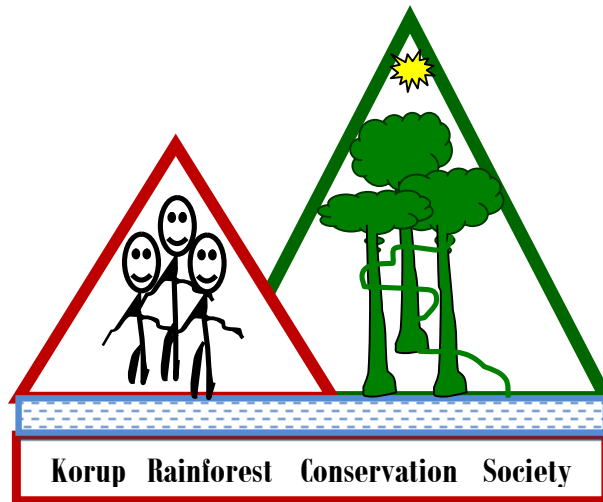


KORUP RAINFOREST CONSERVATION SOCIETY



K.R.C.S.

...Involving Local People for a Greener Future.

2013 ANNUAL REPORT

Key Achievements

- ♣ Darwin Initiative Project grant
- ♣ Successful completion of CLP Funded project.
- ♣ Letters of recognition/ appreciation from 5 target villages
- ♣ More than 30 members trained.
- ♣ More than 20 new members registered
- ♣ KRCS provided technical support in ASEA and PUZ studies for Korup park.

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Introduction

The Korup Rainforest Conservation Society was founded in September 2009 by a group of indigenes from the Korup National Park (KNP) area committed to collectively assist in addressing some apparently burning issues threatening the integrity of the rich biodiversity of the park which were later highlighted in a conflict resolution and sensitization workshop organized by the park management in November 2009. Issues included;

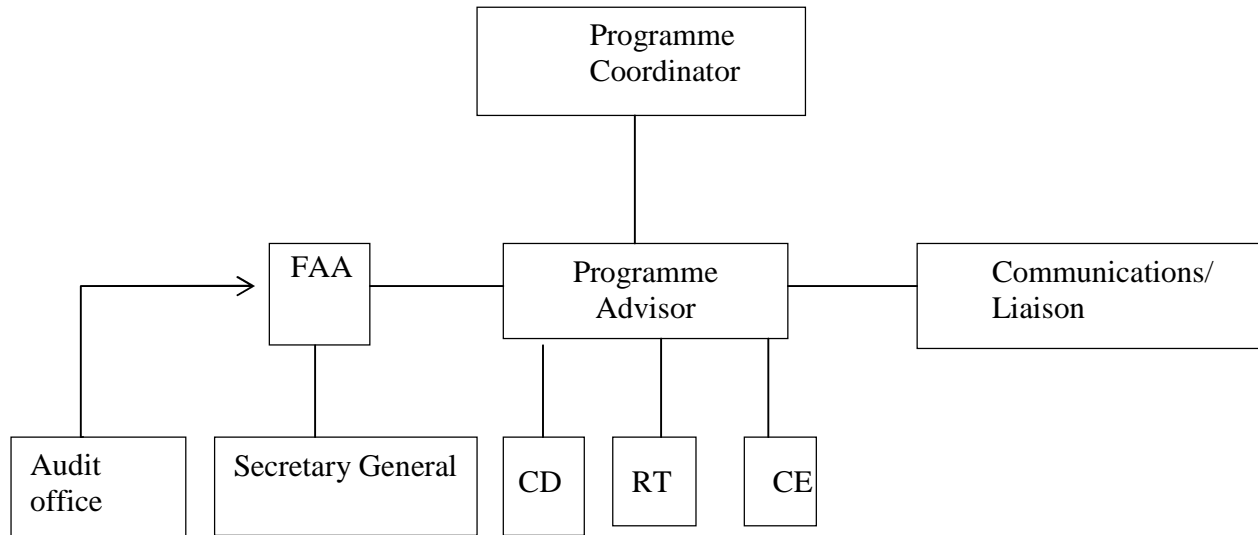
- Insufficient participation of locals in park management.
- Insufficient benefits of local people from park management.
- Wide communication gap between park Management and local communities.
- Antagonistic relation between park service and local communities.
- Vandalism on park property by local communities.
- Insufficient information flow and conservation education in local communities.
- Wide gap between park users (researchers, tourists etc.) with local communities.
- Disorganized and indiscriminate recruitment of research assistants/guides resulting to some assistants later going into the park as poachers.
- Absence of a reservoir of local service providers for conservation activities.
- Insufficient involvement of local civil society in the park management.
- High pressure on park resources due to the absence of alternatives to livelihood.

KRCS seeks to address some of these issues in its objectives and activities. This annual report is therefore reporting on our activities for the period of **January to December 2013**. So far, **positive strides have been made in the right direction** towards our resolve to building trust, mobilizing support from more followers and well-wishers from our target local communities as well as conservation and development partners, thereby making our impact felt. Our interventions and achievements are reported here under the six sections as per our objectives;

- I. General Administration and Finance
- II. Locals' involvement in park management and Training.
- III. Sensitization through conservation advocacy and education in local communities.
- IV. Conservation/development initiatives for livelihood improvement.
- V. Constraints
- VI. Conclusions and Recommendations

I - General Administration and Finance

- A new organigram was developed and approved by the general assembly of the organization in November 2013. The organigramme will be as follows:



Executive elections then followed in December 2013 and saw a new executive as follows:

Position	Name
Programme Coordinator	Ekole Nelson Betobe
Programme Adviser	Orume Robinson Diotoh
Secretary General	Moleka Alexander Nakeri
Conservation Education Officer (CE)	Inyang Zacharie Ekpe
Assistant Conservation Education Officer	Ekpo Peter
Communications and Liaison Officer	Bamai Namata
Research and Training Officer (RT)	Motale Trevor
Assistant Research and Training Officer	Bepuaka Ekuka
Community Development Officer (CD)	Nganga Owamba
Assistant Community Development Officer	Masango Vivian
Auditors	Nkwai Bodie
	Eni Edward

- Four (5) general assembly meetings were held.

- Eight (15) executive meetings were convened and held for monthly planning and discussions on thematic issues including the 2013 evaluation and 2014 activities planning.
- Interested members list stands at about seventy (70) with registered members increasing from 40 in 2012 to 65 in 2013 with most from over 18 out of 32 target communities.
- KRCS is still operating in the office space donated to the group by the Korup park service at the tourist information centre.
- An equipment inventory was concluded in December 2013 and equipment included;

Equipment	Qty	State	Remark
Wooden tables	02	Used	
Wooden shelves	02	Used	
Wooden glass cupboard	01	Used	
Wooden bench	01	New	
Metallic Notice board	01	New	
Dell computer screen	01	Fairly Used	
Dell CPU	01	Fairly Used	
HP deskjet printer	01	Problematic	
HP scanner/printer	01	Still Ok	
Cannon Photocopier N6317	01	Still used	Problematic
Camtel fixed phone*	01	New	Used as internet modem
SINGSUNG 24" TV*	01	New	For videos in villages
VCD player*	01	New	”
Casio solar energy Calculator	01	New	In good condition
1500W Voltage regulator	01	New	
Electrical distributors	02	Still used	
Staplers	02	New	Giant, bad and Medium size still used
Nikon video camera + SD card*	01	New	Still used

- The petit cash' account established at Express union, Mundemba to avoid several expensive bank trips to Eco-bank, Kumba and cash handling by members is still in use.
- The volunteer Administrative and Financial Assistant (Mr. Sumbede Anthoine – BSc. Economics) who was recruited has maintain permanent present at our office, provided clerical and accounting services and has also run our **outreach documentation project**.
- KRCS was invited and participated in the following meetings;
 - As the focal point for REDD+ in Ndian division, the capacity building workshop on the development, implementation and monitoring of payment for environmental services (PES) and REDD+ organized by CED and funded by the GIZ in Buea, January 2013.
 - October 2013 participated in a PUZ restitution meeting in Mundemba organized by AFGA-NGO and PSMNR-SWR.

- On 5th July 2013, participated in setting up the Municipal platform for REDD+ in Mundemba and Toko in which the executive was as follows:
 - 🚩 President – Orume Robinson Diotoh from KRCS.
 - 🚩 Chief Ekokola Adolf Nwese – Community representative from Esukutan village
 - 🚩 Mme. Moleka Alice – Women representative
- Above 20 of our members were co-opted as local service provider’s researchers and other park activities and complied with payments of their Green contributions (constitutionally accepted contribution of 15% kept aside for funding small activities and office running).
- Our **financial accounts** for the year stand as follows:

Income	Amounts	Remark
Balance brought forwards from 2012	3380000	Mostly CLP project funds
Membership Registration	94,000	Some members completing
Green Contributions from members salaries involved in service delivery	1,131,100	Members green contributions for participating in CLP funded project, Max Planck Chimps Research, Darwin Initiative Acoustic & Biomonitoring bushmeat price project (5% agreed since project conception), Gottengen university project (Denis kuptch) participation in VSMs and ASEAs for KNP and participation in PUZ studies at Erat and Esukutan
Donations	80,000	Donations from JMU Study abroad (55000fcfa), Kelly Beoke 25000FCFA
Community outreach	2,192,620	Documentation +sales of materials+survenirs
Commitment Fee	0	
TOTAL INOME	6,877,720	
Expenditure	Amount	Remarks
KRCS contribution to CLP project	372000	As per CLP project proposal and contract.
CLP project spending in 2013	4405000	Balance of total CLP funds spent (715000) after spending 2155000 in 2012 excluding bank trip considered below. 500,000 spent on equipenet in 2012
Staff Salary	480,000	salary for FAA for 12 months
Perdiem	136,000	For KRCS activities only
Refreshment	89,150	1ST MAY, POST MEETINGS
Community outreach	894,200	Purchase of matrials, printing of 50 1st may Tshirts and tourists Tshirts
Repairs of equipment	174,000	Photocopier, TV and video player

Charity donation	85,000	Elephant victim visit at Ikondo knodo 1 and Life line donation over Akpasnag river
Office running(transport, stationaries, bank trips, banking costs and communitcation, receipt production etc)	536,350	Including CLP bank trips
TOTAL	7,671,700	
Balance carried forward	-793,980	Surely deficit met by partner funds

Partner project funds managed and accounted for by KRCS in 2013

Partner (see partner cash records for detailed expenditure)	Amount Recieved	Spent	Balance
Darwin Innitaitive project funds from Oxford university funds	2460530	1748500	712030
Darwin Initiative project funds from James Madison University	2200000	4221600	-2021600
Darwin initiative project funds through KRCS	2213000	729000	1484000
PSMNR-SWR funds for Darwin project support	0	161525	-161525
Max plank project funds	2437500	592500	1845000
Save wildlife human wildlife conflicts acoustics feasibility project	250000	0	250000
Totals (FCFA)	9551030	7453125	2907905

We hope deficits from partner project funds shall be normalized in 2014 since we have used mostly funds from other partners to pre-finance activities for the above cited projects.

II – Locals involvement in Park activities and training (Research, tpurism and collaborative management activities).

- Between the 12th and 27th of May 2014, KRCS member where fully involved in the organization of the study abroad programme base on an MoU with Dr. Joshua Linder of James Madison University, Virginia, USA. Activities included;
 - Presentation on the role of civil society in management of the Korup National Park and our CLP funded action for primates' project.
 - A 10 days research inception trip to the park.
 - A socioeconomic assessment of Meka village
 - An appraisal visit to the Pamol plantation oil palm processing facility in Bulu camp.

KRCS received a consignment of conservation publications and text books from the visiting students.

- Since April 2013 Six (6) KRCS members have now been fully employed and involved in the Darwin initiative project focusing on collecting bio-monitoring data on the \$ permanent transect in Korup

coordinated by Dr. Joshua Linder of James Madison University, collecting acoustic data using Acoustic recording units (ARUs), collecting bush meat price data from selected vendors in Mundemba since November 2013 all as part of a three year project to help Improve in the design and evaluation of antipoaching patrols in African rainforest.

- As part of the Darwin project Prof. David Macdonald; one of the worlds most famous and accomplished wildlife conservation scientist of our times. Visiting together with Dr. Christos Astaras, also from Wildcrum the visit was a privilege for the only Cameroonian alumni from Wildcru (Orume and Melano). KRCS was proud to host an inspiring august guest.



- KRCS members have also been involved a 1 year human wildlife conflict feasibility research project involving the use of acoustic units to listen to Elephant activity around Ikondo kondo I village farms.
- Eight KRCS members who had been trained by the KNP CDT on participatory community sensitization in preparing them for subsequent participation as local service providers in the Village sensitization meetings (VSM) have been fully involved in the collaborative management process using the Conservation development agreements (CDA) tool of the PSMNR-SWR phase II in more than 15 target villages. Short term service provider contracts have been used to contract KRCS members while elaboration of a long term MoU with the PSMNR-SWR and the park are ongoing.



KRCS member help out in VSMs and ASEAs for KNP.

- In May and June 2013 in partnership with AFGA_NGO from Buea, Five members of KRCS were trained and fully successfully involved in collecting socioeconomic and spatial data in three (3) pilot villages of Erat, Bera and Esukutan that have been earmarked for creation of a permanent use zones (PUZ) under the supervision of the PSMNR_SWR.
- In May, about three (3) members of KRCS trained and have been fully involved in a biodiversity assessment project in different land use types (plantaion_PAMOL, forest and mosaics by Denis Kuptch, a post doctoral researcher from Gottingen University, Germany.
- KRCS members were involved in camera trapping for the Tropical ecology and assessment network TEAM camera trapping and the PSMNR sponsored camera trapping array in the Northern of Korup National Park coordinated by Kelly Boeke.
- A KRCS member Mr. peter Ekpo received a CLP travel grant to enable him complete a three months course in Project management at Pan-african institute for development (PAIDWA).

