

WORKSHOP REPORT

Strengthening Transboundary Conservation Collaboration between Nigeria and Cameroon

Calabar, 1 December 2015



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



Background

This is the seventh transboundary workshop between Nigeria and Cameroon since 2008. 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), Limbe (November 2010 and February 2012) and Calabar (December 2012, November 2013 and December 2015). In addition to strengthening transboundary collaboration between key partners on each side of the international border, the main focus of the current workshop was to review the draft joint nomination to UNESCO for a Transboundary Biosphere Reserve between Nigeria and Cameroon and covering Oban-Korup as well as Okwangwo-Takamanda. A total of 40 participants from Nigeria, Cameroon, France, Switzerland, UK and USA attended the one-day workshop in Calabar, on 1 December 2015. The workshop was facilitated by Tunde Morakinyo and was funded by the Great Apes Program of the Arcus Foundation who have supported transboundary conservation between Nigeria and Cameroon since 2007. A full workshop program and list of participants is included at the end of this report. Notes were taken during the workshop by Natalie Ingle and the workshop report was compiled by Andrew Dunn.

Acronyms used

CRNP	Cross River National Park
CRSFC	Cross River State Forestry Commission
ERM	Environmental Resources Management
FRIN	Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
MAB	Man and the Biosphere Programme (UNESCO)
MINFOF	Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife
NCMM	National Commission for Museums and Monuments
NNPS	Nigeria National Parks Service
NP	National Park
NTFP	non-timber forest product
PSMNR	Programme for the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources
SMART	Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool
TNP	Takamanda National Park
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
WCPA	World Commission on Protected Areas
WHS	World Heritage Site
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

Session One: Introduction

Andrew Dunn outlined the background to the workshop and welcomed all participants to the workshop on behalf of the WCS Nigeria Program. The presence of new partners including the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria, UNESCO, the Man and the Biosphere Nigeria Committee and the National Commission on Museums and Monuments was recognized. As Regional Coordinator: West and Central Africa, for the IUCN-WCPA Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group, Andrew Dunn announced publication of new guidelines on Transboundary Conservation by the specialist group, part of the IUCN Best Practice Protected Area Guidelines Series, and available to download free at www.tbpa.net For those interested in joining the Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group there is a simple online registration process <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RY2W6SF>

Dr George Okeyoyin, here representing the Conservator General of the Nigeria National Parks Service, gave the opening address on behalf of the Government of Nigeria.

Osuji Otu (UNESCO) and Tunde Morakinyo (ERM) gave a brief Introduction to the Man and the Biosphere Programme. For the creation of a transboundary biosphere reserve, it was explained that three separate nominations are required: one each from Nigeria and Cameroon, and a joint transboundary one. The potential benefits of MAB designation were described, including: enhanced communication, sharing of ideas, and best practices; possible improvements to community livelihoods and integrated socio-economic development with land management; promotion of participatory management; reduced conflict and better understanding of challenges; raising of local awareness and international prestige; harnessing cultural assets; as well as increased government commitment to ensure sustainability

The timetable for the nomination process was outlined as:

- Produce a draft nomination document by the end of February 2016
- Develop management plans, secure stakeholder support, and revise draft by May-June 2016
- Submit second draft of nomination forms in July 2016
- Revise, sign and submit forms by September 30, 2016
- MAB Secretariat verifies nomination
- Advisory Committee reviews and advises MAB International Coordinating Council, which approves or defers the nomination

Two main concerns on the MAB process were raised by participants:

1. How to engage with communities without raising expectations. It was agreed that we would be:
 - Be transparent about benefits (or lack thereof), and focus on conservation
 - Build awareness about the meaning of MAB
 - Develop sub-committees to develop messages and strategy, target key stakeholders including chiefs, local government and state government

2. How to harmonize the country-level and transboundary visions/management plans. It was agreed that we would:
 - Develop a small technical committee to articulate a vision for the transboundary plan first, before preparing country forms
 - The costs of such meetings and development will need to be considered.

Session 2: Presentation of draft MAB Proposal for Oban-Korup-Okwangwo Takamanda and Identification of Information Gaps

Tunde Morakinyo gave a brief presentation on the existing draft MAB Proposals for Nigeria and Cameroon and highlighted the information gaps. It was decided to:

- Create a Cameroon focus group to review and revise draft nomination forms for both Korup and Takamanda by end January 2016
- Create a Nigeria focus group to revise draft nomination form, decide zonation of Cross River site and which areas will be core and buffer/transition zones by end January 2016

Tunde also gave a brief presentation on the existing draft MAB Transboundary Proposal and highlighted the information gaps. Summary of main points arising:

- Name of proposed biosphere reserve: Cross River-Korup-Takamanda
- Budget: *to be developed*
- Establish a committee (possibly with the help of a consultant who has prepared research/background materials) to develop and agree on transboundary activities, then develop an estimated transboundary budget
- Refer to Section 2 indicative activities (drawn from minutes of past six transboundary meetings)
- Methodology for stakeholder engagement, workplan, joint activities: *to be developed*
- Ongoing or planned actions: joint patrols (Okwangwo-Takamanda), annual planning workshop, anti-poaching workshop
- Community economic activities: *to be developed*
- Local business initiatives or shared “green” alternatives: *to be developed*
- NTFP trade happens mostly informally but starting to formalize from Cameroon through cooperatives and unions, but we could coordinate and add value
- Ongoing research or planned research: *to be developed*
- There is some ongoing monitoring using SMART software, need biodiversity index, socio-economic study
- Scientific exchange: *to be developed*
- Anti-poaching workshop in Buea in December 2015
- Education, public awareness raising: *to be developed*
- Use the existing My Gorilla-My Community radio programme
- Establish internal/external communication channels for Transboundary Reserve

- Locate framework Nigeria-Cameroon transboundary MOU and attempt to get signature (Dr. Elizabeth Ehi-Ebewale)
- Develop site-specific MOU/addendum
- Coordinating structure: *to be developed*
- Representation needed from parks, federal, state, communities, and NGOs

Session 3: Plenary feedback from groups on roles and responsibilities for filling of gaps in MAB Nomination Forms

Session 4: Presentation and discussion on process for World Heritage Site nomination and next steps

Arc Ayeni Oise and Abdu L. Aliyu (NCMM) gave a short presentation on the process for World Heritage Site nomination –

- Message from the Director-General of National Commission for Museums & Monuments was read out.
- World Heritage sites are: cultural, natural, or mixed sites with “outstanding universal value”
- Nigeria currently has two existing World Heritage sites and several more sites on the Tentative List
- Oban Hills (with Korup NP) was put on the list before Cross River National Park was officially created a park (prior to 1991) but no further nomination development work has been done since then. It is hoped MAB proposal development could assist the WHS process.
- Relevant agency in Cameroon needs to be identified and then explore possibility of holding a Nigeria-Cameroon WHS meeting (potentially at the same time as the follow-up MAB Technical Committee meeting in Feb 2016)

Session 5: Final Wrap-Up

Closing Remarks were provided by Adam Phillipson (Arcus), Samuel Eben Ebai (Regional Delegate MINFOF) and Dr Elizabeth Ehi-Ebewale (Federal Ministry of Nigeria).

Action Points

1. Cameroon nomination forms (for Korup and Takamanda) to be revised by January 30, 2016. Those responsible: MINFOF, GFA, WWF-Cameroon, PSMNR
2. Nigeria nomination forms to be revised by January 30, 2016. Those responsible: FRIN, Tunde Morakinyo, WCS-Nigeria, Nigeria National Parks Service
3. Nigeria zonation decision. Those responsible: Cross River National Park, WCS-Nigeria, Cross River State Forestry Commission
4. Technical committee formed to design transboundary activities, structure, budget
 - Members: Tunde Morakinyo, WCS-Nigeria, WCS-Cameroon, WWF-Cameroon, Nigeria National Parks Service, MINFOF, PSMNR
 - Proposed meeting date/duration: 2-3 days in February 2016 in Cameroon
 - Develop TOR and to submit to PSMNR for facilitation/possible funding.
5. Locate Nigeria-Cameroon transboundary framework MOU and attempt to get signature. Those responsible: Dr. Ehi-Ebewale, Executive Director of FRIN, Conservator-General of Nigeria National Parks Service.
6. Draft Cross River-Korup-Takamanda specific addendum to Nigeria Cameroon transboundary framework MOU and submit for separate signature. Those responsible: to be confirmed following the output of the Technical Committee meeting (#4 above) since its outputs will inform the MOU
7. Hold Nigeria-Cameroon WHS meeting in Cameroon (potentially to follow on from the MAB Technical Committee meeting in February 2016)

**TRANSBOUNDARY CONSERVATION WORKSHOP BETWEEN NIGERIA & CAMEROON,
CALABAR, NIGERIA. 1 DECEMBER 2015**

Facilitator: Tunde Morakinyo
Venue: Channel View Hotel, Calabar

09:00 – 10:00 Session 1: Introduction

09:00-09:15 Official opening of workshop by HE the Governor or his representative
09:15-09:30 Self-introduction of participants
09:30-09:45 Introduction and summary of transboundary conservation efforts (WCS)
09:45-10:00 Introduction to the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) program and progress to date (UNESCO)
10:00-10:10 Review of Workshop Program and Workshop Objectives

