



WCS CONSERVATION EDUCATION – AFI, MBE, OKWANGWO

QUARTERLY REPORT: JANUARY - MARCH 2017



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SUMMARY: *The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) has worked to safeguard Africa's great wildlife and wild places for the long-term benefit of the people of Africa, and the world since 1920. Today WCS has the oldest, largest and arguably most effective field conservation program of any NGO in Africa. WCS's mission in Africa is: to save wildlife and wild places by understanding critical issues, crafting science-based solutions and taking conservation actions that benefit nature and humanity. This mission identifies landscapes and species conservation as WCS's core purpose, highlights the role of science in studying threats and designing interventions and recognizes that conservation must benefit people to be effective and sustainable.*

During the three months period covered by this report, WCS carried out a number of conservation education activities in communities around the Mbe Mountains, Afi Mountains Wildlife Sanctuary and Okwangwo Division of Cross River National Park (Okwangwo) to increase conservation awareness and strengthen local support for biodiversity conservation. 17 school visits, 6 field trips with 141 students to Mbe Mountains, Cross River National Park and Afi Mountains Wildlife Sanctuary. Others include film show in 21 villages with a total of 5,179 viewers, 6 school conservation clubs exchange visits, and monitoring of alternative livelihoods.

FILM SHOW: Great Apes films were showed in 21 villages around Afi, Mbe and Okwangwo (11 villages in Afi, 5 in Mbe and 5 villages in Okwangwo) and viewed by a total of 5,179 persons. The film shows were used to raise awareness about great apes and strengthen local support for their conservation. During the film show, discussions focused on the increasing farm encroachment, bush burning, hunting, logging and water poisoning for fishing. The need to strengthen enforcement of community by-laws protecting the forest and wildlife was also discussed.

Table 1: Villages in Afi, Mbe and Okwangwo visited for film show and number of viewers

Date	Name of community	Site	Estimated number of viewers
12/1/2017	Bamba	Mbe	160
14/1/2017	Okwabang	Okwangwo	211
24/1/2017	Kache Boje	Afi	190
25/1/2017	Asuben	Afi	125
26/1/2017	Ebok	Afi	170
11/2/2017	Wula	Mbe	200
12/2/2017	Bokalum	Mbe	114
13/2/2017	Bamba	Mbe	148
17/2/2017	Bitiah	Afi	320
19/2/2017	Kakubok	Afi	271
20/2/2017	Esekwe	Afi	260
21/2/2017	Nkanyang	Afi	400
9/3/2017	Okwabang	Okwangwo	350
11/3/2017	Wula I	Mbe	291
13/3/2017	Esikwe	Afi	135
14/3/2017	Nkanyang	Afi	267
15/3/2017	Bitiah	Afi	300
16/3/2017	Kakubok	Afi	400
20/3/2017	Abija Beebo	Okwangwo	239
21/3/2016	Kakwe Beebo	Okwangwo	500
24/3/2016	Bunfua Bumaji	Okwangwo	128
	Total		5,179

FIELD TRIP: During this period, 6 field trips were organized for schools in Afi, Mbe and Okwangwo to Afi Mountains Wildlife Sanctuary, Cross River National Park and Mbe Mountains with a total of 158 students participating. Eight teachers and 4 National Youth Service Corps members serving in the area also participated in the field trips. The field trips were organize students to learn about biodiversity directly in the field, and about the conservation actions being taken to mitigate the many threat facing wildlife. They were also used to inspire and motivate the students to contribute to biodiversity conservation.

Table 2: Number of students that participated on field trip from January to March 2016

Date	Site	School	Site/Camp visited	Number of pupils
Jan 19th	Afi	Government Secondary School Butatong	Afi Mountain	23
Jan 23th	Mbe	Community Secondary School Bamba	Mbe/Obue's Camp	27
Feb 9th	Okwangwo	Government Secondary School Butatong	CRNP	40
Feb 14th	Mbe	Community Secondary School Bamba	Mbe/Obue's Camp	24
Mar 8th	Okwangwo	Government Secondary School Butatong	Mbe/Obue's Camp	21
Mar 10th	Okwangwo	Community Secondary School Okwabang	Afi Mountain	23
		Total		158

SCHOOL VISIT: During this period, a total of 17 schools were visited in Afi, Mbe and Okwangwo to plan field trips, and carry out other activities such as conservation lessons, “gorilla game”, and distribution of 1,080 “Cross River gorilla Exercise Books”. During school visits, WCS conservation education Coordinator organized various conservation lessons on different topics including “effects of bush burning”, “species extinction” and “endangered wildlife species in Cross River State”. Students were also taught about gorilla species, their distributions, and population size and conservation status. Together, the students discussed threats to Cross River gorillas such as bush burning, hunting, logging and farming in protected areas.

