

ERuDeF Newsletter

Conserving wildlife and protecting fragile environments

No. 007 of Saturday, May 30th, 2009

Volume 2, Issue 5

ERuDeF's Forest Protection Fund is Born!

By Louis Nkembi, ERuDeF, Box 189 Buea, Cameroon

The long term supporters of the Environment and Rural Development Foundation (ERuDeF) will like to know that ERuDeF is a dynamic organization that is building up extensive experience in initiating and implementing integrated conservation and development programs in Cameroon.

ERuDeF's aim is to conserve wildlife and protect fragile environments in partnership with local communities in Cameroon. ERuDeF is a leading proponent in developing community-based modeling approaches to biodiversity management in Cameroon. ERuDeF is at the heart of the development of the first-ever community management model for the conservation of great apes (gorillas and chimpanzees) in Cameroon. We believe that this model involving the creation of the first-ever indigenous Forest Protection Fund, will be eventually replicated to other areas of biodiversity hotspots in Cameroon and Africa.

As ERuDeF's geographic outreach is expanding, our knowledge and experiences are permitting us to increase our productivity and in the delivery of conservation programs. ERuDeF's brand of community biodiversity management is growing in terms of its national recognition especially after partnering with Fauna and Flora International, Tusk Trust, WWF and African Conservation Foundation.

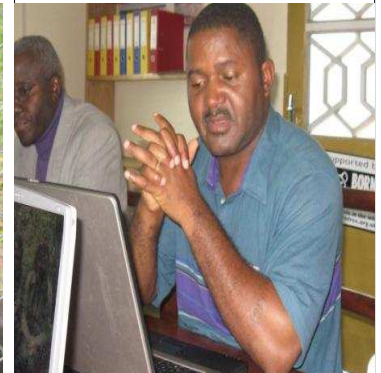
In order to continue with our programs and expand our scope of intervention, there is emerging a real need for long term financial planning. As we are getting



Nyango (standing), the only surviving Cross River Gorilla at the Limbe Wildlife Center.

nearer to our 10th anniversary of creation and looking forward towards the next decades and beyond, we are working to establish a long term financial base for our organization. The Trustees of ERuDeF, recently launched the Forest Protection Fund, an innovative locally developed indigenous conservation trust fund to achieve this long term goal. This trust fund is known as the "Cameroon Indigenous People's Fund for Conservation and Development (CIPFCoD)" or simply the "Forest Protection Fund". CIPFCoD mission is to reconcile biodiversity management with poverty alleviation through provision of the vital finances to support local community alternative livelihoods and community based conservation. ERuDeF doesn't intend to make this a separate organization but it will be an entity within ERuDeF. Its investment policy will be placed on the growth of capital and its preservation.

Continue on page...3



Louis Nkembi, President/CEO ERuDeF

Inside this issue:

ERuDeF's Forest Protection Fund is born!.....	1
ERuDeF Holds its First 2009 Quarter Meeting.....	2
Is ERuDeF willing to compensate forest adja-	2
ERuDeF Forest Protection Fund is born!.....	3
The necessity of Forest Dynamics study.....	4
Socio-economic surveys in Upper-	5



ERuDeF holds its First 2009 Quarter Meeting (4/05/2009)

ERuDeF's 2009 first quarter meeting was held at its Malingo Street Office -Buea. The meeting ran from the 4th-6th of May 2009. Key persons involved in this meeting were ERuDeF staff and interns with the meeting facilitated by the CEO. The main aim of the meeting was to look into the different components activities carried out during the past 4 months and plan for the next quarter activities. Topics of day 3 dulated on presentations, evaluation of staff and interns and staff issues. The first presentation was done by Benedicta Sainge on the proposed Mount Bamboutos Reforestation Project a joint collaborative effort of the Government of Cameroon, Tress for the Future (TFTF) USA and ERuDeF. The main goal of this project is to rehabilitate the Mt Bamboutos forest and its ecosystems, ensure its sustainable management and equally improve on the livelihoods of the local people living

on the slops of the mountain.

Some of the specific objectives of this project were; to rehabilitate degraded forest on the mountain slope through reforestation and to build the capacity of local people on sustainable forest management. Some anticipated outcomes of the project include; improving farmers' income through improved agro-forestry, creation and training of Forest Management Committees and tree nurseries established. Another presentation on development of the community model for gorilla conservation in the Bechati-Fossimondi-Besali Forest was done by Louis Nkempi, CEO of ERuDeF.