10:10-10:30 Coffee break

10:30 – 13:00 Session 2: Presentation of draft MAB Proposal for Oban-Korup-Okwangwo-Takamanda and Identification of Information Gaps

10.30 – 12.00 Split into two groups (Cameron/Nigeria): Identification of gaps in Cross River (Oban-Okwangwo), Korup and Takamanda nomination forms
12.00 – 13.00 Review and identification of gaps in Transboundary nomination form

13:00 -14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15.30 Session 3: Plenary feedback from groups on roles and responsibilities for filling of gaps in MAB Nomination Forms

15.30 – 15.45 Coffee break

15.45 – 16.30 Session 4: Presentation and discussion on process for World Heritage Site nomination and next steps

16:30 – 17:30 Session 5: Final Wrap-Up

- Expectations for future partner meetings and collaboration
- Summary of Action Points/Next Steps
- Closing Remarks from Arcus by Adam Phillipson
- Closing Remarks from Cameroon by Samuel Eben Ebai (Regional Delegate MINFOF)
- Closing Remarks from Federal Ministry of Nigeria by Dr Elizabeth Ehi-Ebewale

Transboundary Conservation Workshop Calabar 2015, Contact List

S/N	Name	Institution	E-mail Address
1	Dr. Rich Bergl	North Carolina Zoo, USA	richard.bergl@nczoo.org
2	Natalie Ingle	Wildlife Conservation Society, USA	ningle@wcs.org
3	Dr Debborah Luke	Association of Zoos and Aquariums, USA	dluke@aza.org
4	Dr. Roger Fotso	WCS, Cameroon	rfotso@wcs.org
5	Dr. Andrew Fowler	WCS, Cameroon	afowler@wcs.org
6	Dr. Anthony Nchanji	WCS, Cameroon	anchanji@wcs.org
7	Fidela Fominyen	WCS, Cameroon	ffominyen@wcs.org
8	Lesly Akenji	WCS, Cameroon	lakenji@wcs.org
9	Samuel Eben-Ebai	MINFOF, Cameroon	ebaisam@yahoo.co.uk
10	Walter Egbe	MINFOF, Cameroon	walterashu@yahoo.com
11	Fotendon Ferdinand Lateh	MINFOF, Cameroon	flatehfotendong@yahoo.fr
13	Dr Julien Dupuy	PSMNR, Cameroon	juliendpy@gmail.com
14	Dr Elizabeth Ehi-Ebewale	Federal Ministry of Environment, Abuja	elizaehi@yahoo.com
15	Dr George Okeyoyin	National Park Service, Abuja	okeyoyingearge@yahoo.co.uk
16	Yakubu Kolo	Cross River National Park (CRNP)	yakubukolo1@yahoo.com
17	Joseph Ntui	CRNP	josephassam@rocketmail.com
18	Caroline Olory	CRNP	carololory@gmail.com
19	Kareem Tesleem	CRNP	tesleem@gmail.com
20	Olalere Kehinde	CRNP	kolawas@yahoo.com
21	Dr Mrs Perpetua Aji	Cross River State Forestry Commission	perpetuaji@yahoo.com
22	Dr Mrs Edu Efiom	Cross River State Forestry Commission	edu.efiom@biol.lu
23	Dr Odigha Odigha	NGOCE	odighaodigha@ymail.com
24	Andrew Dunn	WCS, Nigeria	adunn@wcs.org
25	Dr Inaoyom Imong	WCS, Nigeria	iimong@wcs.org
26	Celestine Mengnjo	WCS, Nigeria	cmengnjo@wcs.org
27	Louis Nkonyu	WCS, Nigeria	lnkonyu@wcs.org
28	Peter Abanyam	WCS, Nigeria	pabanyam@wcs.org
29	Francis Okeke	WCS, Nigeria	fokeke@wcs.org
30	Tunde Morakinyo	ERM	Tunde.Morakinyo@erm.com
31	Adam Phillipson	Arcus Foundation, UK	aphillipson@arcusfoundation.org
32	Dr Andrew Bowkett	Paignton Zoo, UK	aebowkett@yahoo.co.uk
33	Lou Coombes	Paignton Zoo, UK	louise.coombes@paigntonzoo.org.uk
34	Dr. Shola Adepoju	FRIN and MAB Nigeria	soadepoju2003@yahoo.co.uk
35	Osu Otu	UNESCO Nigeria	oi.otu@unesco.org
36	Aliyu Lass Abdu	NCMM	aliyufatah@gmail.com
37	Arc Ayeni Ose	NCMM	archayeni@yahoo.com
38	Mbah Grace Nyieh	MINFOF	gracembah@gmail.com
39	Dr. Elizabeth Ekpo	FRIN	lizzyekpo2002@yahoo.com
40	Dr. Tayo Oyelowo	FRIN	tayooyelowo@yahoo.com