

Know Your Rights to use Non Timber Forest Products.

1. The politics of forestry law emphasizes participatory forest management.
2. The local populations as principal users are the most important actors in this participatory management process.
3. The local population has the user rights to collect NTFPs around their forest in a sustainable way (except protected species) but not persons from other villages or countries.
4. The law provides that you cannot transport NTFPs (bush mango, njansang etc) to any destination even for personal use without a permit BUT around Korup a limit of 20KG is allowed to transport AROUND Mundemba.
5. The transport permit cost 10F/kg for NTFP above 20kg.
6. You do not need any tax to collect NTFPs as an indigen of a village due to your user rights.
7. If you sell NTFPs in a local market you should pay the council tax.
8. Special permits are needed for exportation of NTFPs (Category A to D ranging from 20,000F to 100000FCFA).
9. The PSMNR-SWR plans to help villages collect NTFPs from the village forest and organise the sales at good prices.
10. Report all harassments to your MINFOF divisional delegate.

NO MORE
HARRASEMENT
FROM FORESTRY
OFFICIALS

KRCS-SOMBO NEWS LETTER is a quarterly publication of our Action For Primates Conservation project. The editorial team includes;

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FUNDED BY:



A New Baby is Born for Conservation !

The **Korup Rainforest Conservation Society** (KRCS) is a community based NGO founded in 2009. Its 40 members; mostly indigenes from the Korup area (Chiefs, graduates, hunters etc.) are committed to safeguarding the integrity of the rich biodiversity in Korup National Park and surrounding forest areas while also promoting livelihood improvement initiatives for the forest dependent local communities. We hope to bridge the communication and benefit-sharing gaps between the park service and local communities. Our objectives are;

- Environmental protection through conservation advocacy.
- Promoting local participation in park management activities and training.
- Promoting sustainable livelihood improvement initiatives for local people.

In just three years, KRCS has made positive steps in the right direction. Most importantly, KRCS is enjoying the recognition and support of the Korup Park service, its conservation and development partners as well as the local communities.

Join us save Korup and guarantee your children's future !



Mission Statement

...Involving Local people for a greener future

Killer Facts

- Korup has one of the highest species of primates in Africa.
- High rate of poaching threatens the survival of species in Korup.
- Volumes of forest products from Korup illegally end up in neighboring Nigeria.
- 70000 hectares of primary forest around korup is sadly being converted into oil palm plantation with obvious impacts.
- Crop and human lives loss from wild animals may undermine conservation/development efforts in the short term.



The Drill—Sombo

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Managing Korup National Park Together with all villages. The New Approach!

Like never before, all people living around the Korup park now have more roles to play and gains in the management of the park.

This is possible, thanks to the new **Collaborative Management** approach of the Programme for Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Southwest Region (PSMNR-SWR) phase II (2011-2016). The new approach uses a **Conservation Development Agreements (CDA)** tool to be signed between the park and each of the 32 target villages in and around Korup.

As partners, villagers and the park service shall together plan and carry out activities in the park based on the CDA. To ensure that people don't move too far to carry out activities, villages have been grouped into 6 clusters. Each cluster shall have its area of intervention called a Cluster Conservation Zone (CCZ). Cluster facilitators have been employed to link the villages and their clusters to the park service.

The CDA shall be signed after some 7 important steps.

1. **Debriefing meeting** involving all villages held in Mundemba (February 2012).
2. **Cluster sensitization** meeting in each cluster.
3. **Village sensitization** meeting plus a short **Agro-socioecological assessment (ASEA)** in each village.
4. **Negotiation** on the CDA content.
5. **Preparation** of the CDA document.
6. **Signing** of the CDA document by the conservator and the village representative (Chief).
7. **Implementation** of the CDA document.

During implementation of the CDA, villagers will gain the following;

- A) **Cash payments** for work done in the park.
- B) **Conservation Credits** recorded by the park as village contribution for development projects later on.
- C) **Conservation Bonus** paid to each village for their cooperation every 1 year, to be used for identified village development projects.

