

## **WORKSHOP REPORT**

### **Strengthening Transboundary Conservation Collaboration Between Nigeria and Cameroon**

**Calabar, 6 December 2012**



**Workshop Sponsored by the Arcus Foundation through a grant to the  
Wildlife Conservation Society**



## Background

This one-day workshop is the fifth transboundary workshop between Nigeria and Cameroon in recent years. Facilitated by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) in collaboration with government partners, these workshops have been held in: Akamkpa (August 2008), the Obudu Plateau (December 2009), and Limbe (November 2010 and February 2012). The main purpose of the current workshop was to review and further strengthen transboundary collaboration between key partners on each side of the international border. A total of 30 participants attended the one-day workshop in Calabar, December 2012. A full workshop program and list of participants is included at the end of this report. Notes were taken during the workshop by Liz Macfie and the workshop report was compiled by Andrew Dunn.

### *Acronyms used*

CITES	Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species
CMS	Convention on Migratory Species
CRNP	Cross River National Park
CRSFC	Cross River State Forestry Commission
GAFI	Great Ape Film Initiative
GRASP	Great Apes Survival Partnership
GIZ	German Society for International Cooperation
IGCP	International Gorilla Conservation Programme
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
KfW	German Development Bank
MIKE	Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants
MINFOF	Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife
NNPS	Nigeria National Parks Service
NP	National Park
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Product
OCR	Obudu Cattle Ranch
PSMNR	Programme for the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
SMART	Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool
TBCSG	Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group
TMLP	Takamanda Mone Landscape Project
TNP	Takamanda National Park
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
VFMC	Village Forest Management Committee
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature
WWF CARPO	WWF Central Africa Regional Programme Office

## **Session One: Introduction**

Andrew Dunn outlined the background to the workshop and summarised results from the USFWS Collaborative Workshop on the Conservation of Cross River Gorillas in Nigeria and Cameroon over the past two days. It was explained that the workshop would review progress towards resolutions listed at previous transboundary workshops (included in participants' workshop folders). The Arcus Foundation was gratefully acknowledged as the sponsor of the workshop as well as much of the recent transboundary activities between the Okwangwo Division of Cross River National Park and Takamanda National Park. It was announced that WCS aims to facilitate an annual transboundary conservation workshop between Cameroon and Nigeria each year.

Ntufam Richard Effa, the Conservator of Cross River National Park, here representing the Conservator General of the Nigeria National Parks Service, gave the opening address on behalf of the Government of Nigeria. He highlighted some of the important transboundary successes from the last year and the value of developing the cross-border network which led to the arrest of an elephant poacher earlier this year. He welcomed participants to Calabar.

Mr. Samuel Eban-Ebai, MINFOF Regional Delegate for the South West Region of Cameroon, gave some remarks on behalf of the delegation from Cameroon. He explained that the Government of Cameroon takes the issue of transboundary conservation very seriously indeed and is keen to discuss the illegal trade in natural resources from Cameroon into Nigeria. He expects that this workshop will produce clear recommendations on the way forward.

Mr. Odigha Odigha, Chairman of the Cross River State Forestry Commission, gave some opening remarks on behalf of the Cross River State Government. He welcomed participants to the workshop which hopes to further strengthen the relationship between Nigeria and Cameroon. He explained that we are trying to emulate the gorillas since they are not constrained by the presence of international boundaries. We should develop robust plans for the engagement of boundary communities if we hope to succeed, we need them to be involved in this process and we need to recognise the fact that we can't manage these forests as effectively as they can. Odigha Odigha declared the workshop formally open.

Participants were introduced and two additional items were added to the agenda: an '*Update on the Anti-Deforestation Task Force*' by Peter Jenkins and an '*Update on SMART*' by Rich Bergl.

