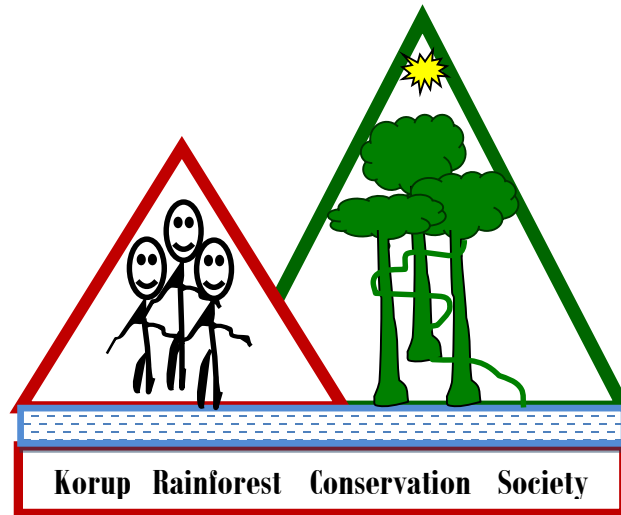


# KORUP RAINFOREST CONSERVATION SOCIETY



**K.R.C.S.**

*...Involving Local People for a Greener Future.*

## 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

### **K**ey Achievements

KRCS hold first ever enlarged general Assemble meeting in Mundemba and re-elect executive board.

KRCS change of Logo and Mission Statement come 1<sup>st</sup> Jan. 2017

PA Completes Australian Scholarship  
**And**  
KRCS launch 2 scholarship schemes

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*Compiled by:*

*Inyang Ambrose*

*Executive Secretary General, KRCS*



## Introduction

The Korup Rainforest Conservation Society was founded in September 2009 by a group of indigenes from the Korup National Park (KNP) area committed to collectively assist in addressing some apparently burning issues threatening the integrity of the rich biodiversity of the park. Through consultations with local communities, issues that had always been recurrent prior to 2009 included;

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

KRCS seeks to address some of these issues in its objectives and activities. This annual report is therefore reporting on our activities for the period of **January to December 2016**. So far, **positive strides are being made in the right direction** towards our resolve to building trust, mobilizing support from local communities and from our local and international conservation and development partners. Our interventions and achievements are reported here under the six sections as per our objectives;

- I. General Administration and Finance
- II. Locals' involvement in park management and Training.
- III. Sensitization through conservation advocacy and education in local communities.
- IV. Local Capacity Building
- V. Conservation/development initiatives for livelihood improvement.
- VI. Constraints, Conclusions and Recommendations

## **I. General Administration and Finance**

- Our Website was updated in content with the generous assistance and financial support from Denis Kuptch from Gottingen University. The website address is [www.korup-conservation.org](http://www.korup-conservation.org). The KRCS facebook account created in 2014 is also still running and was regularly updated at [koruprainforest@facebook.com](mailto:koruprainforest@facebook.com).
- Twelve (12) executive meetings were convened and held for monthly planning and discussions on thematic issues including the 2016 evaluation and 2017 activities planning.
- Five (5) general assembly meetings were held including an enlarged general assembly meeting. As from the 25<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> of November 2016, about 120 old and new KRCS members from all over Korup National Park (KNP) participated in this general assembly meeting. Following presentations, group discussion and question and answer sessions, the following were achieved during the meeting;
  - Better understanding of the mission and achievements so far by all its members.
  - Promotion and reinforcement of KRCS values and strengths (honesty, transparency, team spirit and commitment) amongst members.
  - Unanimous agreement of changes in Logo and vision statement of KRCS from "...Involving local people for a greener future" to "Grassroots Action for People and Wildlife".
  - Adoption of our updated 5 years strategic plan and financial/ administrative procedure manual.
  - A new KRCS executive was elected with new members into the different positions as follows;

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>
Programme Coordinator	Ekole Nelson Betobe
Programme Adviser	Orume Robinson Diotoh
Secretary General	Inyang Ambrose
Conservation Education Officer (CE)	Inyang Zacharie Ekpe
Assistant Conservation Education Officer	Eni Edward
Communications and Liaison Officer	Konja Namata
Research and Training Officer (RT)	Motale Trevor
Community Development Officer (CD)	Ngoleba Doh Ngoe
Assistant Community Development Officer	Nakonji Emile
Auditors	Ntumenta Wase
	Namolongo Elvis



*Newly elected KRCS executive board*



*KRCS members listen to presentations during enlarged GA*

- Interested members list stands at about seventy (105) with registered members increasing from 105 in 2015 to 120 in 2016 with members coming from over 20 out of 32 target communities.
- KRCS is still temporarily occupying the nearby rented location we moved in 2014 due to ongoing renovation work at the building donated to the group by the Korup park service at the tourist information centre.
- An equipment inventory was concluded in December 2016 and equipment included;

