About CERCOPAN

Founded in 1995, CERCOPAN (Centre for Education, Research and Conservation of Primates and Nature) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization (NGO) dedicated to conserving Nigeria’s primate communities through forest conservation, community education and support, primate rehabilitation and research. Active in both UK and Nigeria, our work in forest conservation includes helping to protect over 15,000 hectares of community forest in Cross River State, which is contiguous with the Cross River National Park (CRNP). This work is in collaboration with Iko Esai, CERCOPAN’s host community, and is vital to the future livelihoods of the people of Iko Esai, and to the long-term conservation of these rare tropical rainforests.

Rescue and rehabilitation of guenons and mangabeys who are victims of habitat loss and the unsustainable bush meat trade is also an integral part of our conservation work. To date over 140 primates of 6 species are in various stages of rehabilitation at both Calabar and Rhoko Centres. Three of these (the Sclater’s guenon, Preuss’s guenon and the red-eared guenon) are endemic to this extremely diverse region of Africa – designated a biodiversity ‘hotspot’ by many international conservation organisations.

Environmental education outreach programmes are the cornerstone of our success, and we reach thousands of young people every year through educational activities – which are helping to ensure the forests and primates of Cross River State will be protected in perpetuity. Research conducted at Rhoko Education, Research, and Conservation Centre adds to scientific data on this little known but highly diverse and valuable forest and its wildlife, and helps us to make sound management decisions.

CERCOPAN is funded solely through charitable donations (both corporate and private) and international grants. If you would like to help CERCOPAN in pioneering the way forward in rainforest and primate conservation, you can make a personal or corporate tax-deductible donation directly through our UK based charity and website (www.cercopan.org). In North America tax deductible donations can be made through PASA (Pan African Sanctuary Alliance; www.panafricanprimates.org), or the International Primate Protection League in the U.S.A. (P.O. Box 766 Summerville, SC 29484). In Nigeria, you are also very welcome to visit our office at 4 Ishie Lane, Calabar; we are open every day, including holidays.

Location of CERCOPAN HQ and Rhoko
FROM THE DIRECTOR

It has been another busy and successful year for CERCOPAN, and despite the fact that there has been less funding this year for extra development and activities, we have still achieved a lot. On the UK side, we hosted our first thank you to volunteers and supporters in February. Attended by more than 50 people, it was a great success. We also welcomed 3 new trustees to our UK Board: Nicky Pulman and Chris Ransom, both former volunteers with continued links in the animal welfare and conservation community, and Lenny Phelps, a retired human resource and health and safety executive. We very much look forward to their contribution to CERCOPAN’s development in the coming years. Finally, we completely revamped our website in October - please revisit if you have not seen it for a while.

In January we welcomed Claire Coulson to take over from Nicky Pulman as Deputy Director and we warmly welcome Claire to CERCOPAN. As Director, I have taken on a different role this year, and I am spending more time in the UK working on fundraising and helping the new board take on more responsibilities, as well as publicizing the work of CERCOPAN. In the coming year I will be making many presentations. More exciting news for CERCOPAN and the Board—trustee Bob Baxter was given the honour of becoming a Chief of Iko Esai in January this year (see page 2). Finally, in probably the most exciting event of the year, we reintroduced mona monkeys to the Iko Esai forests—this represents the first primate reintroduction in West Africa, and indeed the only reintroduction in Africa for more than 10 years (see page 5). This coming year we will be continuing our reintroduction, community conservation, research and education programmes. Funding permitting, we will also be expanding more aspects of our work to neighbouring communities. I hope you enjoy reading about 2007 events.

MEET CLAIRE COULSON, NEW DEPUTY DIRECTOR

My first year at CERCOPAN has been busy, but very happy and fulfilling. I took up the post of Deputy Director in January, having previously worked as Wildlife Co-ordinator for a large animal welfare charity in the UK. I have a background in primatology, ecology and conservation, have carried out both captive and wild primate research, as well as working as a primate keeper. In my first year I have witnessed a great deal of change in the organisation, especially our operational capacity—we have acquired a new generator, expanded our solar power, obtained three additional laptops and a broadband internet connection. With these improvements, we are now more efficient, and can communicate readily with the outside world - we have even started our own blog (www.wildlifedirect.org)! On the community side, CERCOPAN has partnered with Development in Nigeria to provide training in bee keeping and cultivation of wild plants, as well as providing continued support for livelihoods programmes, including snail farming, tailoring, driving and baking (see page 4). Most exciting of all for me personally however, has been the start of a new project to build a community and tourist centre in Iko Esai. Land has already been donated by the community and some start up funds have been raised, but you will have to wait until next year to hear all about the finished product!
Programmes

