

CERCOPAN

Centre for Education, Research and Conservation of Primates and Nature



2010 ANNUAL REPORT



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Conservation of the forests of South-eastern Nigeria and their wildlife inhabitants, especially its richly diverse primate populations, is by no means an easy task. The list of stakeholders involved, from Federal, State, and local institutions, is long and their needs and interactions complex.

Just on its own, Primate Care, a vital educational means of enforcing protection laws (in addition to its compassionate grounding), is a highly professional and intense operation. I also have to address an ever-present tension between the recognition by funders of the global importance of Cross River State's biodiversity and their concerns regarding infrastructure, capacity, and sustainability.

Amongst many highlights in this year's Report, three stand out for me. Our Alternative Livelihoods programme, which reduces pressure on forest exploitation while offering enhanced income for community inhabitants, exceeded its targets. Secondly the Land Use Management Plan in our host village moved from theory to practice as the community itself gained the practical capability to monitor the zoning of their forested areas.

Finally our strong financial position at year-end reflects the belief amongst our sponsors that CERCOPAN continues to be at the forefront of operators in Cross River who can deliver effective conservation results.

Clare

ABOUT CERCOPAN

Founded in 1995, CERCOPAN is a U.K. registered environmental conservation charity and a founding member of the Pan African Sanctuary Alliance (PASA), a US 501(c) charitable organization. We operate in Cross River State, South-eastern Nigeria, the location of the oldest and most biodiverse rainforest block in Africa.

CERCOPAN exists to protect Nigeria's rainforests and in particular its primate inhabitants, through community partnerships, education and research. We have offices in the UK and Nigeria which are staffed by 38 Nigerians and 6 expatriate volunteers, overseen by a Director and a board of 7 trustees. We have established MOU's with the State Forestry Department and Cross River National Park, and raise funds in the order of \$150-\$300k a year, including multi-year donors and support from the Cross River State Government.

Our work is vital. Over 60% of the country's endangered plant and animal species occur only in Cross River. Most importantly for our work, Cross River has the highest diversity of primates (14 species) recorded anywhere in Africa. However, Nigeria has the world's highest rate of deforestation of primary forests, proceeding at more than 3% per year according to FAO. If environmental degradation in Nigeria continues at this pace, the consequences will be disastrous for its unique wildlife.

Approximately 70% of rainforest community inhabitants are entirely reliant on the forest for their livelihoods, food, shelter and medicines. The threat to their future is no less than for wildlife. Unless strategies are put in place to educate the public on the importance and advantages of conservation, build the capacity of those charged with protecting the environment, and find financially viable alternatives to forest exploitation, the survival potential of the Cross River State rainforest in the next thirty years is extremely low.

With our expertise in environmental conservation, specialisation in primates, and proven track record, we are leading the effort to ensure that the forests of Cross River are conserved into the future for its people and its primates.



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PROGRAMMES

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND FOREST PROTECTION

In June 2010, Director Claire Coulson was invited to an IUCN-sponsored forum in Burkina Faso to present CERCOPAN's work in Iko Esai as a case study of community-based conservation success. Our work promotes practical sustainable forest management practices.

Alternative Livelihoods

Our alternatives livelihoods programme grew to its present state of 120 people active. In addition to Iko Esai, we started projects for the first time in the neighbouring village of Agoi. Funding from CIDA was motivated by climate change and the need to develop adaptation strategies that will provide continuing income when existing means of livelihood are impacted. The IUCN grant, and that of Toronto Zoo, focussed on finding alternatives for those whose present activities directly threaten the survival of the forest and its fauna.

An abattoir project involving local hunters was identified as a priority option based on the community's demand for fresh meat on a regular basis (currently met by hunting). The building and a sales area were constructed, and a fridge and generator provided. A micro-credit scheme initiated the project.