High lights of this presentation involved the stakeholders concerned in the model. Major stakeholders identified were Forest Management Committees, Forest Management Councils, local communities, Chiefs, MIN-FOF and ERuDeF with defined roles

Staff were drilled on writing reports on seminars, workshops, meetings and on writing funding proposals. Other discussions in the meeting focused on staff issues. Matters like harmonization of field expenditures, production of field reports and creation of a Business and development unit for fundraising were elaborated upon.

The meeting came to an end with all staff and Interns provided with evaluation forms to evaluate themselves based on their activities executed for the past quarter.

By Efuet Betehndoh

Is ERuDeF Willing to Compensate Forest Adjacent Communities in Lebialem Division as a Means of Replacing What They Lose?

ERuDeF has for the past couple of years been meeting human needs as a means to a conservation end. It is for this reason that, its socio-economic team has for the past two months been working with the hunters relentlessly, to diagnose some of the reasons, why they chose hunting to be their sole occupation. To some it is an inheritance from their fathers while others said poverty led them into it. Two questions immediately emanated from my mind. They included:

Which conservation strategy can be really effective to halt/reduce the destruction of endangered species?

Will the local communities accept to restrain themselves from using natural resources (loss of free access), which they are born with, without



Bee keeping project for hunters in the Lebialem-Mone Forest Landscape (LMFL)

having alternatives that will replace and improve economic gain of their livelihoods?

These questions sound challenging but it goes a long way to confirm that alternatives had always been given to the hunters and this time around, one

of the panacea (cure) to their plight is beekeeping. As a Chinese man would always say "Teach me how to grow rice and don't give me rice to eat". Honey, the natural food of the honeybee, has many times been described as man's sweetest source of income hence the phrase "honey is money." Honey could be collected from tree branches, hollows and crevices but during the training more emphasis was laid on the conventional method of hive construction, particularly the Kenyan Top Bar Hive (KTBH). The use of modern method of harvesting was equally stressed unlike the local method where the bees are burnt with fire hence producing low quality honey.

By Asong Gladys

ERuDeF's Forest Protection Fund is Born! Con't

In order to continue with our programs and expand our scope of intervention, there is emerging a real need for long term financial planning. As we are getting nearer to our 10th anniversary since creation and looking forward towards the next decades and beyond, we are working to establish a long term financial base for our organization. The Trustees of ERuDeF, recently launched the Forest Protection Fund, an innovative locally developed indigenous conservation trust fund to achieve this long term goal. This trust fund is known as the "Cameroon Indigenous People's Fund for Conservation and Development (CIPFCoD)" or simply the "Forest Protection Fund". CIPFCoD mission is to reconcile biodiversity management with poverty alleviation through provision of the vital finances to support local community alternative livelihoods and community based conservation. ERuDeF doesn't intend to make this a separate organization but it will be an entity within ERuDeF. Its investment policy will be placed on the growth of capital and its preservation.

The principal aim of the income from the Forest Protection Fund is to support charitable activities of ERuDeF especially in poverty alleviation, sustainable community development programs and community conservation activities of the forest adjacent local forest management institutions and secondly to cover the administrative and staff cost base of the organization.

We are confident that the creation of the Forest Protection Fund will permit ERuDeF to be more effective and credible in its work by increasing our conservation profile, scope and size of our activities. It is helping us to become more transparent, visible and accountable in the delivery of our



Louis, speaking at the Buea Forest Protection Fund 3rd Annual General Meeting

activities in rural areas where our conservation projects are based and in the pursuit of our funds raising efforts. In real sense, the Forest Protection Fund will ensure the long term existence of ERuDeF and its work beyond the next 100 years.

The Forest Protection Fund is aimed at bringing long term support to ERuDeF's conservation programs. Given ERuDeF's average ratio of 90% of net income going directly to the field, a donation to the Forest Protection Fund will be seen as an investment whose value is multiplied several times over as it permanently enables and strengthens ERuDeF's ability to support its programs and continue to raise funds yearly where most of the funds will be directed to the field. The management of the Forest Protection Fund is 50% dominated by women reflecting the importance of women in forest adjacent communities. The local base of this Fund constitutes 2000 small and marginal forest adjacent peasants. Since the initiation of the Forest Protection Fund, we have been able to raise over US\$4000 from local community sources. The Fund has been able to support 20 forest adjacent groups comprising of hunters/trappers and farmers to implement ecologically sustainable projects.