Conservation

Community Forest Protection

IKO ESAI COMMUNITY
CERCOPAN has been assisting to directly protect more than 20,000 hectares of community forest on the borders of the Cross River National Park, in partnership with Iko Esai since 2000. Part of this conservation programme involves working closely in cooperation with the local community to improve their standard of living, including health and well being, whilst still protecting their forests for future generations.

TRUSTEE APPOINTED CHIEF BY COMMUNITY
Bob Baxter, CERCOPAN trustee for many years and former long term volunteer (1996-1997) was honoured by being appointed ‘Chief of Development’ by the Iko Esai Council of Chiefs in January 2007. Bob and all of us at CERCOPAN are very honoured by the trust and respect demonstrated by bestowing this honour on one of our trustees.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
CERCOPAN staff helped to create a new road to the newly constructed bridge which replaced the treacherous and oft damaged wooden bridge over the Ading River, making the route to Iko Esai safer for everyone.

CLEAN WATER
Concern Universal once again helped the community with further training of Iko Esai’s WESCOM (Water and Environmental Sanitation Committee) who are charged with maintaining the borehole and spring water pump which supplies clean pure water to the village throughout the year. With CU’s help, WESCOM has been revitalized with a new executive and constitution and the spring water pump repaired.

COMMUNITY CENTRE LAND
CERCOPAN is working with Iko Esai to identify funding to build a community centre, which will provide a central meeting place for Iko Esai youth, women and chiefs, a place for training and workshops, a library, and a small liaison office for tourists arriving at Iko Esai. This will also house communication with Rhoko Camp which will be more easily available for all community members. The community has identified a large piece of land for this development, and an architect has been consulted—we are awaiting approval of the proposal for design and building of this exciting project, and hope to hear early in 2008.

PARTNERSHIP FOR CONSERVATION
In keeping with providing greater economic security with decreasing dependency on forest resources, CERCOPAN continued our livelihoods and apprenticeship programmes.

Alternative livelihoods
In collaboration with Development in Nigeria (DIN) beekeeping training was carried out with 27 women of Iko Esai, which included hive construction and installation (10 hives), colonisation, and handling/harvesting. All 10 hives were successfully colonized and the activity has generated a lot of interest in the community. A local carpenter was trained in hive construction, who in turn trained a second carpenter, in order to allow expansion of the programme independent of DIN. Further training was carried out for two important economic non-timber forest products: the cultivation of bush mango (Irvingia gabonensis) and propagation of afang (Gnetum africamenum) through budding and grafting.

Apprenticeship Programme
Follow up on our apprenticeship programme last year included training in tailoring for 2 people, provision of baking materials to 2 people trained in baking techniques, and processing of driver’s licenses for 2 trained drivers from the community.
CERCOPAN has been rescuing and rehabilitating orphans of the bushmeat trade for over 12 years, and today over 140 monkeys are cared for in different stages of rehabilitation in Calabar HQ and at Rhoko, our rainforest Research and Education Centre. On arrival in Calabar they must go through a rigorous 3 month quarantine to ensure that they are not carrying any disease which might affect both humans and animals alike—after this they are introduced to an existing social group whenever possible; this is usually a fairly simple transition for young primates, and very heartening for all at CERCOPAN who have helped make it happen.

Many new orphans entered our gates this year, and once again we are stretched to capacity and beyond. We hope this year will finally see plans to acquire a large piece of land reach fruition. It is something we have been working towards for 5 years, but have met with frustrating delays and obstacles, and have had to change our plans more than once. When we do finally succeed, we will be able to expand and relocate our HQ, which will provide us with much needed additional space for both primates and people, and allow us to expand the scope of our many educational activities for young people.