Further projects included pig farming,

driving, snail farming, bee-keeping, egg production, and baking. These projects focussed mainly on women and youths. Additionally, a training programme to increase cocoa farming yields was conducted. This proved to be highly successful, with participants reporting increased production in excess of 50%.

At year-end we conducted a household survey, providing complete demographic information for Iko Esai for the first time.

REDD

In 2010 Nigeria made an application to the United Nations to upgrade from Observer status to Pilot status within the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD) initiative. The programme provides large-scale funding to developing nations to protect their forests. The Nigerian proposal includes a multi-community project that embraces Iko Esai's forest. CERCOPAN hosted visits from a variety of intermediaries during the year, including members of the diplomatic missions of Norway and Sweden. We also hosted group visits from our three neighbouring villages to observe the community-based conservation programme in Iko Esai. We signed an MOU with the State Forestry Commission, and hosted their secondees. At year-end we submitted grant proposals that would allow us to build capacity in all four communities for a collaborative REDD response to a UN pilot project in the area.



Pig farming by youths in Iko Esai



Egg production in Agoi Igbami

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TRUSTEES

Chief Assam Assam
Mr. John Barker
Mr. Robert Baxter
Mr. Tunde Marakinyo
Mr. Chris Ransom
Mrs. Zena Tooze
Mr. Chris Wright

PROGRAMMES ...CONTINUED



The CCDC Surveillance Team taking GPS readings



Luxury accommodation including solar power added to the Eco-tourism offering

Iko Esai Community Action

The Community Conservation and Development Committee (CCDC) in Iko Esai is continuing to function very effectively on behalf of the village. They established Surveillance, Water & Sanitation, Project Implementation (PIC), Education, and Town Planning sub-committees. The PIC provides quality control of development projects, including the Livelihoods programme. They project-managed renovations to the secondary school in the village (for which the CCDC gained grant funds), and they are presently providing similar oversight on a bridge-building project.

The work of the Surveillance Team has been even more impressive. Iko Esai's Land Use Management Plan (LUMP) has been in place since 2003. It zones the community forest for specific uses in a manner that promotes sustainable management of the resources. The LUMP has brought about a notable change in practices for zones like the Research Area where the boundaries (paths, rivers) are readily understood.

However, the boundaries for the farming zones are not based on natural landmarks. To remedy this, the Surveillance Team mapped the boundaries of all existing farms using GPS technology - an extremely arduous task. The limits were then overlain on the LUMP map. It is now possible to endorse, or reject, all potential new farming locations relative to the intentions of the LUMP.

In further support of the LUMP, we doubled our number of patrol staff which allowed us to conduct a far greater number of patrols into the remoter parts of the forest than previously, including mapping the routes in detail. These excursions led to a clear plan to address noted incursions

by neighbouring communities through an educational programme.

Community Centre and Ecotourism

Progress on completing the Community Centre was slower than we hoped. The state-wide ban on logging, which we actively support, led to an acute scarcity of timber. But the structural components are now complete, including a sturdy roof of 'long-span zinc'. Following plumbing, electrics, windows and plastering, we look forward to inauguration at last in 2011.

We upgraded our tourist huts with the same new roofing material, and expanded further with 'luxury' accommodation which incorporates its own kitchen, shower, and solar power. We also upgraded the solar power system in our field office thanks to a grant from Tusk Trust, and this provides greater reliability for our own staff, visitors, and volunteers.

PRIMATE CONSERVATION AND REHABILITATION

The hunting of monkeys is banned by law in Nigeria. Orphaned monkeys whose parents have been killed for bush-meat become pets, more often than not kept in appalling conditions. To further discourage the hunting of primates, the keeping of monkeys as pets is also illegal. However, enforcement agencies have no incentive to uphold these rules without both direct encouragement and an option of sanctuary for confiscated animals.

