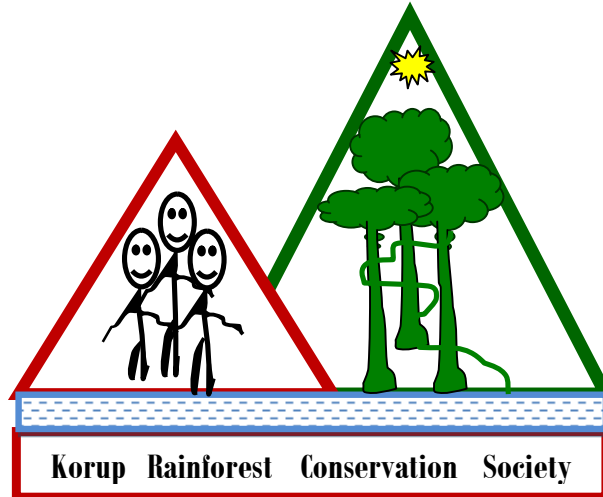


KORUP RAINFOREST CONSERVATION SOCIETY



K.R.C.S.

...Involving Local People for a Greener Future.

2014 ANNUAL REPORT



Contact

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***Compiled by: Orume Robinson Diotoh
Programme Adviser, KRCS***

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. This annual report is therefore reporting on our activities for the period of **January to December 2014**. Within this period we recorded the following **key achievement**;

1. Two local subventions proposals funded by from the German development service (GIZ).
2. A US Fish and Wildlife grant to push Acoustic monitoring in the Rumpi hills forest reserve.
3. Approval of the CLP 2012 team awards project report on ‘Action for primates in KNP.
4. MoU signed and sealed with Mundemba Council.
5. Contract with PSMNR-SWR to provide technical support (2 staff) for KNP.

This report has been presented in 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

- KRCS and Mundemba council successfully elaborated and signed a MoU of collaboration and cooperation in areas of common interest such as capacity building, community development and natural resource management in and around the Mundemba municipality.
- KRCS received two (2) local subventions from GIZ in the following areas;
 1. 25th – 29th December 2014: 15 KRCS executive members were trained on organizational governance and team building during an 8 day training workshop delivered by Dr. Jude Kimengsi from Pan African Institute for Development (PAID-WA). Strategic plan was initiated as well office procedure documents.

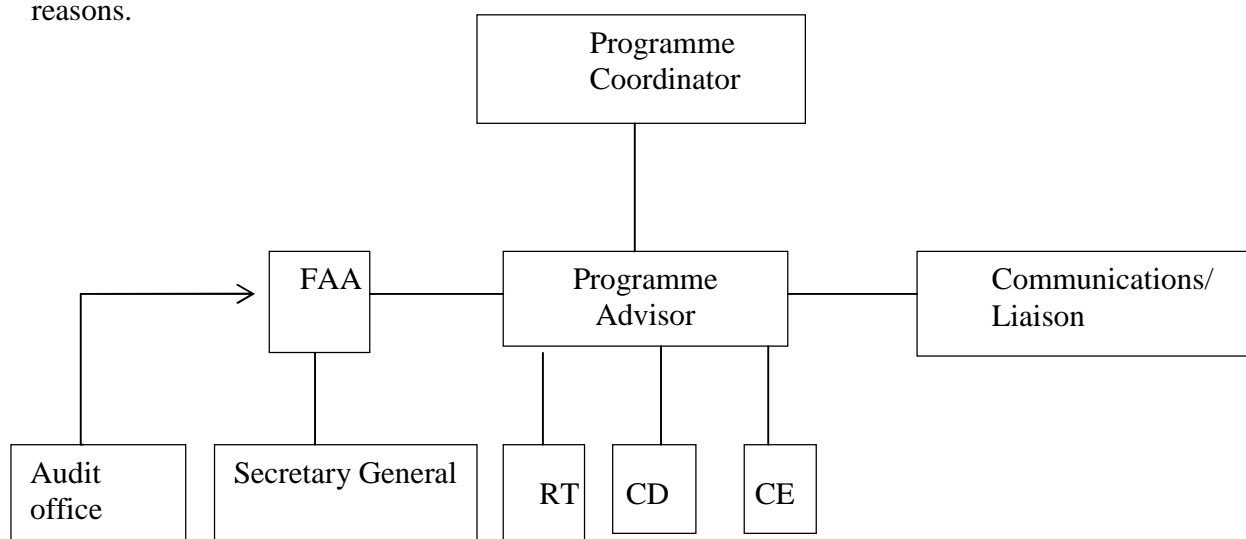


2. 16th -23rd August 2014, 12 KRCS members and 3 selected staff of Mundemba council participated and gained functional IT skills during a 7 days computer training workshop delivered by Mr. Kato Samuel (IT support staff for the PSMNR-SWR). Useful IT skills were acquired.