PRIMATE CONSERVATION

CERCOPAN has been rescuing and rehabilitating orphans of the bushmeat trade for over 12 years, and today over 140 monkeys are cared for in different stages of rehabilitation in Calabar HQ and at Rhoko, our rainforest Research and Education Centre. On arrival in Calabar they must go through a rigorous 3 month quarantine to ensure that they are not carrying any disease which might affect both humans and animals alike—after this they are introduced to an existing social group whenever possible; this is usually a fairly simple transition for young primates, and very heartening for all at CERCOPAN who have helped make it happen.

MONA MONKEY REINTRODUCTION

November 1st, 2007 was an historic day for CERCOPAN, Iko Esai, Cross River State, Nigeria and West Africa. This was the day mona monkeys were released into the wild in Iko Esai forests as part of an integrated rescue, rehabilitation and release programme to restore the primate community in these forests. Many years of planning and preparation went into this deceivingly simple event, and few people really understand the amount of preparation necessary to do a justice to any wildlife reintroduction project. Preparation comprises in depth treatment of all aspects, including rescue, health tests, education, community sensitization, training of research assistants and research into the ecology of the habitat. We are very pleased to report that after 3 months in the forest, where we are recording data on their behaviour from dawn to dusk, the 3 mona monkeys are adapting well to their environment, and teaching us more and more every day about mona monkey ecology and reintroduction science. A report on the first quarter is available on our website. This is the first step of many which will be necessary to reach our long term goal of restoring the primate community in this rainforest environment.

RELEASE CELEBRATED IN STYLE

November 9th was a very proud day for both CERCOPAN and Iko Esai when we hosted a celebration in Iko Esai, attended by dignitaries from surrounding communities and Calabar, to publicize and celebrate the first primate reintroduction in West Africa. Cross River Broadcasting Corporation, the local television station, filmed both the release and the celebration. Several hundred people attended and were transported, fed and entertained by dramas from several local Conservation Clubs and the Iko Esai Igban dance troop. 'Allow Monkey to Live', their signature dance, became the mantra of the day, and indeed of the community, as dignitaries gave kudos to the community on this historic day. Over 300 students participated from 5 communities. Several hundred Iko Esai residents attended and posters and literature describing the event were distributed.
RESEARCH

Research is a vital part of CERCOPAN’s programming and over time we are dedicating more and more human and financial resources to this activity, and generating much interest in the research community for conducting exciting research in the area. Below are the highlights from this year.

BUTTERFLY SURVEYS

Butterfly diversity is a good indicator of total diversity, because of direct dependence of butterfly larvae on specific plants— often there might be a one plant/one species relationship. Since butterflies are easy to survey, it is one of the quickest ways of assessing total diversity at a broad level. Preliminary surveys indicate that there could be in excess of 900 species present. Early results are on track, as 220 species have already been identified after only two brief visits, including a handful of exceptional records (see two examples left). The survey is being led by Robert Warren, butterfly enthusiast resident in Nigeria, under the coordination of renowned butterfly expert Dr. Torben B. Larsen, Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society and eminent author of the definitive work ‘West African Butterflies’. This survey is one of 5-6 West African surveys being conducted in order to provide baseline information against which future environmental impacts (such as climate change) can be assessed. Rhoko was chosen amongst others as a site where there is a good probability of forest being present 100 years from now.

PHENOLOGY

Preliminary phenology studies began in 2006 have expanded from February 2007, using our 50 hectare grid system, and sampling 10 hectares in 20x500m plots monthly. This study allows us to record seasonal patterns of flower, fruit and leaf production in trees and other plants, as well as identifying primate food species. The latest report from November 2007 indicates 130 species have been collected, with 66 of these identified as food species for Cercopithecus mona. Fruits are by far the most important food item, with >73% of fruits consumed by our mona monkeys, versus 23% of flowers. Analysis of biodiversity of plant species indicates the a highly diverse food source for primates.