CERCOPAN provides both of these support elements to great effect in Cross River. As a result we are able to work side by side with the State

authorities to make confiscations and to drive home the message of compliance with the law, thereby reducing hunting pressures on primates. Moreover, the primates in our care are a huge visitor attraction and consequently provide a vital environmental conservation education possibility that we take full advantage of. These elements mean that the animals in our care have a very significant positive impact on protection of primates in the wild in Cross River.

In addition they receive the highest possible standards of care, in accordance with our membership of PASA. Furthermore, we have options (for appropriate candidates) to conduct scientifically monitored reintroductions back into the wild (see below).

Rescued in 2010

We rescued 13 primates during 2010; two more than in 2009. A typical example was Robotta, a female red-eared guenon who was so dehydrated when she came to us that she was unable to stand for long. She refused to drink water or milk, preferring her own urine. With immense care she was rehydrated with a few millilitres of water from a syringe every hour over two long days and nights. It was several weeks before she was able to enjoy the full variety of foods required for a healthy diet, and months before the robotic motions she displayed (which led to her name) were replaced by the normal actions of a healthy monkey.

The arrivals of Bingo (a putty-nosed guenon) in June, and Casper (a mona) was a much happier story. Although both were desperate for affection following the loss of their parents, they were nonetheless in good condition. Fortunately our educational message had reached their owners early enough to bring them quickly to our gates for expert care. Juveniles, even of different species, make the firmest of friends, and their arrivals within a short space of

each other was fortuitous and provided an excellent start to their recovery.

Sadly in the case of Jumper, an older Patas monkey brought to us in October, even the best of care was insufficient to recover the situation after a lifetime of inattention. Jumper arrived dirty, terrified and very weak. He refused to eat or drink, but was eventually coaxed into taking small amounts of food, with the simple but effective trick of smearing the food onto his hands which he instinctively tried to clean. With round the clock attention he clung on to life. Sadly, however, his body was riddled throughout with abscesses that were already too far advanced for us ultimately to save him.

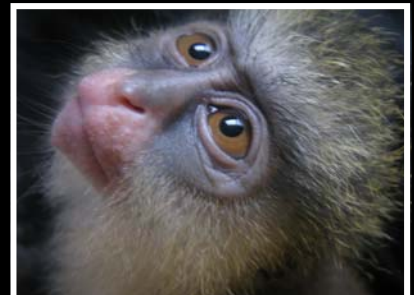
The year ended with the arrival of Whisky, an 18-month old mona female. Thin and dirty and with rope wounds around her waist, she nonetheless displayed a strong spirit and recovered quickly. An abnormally strong interest in grooming has returned to normal levels in the presence of companions.

There were six births during the year. It is our normal practice to impose contraceptive measures within the groups in order to avoid a life-time of captivity for the newly born. However, in the case of rare species, especially when re-introduction into protected forest is a real possibility, we make exceptions. In July we enjoyed the first birth in the world of a Sclater's guenon in captivity. The thriving youngster is pictured on our front cover.

Our veterinary function benefited from the donation of an autoclave, a centrifuge, materials and drugs, two microscopes, and financial support from Columbus Zoo. We built two enclosures to a new design that offers the potential of portability to a new location should the requirement arise, thanks to IPS. Gary Young provided engineering expertise, materials, and labour. IPPL provided valuable primate care funds.



Ekun a newly-arrived Red-capped mangabey juvenile



Chelsea joined a growing crèche in July

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PROGRAMMES ...CONTINUED



Putty-nosed guenons in Rhoko are slowly adjusting to human presence

Mona Research

Our experience with the first mona release in 2007, led us to believe that the groups of other monas housed near the entrance to the forest could divert a newly-released group to that area, lending risk to a second reintroduction. We therefore took steps during 2010 to re-site these captive monas to two enclosures deep within the forest.

In January repairs to the enclosure used for the first release were completed, and one of the captive groups transferred to their new home. In December we rebuilt this enclosure due to its age, necessitating a further set of moves for the group. A second new enclosure was constructed in March. One of the females in the second group was pregnant (and gave birth in May), so to allow the pregnancy to run to term and provide time for bonding movement was deferred until June.

