



QUARTERLY REPORT
CONSERVATION EDUCATION - AFI, MBE AND OKWANGWO:
JANUARY TO MARCH 2020



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Summary

This report describes activities implemented by WCS in communities around Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary, Mbe Mountains, and Okwangwo Division of Cross River National Park from January to March 2020 to raise awareness and increase local support for conservation. The activities were implemented in partnership with Cross River National Park, Cross River State Forestry Commission, and Conservation Association of the Mbe Mountains including: 1) Film shows in 33 villages and 2 schools viewed by a total of 6,476 people, 2) thirteen schools exchange visits between conservation clubs, 3) fourteen field trips organized for schoolchildren, 4) thirty-one school visits by education staff, 5) four community meetings, 6) distribution of 1,000 branded notebooks, and 7) celebration of World Pangolin Day and World Wildlife Day.

Film Show

WCS uses film shows to raise awareness in local communities about great apes and other threatened wildlife. This quarter, great ape films were showed in 2 schools and 33 villages around Afi, Mbe and Okwangwo. The films attracted a total audience of 6,476 people (Table 1). To improve understanding, WCS staff facilitated discussions among the viewers on conservation issues highlighted in the films including threats and potential solutions.

Table 1: Villages and schools visited in Afi, Mbe and Okwangwo for film show and attendance

Date	Community/School	Site	Estimated number of viewers
16/1/2020	Bamba	Mbe	270
18/1/2020	Kundeve II	Okwangwo	87
19/1/2020	Kundeve II	Okwangwo	150
22/1/2020	Kundeve I	Okwangwo	119
23/1/2020	Kigor, Obudu Cattle Ranch	Okwangwo	260
24/1/2020	Keji-kwu	Okwangwo	300
25/1/2020	Okwa-mu	Okwangwo	171
26/1/2020	Apajili	Okwangwo	92
27/1/2020	Anape	Okwangwo	74
28/1/2020	Katabang	Afi	155
29/1/2020	Asuben	Afi	123
30/1/2020	Kache	Afi	119
31/1/2020	Kanyang II	Mbe	230
16/2/2020	Buanchor	Afi	160
17/2/2020	Olum	Afi	240
18/2/2020	Abo Ogbagante	Mbe	300
19/2/2020	Bamba	Mbe	105
20/2/2020	Kanyang I	Mbe	121
21/2/2020	Bokalum	Mbe	129
22/1/2020	Wula II	Mbe	177
25/2/2020	Buabre	Okwangwo	192
26/2/2020	Ukampo Beebo	Okwangwo	74
27/2/2020	Baja-nfua Beebo	Okwangwo	238
16/3/2020	Olum	Afi	260
17/3/2020	Katabang	Afi	170
18/3/2020	Buanchor	Afi	340
19/3/2020	Wula II	Mbe	200
21/3/2020	Keji-kwu Becheve	Okwangwo	350
22/3/2020	Anape	Okwangwo	129
23/3/2020	Government Prim. School Kakwagom	Afi	171
25/3/2020	Community Sec. School Buda Irruan	Afi	140
26/3/2020	Abo Mkpang	Mbe	150
27/3/2020	Bamba	Mbe	260
28/3/2020	Nkwor-Okwangwo	Okwangwo	190
29/3/2020	Egbo-Okwangwo	Okwangwo	230
	Total		6,476



Film show in Bitiah community

Field Trips

This quarter, WCS organized 14 guided field trips for a total of 367 students and 28 teachers to the Mbe Mountains, Cross River National Park, Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary, and Drill Ranch (Table 2). The field trips provided students the opportunity to learn about the rainforest, threats to wildlife, and ongoing efforts to them. WCS and protected area staff at each site shared their knowledge and experiences with the students during the field trips. Field trips are a valuable way to connect young people with nature. They have the potential to produce lasting experiences that help to inspire people to place more value on wildlife, and make them more willing to support wildlife conservation.