The Environment and Rural Development Foundation (ERuDeF) is a Cameroon non-profit founded in 1999 and dedicated to the conservation of wildlife and protection of fragile environments. ERuDeF's core programs include Biodiversity conservation, Forest Landscape Restoration including agroforestry, Conservation finance including micro-finance, Education, Social sciences, Eco-tourism, Climate change & sustainable development, Geographical Information Systems (GIS), Institute of Biodiversity and Non-profit Studies and International Field Course on Biodiversity Conservation and Great Ape Tracking. ERuDeF is headquartered in Buea and with a Regional Field Office in Menjebalelem Division.

In case you would need to have more details on the Forest Protection Fund or perhaps make a contribution to the Fund, and/or other ERuDeF's programs do not hesitate to contact our head office @ erudef@yahoo.com or lnkemi@yahoo.com

ERuDeF's Forest Protection Fund is Born! Con't

In order to continue with our programs and expand our scope of intervention, there is emerging a real need for long term financial planning. As we are getting nearer to our 10th anniversary since creation and looking forward towards the next decades and beyond, we are working to establish a long term financial base for our organization. The Trustees of ERuDeF, recently launched the Forest Protection Fund, an innovative locally developed indigenous conservation trust fund to achieve this long term goal. This trust fund is known as the "Cameroon Indigenous People's Fund for Conservation and Development (CIPFCoD)" or simply the "Forest Protection Fund". CIPFCoD mission is to reconcile biodiversity management with poverty alleviation through provision of the vital finances to support local community alternative livelihoods and community based conservation. ERuDeF doesn't intend to make this a separate organization but it will be an entity within ERuDeF. Its investment policy will be placed on the growth of capital and its preservation.

The principal aim of the income from the Forest Protection Fund is to support charitable activities of ERuDeF especially in poverty alleviation, sustainable community development programs and community conservation activities of the forest adjacent local forest management institutions and secondly to cover the administrative and staff cost base of the organization.

We are confident that the creation of the Forest Protection Fund will permit ERuDeF to be more effective and credible in its work by increasing our conservation profile, scope and size of our activities. It is helping us to become more transparent, visible and accountable in the delivery of our



Louis, speaking at the Buea Forest Protection Fund 3rd Annual General Meeting

activities in rural areas where our conservation projects are based and in the pursuit of our funds raising efforts. In real sense, the Forest Protection Fund will ensure the long term existence of ERuDeF and its work beyond the next 100 years.

The Forest Protection Fund is aimed at bringing long term support to ERuDeF's conservation programs. Given ERuDeF's average ratio of 90% of net income going directly to the field, a donation to the Forest Protection Fund will be seen as an investment whose value is multiplied several times over as it permanently enables and strengthens ERuDeF's ability to support its programs and continue to raise funds yearly where most of the funds will be directed to the field. The management of the Forest Protection Fund is 50% dominated by women reflecting the importance of women in forest adjacent communities. The local base of this Fund constitutes 2000 small and marginal forest adjacent peasants. Since the initiation of the Forest Protection Fund, we have been able to raise over US\$4000 from local community sources. The Fund has been able to support 20 forest adjacent groups comprising of hunters/trappers and farmers to implement ecologically sustainable projects.

The Environment and Rural Development Foundation (ERuDeF) is a Cameroonian non-profit founded in 1999 and dedicated to the conservation of wildlife and protection of fragile environments. ERuDeF's core programs include Biodiversity conservation, Forest Landscape Restoration including agro-forestry, Conservation finance including micro-finance, Education, Social sciences, Eco-tourism, Climate change & sustainable development, Geographical Information Systems (GIS), Institute of Biodiversity and Non-profit Studies and International Field Course on Biodiversity Conservation and Great Apes Tracking. ERuDeF is headquartered in Buea and with a Regional Field Office in Menji, Lebalem Division.