In July the future release group was transferred from Calabar to Rhoko to a third enclosure within the forest. The second half of 2010 was used as a rehabilitation period, and the research assistants were trained in individual recognition and observation of this new group. We are currently waiting for virology results of further release candidates in Calabar - this research is being conducted in partnership with Fabian Schmidt at Cambridge University. A bonding period will be necessary before the release itself.

Mangabey Research

Mangabey data collection has continued this year in preparation for the proposed release. Behavioural observations indicating social relationships between individuals, dominance ranking of individuals, and feeding ecology (food preferences,

quantity, and manipulation techniques) have been carried out by our long-term, and expert, member of national staff. Information on these subjects has helped us to narrow down the possible release candidates. Although further decisions need to be made, several older females have been omitted from the candidates and now implanted with contraception to prevent further births. This continued research will monitor juveniles as they progress in to adulthood and highlight those who will make proficient leaders for the group.

Putty Nosed Guenon

Wild putty-nosed and red-eared guenons present within the Core Area (around 25-30 in total) offer a potential enhancement to mona release ambitions since all three naturally form polyspecific groups. But our requirements to monitor the release mean that unless we can habituate the wild groups in time, the benefits of the formation of mixed-species associations could be lost.

The research assistants at Rhoko have sought out the wild groups throughout the year to demonstrate that human interactions are non-threatening. To date the data suggests increased but still limited confidence in the presence of humans. For the release this may necessitate more remote observation relying on radio-tracking.

Butterflies

The butterfly survey has identified 529 species in Rhoko to date. Tree-climbing specialist Joe Brophy ascended 140' to the forest canopy and confirmed, amongst other high-flying species, the presence of *Liptena eketi*, a butterfly that has only been seen twice before anywhere. By analysis of the data in hand we can now predict with



Joe Brophy studying butterflies high up

confidence a total of in excess of 800 species, which would be the highest number in Africa for a single location. This is strong evidence in support of the belief that Rhoko and its contiguous forest is the most biodiverse in Africa.

Phenology

The Phenology study at Rhoko which records the pattern and diversity of fruiting and flowering, especially in relation to the diet of mona guenons, has now passed its fourth year. When a new flower or fruit is presented to a mona, they can readily discriminate as to whether it is edible or not, and indeed have perfect recall if they have seen it before. We now have records of 202 species of trees, climbers and shrubs producing fruits or flowers edible to monas. Analysis of the data provides important information to enhance viability and success of future releases of mona groups into the forest. Fruit abundance increases in the Rainy Season, while flowering increases in the Dry Season. Monas have a preference for fruit over flowers and therefore the Dry Season is one of relative food scarcity, requiring dietary flexibility.

Our research and forest conservation programmes got a huge boost at year-end from the donation of a new 4WD Hilux truck from Prins Bernhard Natuurfonds. Tusk Trust provided funds for upgrades to our GPS, radios, and solar equipment (complemented by the private donation of a fridge), and, together with IPS, salaries for additional patrol staff.

The latter allowed us also to conduct wildlife surveys in the remoter forest, with good evidence noted of reduced hunting pressures and encouraging sightings of primates, including Red-capped mangabeys and Drills. An education programme and visits by the Hunters' groups to Rhoko from each of the three neighbouring villages was undoubtedly contributory.

EDUCATION

Calabar

17, 823 visitors took an educational tour of our Calabar headquarters in 2010 comprising 7,167 new visitors and 10,656 people who had visited before. We also received 31 large groups of visitors for environmental education lessons including nurseries, primary schools, secondary schools, and religious and other groups.

In June the students of the University of Calabar (UNICAL) presented CERCOPAN with an Award of Excellence to recognise the support we provide, especially with our annual field seminars. This year we also welcomed students from the Cross River University of Technology (CRUTECH) who took a month of accelerated learning in applied conservation from our staff. We closed the year publishing a complete nine-lecture series 'Introduction to Climate Change' for inclusion in the UNICAL curriculum, and this is available on our website for download.