- A draft five year strategic plan (2015-2019) and office procedures manual were developed while a financial procedure document finalized.
- Project and financial reports for the CLP funded action for primate's project were approved.
- Five (5) general assembly meetings were held.

- Eight (15) executive meetings were convened and held for monthly planning and discussions on thematic issues including the 2014 evaluation and 2015 activities planning.
- Interested members list stands at about seventy (80) with registered members increasing from 65 in 2012 to 73 in 2014 with most from over 20 out of 32 target communities.
- KRCS was still occupying the office space donated to the group by the Korup park service at the tourist information centre even though renovation work in the said building has prompted the office to temporally move to a nearby location.
- The organigram adopted in 2013 is still in place as soon below and functioning smoothly. However Mr. Mosaki shall act as interim PA in place of Mr. Orume Robinson who shall be away for academic reasons.



Positions	Name
Programme Coordinator	Ekole Nelson Betobe
Programme Adviser	Orume Robinson Diotoh
Secretary General	Moleka Alexander Nakeri
Finance and Administrative Assistance (FAA)	Sumbede Sumbede Anthoine
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

- An equipment inventory was concluded in December 2014 with equipment including;

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 desk jet 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
Canon Photocopier/printer	01	New	KRCS funds
Complete HP desktop	01	New	GIZ funding
HP 3025 printer	01	New	GIZ funding
Benq Scanner	01	New	GIZ funding
UPS	02	New	GIZ funding
Camtel internet modem	01	New	GIZ funding
Workshop pin board	01	New	GIZ funding
500G External hard drive	01	New	GIZ funding

- All new equipment registered in the inventory list have been accorded serial numbers.
- The 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 in 2012, has maintain permanent presence at the office, providing clerical and accounting services and running our **community outreach and documentation project**.
- KRCS initiated payment of social insurance and employee taxes following a contract for 2 staff contracted to the Programme for sustainable management of natural resources in the southwest region (PSMNR-SWR).
- KRCS elaborated and signed an MoU for collaboration with the Mundemba council.
- KRCS was invited and participated in the following meetings;

- The municipal platform for REDD+ in Mundemba and Toko comprising of the following:
 - ✚ President – Orume Robinson Diotoh from KRCS.
 - ✚ Chief Ekokola Adolf Nwese – Community representative from Esukutan village
 - ✚ Mme. Moleka Alice – Women representative

Were invited to participate in the National REDD+ forum that held in Yaounde.

- Above 30 of our members were co-opted as local service providers for researchers and other consultants working in and around the Korup Park area.
- KRCS was invited as local civil society organization to take part in the PUZ restitution meeting for Erat and Esukutan that took place in Mundemba.
- KRCS facilitated the acquisition of 3 MINRESI and MINFOF research permits as well 2 MINFOF export (CITES) permit for researchers in korup.
- All members who provided services under the umbrella of the group, complied with payments of their Green contributions (constitutionally accepted at 15% except for the Darwin/US Fish and Wildlife projects which received special consideration).
- Our **financial accounts** for the year stand as follows:

REVENUE		
Source description	Amounts	Remark
Community Outreach	1,987,250	Photocopy & Sales of stationery
Green Contribution	1,987,400	Work with PSMNR, Max Planck Chimps Research, Darwin Acoustic and Bio-monitoring, USFWL Rumpi project, Smithsonian Camera Trapping, PUZ, University of North Carolina (Integrating Eco-system Health and Socio Economic Change), University of Gottingen, CLP follow up.
Membership Registration	136,000	
Annual Commitment Fee	6,000	3 members
PSMNR (Salary Processing for KRCS staff_CMT & CDT)	36,0000	30000F Since Feb. and 90000FCFA for Nov and Dec.
Fine	35,000	
Cash Revenue	4,511,650	
Stationery and souvenir materials in stock	627,000	
Expected total	5,138,650	
Balance brought forwards from 2013	-793,980	Deficit from 2013
Final total revenue	4,344,670	Cash and stock

