

## Know Your Rights to use Wildlife Products (Bush meat).

1. The politics of forestry law emphasizes participatory forest management.
2. The local populations as principal users are the most important actors in this participatory management process.
3. The local population has the user rights to collect less protected wildlife product (bush meat) around their forest (not in the park) using traditional methods of hunting or guns with permits.
4. The law does not allow strangers from other villages or countries to hunt or collect wildlife products from your village forest.
4. The law provides that you cannot transport wildlife products (bush meat) from one place to another even if it is for personal use without a permit even for less protected species.
5. The bush meat transport or sales permit can be obtained from the divisional delegation of forestry and wildlife in Mundemba.
6. You do not need any tax to collect wildlife products of less protected animals for your consumption as an indigen of a village
7. If you have a permit to sell less protected bush meat in a local market you should pay the council tax.
8. All class A and B animals should not be killed except with special permits or authorizations from MINFOF. Only class C animals can be hunted but not inside the park. Examples of class C animals are porcupine, cane rat, frotambo, family beef etc.
10. Report all harassments to your MINFOF divisional delegate.



KRCS-SOMBO NEWS LETTER is a quarterly publication of our Action For Primates Conservation project. The editorial team includes;

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**FUNDED BY:**



## KRCS Rolling Forward !

The **Korup Rainforest Conservation Society** (KRCS) in collaboration with University of Oxford, UK, James Madison and Cornell Universities, USA, have been awarded a three years research grant from the Darwin initiative, UK. The PSMNR-SWR, MINFOF (Korup Park service) and WWF-Coastal Forest Programme are also local project partners in this first ever project; Improving anti-poaching patrols evaluation and design in tropical rainforests of Korup. This shall involve the use of Acoustic recording units (ARUs) to improve patrol effectiveness in core park areas. This project shall ofcourse bring much institutional exposure and training for many of our local members.

Apart from this project, we have continued to impress local conservation partners and the local communities we represent and serve. As direct rewards, our membership saw a record increase of 20 members in the last three months. We have also remained focused in ensuring locals involvement in park activities thereby building their capacities and a sense of ownership. Our members have been very instrumental in the TEAM wildlife Camera trapping project, Village sensitisation meetings of the Korup parks conservation development agreements (CDA) process, the german cooperations (GIZ) survey on civil societies contribution in natural resource management in the southwest region and sensitisation and data collection for the Permanent Use Zones (PUZ) creation process in park villages. Apart from all these, we are also making significant progress with the implementation of our 2012 CLP funded Action for primates conservation project (more on page 3).

**Support/Join us save Korup's biodiversity, Our natural heritage !**



**Mission Statement**

*...Involving Local people for a greener future*

**Still Killer Facts**

- There are five villages inside Korup National Park posing a huge management challenge. Process ongoing to legalise their settlement status.
- Korup has one of the highest species of primates in Africa.
- High rate of poaching threatens the survival of species in Korup.
- Volumes of forest products from Korup illegally end up in neighboring Nigeria.
- 70000 hectares of primary forest around korup may sadly be converted into oil palm plantation with obvious impacts.
- Crop and human lives loss from wild animals may undermine conservation/development efforts in the short term.



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**SOMBO—DRILL**

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**The New Collaborative Management Approach, How far ?**

As mentioned in our last issue, people living in and around the Korup park now have more roles to play and benefits to make from the management of the park.

The Programme for Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Southwest Region (PSMNR-SWR) phase II (2011-2016) is bent on obtaining **Conservation Development Agreements (CDAs)** with all 32 target villages grouped into six (6) clusters around Korup.

All Six clusters are at different steps in the CDA process but the park is doing its best, using all means at its disposal to reach all target villages though not at the same time. In this struggle, the following have been achieved;

1. The **debriefing meeting** held in February 2012.
2. **Cluster sensitization** meetings held in all six cluster.
3. **Cluster facilitators** have been recruited for all six clusters as follows;

- Cluster A.....Mr. Uro John Mosembe
- B.....Mr Ayuk Robert Mbi
- C.....Mr. Motobo Cosmas
- D.....Mr. Mokeo Clifford
- E.....Mr. Nkwai Bodie
- F.....Mr. Orume Gregory

3. **Village sensitization** meetings plus a short **Agro-socioecological assessment (ASEA)** have taken place in **17 villages already**. For this activity the park has trained and co-opted service providers from KRCS to speed up the process. The intervention of local KRCS members in the VSM/ASEA has been highly appreciated and is proof of the park's resolve for true co-management.

**The CDA Negotiation process starts soon in few test villages with extension to the rest of the villages latter.**

Signing the CDA and implementing the agreements are the last but very important steps for the villages and the park services. Considering the achievements so far, The park service is going to reach this stage in all 32 target villages. If we must benefit from our Korup forest, KRCS is calling on all villages to be patient and not hesitate to take the CDA opportunity when it comes.