In case you would need to have more details on the Forest Protection Fund or perhaps make a contribution to the Fund, and/or other ERuDeF's programs do not hesitate to contact our head office @ erudef@yahoo.com or lnkemb@yahoo.com



A locally supported wildlife domestication project in Fossimondi,



A local field Assistant identifying a gorilla nest in Bokwa forest,

The Necessity of Forest Dynamics Study

Forest fragmentation is dangerous to wildlife, as wildlife habitat patches are eventually fragmented. This in turn causes the area available for wildlife to decrease dramatically. The creation of more edges may favor some species (smaller animals) leading to population explosions, but this is detrimental to species whose habitat requires large buffers and intact forest interiors. According to the (National Wildlife Federation), altering patch composition and configuration, fragmentation can disrupt migration patterns, species dispersion and gene flow. However, through the study of the interaction of population trees and the environment (forest dynamics), this change in patch composition and configuration can be buffered through forest corridors connecting patches of suitable habitats which allows plants and wildlife to move between one patch and the other thus enhancing survivorship (Turner et al, 2001)

The process that determines the plant species diversity and structure of tropical forest is known to have few common species and many rare species. The potentials for inter and intra-specific interactions are numerous,

and it is difficult to determine which factors maintain species diversity or how rare species survive.

The physical environment, species specific physiological requirements for light, nutrients and water necessary for growth, survival and reproduction, past history of the forest, pathogens are some of the factors that are believed to contribute to the composition and structure of tropical forest.

Despite the substantial amount of information available about these factors, we are still unable to predict its future response to humans and natural disturbances.

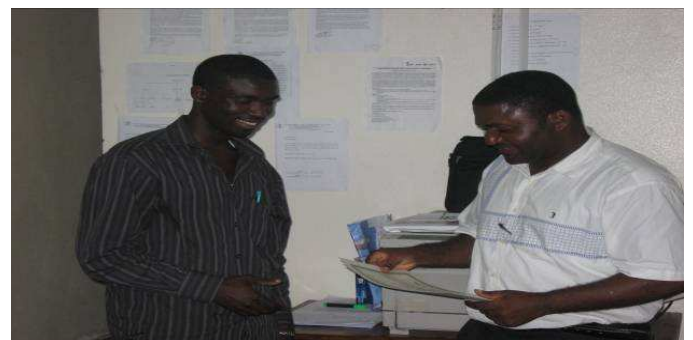
In attempt to properly understand and predict what will happen in the future as a result of increased settlement vis a vis climate change, we have to understand as much as possible the dynamics of the forest such that the data so obtained will be used to design predictive models and based on the outcome, best practices to sustain and improve forest products ad services (such as: timber and other forest) are carried out effectively.

By Mefor Halle & Neba Kingsly

ERuDeF Sends Off its First Batch of Interns

The Laureates were **Mefor Halle, Dubila Appoline, Sainghe Benedicta, Odette Nchanji, and Neba Kingsly**. The interns worked under the Botany, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Climate Change and Communication Departments. ERuDeF CEO during the occasion, said the interns completed a six month capacity building programme on project writing, ethics and dynamics of fundraising, Field studies, career development, etc.

"I think the six months the interns spent here was a fairly good period for them.



Louis awards a certificate to Neba Kingsley



ERuDeF President/CEO (3rd person from the left) poses with laureates

They had a lot to learn and I am happy that they are able to demonstrate that they could work under very stressful and tight conditions,” said Nkempi.

He said the internship period is not a guarantee for employment.

“The internship is not a job placement but just a training programme. It has helped them to develop team spirit and so on, said Nkempi.

The CEO stated that some of the skillful interns will be integrated into the organization, while the others will have to create vacancies for incoming interns. Other outstanding workers of ERuDeF were also awarded certificates of recognition.

Elvis Tah (culled from The Post Newspaper)

Socio-Economic Surveys in Upper-Bayang

In the months of April and May, ERuDeF’s socio-economic team carried out social research in five villages (Numba, Mbeme, Nchinda, Bakumba and Tafu) in Upper-Bayang subdivision which is part of the Bechati-Mone Forest Corridor. Important objectives of the survey were; to assess and prioritize the alternative livelihoods of the villagers who are very much involved in activities detrimental to the health of the forest (great ape habitat), to estimate the impact and dependence of rural farming population in the adjacent villages on the gorilla forest habitat, to estimate the hunting population and their impact on the biological resources base of the Bechati-Mone forest Corridor, to conduct an ethno botanical study for the area.

The team during the surveys did not find things easy getting information regarding socio-economic involvement

of the communities in respect to the forest in general and wildlife in particular. The local peoples’ reluctance could be explained by the fear that the law might befall them. However the team was able to make several observations and extract information from Nchinda, Bakumba and Tafu. Information revealed the presence of gorillas in the forest area ranging from Mile 30 right up to Etoko mile 18, which is shared between Nchinda, Bakumba, Tafu and Egbemoh villages. While in the area, news was gotten that a hunter from another village called Manta was arrested for having shot an ape (specific species still in doubts).