III – Sensitisation through Conservation advocacy and education

- On the 2nd of February KRCS ran a Campaign on world wetlands day in schools around Mundemba using posters and talks on the importants of wetlands.
- KRCS in collaboration with other National and international NGOs continued forwarding petitions to RSPO and US and Cameroonain Government on the potential negative impacts of SGSOC oil palm plantation in the viscinity of Korup National Park and neighboring protected areas. Following one of these petitions SGSOC was forced to withdraw from the RSPO.
- A match past for the environmest for organized during the last labour day (1st May) celebrated in Mundemba.



- On a daily basis wildlife documentaries are used to sensitise visitors to our office at the KNP information centre.

- A human wildlife conflict prevention message was sent to the population of Ikondo kondo 1 village following the injury of a student by an elephant.
- Implementation of activities for Our CLP award winning project '**Action For Primates (AFP) Conservation**' in Korup started in September 2012 and have ran through until December 2013. So far the following have been achieved;
 - Follozing training of the project team leader on Conservation management and Leadership at Calgary University, Alberta, Canada in 2012,acquired skills were transferred to13 members on to improve participation the project.



• *Capacity building*



Team training in Mundemba

The project team leader and 12 members of our organization received training in leadership, team building, communication and project management. The skills acquired from these trainings have been very instrumental in the implementation of the project and the long term project and institutional management. More so, 13 teachers from 5 target schools were trained in use of our EE manual which improved their ability to integrate EE in the teaching of pupils.

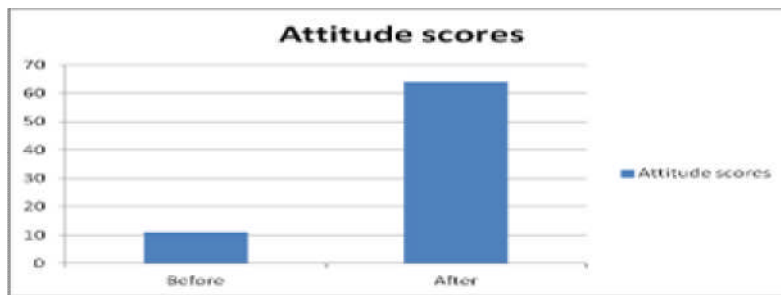
- ***Increased conservation knowledge and change of attitude in target communities***

More than 2000 villagers (including men and women of all ages) attended our sensitization meetings in 5 target communities reached. The contents of the sensitizations meetings, 5 wildlife video shows in 5 communities, the exchange of ideas with park rangers on conservation and the wildlife law during 2 evening camps following the football games in 2 villages and about 1800 copies of our quarterly newsletter distributed to target villages have gone a long way to increase knowledge of villagers in conservation and the wildlife law. On the other hand 5 EE clubs have been created with about 53 pupils participating in clubs activities including the use of 10 wildlife posters and 2 wall paintings donated to target school, 1 quiz competition, 1 nature walk, 1 visit to the wildlife centre in Limbe with assorted prizes awarded to kids. 50 copies of our EE manual have also been used in 10 target schools.

Our 150 pre and post-project knowledge and attitude questionnaire administered in 5 villages showed the following results;



- ✓ 83% of respondents said they needed more information about the Korup National Park in their communities compared to 21% after the project. (n=75).
- ✓ 56% respondent thought populations of flagship species like chimpanzee and drills, were decreasing as the number of animals seen and killed by hunters and distances covered in hunting as the only justifications used but not from data provided by the park service. Meanwhile 70% thought the same during the post project questionnaires.
- ✓ Less than 10% of respondents knew that the red colobus was critically endangered and partially endemic to the Korup Region before the project while the more than 60% respondents had this knowledge after the project.
- ✓ More than 60% respondents strongly disagreed or disagreed that the Korup park could bring development to the good of the communities compared to 32% after the project.
- ✓ There was no correlation between the knowledge and attitude scores ($r = 0.022$) from respondents before the project which was very different after the project ($r = 0.89$). However it was surprising that age ($F_{2, 75}=1.372$; $p= 0.2617$) profession ($F_{2, 75}=0.9034$; $p= 0.4107$) or level of education ($F_{2, 75}=2.137$; $p= 0.1271$) were not good predictors of attitude towards conservation in the communities before and after the project.
- ✓ There was a significant difference in the knowledge and attitude scores from respondents before and after the project ($df_{2, 75}=2.368$; $p= 0.02$). The average attitude scores achieved are as presented in the bar chart below;



This apparent change of attitude has been very important in generating support for conservation effort as well accepting park rangers in the villages with reports of illegal activities from target communities.