Table 3: Schools visited in Okwangwo and Mbe and number of exercise books distributed during visits

Date	School visited	Site	Number of gorilla exercise books distributed
12/11/2017	Secondary Commercial school Bateriko	Okwangwo	60
12/1/2017	Community Secondary School Butatong	Okwangwo	60
12/1/2017	Government Secondary School Kanyang	Mbe	60
18/1/2017	Government Secondary School Buanchor	Afi	50
24/1/2017	Government Primary School Kache-Asuben	Afi	50
25/1/2017	Primary School Enyi	Afi	50
6/2/2017	Buentsebe Secondary school Wula	Mbe	50
6/2/2017	Comprehensive Secondary School Okwabang	Okwangwo	50
9/2/2017	Government Secondary School Butaong	Okwangwo	50
14/2/2017	Government Primary School Bamba	Mbe	50
18/2/2017	Government Primary School Esekwe	Afi	50
18/2/2017	Primary School Nkanyang	Afi	50
22/2/2017	Community Secondary School Boje	Afi	-
23/2/2017	Primary School Enyi Boje	Afi	50
9/3/2017	Community Secondary School Okwabang	Okwangwo	50
10/3/2017	Government Secondary School Butatong	Okwangwo	50
13/3/2017	Community Secondary School Irruan	Afi	50
14/3/2017	Government Primary School Nkanyang	Afi	50
16/3/2017	Government Primary School Kakubok	Afi	50
20/3/2017	Primary School Abija Beebo	Okwangwo	50
21/3/2017	Community Secondary School Beebo	Okwangwo	50
24/3/2017	Secondary Commercial School School Bajiki Bateriko	Okwangwo	50
	Total		1080



*Members of WCS Conservation club pose in **My Gorilla My Community** t-shirts to promote Cross River gorilla conservation*

EXCHANGE VISIT: Six exchange Visits involving eight schools were organized for students to share knowledge on what they have learned about biodiversity conservation through conservation club activities in their schools. A total of 538 students participated in the activity. Activities implemented during the exchange visits include Cross River gorilla game, quiz competition, poem recitation and conservation drama. These activities were carried out in a competitive manner and all the teachers in the host schools were involved. The students were excited and participated happily throughout the period.

Table 4: *Number of participants in exchange visits January to March 2017*

Date	Site	School	Number of students
January 13	Okwangwo	Government Secondary School Kanyang versus Secondary Commercial School Bateriko	90
January 17	Mbe	Community Secondary School Butatong versus Buentsebe Secondary School Wula	120
February 6	Okwangwo	Buentsebe Secondary School Wula versus Comprehensive Secondary School Okwabang	86
February 18	Mbe	Government Primary School Esekwe versus Primary Secondary School Nkanyang	70
March 6	Mbe	Community Secondary School Okwabang versus Government Secondary School Kanyang	92
March 13	Afi	Community Secondary School Irruan versus Government Secondary School Okundi	80
		Total	538



Exchange visits between wula school and Okwabang Secondary school and between Kanyang and BaterikoSchool

Monitoring of Alternative Livelihood: In January, 8 trained hunters were visited in Ebok, Bitiah and Kundeve villages and assisted to harvest honey from their apiaries. Unfortunately, hives colonized in Ebok and Bitiah were not mature for harvest. On the 28th of January, WCS field staff visited Raymond Ukpe and Amevo Linus in Kundeve 2 where he assisted them to harvest 39 litres of honey. Some of the hunters visited have problems with their bee-suits. The bee suits were misused and perforated thereby making it difficult to check the hives and know whether they are ready for harvest

In February 2017, 4 trained hunters were visited in Bitiah, Kakubok and Esekwe and assisted to harvest honey. A total of 80 litres of honey was harvested. Some of the hunters visited have problems with their bee-suits and as such they were not able to harvest their colonized hives. The bee suits were misused and perforated thereby making it difficult to monitor the bee hives to ascertain whether they are mature for harvest or not.

Table 5. *Farmers visited and quantity of honey harvested in February 2017*

Date	Name of trained ex-hunter	Year empowered	Community	Quantity of honey harvested	Estimated amount to be sold (Naira)
28/1/2017	Raymond Ukpev	2013	Kundevé 2	20 Litres	19,000
28/1/2017	Linus Amevo	2013	Kundevé 2	19 Litres	17,500
17/2/2017	Augustine Ncha	2015	Bitiah	23 Litres	23,000
18/2/2017	Odu Anthony	2015	Esekwe	16 Litres	16,000
19/2/2017	Christopher Aji	2015	Bitiah	21 Litres s	21,000
20/2/2017	Christopher Apie	2015	Kakubok	20 Litres	20,000
	Total			119 Litres	116,500