<b>Equipment</b>	<b>Qty</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Remark</b>
Wooden tables	02	In use	
Wooden shelves	02	In use	
Wooden glass cupboard	01	In use	
Wooden bench	01	In use	
Metallic Notice board	01	In use	
Dell computer screen	01	Still good	
Dell CPU	01	Still good	
HP deskjet printer	01	Bad	KRCs funds
HP scanner/printer	01	Obselete	
Cannon Photocopier N6317	01	Still used	Problematic
Camtel fixed phone*	01	Obselete	Used as internet modem
SINGSUNG 24" TV*	01	Good	For videos in villages
VCD player*	01	Good	„
Casio solar energy Calculator	01	Still good	
1500W Voltage regulator	01	Good	
Electrical distributors	02	Still used	
Staplers	02	In use	Giant, bad and Medium size still used
Nikon video camera + SD card*	01	Good	Still used
Canon Photocopier/printer	01	Problematic	Regular break downs
Complete HP destop	01	Still good	GIZ funding 2014
HP 3025 printer	01	Still good New	GIZ funding 2014
Benq Scanner	01	New Still good	GIZ funding 2014
UPS	02	Still good	GIZ funding 2014
Camtel internet modem	01	Still good	GIZ funding 2014
Workshop pin board	01	Still good	GIZ funding 2014
External hard drive	01	Still good	GIZ funding 2014

We also received additional field equipment from the PSMNR as part for field supplies for the bio-monitoring contract. The list of equipment are as follows;

<b>Item</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Condition</b>
Marmot tungsten 3 people's tent	2	OK
NRS green dry bag	5	OK
Marmot limelight 4 person's tents	4	OK
Green poncho	5	OK
Suunto compass	3	OK
Germin GPS map 64s	3	OK
Z-rest sleeping pad	8	OK
Rite-in-rain spiral note books	5	OK
Rite-in-rain bond note book	3	OK
Ben merdows all-weather orange notebook	2	OK
Petzl tikking headlamps for field teams	5	OK

Phantom aquatic dry bag	1	OK
Timex marathon watches for field teams	2	OK
Vortex day pech	3	OK
9x12 tarpaulin	2	OK
Rite-in- rain yellow spiral	3	OK
Western digital 2TB hard drive	2	OK
Rite-in- rain pens	5	OK
AA batteries for ARUs	384	OK

- The KRCS account established at Express union, Mundemba to avoid several expensive bank trips to Eco-bank, Kumba and the risk of cash handling by members is still in use.
- The volunteer Administrative and Financial Assistant (Mr. Sumbede Anthoine – BSc. Economics) who was recruited has maintain permanent presence at our office, provided clerical and accounting services and has also run our **outreach documentation project**.
- KRCS was invited and participated in the following meetings and workshops;
  - 
  - 30<sup>th</sup> May to 1<sup>st</sup> June 2016: Advanced GIS training for camara trap data analysis.
  - 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> July 2016, GIS and excel data management training organized by the PSMNR in Limbe.
  - July 2016: Participated in the consultations meeting for the elaboration of the KNP management plan.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> December. KRCS members participated in the REDD+ workshop on the identification and elaboration of REDD projects in the SW region organized by GIZ.
- Above 20 of our members were co-opted as local service provider's by researchers and for other park activities and complied with payments of their Green contributions (constitutionally accepted contribution of 15% kept aside for funding small activities and office running).
- Our **financial accounts** for the year stood as follows:

## REVENUE

Income	Amounts	Remark
<b>Balance brought forwards from 2015</b>	<b>89,850</b>	
<b>Membership Registration</b>	<b>97,500</b>	Some members completing
<b>Green Contributions from members' salaries involved in service delivery</b>	<b>1,831,675</b>	Members green contributions for participating Biomonitoring bushmeat price project (5% agreed since project conception), Gottengen university project (Denis kuptch) participation in Camera trapping and PSMNR biomonitoring
<b>Donations</b>	<b>727,100</b>	Namata Memorial scholarship and Darwin initiative donation
<b>Community outreach</b>	<b>276,000</b>	Documentation +sales of materials+survenirs
<b>Commitment Fee</b>	<b>4,000</b>	
<b>Service fees from PSMNR</b>	<b>540,000</b>	
<b>TOTAL INOME (FCFA)</b>	<b>3,626,125</b>	<b>Cash only</b>

## EXPENSES

Expenditure	Amount	Remarks
<b>Staff Salary</b>	<b>710,000</b>	Salary for FAA for 12 months
<b>Perdiem</b>	<b>95,000</b>	For KRCS activities only
<b>Refreshment</b>	<b>93,800</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> may, WED, post meetings etc.
<b>Community outreach</b>	<b>297,400</b>	Purchase of materials, printing of 50 1 <sup>st</sup> may Tshirts and tourists Tshirts
<b>Workshop</b>	<b>719,550</b>	General assembly meeting (food, transport and materials)
<b>Repairs of equipment</b>	<b>125000</b>	Photocopier became problematic, TV and video player
<b>Charity donation</b>	<b>55,000</b>	Contribution to death of conservation hero and Namata scholarship
<b>Office running</b>	<b>314,300</b>	<b>Transport, stationaries, bank trips, banking costs and communication, receipt production etc.</b>
<b>Communication</b>	<b>60,000</b>	
<b>Rents</b>	<b>90,000</b>	Paid in advance
<b>Namata Memorial scholarship</b>	<b>100,000</b>	Fees and support for basic needs