Conservation Clubs

Our education officers have continued to foster over 20 conservation clubs formed in urban and rural schools for children to develop their interest in the environment out of school hours. Two additional villages (Ifumpka and Uyanga), located close to the National Park were incorporated into the programme, and over 100 children in five separate groups were hosted at Rhoko camp to receive conservation lectures and to undertake practical conservation work in the forest

Outreach

Our Outreach programme expands every year and continues to be very popular. This year's theme was 'The effect of Climate Change'. Education Officers Abakum Owai and Mike Ekpe, and Education Assistant Martina Ezama,



Phenology: flowering at Rhoko



Schoolchildren from the neighbouring village of Iko Ekperem enjoying a day out in Rhoko

PROGRAMMES

...CONTINUED

attended 59 schools giving a one-hour talk covering deforestation, pollution and their consequences. They also set up competitions to maintain interest over the following months, and handed out 20,000 educational leaflets for the children to share with their families.

World Environment Day

Our Outreach programme reached its climax on World Environment Day on June 5th with a spectacular carnival rally of the State's schoolchildren parading through the centre of Calabar to proclaim the importance of Cross River's

nature. Chiefs and opinion makers from the rural communities, and national media, were present to hear the keynote speech from The Governor, Liyel Imoke, who used the occasion to announce an ambitious tree-planting programme within the State. Dramas from the competition finalists on the theme 'Biodiversity: our survival depends on it' were of the highest quality, and we closed the day with prizes for the cleanest school and best parade mascot to complete the process that brought the importance of Biodiversity to 8,000 young minds throughout the year.



One of the school drama team finalists on World Environment Day

STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

We took on a new keeper, Mike Uki, in Calabar, and in May we hired a driver for the first time. Motorbike taxis ('okadas') were an every-day part of our business, ferrying our staff to collect supplies, but they are now banned in Calabar. Human Resources training continued under the expert tutelage of consultant Zia Paul-Birabi. At year-end our numbers stood at 34 National staff and 6 long-term expatriate volunteers.

There was more change amongst our long-term volunteers. In February Rachel Hemingway took over the role of Community Conservation Manager in Iko Esai. The biggest change in the year, though, was when we said goodbye to Richard Carroll our Rhoko Manager,

after three years of invaluable service. Sylvain Lemoine dependably took over the role in an acting capacity. He will return to his mona research work once we have a permanent replacement.

We were strengthened by the arrival of Dallas Buleziuk in June as a Construction volunteer to tackle the endless requirements for maintenance and new building that our programme requires. In July, we took on a full-time veterinarian in Graham Brown.

We benefited from the skills of short-term volunteers throughout the year, including students, a vet, a tree surgeon (twice), and a primate sanctuary maintenance specialist.

CERCOPAN TEAM

CALABAR

Claire Coulson, Director
 Amy Baxter, Administration and Operations Manager
 Graham Brown, Veterinary
 Austin Igbebor, Veterinary Nurse
 Egu Arikpo, Head Keeper
 Abakum Bassey Owai, Education Officer
 Martina Ezama, Education Assistant
 Etan Bernard Egorborim, Admin. Assistant
 Glory Ajah, Primate Quarantine Care Staff
 Mathew Etim Ankpor, Primate Care Staff
 Mercy Effiong Ononokpono, House Assistant,
 Bassey John Bassey, Security
 Oliver Samuel Oju (Dr.), Driver
 Emmanuel Ndubusi Adiele, Security
 Abraham Enya Utuma, Security
 Mike Uki, Primate Care Staff
 Edet Ekpe Bassey, Primate Care Staff