PARASITOLOGY RESEARCH

Sagan Friant, a graduate student from Oxford Brookes University in the UK, spent 3 months with us conducting her masters research, looking in detail at parasites in primates housed in different environments. Sagan collected 195 samples from Cercocebus torquatus and Cercopithecus mona. Generally all helminth parasites were found at low levels in all situations, with no differences found between animals of different ages or between males and females. There were differences between semi free ranging and captive groups, with semi free ranging groups experiencing a greater number of species of parasites and greater loads of the single protozoan species found. Animals in this group were, however, asymptomatic, and their general health and high birth rates indicate that although higher, this level of parasitism may not be detrimental for the population. Further studies are planned which examines parasite loads in wild and recently released primates.
EDUCATION

CALABAR
CERCOPAN reaches out to many different people at all levels, which is why we maintain a free entry, open gate policy. Reaching out to young people is of particular importance, as they are the decision makers and consumers of tomorrow. We are proud to say that visitor numbers to our Calabar centre have increased to over **30,000 annually**, almost half of these school children. Over half of them were new visitors to CERCOPAN including 9,500 adults and 8,500 children—approximately equal numbers male and female. In addition to many secondary school classes, over 37 clubs, universities, primary schools and churches made a visit to CERCOPAN in Calabar the focus of their annual outing.

OUTREACH PROGRAMME
The 2007 theme for our schools outreach programme was “Wildlife In My Country, What Do I Know About Them?” We were able to reach 44 out of 50 schools planned for our outreach programme, effectively reaching over 4,000 children. Children participated in an essay contest—and the culmination of this programme was a special celebration for World Environment Day.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY RALLY
On 5th June 2007 we once again celebrated World Environment Day with style, with over 3,000 secondary school students taking part in a street rally ending at the State Sport Stadium for various competitions which included music, marching bands, mascots and carnival displays. The results of essay contest was also announced. Prizes were sponsored by local businesses and participants were drawn from schools in our outreach programme, including the 5 rural communities.

LIVE CHAT FORUM
Busch Gardens zoo in Florida sponsored a live chat exchange in which students from Calabar enjoyed information exchange with students from Florida in ‘real time’. It was a great medium for fostering exchange of ideas and cultural understanding which we hope to repeat next year.

MEDIA
CERCOPAN was the only NGO who participated in the official commissioning of the long awaited Tinapa Business Resort in Calabar, where we had the privilege of meeting Nigerian President Olesun Obasanjo. During this prestigious event we also had the opportunity to distribute hundreds of information leaflets to visitors and appear on National and State television. In addition to appearing at Tinapa, we were featured on 4 different television discussion programmes which focused on our work and other environmental issues of the day.

RHOKO
CERCOPAN offers both children and adults an opportunity to learn about local wildlife from a new perspective at the Rhoko Research and Education Centre, Iko Esai. We also try to support the schools logistically whenever possible and this year donated science equipment to the secondary school in Iko Esai. Five rural communities participate in outreach and in-house education programmes at Rhoko, and this year all 5 conservation clubs in these remote forest communities were visited by CERCOPAN education staff. Problems with our access road being under construction for much of the dry season substantially interrupted scheduled visits to Rhoko, but we hope with a newly graded road we will welcome even more visitors this year than previously.

UNIVERSITY WORK STUDY STUDENTS
Two final year university students studying wildlife at the Federal University of Agriculture, Umudike, Umuahia spent 6 months with us at Rhoko for their work experience. They participated in all aspects of our work there including phenology studies, patrol and our exciting mona reintroduction project.
STAFF

IN HOUSE TRAINING
Capacity building of local people is a priority for CERCOPAN, using both in-house and external training. It is particularly important that host community staff understand and appreciate their very key roles through gaining knowledge and insight into conservation and biodiversity. This year 8 CERCOPAN staff successfully completed the correspondence course in Primate Conservation offered by Compass Education in the UK—they will receive certificates from the Institute of Animal Care Education.

STAFF CHANGES
Mike Ekpe was promoted to ‘Community Liaison and Education Officer’ and has proved himself to be a very able addition to our small team of senior staff. Mike becomes our 4th national member of senior staff. Abraham Utuma was made permanent security staff this year and Iko Esai native Akpor Etan joined our team of research assistants helping with the mona reintroduction project.

PASA TRAINING WORKSHOPS
Once again through the support of numerous donors, the Pan African Sanctuary Alliance sponsored Education staff Jerry Akparawa, Mike Ekpe and Martina Ezama to a training workshop in Cameroon in October 2007, in addition to sponsoring veterinarian Uche Anyaorah to the Veterinary Training workshop, also in Cameroon. Director Zena Tooze was sponsored to attend the Manager’s workshop in Rwanda and was there elected to the Steering Committee.

