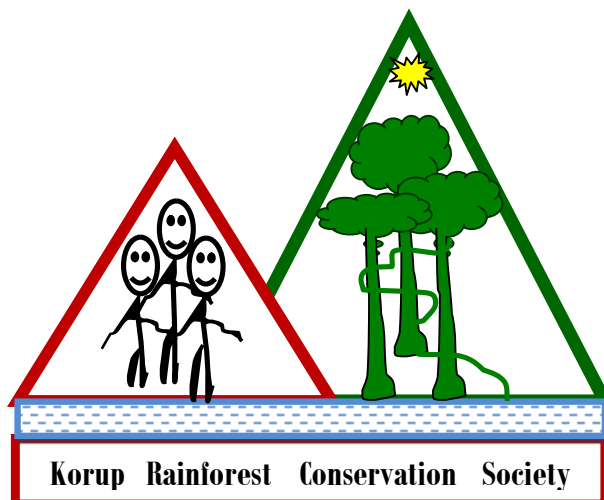


KORUP RAINFOREST CONSERVATION SOCIETY



K.R.C.S.

...Involving Local People for a Greener Future.

2012 ANNUAL REPORT

Key Achievements

- ♣ 2012 Conservation Leadership Programme (CLP) Award
- ♣ Focal point REDD+, Ndian Div.

♣ Letter of recognition and office space from the Korup National Park Service.

♣ 20 members received training on various relevant skills.

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Context and 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 zone 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 to the park as poachers.
- Absence of a reservoir of local service providers for conservation activities.
- Insufficient involvement of 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 activities. This annual report is therefore reporting on our activities for the period of **January to December 2012**. So far, **positive strides in the right direction** towards our resolve to building trust, mobilizing support from more followers and well-wishers and making our impact felt in our target area. This is reported here under the six sections below as per our objectives;

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

I - General Administration and Finance

- A unanimous decision was arrived at by the general assembly of the organisation to extend the mandate of the current executive which was due change through elections in January 2012 to December 2013 due to the delays in obtaining the groups authorization in 2010.
- Four (4) general assembly meetings were held.
- Eight (10) executive meetings were convened and held for planning or thematic issues including the 2011 evaluation and 2012 activities planning meetings.
- Interested members list stands at about fifty five (77) with registered members increasing from just 16 in 2011 to 40 from a cross section of local communities.
- In June 2012 KRCS received a **letter of recognition** from the management of Korup National Park in which letter one room of office space was donated to the group at the tourist information centre. Authorization was also obtained to install a sign post alongside that of the park.
- Production and installation of the organization's sign board was completed



- Some office and field equipment were also acquired and including;

Equip't	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	New	
HP scanner/printer	01	New	
Cannon Photocopier N6317	01	Fairly Used	
Camtel fixed phone*	01	New	Internet modem
SINGSUNG 24" TV*	01	New	For videos in villages
VCD player*	01	New	„
Casio solar energy Calculator	01	New	
1500W Voltage regulator	01	New	
Electrical distributors	02	New	
Staplers	02	New	Giant and Medium size
Nikon video camera + SD card*	01	New	

**Funds from the CLP*

- KRCS opened a group account at ECOBANK, Kumba with three signatories i.e. the Programme coordinator, Programme adviser and the group's secretary. Another 'petit cash' account was established at Express union, Mundemba to avoid several expensive bank transaction trips to Eco-bank and cash handling by members.
- One (1) volunteer Administrative and Financial assistant (Mme Edibe Pamela Sumbede) was recruited to maintain permanent presence at our new office, provide clerical and basic accounting services and also run our **public outreach documentation project**.
- KRCS developed a financial procedure document for the group especially linked to the use and justification of funds from the CLP award and future donors.
- KRCS was invited and participated in the following meetings;
 - Debriefing meeting of the PSMNR-SWR phase II and which focused on the new Collaborative management approach and CDA process in 32 target communities.
 - The first local consultative committee meeting for Korup National Park.

- Meeting with German Minister of Economic cooperation for which we only sent our open message on the negative ecological and livelihood security impacts of the 70000 hectares SGSOC oil palm plantation.
 - Southwest regional workshop on involvement of CSO in REDD+ in Cameroon, organized by the National REDD platform and MINEP. KRCS was nominated as the focal point for REDD+ in Ndiian division.
- 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 (group imposed contribution of 5% kept aside for funding small activities).
- Our **financial accounts** for the year stand as follows.

INCOME (FCFA)					
donations	Fundraising	Grants	Members registration + Green contributions	Balance 2011	Total
400,000 ¹	180,000 ²	6000,000 ³	105000	40000	6725000
EXPENDITURE					
Projects	Charity gestures	Fundraising costs	Staff costs	Equipement Cost	Total
2155000	345000 ⁴	203,000	160000	500000	3345000

¹ Well Wishers donations towards goodwill gesture to widows of buffalo attack victim at Ekoneman and Elephant attack victim in Mundemba (Daniel Agoons through SGSOC (250000F), Oemar Idoe (5000), Joshua linder and students of James Madison University, USA (75000F), Xander Van de burgt (20,000F) families of KRCS and members (21000F) and Christos astaras (29000F) for production of tourist souvenirs from local material.

² Revenue generated from our community outreach documentation project and tourist souvenirs (T-shirts, rattan baskets, bamboo mugs etc).