	EXPENDITURE	
Avenue description	Amount	Remark
Staff Salary	480,000	FAA
Community Outreach	1,29,9650	Stationery
Purchase of Equipment	680,000	New Photocopier + Fan
Perdiems	181,000	Meeting: WWF initiative for CSOs, PC trip to Buea
Refreshment	223,450	Occasions: Assembly meetings, Exco. Meetings, Thematic committee meetings, National/International advocacy days celebrations, Training workshops.
Repairs	236,600	Photocopier, office renovation, other electrical and equipment repairs.
Charity Donations	10,000	BICUD Cultural Festival donation
Office running (transport, stationaries, bank trips, banking costs and communication, receipt production etc.)	184,900	
Bank Transactions	253,000	Mainly signatories trips to bank account
Transport	40,000	Materials transport, augmenting transport for members coming from distant areas during Assembly Meetings,
Rents and hires	165,000	1year rents + caution, hiring of hall as contribution to GIZ subvention_2.
T-Shirts	281,000	Purchase and Printing of Labour Day T-shirts (for KRCS Members) + Souvenir t-shirts for tourists
Communication Credit	185,000	Communication + Internet Credit for PA, Credit for PC during meetings mobilisation
Exhibition board	63,000	
Internship Student	17,500	Feeding + Financial package during graduation ceremony
Contribution to GIZ subvention	60,000	
Total Expenditure	4,360,100	
TOTAL Revenue (Cash/stock)	4,420,100	Cash and stock
BALANCE FOR 2014 as of Dec. 2014	6,0000	

Partner project funds managed and accounted for by KRCS in 2014

Partner (see partner cash records for detailed expenditure)	2013 Balance	Amount Received in 2014	Net	Spent by Dec.2014	Balance
Darwin Initiative project funds from Oxford University funds	712030	1676900	2388930	2204200	184730
Darwin Initiative project funds from James Madison University	-2361600	10,935,100	8,573,500	6,957,500	1,616,000
Darwin initiative project funds through KRCS	1,484,000	2213880	3,697,880	2099500	1,598,380
PSMNR-SWR funds for Darwin project support	-161525	5569000	5730525	5261675	468850
Max plank project funds (Field staff salaries)	1625500	3701000	5326500	4898500	428000
Save wildlife human wildlife conflicts acoustics feasibility project	250000	0	250000	310000	-60000
WildCRU acoustic feasibility project Rumpi		1063500	1063500	1063500	0
US fish and wildlife (USFWL) Rumpi hills acoustic project		5891500	5891500	321600	5569900
CLIMDEV-CAM/KRCS NTFP consultancy		324000	324000	324000	0
Totals (FCFA)	2907905		33246335	23440475	9805860

II – Locals Involvement in Park activities and Training (Research, Tourism and Collaborative Management Activities).

- Between the 14th and 27th of May 2014, KRCS member were fully involved in the organization of the study abroad programme based 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.



KRCS members take the students through the Tourist information center.

- Since November 2013, KRCS in partnership with Oxford University; Wild CRU, and James Madison University, got an additional grant to conduct wildlife acoustic monitoring surveys in the Rumpi hills forest reserve as a follow up control to the ongoing Darwin project. Sensitization meeting have been organised with Meka villages to this respect to ensuring community participation in the project.
- Since April 2013 Six (6) KRCS members have been fully employed and involved in the Darwin initiative project; **Improve in the design and evaluation of antipoaching patrols in African rainforest**, focusing on collecting bio-monitoring data on the 5 permanent transect in Korup coordinated by Dr. Joshua Linder of James Madison University, collecting acoustic data using Acoustic recording units (ARUs) coordinated by Dr. Christos Astaras of Oxford University (WildCRU).
Under the same project and with the support of the PSMNR-SWR, other KRCS members have been involved and since November 2013 collecting bush meat price data from selected vendors in Mundemba, collecting data from hunters and households in three target villages Ikondo kondo 1, Ekon 1 and Ngenye (following a training workshop in late December 2013). Tourist satisfaction surveys are also being conducted in partnership with tourist guides.
- 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 sponsored by SAVE WLIDLIFE, a German NGO.
- Eight KRCS members who had been trained by the KNP conservation development team in 2013, on participatory collaborative management sensitization and data collection have been participating in the Village sensitization meetings (VSM) and ASEA data collection 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 plans to elaborate a long term MoU with the PSMNR-SWR and the park are ongoing.

- Since May 2013 and again in May – July 2014, three (3) members of KRCS received training 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.
- February – June 2014, 5 KRCS members were still involved in camera trapping for the Tropical ecology and assessment network (TEAM) camera trapping and the PSMNR-SWR sponsored camera trapping array in the Northern sector of Korup National Park coordinated by Kelly Boeke.
- Since November 2013 up to Dec. 2014 more than 7 KRCS members have been involved and are being trained in data collection for an ongoing research partnership project with the Max-Plank institute for Evolutionary Anthropology. Research focuses on the **Ecological influences on Culture in Chimpanzees and Hominoids** in the Korup Park. KRCS is involved in field data collection using transects, camera traps etc., logistic and financial management with supervision from the site coordinator, Lucy Ormsby.
- May – July 2014, more than 5 KRCS members have been trained while being involved in a research partnership project with Carolyn Jost Robinson from North Carolina University, focusing on the a comparison of Ecological and human health in the Korup region. Target villages have been Ikondo Kondo1, Meka, Fabe, and Ikenge with plans of extending to more villages in the future.
- Febuary – May 2014 participated in socio-ecological studies in partnership with AFGA-NGO from Buea (Lead consultants) in the elaboration, negotiation and demarcation of PUZ in 3 villages inside Korup national park. So far Erat and Bera – Studies completed Esukutan – Studies, elaboration, negotiations completed. 3000 hectares earmarked for Esukutan PUZ.
- July 2014 KRCS received a delegation from FODER, Yaounde in Mundemba for discussion on participation in a Land use mapping project for the southwest region.
- 14th – 21st June 2014, Training workshop on basic of GIS was organized in Mundemba involving 10 KRCS members, delivered by Denis Kuptch of Gotingen University assisted by Kelly Boeke from Wageningen University, Netherlands. As a follow up on this the KRCS GIS training manual was elaborated by the trainees.