Based on the ASEA other projects shall include;

- Training on improved agriculture.
- Introduction of improved crop varieties (e.g. cassava, cocoa and oil palm)
- Organised collection and sales of bush mango.
- Infrastructure project (Water, motorbike roads etc.)

"As partners, villagers and the park service shall together plan and carry out activities in the park based on the CDA"



Planting 5 cassava varieties, Esukutan

PSMNR-SWR is a cooperation between the governments of Cameroon and Germany. The programme is run through the Ministry of forestry and wildlife (MINFOW) with other partners such as GFA, GIZ, WWF and WCS. **PSMNR is conservation focused and cannot meet all our needs. Other government ministries can help us with other village development needs.**

SAD NEWS ! Two persons killed by wild animals around Korup. in 2012.

About 5:30 am on that 'black' 31st of October 2012 ex-park ranger Mr. Nikobo Davidson was brutally attacked by an elephant. Attack occurred in his farm about 2 Km from the southern park boundary. He crawled for rescue but died hours later in hospital after loosing much blood from severe injuries from the elephant's tusk. In his late 40s he left a wife and 6 children in the cold.

An earlier incident in the North west of the park, involved a forest buffalo that brutally attacked and instantly killed Mr. Otup Cletus on the 12th of March this year. He was also attacked in his farm at Ekoneman-ojong village, close to the park boundary. He also died leaving behind a pregnant wife and tender children.

Really sad indeed! Two deaths in a single year coupled with increasing cases of crop damage by buffalos and elephants calls for serious concern. The Korup National Park services has contacted MINFOW Yaoundé for solutions.



Nikobo's family with KRCS

Following each incident, KRCS visited both families with a condolence message and financial package totalling **360000FCFA**. We thank all our supporters.

KRCS Wins 2012 Conservation Leadership Programme (CLP) Award.

The Action for Primates (AFP) Conservation Project, in Korup National Park happens to be the first project to scale through the prestigious CLP award in Cameroon. This is thanks to the existence of a rich pool of 14 primates (monkeys) in Korup though their survival is threatened by hunting for bush meat.

The 1 year AFP project aims at improving local knowledge and ultimately changing conservation attitudes with special focus on primates. Focus on Primate because they are closely related to us human and they are easily killed by hunters.

We are using football as a tool to build trust and friendships between villagers and the park's law enforcement staff who are often seen as enemies. Environmental clubs are also created and made functional in our target villages schools. So far, Erat and Ekon I have been our pilot villages with much success recorded. We plan to extend to other villages in the months ahead such Esukutan, Bera, Ikenge etc.

Cash, farming tools, jerseys, and school materials have been handed to each village as football prizes and donations by the park rangers.

The korup park and the PSMNR-SWR have



Chimpanzee one of our target species



Football for Primates at Ekon I village

been very supportive of our activities.

Increased populations of Monkeys can attract revenue and jobs from tourism and research.

Local communities remain important partners to achieve such dreams.

The team leader Mr Orume Robinson is a local from the area and is positive that less conflicts between rangers and communities will make way for better law enforcement coverage around the park, thereby reducing the hunting pressure. Nevertheless, joint and sustained effort is needed between the park and local communities.

News from Korup National Park.

Seasonal constraints such as poor roads and flooded rivers slow down the progress of park activities. Nevertheless, the park team is doing all it can to come to your area. So we should not loose hope, they will come. So far;

- The local consultative committee meeting was held in June 2012.
- The management committee meeting held December 2012.
- Village forest management committees (VFMCs) have been created in 31 villages (Ikenge left)
- Sensitization meeting have been held in clusters A, D, E and F (C and B are left).
- Village sensitization meetings on the CDA have been held at Mossongiselli and Ikassa town. The

park is intensifying village sensitization meeting for all villages in 2013.

- Studies shall begin soon on the establishment of permanent use zones for Villages inside the park.
- Korup benefited over 300,000,000 CFAF from the Basket fund to rehabilitate research and tourist infrastructure.
- Mr Fotendong Ferdinand replaced Mr. Dongmo Pascal as conservator of Korup in September.
- Korup Park has intensified efforts towards trans-boundary cooperation with Cross-river National Park in Nigeria.
- The park's management plan (2009-2013) is due revision in 2013.