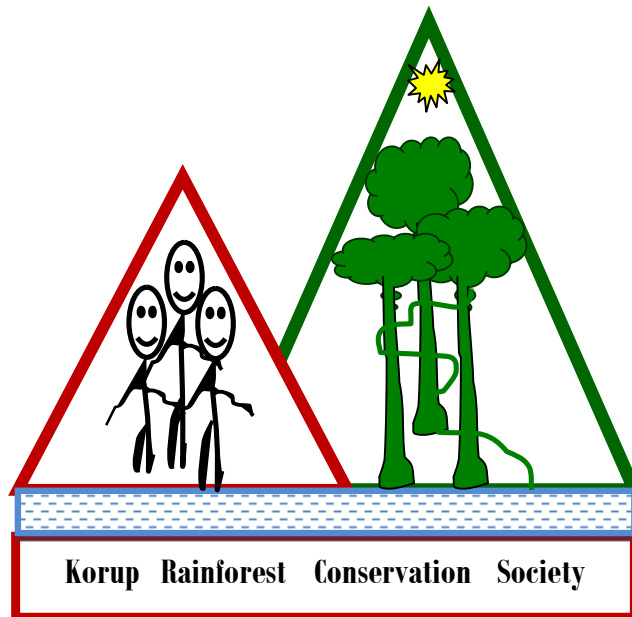


KORUP RAINFOREST CONSERVATION SOCIETY



K.R.C.S.

...Involving Local People for a Greener Future.

Authorisation N°: 04/G40/606/AR/BASC/SP

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2010

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Introduction

The Korup Rainforest Conservation Society was founded in September 2009 by a group of indigens from the Korup National Park area in order to collectively address some apparently burning issues plaguing the park management and the stakeholders including communities which were later highlighted in a conflict and sensitization workshop organized by the park management in November 2009 such as;

- Insufficient participation of locals in conservation activities of the park.
- Insufficient benefits of local communities from park management.
- Wide communication gap between park Management and local communities resulting in conflicts.
- Antagonistic relation between park service and peripheral zone communities.
- Vandalism on park property by local communities.
- Insufficient information flow and conservation education around local communities.
- Wide gap between park users (researchers, tourists etc.) with local communities.
- Disorganised and indiscriminate recruitment of research assistants/guides resulting to some assistants later going to the park as poachers..
- Absence of a reservoir of service providers for conservation partners around Korup.
- Insufficient involvement of civil society in the park management.
- High pressure on park resources due to the absence of alternative livelihood activities in local communities.

KRCS therefore seeks to redress some of these issues in its activities and this annual report therefore shall cover the period as from January 2010 upto December 2010. It should also be noted that though an ambitious workplan had been set up for 2010, the legalization process took so long and left us only with a few months for implementation. Nevertheless, a few results were registered and the report has been divided into Four (4) sections per the objectives as follows;

I – General Administration and Finance.

II – Locals involvement in Research assistantship and training.

III – Sensitisation and Conservation educations in local communities.

IV – Conservation/development initiatives for livelihood improvement.

V – Conclusions and Recommendations.

I – General Administration and Finance

- A major change was effected by the general assembly, in the management of the organization following advise from the Senior divisional officer for Ndiang during the legalization process. The post of coordinator is now occupied by Miss Nakongi Lydia while the former programme coordinator ; Mr Orume Robinson is now acting as the programme adviser.
- Four (4) general assembly meetings were held.
- Eight (8) executive meetings were convened and held including the 2010 evaluation and 2011 participatory activities planning meeting.

