



WCS

QUARTERLY REPORT- JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2019

CONSERVATION EDUCATION

Afi, MBE, OKWANGWO



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SUMMARY

This quarter, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) carried out conservation education activities in communities around Mbe Mountains, Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary and the Okwangwo Division of Cross River National park to increase conservation awareness and strengthen local support for biodiversity conservation. Activities implemented include 19 school visits, 22 community meetings, 9 field trips with a total of 230 students to Mbe Mountains, Cross River National Park, Afi Mountain and the Drill Ranch. Others activities include great apes film show in 24 villages and 8 exchange visits. There was also a survey to evaluate the impact of our conservation education in all Cross River gorilla landscape. Activities in Okwangwo were implemented in collaboration with the education staff of CRNP.

FILM SHOW

Great apes films were showed in 24 villages around Afi, Mbe and Okwangwo with a total audience of 9,444 (Table 1). The films were used to create awareness about apes and other endangered wildlife species. Discussions during the film shows focused on deforestation from human activities such as logging, slash and burn agriculture as a threat to apes in addition to hunting.

Table 1. Villages visited in Afi, Mbe and Okwangwo during film show and estimated number of viewers.

Date	Name of community	Site	Estimated number of viewers
21/7/2019	Kanyang I	Mbe	147
22/7/2019	Bamba	Mbe	300
23/7/2019	Bokalum	Mbe	189
27/7/2019	Otsakwai	Okwangwo	401
28/7/2019	Buabre	Okwangwo	213
29/7/2019	Ogwefor	Okwangwo	150
30/7/2019	Ogwefor	Okwangwo	92
1/8/2019	Okwangwo	Okwangwo	140
2/8/2019	Okwangwo	Okwangwo	188
4/8/2019	Abo Mkpang	Mbe	116
6/8/2019	Abo Mkpang	Mbe	67
7/8/2019	Olum	Afi	251
12/8/2019	Bokalum	Mbe	380
13/8/2019	Abo Mkpang	Mbe	213
14/8/2019	Abo Obisu	Mbe	94
15/8/2019	Abo Ogbagante	Mbe	460
16/8/2019	Kanyang I	Mbe	199
17/8/2019	Kanyang II	Mbe	201
18/8/2019	Wula II	Mbe	67
19/8/2019	Wula I	Mbe	370
20/8/2019	Bamba	Mbe	400
23/8/2019	Olum	Afi	370
24/8/2019	Buanchor	Afi	500
25/8/2019	Buanchor- Mbanyang	Afi	163
26/8/2019	Katabang	Afi	200
27/8/2019	Kache	Afi	191
28/8/2019	Asuben	Afi	305
29/8/2019	Bunfua-Bumaji	Okwangwo	104
30/8/2019	Kakwe Beebo	Okwangwo	300
31/8/2019	Ukampo Beebo	Okwangwo	350
9/9/2019	Buanchor	Afi	146
10/9/2019	Katabang	Afi	350
11/9/2019	Olum	Afi	189
12/9/2019	Bahu Kaku	Okwangwo	401
13/9/2019	Bashu Ekpambe	Okwangwo	211
16/9/2019	Bokalum	Mbe	300
22/9/2019	Ebok	Afi	152
24/9/2019	Kakwe Beebo	Okwangwo	92
25/9/2019	Otsakwai	Okwangwo	174
26/9/2019	Okwabang	Okwangwo	189
28/9/2019	Oguefor	Okwangwo	119
	TOTAL		9,444

FIELD TRIPS

Nine field trips were organized for schoolchildren around Mbe, Afi and Okwangwo with support from CRNP staff. A total of 230 students and 18 teachers participated for field trips. Students were taken to Cross River National Park, Drill Ranch, Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary and Mbe Mountains to learn about biodiversity conservation from experts working in the field. Threats to wildlife and ongoing efforts by stakeholders to mitigate the threats were discussed including law enforcement patrols, education and awareness, and alternative livelihood interventions. He encouraged students to take conservation messages to their family members who were hunting, farming or logging in protected areas as well as inform them of the penalties for breaking the law. Field trips help students to have direct contact with the wild and to learn about local wildlife directly in field. This activity increases students' knowledge about the forest and wildlife as well as motivates them to contribute to solving environmental problems.

Table 2. Number of schools and participants in field trips organized around Afi, Mbe and Okwangwo from July to September 2019

Date	Site	School	Camp/site visited	No of students
July 15th	Mbe	Community Secondary School Bamba	Cross River National Park	25
July 17th	Okwangwo	Community Secondary School Okwabang	Cross River National Park	25
July 19th	Afi	Government Primary School Esekwe	Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary	20
July 20th	Mbe	Government Secondary School Kanyang	Forestry Commission Nursery Obudu	20
September 17th	Mbe	Community Secondary School Bokalum	Cross River National Park	25
September 18th	Mbe	Government Primary School Bokalum	Obue's camp-Mbe Mountain	20
September 24th	Okwangwo	Government Primary School Kakwe	Cross River National Park	30
September 25th	Okwangwo	Government Primary School Otsakwai	Cross River National Park	40
September 26th	Okwangwo	St. Michael's Primary School Okwabang	Drill Ranch	25