Table 2: Number of students that participated in field trips

Date	Site	School(s)	Camp/site visited	# students
January 13th	Afi	Government Primary School Olum	Cross River National Park	25
January 14th	Mbe	Community Secondary School Bamba	Gorilla Rock, Mbe Mountain	28
January 15th	Okw	JADEE International Nursery/Primary School Butatong	Cross River National Park	30
January 16th	Okw.	Seventh Day Adventist Nursery/Primary School, Bateriko	Cross River National Park	24
February 19th	Mbe	Community Secondary School Bamba	Cross River National Park	27
February 20th	Mbe	Government Sec. School Kanyang	Base Camp, Mbe Mountain	29
February 21st	Mbe	Government Primary School Bokalum	Obue's Camp	25
February 22nd	Mbe	Government Prim. School Mgba-Eshou	Cross River National Park	24
February 24th	Mbe	Government Primary School Kanyang	Base Camp, Mbe Mountain	30
March 13th	Okw.	Secondary Commercial School Bateriko	CRNP	26
March 18th	Okw.	Comprehensive Sec. School Okwabang	Cross River National Park	25
March 19th	Mbe	St. John Primary School Wula 1	Obue's Camp, Mbe Mountains	23
March 20th	Afi	Government Primary School Olum	Drill Ranch	24
March 24nd	Afi	Govt. Prim. Sch. Kakwagom Irruan	Afi Mountain	27



Students of Community Secondary School Bamba (left) and St. John's Primary School Wula during field trips to Mbe Mountains

School Visits

WCS conservation education coordinator visited 31 schools in Afi, Mbe and Okwangwo (with education staff of Cross River National Park) and organized conservation education lessons for students. Activities carried out during the visits include film show, conservation games and puppet show. At the end of the visits, customized notebooks with conservation messages were distributed to students and arrangements were made for field trips and exchange visits.

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

	Dates	Name of school visited	Site	# notebooks distributed
1	13/1/2020	Government Primary School Olum	Afi	40
2	13/1/2020	Community Secondary School Olum	Afi	40
3	13/1/2020	Community Secondary School Buanchor	Afi	40
4	13/1/2020	Government Primary School Buanchor	Afi	40
5	14/1/2020	Community Secondary School Bamba	Mbe	40
6	14/1/2020	Government Primary School Bamba	Mbe	40
7	15/1/2020	JADEE International Nursery/Primary School Butatobg	Okw	40
8	15/1/2020	St. Columbus Primary School Butatong	Okw	40
9	17/1/2020	St. Michael Primary School Okwabang	Okw	40
10	20/1/2020	Buentsebe Secondary School Wula	Mbe	40
11	21/1/2020	St. John Primary School Wula	Mbe	40
12	17/2/2020	Eastern Academy Primary School Wula	Mbe	30
13	17/2/2020	St. John the Baptist Primary School Wula	Mbe	30
14	18/2/2020	St. John Model Secondary School Wula	Mbe	30
15	18/2/2020	Eastern Academy Secondary School Wula	Mbe	30
16	19/2/2020	Community Secondary School Bamba	Mbe	30
17	20/2/2020	Government Secondary School Kanyang	Mbe	30
18	21/2/2020	Government Primary School Bokalum	Mbe	30
19	22/2/2020	Primary School Wula 2	Mbe	30
20	25/2/2020	Government Primary School Buabre	Okw.	30
21	26/2/2020	Primary School Ukampo- Beebo	Okw.	30
22	27/2/2020	Primary School Baja-nfua	Okw.	30
23	28/2/2020	RABU International Nursery and Primary School Okwabang	Okw.	30
24	16/3/2020	St. John the Baptist Primary School Wula 1	Mbe	25
25	16/3/2020	St. Michael the Arch-Angel Primary School Bateriko	Okw.	25
26	16/3/2020	Government Primary School Bateriko	Okw	25
27	16/3/2020	Government Primary School Unko Bateriko	Okw.	25
28	17/3/2020	Government Primary School Olum	Afi	25
29	17/3/2020	St. John Primary School Wula	Mbe	25
30	24/3/2020	Government Primary School Kakwagom Irruan	Afi	25
31	24/3/2020	Community Secondary School BUDA Irruan	Afi	25

**WCS staff teaching students about conservation in Primary Schools in Kakwagom and Olum**

Exchange Visits

During this period, WCS facilitated 13 exchange visits involving 20 school conservation clubs with a total of 1,442 students in Afi, Mbe and Okwangwo Division of Cross River National Park (Table 4). Exchange visit enable students and pupils in schools to share ideas and knowledge they have acquired about natural resource management including plants, animals, problems of conservation and possible interventions. Activities implemented during exchange visits include Cross River gorilla game, nature poems, quiz competition and great apes film show. These activities were carried out in a competitive manner helping to generate interest students.