- ***Increased trust/acceptance of park rangers and park activities from target villages.***

Coupled to the impact from our sensitization meetings, the organization of 2 ‘football for primates games with materials donated in two villages plus the post match common dialogue and meals between more than 25 rangers and more than 50 youths from target villages had a significant effect in building trust for the rangers.

- ✓ 54% of respondents in target villages had a negative to very negative attitude towards eco-guards coming to their villages before the project compared to only 8% post project.
- ✓ 84% and 96% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that there was need for communities to have a close relation with eco-guards in the pre and post project questionnaires respectively. Still echoing the need for continuous collaboration.

Thanks to the increased levels of trust no conflict was recorded in any of the target villages so far. Instead based on reports from park rangers, there is increased presence and patrol activities around these previously abandoned target villages (see annex ix). Patrols had been completely absent in forests near 5 village (Eratm Akpasang, Ekon 1, Esukutan and Ikenge) but thanks to our activities patrols have returned to 80% of these areas. This presence of park rangers is hopefully going to have a positive impact of reducing illegal hunting of our target species though the project did not measure this aspect.

- ***High level of trust and recognition of KRCS as a conservation partner***

Our activities in the villages and schools and prizes/materials donated to village youths and schools were highly appreciated. On the other hand our networking and cooperation with all stakeholders and partners has increased the level of trust and recognition and improved our chances for better interventions in the areas around the Korup National Park. We received funding and/or material support from the PSMNR-SWR, WCS, Korup Park service and most importantly free food donation from village women. For instance up to 90% of respondents said YES when asked if they were willing to learn more about primates. The preferred educational channel was wildlife video documentaries (74%)

before the project and 97% after the project. We also received five letters of recognition and appreciation from target villages reached.



Promotion of farming as an alternative to hunting

Winners of football games received farming equipment and prizes amounting to 450,000 FCFA. These prizes were highly appreciated and are used for farming by the youths. We hope that more income from farming activities should reduce the dependence of village youths (most active hunters) on hunting.



- Other football for primates games planned for other villages did not take place as approval was delayed by the KNP management team. Instead confidence building missions were organized to concerned villages of Bera, Esukutan and Ikenge with all material distributed.



Esukutan youths team receive football materials.

IV. Conservation/Development initiatives for livelihood improvement

- A financial package of three hundred thousand francs (50,000FCFA) was donated to the student who was injured by the elephant during a visit to the victims residence at Ikondo kondo 1 with the perfect support of Lucy Ormby of Max Plank Institute.



- KRCS donated a life line worth 50000FCFA to three villages of Ekon I, Erat and Akpasng villages to serve during floods on river Akpasang to facilitate movement of villagers and conservation/development partners to the village.



- One craft man based in Mundemba has been encouraged in production of locally made rattan baskets and bamboo mugs for marketing as souvenirs to tourist.
- Farming tools including (Matchets, hoes, files, diggers, peak axes, watering cans etc) were donated to youths of our 5 target villages prizes for the football for primates game as a way of encouraging agriculture as an alternative to hunting.



VII. Constraints

- Prolonged rainy season and its associated impacts such as poor roads and flooding of rivers.
- Long distances and means of communication with very remote target villages.
- Sudden increase in prizes of commodities in our locality
- Limited funds also limiting our ability to intervene in other priority conservation issues in the area.
- Hesitant attitude of some villagers due to unmet expectation from other projects and the government.
- Uncooperative attitude of Korup Park leadership.

VIII. Conclusions and Recommendations

Our activities especially the AFP projects have so far been successful with apparent positive behavioral change in pilot villagers being more receptive to eco-guards. We also recorded achievements in other respect such as increase in number of registered members (mostly local villagers), fund raising, awareness and recognition mostly from our partners especially the PSMNR-SWR. However, we do not need to relent our efforts. We need to extend to more villages and intensify our activities in the dry season, fish more members and funds so as to have even greater impact in the area and meet our objectives. We also need to improve our collaboration with other partners working around the park in identifying and promote reliable alternatives to livelihood. For 2014, our strong resolve is to encourage more local support for eco-friendly development initiatives and mobilize local communities to stand against and protest all project that threaten the integrity of the Korup park and local livelihood as well as demerits on climate change.