RHOKO

Sylvain Lemoine, Rhoko Acting Manager
 Obio Owai Obio, Assistant Operations Manager
 Mary Abakum Owai, Primate Care Staff
 Gabriel Aidam, Primate Care Staff
 Akposi Esira Abakum, Research Assistant
 Usor Arong, Research Assistant
 Ayitu Obeten, Research Assistant
 Etan Akpor, Research Assistant
 Obun Obun Ankpo, Forest Patrol
 Osam Oyira Osam, Forest Patrol
 Chief Elijah Okom Obun, Security
 Isaac O. Amos, Security
 Isoyip Aidam Eyo, Security
 Mathew Aidam, Groundskeeper
 Otum Ubi Ofem, Groundskeeper
 Onyoh A. Etan, Groundskeeper
 Charity Enwa, Camp Assistant
 Michael Ekpe, Education and Community Officer
 Victor Arong Mbang, Primate Care Staff
 Rachel Hemingway, Community Conservation Mgr.
 Dallas Buleziuk, Construction Volunteer

COULD YOU BE A VOLUNTEER?

Our website www.cercopan.org has all the information you need to apply for our exciting short term volunteer programme or working holiday programme

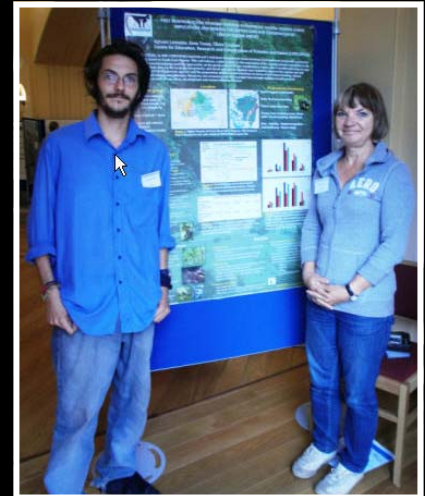
FINANCES

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2010

	UK	NIGERIA	UK & NIGERIA
	UK STERLING	NIGERIAN NAIRA	Eq. UK STERLING*
PROGRAMME FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD FROM 2009	15,063.57	7,191,900.26	45,471.88
RECEIPTS			
Grants	70,631.01	2,828,422.20	82,589.95
Donations	2,380.38	20,703,499.77	89,917.52
Earned/Other Income	7,633.06	656,470.00	10,408.70
Sent to Nigeria/ received from UK	-48,180.00	11,395,102.17	0.00
TOTAL NET RECEIPTS	32,464.45	35,583,494.14	182,916.17
PAYMENTS			
Programme Activities			
Research	1,190.80	320,905.00	2,547.63
Education	504.95	2,447,773.93	10,854.46
Primate Care & Rehabilitation	1,220.92	11,177,923.00	48,482.66
Forest Conservation	3,270.22	4,505,356.00	22,319.47
Community Development	1,911.60	5,437,786.05	24,903.28
Core Activities			
Rent, Equipment & Maintenance	0.00	560,107.90	2,368.21
Overhead Salaries and Benefits	4,431.20	1,935,992.00	12,616.83
Travel	0.00	467,995.00	1,978.74
Administration	189.14	1,438,666.89	6,272.01
Fund Raising & Publicity	1,492.47	97,800.00	1,905.98
Loans In/ Loans Out	350.67	387,862.00	1,990.60
TOTAL PAYMENTS	14,561.98	28,778,167.77	136,239.88
PROGRAMME FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD FROM 2010	32,966.04	13,997,226.63	92,148.17

The full UK financial report can be viewed on the Charities Commission website

*Effective average exchange rate
£1 = 236.51 Naira



Sylvain Lemoine & Zena Tooze gave a paper at the Compassionate Conservation symposium in Oxford in August



Bingo: rescued in 2010

STAY IN TOUCH!

In 2010 we opened our Facebook Fan Page. Join our hundreds of other fans at www.facebook.com/CERCOPAN for regular updates and photos of our progress

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Thank you to our sponsors...



Good Gifts



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....and many generous individuals



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