Table 4: Schools exchange visits and participants January-March 2020

Date	Site	School(s)	Location	# students
January 17, 2020	Okwangwo	St. Columbus Primary School Butatong and JADEE International Primary School Butatong	JADEE	126
January 17, 2020	Okwangwo	Divine International Nursery and Primary School Okwabang and St. Michael Primary School Okwabang	Divine Int'l Nursery & Primary School	105
January 20, 2020	Mbe	Buentsebe Secondary School Wula and Eastern Academy Secondary School Wula	Buentsebe	120
January 21, 2020	Mbe	St. John Primary School Wula and Model Int'l Nursery/Primary School Wula	St. John	133
February 17, 2020	Mbe	Eastern Academy Primary School and St. John the Baptist Primary School Wula	Eastern Academy	120
February 17, 2020	Mbe	St. John Model Secondary School and Eastern Academy Secondary School Wula	Eastern Academy Secondary School	88
February 18, 2020	Mbe	Dowell Intellect Academy Kanyang and Winners International Academy Kanyang	Dowell Intellect Academy Kanyang	80
February 18, 2020	Mbe	Government Primary School Abo Ogbagante and Primary School Abo Obisu	Abo Obisu	122
February 28, 2020	Mbe	RABU International Primary School Okwabang and Government Primary School Bokalum	Bokalum	107
March 16, 2020	Okwangwo	St. John the Baptist Primary School Wula and St. Michael the Arch-Angel Primary School Bateriko	Bateriko	118
March 16, 2020	Okwangwo	Government Primary School Bateriko and Government Primary School Unko Bateriko	Unko Bateriko	104
March 17, 2020	Afi	St. John Government Primary School Wula I and Government Primary School Olum	Olum	123
March 17, 2020	Mbe	Baby Pennel International Nursery/Primary School Olum and Aunty Joy International Primary School Olum	Olum	96



Schools exchange visits in Okwangwo

Beekeeping

Since 2013, WCS has assisted ex-hunters around Afi, Mbe and Okwangwo in beekeeping. Most of the beehives were damaged by fire but some hunters have secured and maintained their apiaries until date. Hunters from Bitiah, Kakubok, Anape and Kundeve II have been able to harvest honey regularly for the past 6 years. However, many of the beehives currently need repairs. In January, WCS field staff assisted Linus Amevo of Kundeve II to harvest 20 litres of honey. According to him, the beekeeping project has contributed to improve his household income and thanked WCS for the support. Some beneficiaries of the beekeeping project who failed to look after their beehives expressed regret over their negligence and pleaded for a second chance after seeing the value of the project.

World Pangolin Day

This year's World Pangolin Day was celebrated on the 15th of February 2020. World Pangolin Day is an opportunity for pangolin enthusiasts to raise awareness about these unique mammals and their plight. WCS joined the rest of the world to celebrate World Pangolin Day 2020 in Nigeria with activities organized in communities around protected area, and awareness created via radio and different social platforms. The major threats facing pangolins are hunting and habitat loss. To engage local communities, 16 hunters were invited from around Afi, Mbe Mountains and Okwangwo Division of Cross River National Park. Branded t-shirts were produced and given to all the invited hunters during a campaign at Kanyang II. The celebration of World Pangolin Day helped create good awareness about pangolin conservation.



Participants at a World Pangolin Day event in Kanyang II

World Wildlife Day is an opportunity to celebrate the many beautiful and varied forms of wild fauna and flora and to raise awareness of the multitude of benefits that their conservation provides to people. WCS Nigeria joined the rest of the world on 3rd March 2020 to celebrate this year's World Wildlife Day with the theme 'Sustaining All Life on Earth' encompassing all wild animal and plant species as key components of world biodiversity. Schools and community leaders were invited to Okwabang community to conduct a rally against threats to wildlife in Boki. The emphasis was on Cross River gorilla and other local wildlife species. These activities motivated local communities to take action to protect endangered species.



Four communities meetings were organized this quarter to discuss current conservation problems in Mbe. One of the purposes of the meetings was to link the on-going protection work in Mbe, conservation education and alternative livelihoods as one program aiming to achieve overall WCS goal. Many issues about landlessness and lack of job opportunities for youths were raised by the people of Bamba community. In respond to that, WCS education staff enjoined the people to adjust and manage existing farmlands to avoid encroachment into Mbe Mountains. The importance and benefits of conservation for present and future generations was highlighted.



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