## **Session Two: Outline of Main Issues and Discussion**

*A series of nine presentations were made as a basis for further discussion (all presentations were copied onto a CD and distributed to participants at the end of the workshop).*

### **1. Global Overview of Transboundary Conservation – Andrew Dunn, Regional Coordinator: West and Central Africa, IUCN Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group**

Andrew explained that the Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group (TBCSG) was established in 1997 as part of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas. Its mission is "*to promote and encourage transboundary conservation for the conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values while promoting peace and co-operation among nations, through enhancing knowledge and capacity for effective planning and management of transboundary conservation areas*". The key activities of the TBCSG were presented, which has 200 members, both experts and non-

experts. For more information on the TBCSG please see [www.tbpa.net](http://www.tbpa.net). The different categories of transboundary protected areas were explained including Peace Parks; Transboundary Conservation and Development Areas; Transboundary Migratory Corridors; Transboundary World Heritage Sites and Transboundary Biosphere Reserves. Challenges to transboundary sites were discussed together with potential benefits.

Discussion focused on recent applications by Oban and Korup for World Heritage Site status, submitted separately, neither of which were successful. It was recommended that a joint Korup-Oban application for World Heritage Site status may have more chance of success. It was stressed that there is a need to have strong implementation on both sides of the border, currently there is little transboundary collaboration between Korup and Oban. It was recommended that KfW should be approached to see if they could provide support to Oban. Reports and publications from the Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group are available for download from [www.tbpa.net](http://www.tbpa.net). John Mshelbwala commented on the CMS recognition of gorillas as migratory species, as a result CMS recently provided some support for Cross River Gorilla conservation through this mechanism.

**2. *Greater Virunga Landscape Transboundary Experience by the International Gorilla Conservation Programme (IGCP), Liz Macfie on behalf of IGCP***

An overview and evolution of the IGCP was provided. A series of important landmarks were presented such as the Albertine Rift Strategic Framework; the Trilateral MoU signed between Rwanda, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2004; Tripartite Declarations and Agreements including the declaration signed by tourism and wildlife conservation ministers (2005) and the agreement on transboundary gorillas (2006). A 10-year Strategic Plan was produced in 2006 which established the Greater Virunga Transboundary Collaboration Executive Secretariat in 2008. The initiative has received major funding from a variety of donors. Some of the challenges and lessons learnt were outlined. More information is available from [www.greatervirunga.org](http://www.greatervirunga.org)

Discussion focused on the provision of guidelines for revenue sharing and the possible need to establish technical committees. It was also explained that the Greater Virunga area is very well protected with 100 rangers to protect the 100 km<sup>2</sup> of the Volcanoes NP. Participants also recommended the need to use collaborative management activities with communities to bolster patrol and enforcement efforts for our own protected areas. The issue of human wildlife conflict was discussed, it was pointed out that there are IUCN guidelines available for human/great ape conflict mitigation. It was also acknowledged that there is very little encroachment in the Greater Virunga Landscape, partly because the park is very well demarcated with little or no buffer zone. On the Rwanda side there is a stone wall separating the park from surrounding farms (primarily installed to keep buffalo from leaving the park and causing human/wildlife conflict).

**3. *Joint Transboundary Activities between the Okwangwo Range of Cross River National Park and Takamanda National Park, Anthony Nchanji, WCS***

The general features of the Okwangwo-Takamanda region were outlined. The history of the recent transboundary initiative was traced back to 2007 when the Conservator of CRNP was invited to Mamfe to participate in a workshop to discuss community access to NTFPs during the process of upgrading Takamanda to a National Park. Joint training

followed shortly thereafter and the first joint anti-poaching patrol occurred in 2009. There have been numerous joint patrols since then, roughly once every quarter. Organization of these patrols was outlined together with results from recent joint patrols: bushmeat seized, bush-huts (hunting camps) destroyed, shotguns confiscated, wire snares removed etc. Challenges to joint patrols were summarised such as communication problems and different legislation and approaches either side of the border. It was explained that evacuation of confiscated evidence, and poachers arrested, is difficult due to the inaccessibility and rough terrain. Results from the recent exchange visit were also presented. Plans for 2013 were outlined including 4 joint patrols and at least one exchange visit as well as joint awareness-raising of wildlife laws.

Discussion focused on the provision of better equipment such as one-man tents rather than larger heavier tents, as well as equipment to improve communication in the field such as radios, satellite phones and GSM phones. It was explained that funding for 2013 patrols is available but that additional funding proposals may be required in subsequent years, particularly if we expand joint patrols to Korup-Oban. WCS assured participants that it will also facilitate an annual transboundary workshop in 2013, in Cameroon. Participants were reminded that all timber entering Nigeria is illegal. There is a need to improve education and engagement with customs and security officers to ensure illegal activities are tackled. Additional training in map-reading and navigation for Takamanda rangers is planned for 2013. Improved training in patrol methods, arrest techniques and prosecution procedures is also required.