Intensive practical GIS sessions

- KRCS members were also fully involved a feasibility studies project to test acoustic recording units in a control site of Rumpi hills forest reserve with funding from the Oxford University (WildCRU).
- November 2014, based on the Rumpi hills acoustic feasibility studies, KRCS members have been involved in the full implementation of a one year acoustic monitoring project in the Rumpi hills forest reserve funded by the US fish and Wildlife.
- 11-15 Dec. 2014: As part of the Darwin initiative project, 5 KRCS members participated in a training workshop on data collection and analysis skills using acoustic recording units (ARUs) together with partners staff from Korup National Park and WWF coastal forest programme.

Training of KRCS and park staff on acoustic monitoring techniques.



- 08th – 18th December 2014, KRCS members received training and participated in data collection in target villages as part of a consultancy with CLIMDEV-CAM (NGO) to evaluate sustainable options for the exploitation and commercialization of NTFPs in Korup, commissioned by WWF_CFP.

III – Sensitization 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 continued forwarding 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 labor day (1st May) celebrated in Mundemba together with well-wishers and students from Gottingen University, Germany.



A day before to the 1st May Day, a conservation solidarity football game was organized between KRCS members (white) and the staff of the Korup National Park service (in green).



KRCS celebrated the world Environment day with a procession along the streets of Mundemba town.



- On a daily basis wildlife documentaries are used to sensitize visitors to our office at the KNP information centre.
- 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. The final activity and financial reports were approved by the donors in June 2014 which culminated in the disbursement of final instalment of funds and implementation of some follow up activities with created environmental clubs in November. It should be recalled that the following achievements were recorded during the AFP;

1. Capacity building of KRCS members

Following training of the project team leader on Conservation management and Leadership at Calgary University, Alberta, Canada in 2012,acquired skills were transferred to 13 members on to improve participation the project.



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.

2. 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.



EE clubs kids from Erat and Ekon 1 visits Limbe wildlife centre and took home prizes.

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 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.

3. 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 villages (Erat, Akpasang, Ekon 1, Esukutan and Ikenge) but partly 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.

4. 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.

5. 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

KRCS through its activities has made the following achievements this year;

- Provided more than 100 short, medium and long term conservation related jobs to otherwise unemployed local youths (farmers, hunters and graduates) and thereby contributing to livelihood improvement in the local communities.
- Local craft is being encourage as a source of income through our tourist's souvenir initiative where we market products made from local materials such as rattan cane and Indian bamboo.
- More than two million francs CFA has been distributed to more than 60 households in the three target villages of our Darwin/PSMNR-SWR project as gratitude compensations for participating in our household and hunter surveys contributing to household livelihoods especially of rural women.

In the same vein, close to one million francs CFA has been distributed to villages concerned as gratitude contribution for village development after supporting our project. So far villages have used this funds in the following ways;

- ❖ Ekon 1 village purchased and transported 20 aluminum roofing sheets for their community hall.
 - ❖ Ikondo kondo 1 village have been able to purchase 40 plastic chairs for their community hall.
 - ❖ Ngenye village also got 20 aluminum roofing sheets for the construction of the community hall.
- Farming tools including (Matchets, hoes, files, diggers, peak axes, watering cans etc) were donated to youths of our 5 target villages as prizes for the football for primates games 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.
- Inadequate specialist skill of members to implement certain conservation activities.
- 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 and Darwin Initiative projects have so far been successful with apparent positive behavioral change in pilot villages and research results respectively. We also recorded achievements in other respect such as increase in number of registered members (mostly local villagers), fund raising especially with the indispensable support from GIZ local subvention, recognition and support mostly from our partners especially the PSMNR-SWR. However, much still has to done.

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 promoting reliable alternatives to livelihood. For 2015, based on our recently elaborated strategic plan. Our strong resolve is to encourage more local support for eco-friendly development initiatives and mobilize local communities to stand against unsustainable forest exploitation that may threaten the integrity of the Korup Park as well as local livelihoods and climate change in the future. **The challenges are as huge as our potential and resolve to overcome them.**