³ First instalment (85%) of CLP award funds (total grant = 15000 USD).

⁴ Financial package to widow of buffalo victim at Ekoneman (325000F) and gesture to Ekon 1 village to support clearing of their main foot path trail (20000F).

- Another unanimous decision was taken in a general assembly meeting to increase the green contributions paid by members from **5% to 15%** members r the get paid from serving as service providers under the umbrella of the group.

II – Locals involvement in Park activities and training.

- Between the 15th and 27th of May 2012, KRCS member were fully involved in the organization of the study abroad programme base on an MoU with Dr. Joshua Linder of James Madeson University, Virginia, USA. Activities included;
- PP presentation about ‘The Korup Park Yesterday and Today’.
 - Guided boat ride through the Ndian river mangroves to Mosongiselli village.
 - Meeting at Mosongiselli village for exchanges with the student including a traditional dance presented by the village primary school.
 - A 10 days research inception trip to the park.



- 16-26 October, KRCS participated in the Field School organized by the University of Dscahng and University of Gottingen, Germany. For 10days KRCS members were involved in the following;
- PP presentation to the students on Introduction to Korup National Park and role of NGOs (KRCS) including our award wining project.
 - Provided our community based knowledge and attitude questionnaire to be tested at Ikondo kondo I village by the student.
 - Assisted in providing local service providers as guides and porters to accompany the student for a field trip to the park.

- In January and February, KRCS members were involved in the pilot WWF/TEAM Camera trapping project in the Korup National Park.



- Three KRCS members have continued as research assistants and collected bio-monitoring data for the Korup Biomonitoring Project (KMBP) coordinated by Dr. Joshua Linder of James Madison University still based on an existing MoU.
- Four members of KRCS have been trained and took part in the pilot test study of Acoustic Monitoring Project in collaboration with the WildCRU, Oxford University, UK. The test project ran as from October to January 2013 and involves deployment of two acoustic recording devices (ARUs) and monthly collection of SD cards. The Training supervised by Dr. Christos Astaras from Oxford University included:
 1. Use of specialized climbing gear
 2. Setting up of battery and functionality of the electrical devices.
 3. Deployment of devices and SD cards collection.
 4. Use of GPS for wildlife data collection around ARUs.



- Eight KRCS members have been trained by the KNP CDT on participatory community sensitisation in preparing them for subsequent participation as local service providers in the Village sensitisation meetings (VSM) and may be other steps of the Conservation development agreements process (CDA) in the PSMNR-SWR II target villages. In relation to this elaboration of short term service provider contracts and a long term collaboration MoU with the PSMNR are ongoing.



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 importance of wetlands.
- KRCS in collaboration with other National and international NGOs forwarded petitions to RSPO and US and Cameroonian Government on the potential negative impacts of SGSOC oil palm plantation in the vicinity 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 environment 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.
- Nominated as Focal point for REDD+ in Ndian division.
- A human wildlife conflict prevention message was sent to the population of Ekoneman village following the death of a farmer from a buffalo attack on the occasion of presentation of a financial package to the widow.
- Implementation of activities for Our CLP award winning project '**Action For Primates (AFP) Conservation**' in Korup started in September 2012 and will run until Sept. 2013. So far the following have been achieved;

- [CLP](#) sponsored training of the project team leader on Conservation management and Leadership at Calgary University, Alberta, Canada. Acquired Skills were later transferred to other 13 KRCS team members on the 1st and 2nd of September here in Mundemba.



Team training in Mundemba

- Presentation of the AFP project to the PSMNR-SWR and its partners who impressed and expressed willingness to support our activities when need arises.



- 10 pilot target villages have been selected based on any record of previous conflicts with park staff including (Erat, Ekon I, Esukutan, Akpasang, Mokango Massaka, Esukutan, Ikenge, Bera and Mopako).
- The pre/post project Knowledge and attitude questionnaire has been developed, tested and administered at Erat and Ekon I.
- Project introduction meetings have been held in Erat and Ekon I in which Environmental clubs were created in the two schools.



- Most project equipment have been purchased.
- The first **football for Primates game** between park eco-guardians (Red colobus FC) and village youths football team of Ekon I (Managabey FC) took place on the 08th December ending 3-2 in favour of the Ekon 1 team. KRCS provided Jerseys and organized match officials from the Ndian delegation of the Ministry of Sports and Physical Education. Prizes worth over 200,000FCFA were handed to the teams in cash, farming equipment and school environmental club trash cans and wildlife art posters and materials.

The football game was followed by an evening common meal, discussions on the wildlife law and a wildlife documentary video watched by the whole village.



- Another football for primates game has been requested by Erat village pending approval by the KNP management team.
- The quarterly news letter has been developed pending production and distribution in January.
- The Eight weeks progress report was completed and submitted.

IV. Conservation/Development initiatives for livelihood improvement

- A financial package of three hundred thousand francs (300,000FCFA) was donated to the pregnant widow of the buffalo attack victim at Ekoneman-ojong as seed money for the family of four. Plans are underway to also present a financial package to the widow of the Elephant attack victim in Mundemba.
- KRCS donated 25000FCFA to Ekon I village as support for clearing of their main access foot path trail 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 Ekon I as 1st prize 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.

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 from the park and its partners. 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 2013, 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.