The area is a major area where bush meat trade is prominent especially among Amiebesu, Manto and Manta villages which are contiguous to the Mone Forest Reserve and also harbors the greatest number of hunters in the region.



Bush meat trade in Upper-Bayang



Community meeting in Bakumba

By Efuet Taleih Atem



ERuDeF President/CEO (3rd person from the left) poses with laureates

They had a lot to learn and I am happy that they are able to demonstrate that they could work under very stressful and tight conditions,” said Nkempi.

He said the internship period is not a guarantee for employment.

“The internship is not a job placement but just a training programme. It has helped them to develop team spirit and so on, said Nkempi.

The CEO stated that some of the skillful interns will be integrated into the organization, while the others will have to create vacancies for incoming interns. Other outstanding workers of ERuDeF were also awarded certificates of recognition.

Elvis Tah (culled from The Post Newspaper)

Socio-Economic Surveys in Upper-Bayang

In the months of April and May, ERuDeF's socio-economic team carried out social research in five villages (Numba, Mbeme, Nchinda, Bakumba and Tafu) in Upper-Bayang subdivision which is part of the Bechati-Mone Forest Corridor. Important objectives of the survey were; to assess and prioritize the alternative livelihoods of the villagers who are very much involved in activities detrimental to the health of the forest (great ape habitat), to estimate the impact and dependence of rural farming population in the adjacent villages on the gorilla forest habitat, to estimate the hunting population and their impact on the biological resources base of the Bechati-Mone forest Corridor, to conduct an ethno botanical study for the area.

The team during the surveys did not find things easy getting information regarding socio-economic involvement

of the communities in respect to the forest in general and wildlife in particular. The local peoples' reluctance could be explained by the fear that the law might befall them. However the team was able to make several observations and extract information from Nchinda, Bakumba and Tafu. Information revealed the presence of gorillas in the forest area ranging from Mile 30 right up to Etoko mile 18, which is shared between Nchinda, Bakumba, Tafu and Egbemoh villages. While in the area, news was gotten that a hunter from another village called Manta was arrested for having shot an ape (specific species still in doubts).

The area is a major area where bush meat trade is prominent especially among Amiebesu, Manto and Manta villages which are contiguous to the Mone Forest Reserve and also harbors the greatest number of hunters in the region.



Bush meat trade in Upper-Bayang



Community meeting in Bakumba

By Efuet Taleih Atem

UP COMING EVENT

♦ International Field Course/Expedition on Great Apes Conservation and Tracking; 14th July-8th August 2009

This Course is a two to four week course aimed at building conservation interest in individuals, undergraduates and graduate students with no background in conservation but who wish to take up careers in the art of biodiversity conservation with focus on great apes.

The objectives of this course are; to train a new generation of future scientists both national and international on great apes research and wildlife tracking methods, to provide practical field experience to participants in the field of wildlife conservation, and to conduct a regular bio-monitoring of gorillas and chimpanzees in their natural habitat.

Enrollment to the course requires that participants at the course should have at least some level of university education. However enthusiastic pre-university and high school students could equally enroll.

Participants will have the opportunity to meet with wildlife field scientists and species and will at the end of the course, be awarded a 'certificate of participation'.

Major course highlights include; training workshop on basic techniques of wildlife monitoring, tracking and identification, workshop on primatological survey methods, a social program including excursions to Limbe and the Limbe Wildlife Center (LWC).

♦ Ethics, Politics and Dynamics of Fundraising in Conservation and Development. August 20th-30th, 2009.

For more inquiries contact ERuDeF Head office situated at:

NYENTY BUILDING APPARTMENT # 2
BEHIND JOB SHOP STOREY BUILDING
MALINGO STREET, MOLYKO-BUEA

CELL : 99 12 29 04

75 43 32 07

EMAIL : info_erudef@yahoo.com

E RuDeF Newsletter

Publisher

Eric Akemnda

Executive Editor

Nkempi Louis

Editor -in -chief

Philip Fomenky

Coordinating Editor

Funge Diffang

Desk Editors

Limbu Grace

Robin Achah

Design and Layout

Efuet Taleih Atem

This newsletter is financially supported by:



