we have rescued, it does not make sense to allow captive births if this leads to a lifetime in an enclosure for the newly-born.

On the other hand, breeding can have an important role to play in the context of reintroductions to the wild. Red-capped mangabey are rarely seen now in Rhoko

forest, so for several years we have been preparing a reintroduction programme that will help restore population levels in the wild back to natural levels.

In this case an aging adult, especially a former pet with socialisation difficulties would be an unfavourable release candidate relative to a captive-bred individual in its prime that has experienced far less human interaction. Breeding can also help build cohesive social groups up to the critical mass needed for success in the wild.

With these factors in mind, our vet Graham has been up in Rhoko working with the adult primates in the large semi-free ranging red-capped mangabey population there, assessing the status of each and taking appropriate action.



One of our captive births and a future release candidate

Each adult that is clearly not a future release candidate, especially those who have offspring already, are now prevented from producing additional offspring.

In January, Sagan Friant a PhD student from the US, will be arriving to begin the selection process for the first release group. For these animals, untouched by Graham’s handiwork, we can hope for a highly-successful breeding life once free-ranging in our protected forest.

“...for several years we have been preparing a reintroduction programme that will help restore population levels in the wild back to natural levels”

How cool is that?

It will not be news to anyone to hear that a day in the rainforest will bring upon sudden and unexpected changes to everybody’s plans. This was definitely the case a few weekends ago on an unusually uneventful Sunday afternoon. The sound of motorbikes and a suspicious radio call signalled the coming change. From then on, it was about a 15 minute wait to see that a new solar fridge, along with four giant batteries, two 85 watt solar panels and technicians to do the installation had arrived.

Yes a huge chest fridge on the back of a motorbike, that’s a new one!

We had known for some time that a fridge was being donated, what we did not realize was that it was already on the way. The technicians worked into the evening and came back the following day for final adjustments.

So now, a few weeks have passed and we are pleased to say that everything is working well. Cool beverages and fresh vegetables are now an everyday occurrence at our home in the forest. But, you don’t have to take my word for it... come by and see for

yourself any time.

Two of the batteries and the new solar panels are devoted to adding power to our office so that we can work on computers routinely and charge our patrol equipment.

The latter marks the final purchase of equipment from a generous grant from Tusk Trust for 2010 that also allowed us to buy waterproof cameras, radios, GPS units, head-torches, and a Toughbook computer, all of which have greatly strengthened our ability to provide protection to the forest through effective patrols.



One of Tusk Trust’s new solar panels being installed

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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