While the CDA process is ongoing, identified livelihood improvement activities are being implemented at the same time. Villagers of Babi, Esukutan and Erat are happy with better, more yielding varieties of cassava. Studies on PUZ are being conducted in some park villages as well as studies on some infrastructural projects. The Korup park is committed to improving the livelihoods of our local communities. Lets support the Korup park.

**“ If we must benefit from our Korup forest, KRCS is calling on all villages to be patient and not hesitate to take the CDA opportunity when it comes.”**

We need to remain grateful and support the PSMNR-SWR: a cooperation between the governments of Cameroon and Germany. The programme is run through the Ministry of forestry and wildlife (MINFOF) with other partners such as GFA, GIZ, WWF and WCS. **PSMNR is conservation focused and cannot meet all our needs. Other government ministries can help us with other village development needs.**

**GOOD NEWS ! Our people in villages inside Korup Park shall be free soon.**

Finally, we are approaching light at the end of the tunnel. From resettlement, in the 1980s to temporary use zones (prohibiting permanent structures) in early 2000, Permanent Use Zones (PUZ) as prescribed in the current management plan are similar to freedom from bondage for villages inside the Korup park and are welcomed by all.

Atlast our people of Erat, Bera, Esukutan, Ikenge and Bareka batanga shall soon have sufficient land around their villages on which they can freely farm, collect NTFPs etc. The PUZ process has started in the first group of villages (Erat, Bera and Esukutan). Again the PUZ process is supported by the PSMNR-SWR who have already hired a consultant for the process involving the following steps;

- Step 1: Debriefing meeting with village elites in Mundemba.
- Step 2: Sensitisation in the pilot villages by the consultant, park and other concerned government services.

Step 3: Collection of socio-economic and geographic data from the villages concerned. (KRCS members have been fully involved in this step)

Step 4: Restitution of findings from data collected to all villagers and park service when the report is ready.

Step 5: Negotiation of PUZ with the concerned villages.

Step 6: Creation, demarcation and legalization process of the PUZ.

**NB**

- The PUZ process is very important for these villages even for their CDA process and its implementation.
- The rest of the in-park villages shall be targeted latter.
- KRCS is appealing that all our people take active part and fully support the consultant in the PUZ process.

**CLP funded Action for Primates Project (AFP) so far.**

The 1 year AFP project aims at improving local knowledge and ultimately changing conservation attitudes with special focus on primates. Focus on Primate because they are closely related to us human and they are easily killed by hunters.

As mentioned in our previous issue, we are using football as a tool to build trust and friendships between villagers and the park eco-guards who should no more be seen as enemies. Amidst several huddles so far, we have achieved the following;

- Training of the 13 project team members.
- Purchase of important field equipment.
- Presentation of our project to the regional services of forestry and wildlife, Buea.
- Presentation of our project and sensitization to 5 target villages.
- Conducted the Pre-project knowledge and attitude surveys for 75 respondents from 5 target villages.
- Created 5 environmental clubs in 5 target villages and supported them with posters and didactic materials.



**First ever photo of Korup Chimpanzee in the wild**  
*(Courtesy TEAM network)*



**Football for Primates**  
at Ekon II (Erat) village



Donations to youths and schools

- Received 3 letters of interest for football games from sensitized villages and organized 2 football games in 2 villages.
- Donated cash, football, agricultural and sanitation equipment as prizes to village youths and schools.
- Produced/distributed 2 issues of our KRCS SOMBO newsletter.
- Elaborated and distributed our EE manual to target schools.
- Organized our first quiz in target schools.

The korup park and the PSMNR-SWR continue to be very supportive of our activities.

We cannot relent our efforts to reach all our target villages.

**What makes news from Korup Park?**

Permit us to mention again that seasonal constraints such as poor roads and flooded rivers have continued to slow down the progress of activities in the Korup park area. Nevertheless, the park team is doing all it can to come to your area as soon as possible. Our advise to you is to remain patient and prepared.

- All Village forest management committees (VFMCs) have been created in 32 villages .
- Cluster Sensitization meetings for the CDA process have been held in all clusters A, B, C, D, E and F.
- Village sensitization meetings on the CDA have been held in 17 villages. The park is intensifying village sensitization meeting for rest of the villages.
- Studies have begun on the establishment of permanent use zones for Villages inside the park.

- Korup benefited over 300,000,000 CFAF from the KFW basket fund to rehabilitate research and tourist infrastructure.
- The park's management plan (2009-2013) is due revision this year.
- Four (4) villages took part in the boundary tracing/clearing exercise organized in the North of the park.
- Target villages in/around the park shall start benefiting from their first conservation bonuses by end of this year 2013 if they sign the CDAs.
- Sadly, two (2) elephants were killed at Ikenge village which was not reported by the village. This is against the rules of collaborative management and the park shall surely find the poacher.