EDUCATION OFFICER JERRY WINS CHARLES SOUTHWICK AWARD
CERCOPAN Senior Education Officer received the Charles Southwick Conservation Education Commitment Award for 2007 by International Primatological Society (IPS). We are extremely proud of Jerry and his commitment to the education programme over more than 10 years with CERCOPAN. It is difficult to keep enthusiasm and momentum going over such a long time, but Jerry manages that and more. Jerry purchased a second hand car with the funds from the award, and has decorated it with so many stickers and posters advertising conservation and CERCOPAN that people refer to it as 'that CERCOPAN car! PASA will support Jerry’s travel to the International Primatological Society Congress in Edinburgh in 2008 to accept the award.
Once again CERCOPAN has been blessed with contributions from a number of volunteers this past year, and as always, said our goodbyes to a few and welcomed newcomers.

Voluntary Services Overseas recruit Tany Conlu traveled back to her home in the Philippines in October, after 2 years working as the Small Business Advisor in our community livelihoods programme. Tanya will be very much missed by her adopted community of Iko Esai as well as by all the staff of CERCOPAN, having helped spur on our alternative and sustainable livelihoods programme for women, youth and hunters of Iko Esai. New Zealand native Heidi Roesch also left in July after 1 year with CERCOPAN at Rhoko, filling a variety of roles including Research Coordinator.

Tanya (centre) with two driving trainees from Iko Esai, their first day of training
# FINANCIAL REPORT

*January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007*

## CERCOPAN Nigeria

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^ includes staff loans outstanding

## CERCOPAN UK

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Average exchange rate over the period Naira 2525 = £1

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Young red carped mangabey at Rhoko
THANK YOU

CORPORATE AND ORGANISATION

Addax Petroleum Development Nigeria Limited
The African Book Club
Apostolic Church Calabar
Blue Rose Water, Calabar
Brevard Zoo, Melbourne, Florida
Bristow Helicopters Nigeria Ltd.
British Airways
Busch Gardens (Florida)
Canadian International Development Agency
Cincinnati Zoo
Colchester Zoo’s Action for the Wild, UK
Cross River Broadcasting Corporation (Nigeria)
Crunchies Fried Chicken Limited (Calabar)
Colmbus Zoo, Conservation Department
Concern Universal, Nigeria
Cross River National Park
Cross River State (CRS) Forestry Commission
Cross River State Ministry of Education
Cross River State Ministry of Health
Dangote Group, Nigeria
Diamond Bank
ExxonMobil Nigeria Unlimited
Foreign and Commonwealth Office (UK) Nigeria
Freddy’s Restaurant,
Friends at Bristow Helicopters (Calabar)
Henrich Bell Foundation
Hi Tec Limited
The International Primate Protection League-UK
The International Primate Protection League-USA
International Union for Conservation of Nature

Iroko Foundation
Julius Berger Nigeria PLC
Leventis Foundation
Margo Marsh Foundation
Oceanic Bank
One Sky Institute for Sustainable Living
Pan African Sanctuary Alliance
Pyramid Hotel Calabar, Nigeria
Remlords Tours, Calabar
Seacor, Nigeria
Toronto Zoo, Canada
Twycross Zoo, UK
United Cement Company, Calabar
Volunteer Services Overseas
Wildlife Vets International
Zenith Bank, Calabar

INDIVIDUALS

Rebecca Antill
Stephen Brend
Francis Browning
Paul Budgen
Lesley Burgess
Alice Burke
Beverly Burgess
Graham Chapman
Kelly Chapman
David Coady
Barbara Daffner
Norma Foran
Hermien Fourie
Roy Germany
Nicola Gopalkrishna
Richard Gozney
Carolein Grim
Deb Helsdon
Amy and Alex
George Khawaja
Elie Khawaja
Charlie Khawaja
Ruth Lambert
Cynthia Lee
Lin Marshall
Sarah Mitchell
Tunde Morakinyo
Adam Naylor
Chrissy Page
David Reid
Ronald Santos
Sarah Seymour
Camillia Soegaard
Laura Slinger
Milo Wendler

In addition to many anonymous donors
All photos in this report were taken at CERCOPAN or at CERCOPAN or Iko Esai events by staff, volunteers and visitors.

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