Students of Community Secondary School Bokalum on a field trip to Okwangwo Division of Cross River National Park

SCHOOL VISIT

WCS and CRNP education staff visited 19 schools in Afi, Mbe and Okwangwo for conservation education lessons and education activities. Students were encouraged to establish tree nurseries using empty plastic water bags left in their surroundings. This is to encourage tree planting and to reduce littering of waste plastic bags. Arrangements were also made with schools selected for field trips and exchange visits during these visits. A puppet show was also presented in each of the schools visited. The puppet show is an interesting drama where animal teddies are used to represent animals in the wild. The animals discuss problems facing them in the wild such as hunting, and habitat loss and fragmentation, which WCS and other stakeholders seek to mitigate. A total of 1,080 customized notebooks ("Gorilla notebooks") were distributed to students during the school visits.

Table 3: Name of schools visited in Okwangwo, Afi and Mbe and number of books distributed

Dates	Name of school visited	Site	Number of notebooks distributed
15/7/2019	Community Secondary School Bamba	Mbe	50
16/7/2019	Government Primary School Bateriko	Okwangwo	50
16/7/2019	Divine International Nursery/ Primary School Okwabang	Okwangwo	50
18/7/2019	Buda Community Secondary School Irruan	Afi	50
18/7/2019	Government Primary School Kakwagom Irruam	Afi	-
19/7/2019	Government Primary School Esekwe	Afi	50
19/7/2019	Community Secondary School Irruan (EBONA)	Afi	50
20/7/2019	Government Secondary School Kanyang	Mbe	50
16/9/2019	Community Secondary School Bokalum	Mbe	70
16/9/2019	Government Primary School Bakalum	Mbe	70
16/9/2019	Government Primary School Bamba	Mbe	70
16/9/2019	Community Secondary School Bamba	Mbe	70
19/9/2019	Government Primary School Nkanya	Afi	50
19/9/2019	Government Primary School Kakubok	Afi	50
19/9/2019	Community Secondary School Irruan (EBONA)	Afi	100
19/9/2019	Government Secondary School BUDA	Afi	100
20/9/2019	Comprehensive Secondary School Okwabang	Okwangwo	50
20/9/2019	Community Secondary School Butatong	Okwangwo	50
26/9/2019	St. Michael's Primary School Okwabang	Okwangwo	50
	Total		1,080

SCHOOLS EXCHANGE VISIT

WCS facilitated 8 exchange visits involving 16 schools to enable students share knowledge on what they have learned about forest and wildlife conservation. A total of 1,004 students participated in this activity. Exchange visits increase students understanding of natural resource management including problems of conservation

and possible interventions. Activities implemented during exchange visits include Cross River gorilla game, nature poems recitation, great apes film show using Pedal Powered Cinema, quiz competitions and conservation puppet show. These activities were carried out in a competitive manner and all the teachers in the host schools participated actively. These activities help to build students interest, perception and commitment to biodiversity conservation.

Table 4. Schools and number of students that participated in exchange visit in Afi, Mbe and Okwangwo from July to September 2019.

Date	Site	School(s)	Location	No of students
July 16th	Okwangwo	Government Primary School Bateriko and Divine International Nursery and Primary School Okwabang	Bateriko	117
July 18th	Afi	Government Primary School Kakwagom Irruan and Government Primary School Nkanya	Kakwagom	140
July 18th	Afi	BUDA Community Secondary School Irruan and Government Technical College Kakubok	Kakubok	124
September 16th	Mbe	Government Primary School Bokalum and Government Primary School Bamba	Bokalum	120
September 16th	Mbe	Community Secondary School Bokalum and Community Secondary School Bamba	Bamba	129
September 19th	Afi	BUDA Community Secondary School Irruan and Community Secondary School EBONA, Esekwe	EBONA	119
September 19th	Afi	Government Primary School Nkanya and Primary School Kakubok	Kakubok	143
September 20th	Okwangwo	Comprehensive Secondary School Okwabang and Community Secondary School Butatong	Butatong	113



Exchange visit between Government Primary School Kakwagom and Government Primary School Kakubok Irruan

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Twenty-two community meetings were held with Okwangwo, Mbe and Afi villages to discuss ebony logging, farm encroachment and indiscriminate hunting with wire snares, which is a particularly serious problem at this time of year when it is the preferred method of hunting. Reports indicate that some communities in the area permit and support outsiders to hunt and log ebony for small amounts paid as “royalty”. The meeting discussed the status of Cross River National Park and Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary and how individuals and communities are not allowed to collect resources from the park without permission.

EVALUATION OF CONSERVATION EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

During this period, WCS conducted a survey to evaluate the impact of the My Gorilla My Community (MGMC) radio program and other conservation education activities implemented in the Cross River gorilla landscape. A baseline survey of Knowledge, Attitudes and Behaviour was conducted in 2014, at the beginning of the MGMC program. A total of 400 questionnaires were administered in 9 communities around Afi, Mbe and Okwangwo.



Enumerators preparing for the survey