- Interested members list stands at about fifty five (57) with just 16 already registered.
- Negotiations for office space are still ongoing and success is apparent.
- Fifty (20) information leaflets were produced and distributed to some villages and our partners.
- Production of the organization's sign board has just been completed and installation is pending office space arrangement.
- Contact tours were organized to some partners (DED, WWF-Korup and Korup Park service) for information on our legalization, objectives and sensitization.
- Five honorary members have been confirmed their status since legalization and they include;

Honorary Member*	Profession	Present position	Date of confirmation
Dr. Christos Astaras	Conservation Biologist	Post-doctoral researcher, Oxford university, UK	15/10/2010
Dr. Xander van der Burgt	Botanist	Royal botanic gardens, Kew, UK	26/09/2010
Dr. Baya Lawrence	Conservation biologist/GIS	Researcher, Calgary zoo, Canada	04/10/2010
Mr. Okenye Mambo	Forester	SW regional coordinator, GTZ Buea, Cameroon	10/11/2010
Mr. Okon David Tiku	Biologist	WWF site manager	10/11/2010
Dr. Joshua Linder	Conservation Biologist	Lecturer, University of Virginia, USA	11/01/2011

*Honorary members shall not take part in the day to day running of the organization but shall be contacted for advisory and/or other roles.

- Membership Registration fees for the year stand at **2000FCFA**
- **Green contributions** from members either executing jobs or from per diems have stood at **41,950** for the year.
- **Total revenue for the year 2010 have been 43950**
- **Balance as of Decemeber 2009 stood at 23450**
- **Approved expenditure on functioning (with receipts) has amounted to 23450**
- **The total amount in the cuffers by December 31st 2010 therefore stands at 43950FCA.**

II - Locals involvement in Research assistantship and training.

- Three (3) KRCS members were invited and trained in report writing skills by the PSMNR-SWR under the direct supervision of the German development service (DED)

- Research institutions and partners have been contacted and establishment of MoUs is ongoing. However some Two (2) of our members have been involved from time to time in biomonitoring activities of the Korup Park.
- KRCS was invited and participated in a research inception workshop of the Cameroon Environmental Watch (CEW) research project under the auspices of the Universities of Dschang, Yaounde I in Cameroon and Gottingen in Germany to be based in the north peripheral zone of KNP.

III – Sensitisation and Conservation education

- KRCS was involved in a weeklong sensitization of some 22 target villages on the Gazettement process of the Mundemba Council Forest organized by GTZ.
- Sensitisation on our part has also involved the distribution of our information leaflets to some villages and some important partners.
- Some KRCS members have been participating in the process of sensitization and creation of Village forest management committees in and around the KNP.

IV. Conservation/Development initiatives for livelihood improvement

- 1 of our members executed contracts on land use planning under the Programme for Sustainable Management of Natural Resources for the southwest region PSMNR-SWR.
- KRCS participated in a one day public dialogue in Buea on the EIA report of HERACLES FARMS (SITHE GLOBAL); an agroindustrial initiative (on oilpalm) hoped to be established in Mundemba/Toko subdivisions and around Nguti. By the end of the meeting it was apparent that the said project promoter unlike the MINFOF/GTZ team was not willing or unable to disclose its clear agenda or any strategic plan of action making it impossible therefore for any realistic dialogue. Nevertheless, an important proposal raised in the meeting by the MINFOF team was that the project should consider and only supplement all already existing development initiatives in their target area rather than duplicate resources.
- KRCS participated in another public dialogue in Mundemba on the EIA report of COSMOS Energy, a petroleum exploration project earmarked for Bongo in Ndian.

V. Conclusions and Recommendations

By the end of 2010, not much has been realized from our plan of action due to the delays in our legalisation process though the problem of lack of means cannot overemphasize. Nevertheless there is an increasing awareness of the existence of the KRCS and willingness to join and/or support the ideals we stand for on the part of our target populations and especially the honorary members. We shall not relent our resolve to fish for such support from our target communities and partners so as to ensure the effective realization of our objectives in the future. For 2010 our strong resolve is to encourage more local support for eco-friendly development initiatives and continue to always mobilize local communities to stand against and protest all forms of especially land grabbing project that have degrading effects on our forest and potential demerits on climate change.