#### **4. *Status of the Cooperation Agreement on the Management of Transboundary Protected Areas between Nigeria and Cameroon*, Emmanuel Bebiem, Nigeria National Parks Service**

The scope of the presentation was clarified to include all protected areas along the Cameroon-Nigeria boundary including Faro National Park, Gashaka-Gumti National Park, Chad Basin National Park and Waza National Park. Future meetings should include Conservators of Gashaka-Gumti, Chad Basin, Faro and Waza if possible. It was explained that the focus of the current project, funded by the Arcus Foundation, is the Cross River Gorilla landscape.

The first draft of the Cooperation Agreement was produced in November 2010 at a technical meeting in Limbe with officials from the Nigeria National Parks Service, MINFOF, WCS, WWF and GIZ. In February 2011 the document was returned to Nigeria and was vetted by the Ministry of Justice and the Federal Ministry of the Environment. In April 2011 the document was forwarded to Cameroon. In October 2012 the document was returned to Nigeria with a request that it should be forwarded diplomatically to Cameroon through the Ministry of Justice. This has now been done although the format has been changed to reflect normal international agreements. A formal response from Cameroon is awaited.

Discussion focused on the scope and extent of the changes made to the document. It was explained that the “areas of intervention” in the original framework has been deleted and that further agreements on technical details will be made later. The agreement is intended to be a reference document to guide implementation between the two countries involved. NGOs would work through the parties to the agreement. Implementation of this agreement will depend on the two countries through resolutions.



**5. *A Review of Illegal Timber and NTFP Exploitation: Efforts and Way Forward*, Simon Besong, Conservator of Mount Cameroon National Park**

It was explained to participants that there are many different forest types in Cameroon ranging from commercial to community forests, national parks and forest reserves. However, illegal activities are widespread, especially in national parks and forest reserves. The Government of Cameroon (GoC) has recently established a National Task Force especially to control illegal transboundary activities. Other proposals include increased support to community forestry management; approval for the creation of a pilot timber market at Mamfe. The GoC wishes to support the legal timber trade with Cross River State as a means of controlling the illegal trade and there has been some preliminary discussion with concession holders in the southwest region. It is proposed to formalise the timber trade with Nigeria after further discussion with Cross River State, although it is realised that the process may take 1-2 years to complete. A delegation from Cross River State will visit the South West Region of Cameroon soon to agree on procedures etc.

The PSMNR approach to NTFPs has focused initially on bush mango. Village-based collectors join together to form an NTFP Community Interest Group to ensure that local collectors get the highest benefit. Discussion focused on the NTFP threat, PSMNR have been targeting some NTFPs that could be sustainably harvested inside the national park such as bush mango in order to provide economic benefits to communities from the park. This is in contrast to the situation in national parks in Nigeria where no entry is allowed, and where all harvesting of NTFPs is illegal. It was generally agreed that communities must receive some benefits from protected areas. In Cameroon “user rights” for specific activities are outlined in the management plan for each protected area.

**6. *Regional Conservation Trust Fund Option*, Julien Dupuy, Technical Advisor**

Julien explained to participants that there are now seven regional conservation trust funds in the world, and that two of them are in Africa. A regional conservation trust fund is defined as a “*legally independent grant-making institution that provides long-term sustainable financing for protected areas and biodiversity conservation for a defined geographical region covering more than one country*”. The funds can also be used to promote cooperation and better relations. The source of funding can be national government, bilateral agency, multilateral donors, private companies or NGOs. A minimum of 10 million euros is considered necessary depending on the size of the site, local context, and population issues etc. No more than 15-20% of the fund should be used for administrative and management expenses. Various examples such as the World Bank Tiger Initiative covering 13 Asian countries were discussed. Unfortunately it is still too soon to arrive at any conclusive lessons learnt, there are no best practices or guidelines available. During the current financial crisis all investments are less profitable and more risky. A baseline study for Korup NP, Mount Cameroon NP and Takamanda NP is in preparation – quantifying revenue and expenditure for each protected area together with budgets and financial flows for different scenarios. The creation of a trust fund of at least 20-30 million euros would be required (with an annual interest of 3-5%). Other opportunities were discussed such as REDD; biodiversity offsets; ecotourism; exploitation of NTFPs such as *Prunus africana*; corporate partnerships and umbrella

funds. A regional conservation trust fund will need good cooperation and commitment to fight illegal activities and promote sustainable livelihoods.

The German government was congratulated for their long-term commitment to the conservation of the South West Region of Cameroon. The long-term investment in the Cross River Gorilla landscape by the USFWS was also recognized. Any lessons that could be learned from the Cameroon Mountains Conservation Foundation (CAMCOF) established in the 1990s were discussed. There are many options, and a trust fund is just one of them. The final decision will be based on an analysis of all options and will depend on the governments of Cameroon and Nigeria. Both countries should first develop a transboundary strategic document and consolidate their collaboration before trying to establish a Trust Fund. One option could be to first establish a sinking fund for a couple of years to consolidate transboundary conservation activities between Cross River and the South West Region and create a platform which would address other protected area management correlated issues such as illegal timber and the bushmeat trade, promotion of NTFP sector, green IGAs. The issue of revenue generation through timber extraction in Cross River State was discussed. Removing those revenue targets has allowed the CRSFC to focus on conservation. However, more funds are needed to defend the forest. The option of a trust fund is very attractive to the CRSFC, who have also adopted REDD as an option for the future.

**7. *Proposal for Transboundary Activities between the Oban Division of Cross River National Park and Korup National Park, Fotendong Ferdinand, Conservator of Korup National Park and David Okon (WWF)***

Highlighted recent success, such as the recruitment of an additional nine ecoguards for Korup, where there are now 26 ecoguards in total. Only one joint transboundary patrol has been completed between Oban and Korup in recent years. Training in anti-poaching and field navigation is planned for March 2013, with two joint patrols scheduled for June and November 2013. Constraints to effective transboundary collaboration were outlined: difficult access; lack of cooperation from some villages; poor infrastructure and limited personnel; low funding levels; lack of training and different legal frameworks either side of the border. Various suggestions were made to strengthen transboundary conservation including the development of a joint transboundary MoU as well as support for regional activities such as seminars and workshops. The need to strengthen communication between Oban and Korup staff was also stressed. Discussion focused on the need to ensure that the Transboundary MOU between Nigeria and Cameroon is signed as soon possible. Once it has been formally signed then it may be possible to address some of other outstanding issues.

**8. *Cross River State Task Force on Anti-Deforestation by Peter Jenkins***

The Chairman of the Anti-Deforestation Task Force, Peter Jenkins, explained the background to the Task Force which was established by the Governor of Cross River State, Senator Liyel Imoke, following an international conference on the environment in Calabar in August 2008. The conference resulted in a timber ban in the state and a change in state policy. The Task Force was created to enforce the timber ban. At the same time, the Cross River State Forestry Commission was restructured to meet the new conservation objectives of State government, to protect standing timber, and to

investigate alternatives such as REDD. Peter stated that illegal timber, farming and NTFP extraction are symptoms of corruption and urged participants to tackle corruption.

Liz Macfie confirmed that the issues of corruption and growing demands from the Chinese market were discussed at length during the recent GRASP council meeting. It was acknowledged that the Task Force has a large area to cover and faces determined opposition, with limited resources and manpower it has achieved only modest success. It was pointed out that much of the timber seized by the Task Force in Cross River State originates from Cameroon, therefore transboundary collaboration is important. It was agreed that there is a need to find a replacement for this timber source if illegal trade is to be stopped.

**9. *SMART: a site-based approach to monitor, evaluate and improve the effectiveness of conservation law enforcement*, Rich Bergl, North Carolina Zoo**

Rich Bergl explained that SMART is a **S**patial **M**onitoring **A**nd **R**eporting Tool for Law Enforcement monitoring and protected area management. SMART is being developed by a consortium of organisations including MIKE/CITES, Frankfurt Zoo, North Carolina Zoo, the Zoological Society of London, WWF and WCS. SMART data are collected with a handheld GPS and notebook, but integration with CyberTracker is being developed. It has a built-in mapping function and produces reports automatically. It is more than just a new software system, it employs rigorous standards to aid protected-area managers improve the effectiveness of their conservation interventions. Discussion focused on the need to integrate SMART with the existing CyberTracker system rather than replacing it. SMART will be more user-friendly for people doing analysis as reporting will be more automated.

### **Session 3: Review of Recommendations from 2009 Workshop and Discussion**

This session was based on a review of the recommendations arising from the 2009 transboundary workshop held at the Obudu Plateau.

**1. Protection and Law Enforcement**

- **Protection Coverage.** It was acknowledged that the level of coordination between Oban and Korup has improved although more joint activities are recommended, particularly joint patrols.
- **Joint Patrols.** It is recommended that there should be a joint patrol between CRNP-Okwangwo and Takamanda NP each quarter. In 2013 at least two joint patrols between CRNP-Oban and Korup NP are recommended, to be preceded by a joint training exercise. Costs for the Cameroon participants will be funded by PSMNR. Funding for Nigerian participants will be provided by CRNP, and WCS is also trying to source additional funding for this initiative. Communication for Oban-Korup patrols will be facilitated by WCS in Nigeria and by WWF in Cameroon. The official point of contact in each country is the Conservator of Korup NP and the Conservator of CRNP.
- **Develop a Transboundary Joint Patrol Strategy and Operations Manual.** This will guide all transboundary joint patrols, in order to improve patrol coverage, methods, communication and management etc. Organize a meeting to develop this document, perhaps during the January exchange visit by CRNP and WCS representatives to



Cameroon. Based on the joint patrol strategy, develop an annual plan, and then seek operational funds.

- **Monitoring Bushmeat Markets.** No recent surveys or monitoring in either Cameroon or Nigeria. In 2013 a repeat bushmeat survey in both Cameroon and Nigeria is recommended.
- **Sharing Protection Information.** Information sharing on illegal activities must be accompanied by copies of the relevant documents and supporting evidence to enhance the potential for prosecution and conviction. We should ensure that the Conservators in each country have copies of the other's legal documents (such as the 2010 Forestry and Wildlife Law of Cross River State). Conservators will ensure that maps and other technical information documents, including management plans, are shared with counterparts on both sides of the border to strengthen joint border operations.
- **Construction of Border Ranger Posts.** Erat ranger post has now been completed in Korup and the ranger post at Obonyi I is under construction. There are plans to build additional ranger posts at Bashu and Matene. On the Oban side there are two existing ranger posts at Oban and Aking but there is a need to construct additional ranger posts.
- **Equipment.** Oban still needs CyberTracker units. We should collect data initially with the CyberTracker system and then move to SMART when it becomes available. WCS-Nigeria is seeking additional funding to extend the CyberTracker system to Oban. All sites, including Oban-Korup and Okwangwo-Takamanda should agree on a harmonized monitoring system, equipment and methodology. This issue was raised as a key point in the *'USFWS Collaborative Workshop on the Conservation of Cross River Gorillas in Nigeria and Cameroon'* in December 2012 for which a working group was established. Currently the Korup system is sufficiently different to preclude sharing of information. We need to harmonize the two systems so that data can be shared, compared, and analyzed regionally.
- **Exchange Visits.** At least one exchange visit is planned for 2013 between Okwangwo and Takamanda, exchange visits between Oban and Korup are also recommended.
- **Grazing and Obudu Cattle Ranch.** Although CRNP implements dry season fire-breaks, fire is still a potential threat. It was recommended that the CRNP management should liaise with the management of Obudu Cattle Ranch to harmonize fire management strategies to prevent fires from spreading into CRNP and also across the border to grasslands in Cameroon. At the 2009 meeting it was assumed that most fires were the responsibility of the Obudu Cattle Ranch, however we now feel that most of the burning is done by local Fulani herdsman and local farmers. TNP and communities should develop and implement a fire management plan, perhaps through a fire management committee comprised of all relevant stakeholders. Fulani encroachers pose a fire threat and should be evicted, in line with park protection laws. This should be accompanied by sensitization programs.
- **Control of Illegal Logging.** There appears to have been some visible progress to address this issue. We recommend that the CRSFC work with counterparts in Cameroon (MINFOR) to address illegal logging by creating a platform for dialogue to seek improved solutions for the transboundary market in timber and other forest products. We recommend that the first meeting be held during a visit by the CRSFC to Buea, Cameroon, tentatively planned to take place in early 2013. We suggest high level participation from Yaounde at this meeting.

## **2. Research and Monitoring**

- **Research on Key Transboundary Species.** Research and monitoring of Cross River gorillas is ongoing. Two attempts to collar elephants in Korup failed – this should be attempted again, but there isn't a guarantee that it will be successful.
- **Transboundary Surveys.** Regular large mammal surveys should be carried out. Line transect surveys of large mammals will be implemented in Cameroon at Takamanda NP, Mount Cameroon NP and Korup NP, but there are no plans for line transect surveys in Nigeria. Recent surveys in Cameroon have demonstrated alarming declines. Specifically we should attempt similar methodology in contiguous protected areas. The methodology used for these surveys is a critical issue and it is suggested that line transects may not necessarily be the best option when mammals are present at low densities. The issue remains, how can we monitor trends in large mammals in a manner that is compatible and provides information in protected areas that extend beyond our boundaries. It was suggested that we should consider a technical meeting between the survey experts. It was agreed that we need joint wildlife surveys, and we need to be able to monitor the impact of our activities in a cost-effective way.
- **Sharing Information on Research.** Project activity reports, CyberTracker reports, and other management and research information should be shared on a regular basis. Quarterly CyberTracker reports from Nigeria are available on the WCS Nigeria website, [www.wcsnigeria.org](http://www.wcsnigeria.org).
- **Common Approach to Monitoring.** Harmonization of bio-monitoring methods should be developed, including developing a cost-effective survey methodology. The requirement is for reliable data that have management implications.

## **3. Community Involvement and Conservation Education**

- **Sharing Conservation Education Materials.** This is still considered to be a priority and materials should be shared. Recent positive developments include transboundary education programs, such as the '*My Gorilla My Community*' project, which will be broadcast regionally using local radio stations. It was suggested that Manyu Community Radio Station in Cameroon could also be used for regional broadcasts. Other films, such as GAFI films should be distributed regionally.
- **Conservation Education in Schools and Communities.** This is still a priority activity on both sides of the border but there should be better coordination and communication between Korup and Oban regarding school and community education programs. In Cameroon rangers also conduct education, in Nigeria education is not done by rangers.
- **Mobilizing Transboundary Communities.** A number of VFMCs have been organized on the Cameroon side, with further grouping into clusters in Korup, Takamanda and Mount Cameroon. Other community mobilization activities are taking place (such as river poisoning sensitization workshops). In Nigeria, Local Advisory Committees have been established, with quarterly meetings planned, and some members acting as informants. In Cameroon, VFMCs are not just advisory – they are integrated into management. However in Nigeria, the law also recognizes the role of local communities. These laws should be exchanged. It was also suggested that we should consider bringing transboundary communities together to discuss issues of common interest in protected area management. Some issues can be resolved at this level, and in fact some of this is already carried out (e.g. sensitization before joint patrols that will

destroy bush mango sheds). Once the Transboundary MoU is signed, we will have institutional and legal framework to mobilize communities and negotiate issues across borders.

- **Alternative Livelihoods for Hunters.** This was launched in Nigeria in 2009 (snail farming and bee keeping for 49 hunters in Okwangwo, Mbe and Afi). Good records are available but we need an evaluation of its effectiveness. In Cameroon, there is a similar program focusing on a wide range of interest groups from which people been selected for further training (e.g. improved beekeeping), but not all are hunters. It was suggested that efforts on the Cameroon side should focus more efforts on hunters for targeted alternative livelihood activities, to reduce pressures on the resource. Livelihood and social infrastructure program is helping to improve their support for conservation, but we need to include hunters in the target groups for these activities.

#### 4. Capacity Building

- **Exchange Visits.** Considered to be an important activity, recommended that exchange visits should take place “at least twice a year - once in each direction”.
- **Ranger Capacity.** Additional training for rangers is considered to be a major priority, and ideally training should be harmonized.

#### 5. General Recommendations

- **More Regular Transboundary Meetings Between Key Partners.** Participants recommended that there should be more regular transboundary meetings and a minimum of one transboundary meeting each year. We should consider extending the annual meeting to two days, and if combined with other meetings (such as the annual USFWS partners’ meeting for Cross River gorillas) then we can improve efficiency.
- **Management Planning.** It was stated that management plans have now been completed for all protected areas in the region although they have not yet been shared. It is strongly recommended that all management plans should be shared.
- **Transboundary Designation Options.** Nomination of both Korup and Oban for World Heritage Site status should continue. However it was strongly recommended that a joint transboundary submission for World Heritage Site status should be considered instead of two separate proposals. The MoU should be approved before the two sites are eligible for a joint nomination, and this could be one of the recommendations for the detailed agreement between the two countries once the legal framework has been established by signing of the MoU.
- **Transboundary MoU.** The process is slow but progress is being made and the document is now awaiting signature. It was suggested that we need a focal person in Yaounde to advocate for the signing of the MoU – Roger Fotso was nominated. For Nigeria, the National Parks Service will adopt this role.
- **Sustainable Funding for Transboundary Conservation Process.** It was acknowledged that the development of transboundary conservation requires a long-term approach. Participants suggested that there should be more attention to the

development of sustainable funding sources for the long-term support of transboundary conservation.

#### **Session Four: Workshop Closing and Final Statements**

The Closing Statement from Cameroon was provided by Samuel Eban-Ebai, MINFOF Regional Delegate for the South West Region. He stated that the workshop had been a very productive meeting, with very good resolutions. He promised to take these resolutions back to Cameroon and ensure their implementation. He hoped that the workshop proceedings would be made available as soon as possible, and thanked the organizers.

The Closing Statement from Nigeria was provided by Ntufam Richard Effa, Conservator of Cross River National Park, here representing the Conservator General of the Nigeria National Parks Service. He stated that the workshop has been very rewarding and assured participants that the Nigerian government will strive to ensure that the recommendations are addressed. He promised to convey the outcome of the workshop to the Conservator General of the National Parks Service. Finally he wished colleagues from Cameroon very well and a safe return home.

Odigha Odigha, Chairman of the Cross River State Forestry Commission provided some final words from Cross River State Government and formally closed the workshop. He thanked WCS and WWF for facilitating transboundary conservation efforts in the region. He informed participants that he is already planning an exchange visit to Cameroon very soon, possibly as early as January 2013.

**STRENGTHENING TRANSBOUNDARY COLLABORATION BETWEEN NIGERIA AND CAMEROON, THURSDAY 6 DECEMBER, CHANNEL VIEW HOTEL, CALABAR**

**0900 Session 1: Introduction**

- Introduction
- Self-introduction of Participants
- Review of Program and Expectations

**0930 Session 2: Outline of Main Issues and Discussion**

- Global Overview of Transboundary Conservation: Andrew Dunn, IUCN Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group
- IGCP Transboundary Experience and Lessons Learnt: Liz Macfie, WCS Species Program
- Transboundary Conservation between Okwangwo & Takamanda: Results from Joint Patrols. Anthony Nchanji, WCS Cameroon
- Progress on the Transboundary MOU by Emmanuel Bebiem (NPS)
- Control of Transboundary Illegal Activities and Promotion of Legal Trade (Timber/NTFPs): Besong Simon, PSMNR
- Preliminary Ideas for the Establishment of a Regional Trust Fund : Julien Dupuy, PSMNR
- Proposal for Transboundary Activities between Oban (CRNP) and Korup (KNP): Fotendong Ferdinand, Conservator KNP and David Okon (WWF)

**1300 Lunch**

**1400 Session 3: Review of Recommendations from 2009 Workshop and Discussion**

- Protection and Law Enforcement
- Research and Monitoring
- Community Conservation/Conservation Education
- Capacity Building
- General Recommendations

**1600 Session 4: Drafting of Workshop Resolutions/Communique**

**1800 Close**

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