<b>KRCS contribution to CHICS</b>	<b>170,000</b>	I month of rents and transport of kids to villages
<b>TOTAL (FCFA)</b>	<b>2,830,050</b>	
<b>Balance carried forward</b>	<b>796,075</b>	

### Partner project funds managed and accounted for by KRCS in 2016

<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>Balance 2015</b>	<b>Received 2016</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Spent</b>	<b>BALANCE</b>
PSMNR-SW Funds for Acoustics	0	17,729,500	17,729,500	14,876,500	2,853,000 <sup>1</sup>
Rotary Club funds CHICS	0	849,540	849,540	849,540	0
PSMNR funds CMT/CDT , Korup	229,183	7,845,878	8,075,061	8,626,081	-551,020 <sup>2</sup>
PSMNR Funds for CHICS	0	3,500,000	3,500,000	3,500,000	0
PSMNR-SW Funds for Camera Trapping	0	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>229,183</b>	<b>31,424,918</b>	<b>31,654,101</b>	<b>29,352,121</b>	<b>2,301,980</b>

<sup>1</sup> Partner funds were spent on field operations and supplies, salaries of field staff, insurance/labor taxes contributions, target community incentive schemes and bank to cash transactions cost.

<sup>2</sup> Excess expenses made on behalf of donor partners shall be reimbursed in the following year of the project continuation. Surplus funds was as a result of 2 months without acoustic surveys due to the fact that ARU battery had not arrived.

### **II – Locals involvement in Park activities and training (Research, tourism and collaborative management activities).**

29<sup>th</sup> February to 13<sup>th</sup> May; Study abroad programme from University of Gotingen university students who received training from Denis Kuptch and our field teams on techniques used to access wildlife biodiversity in tropical forests and understand the most relevant conservation needs in KNP. In the course of this programme the following studies were also conducted with the help of KRCS field assistants;

- As from May to July 2016, Alexander Hofner conducted studies on the abundance of primates in the KNP using transects and also the perception of local communities.
- During the same period, Avaree Luhrs conducted pilot studies on the Pottos and Angwantibos in the KNP
- One other study focused on the population counts of parrots in the KNP area.



- Since January 2016 Six (6) KRCS members are still being fully employed and involved in a PSMNR-SWR bio-monitoring contract involving wildlife transect/receve surveys in KNP and collecting acoustic data using Acoustic recording units (ARUs).



*Our teams setup acoustic recording devices (ARUs)*

- KRCS members have been involved in camera trapping for the Tropical ecology and assessment network TEAM camera trapping and the PSMNR sponsored camera trapping array in the Korup National Park, Mbanyang Mbo and Mount Cameroon National Parks coordinated by Kelly Boeke.
- Two KRCS members have been fully contracted by the PSMNR since 2014 as the community development technician (CDT) and the co-management technician (CMT) respectively to assist the KNP in the Co-management approach. KRCS is managing all the contractual engagement while the KRCS members continue to pay their green contributions.

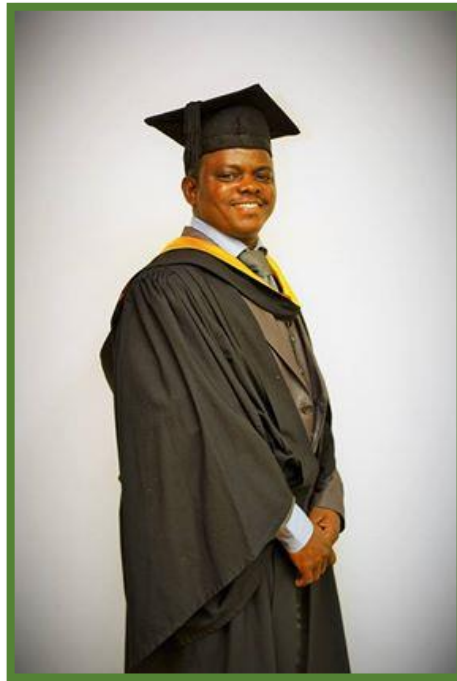
## **II. Sensitisation through Conservation advocacy and education**

- On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February KRCS ran a Campaign on world wetlands day in schools around Mundemba using posters and talks on the importance of wetlands.
- On the 30<sup>th</sup> of January and then on the 10<sup>th</sup> April 2016 respectively KRCS members, attended the annual tribal gathering of the NCUDA and BICUD and sensitised more than 25 local communities with crowds of above 500, on the some basic users right in the exploitation of some forest and wildlife products based on the Cameroonian forestry law.
- A match past for the environment for organized during the last labour day (1<sup>st</sup> May) celebrated in Mundemba.
- On a daily basis wildlife documentaries are used to sensitize visitors to our office at the KNP information centre.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> May, World biodiversity day commemorated with a general assemble sensitiastion meeting at our head office in Mundemba.

- During the funeral of one of our Conservation Icons in the area, KRCS presented a conservation talk to the large crowds present. KRCS also launched the “Namata Memorial Scholarship” to as a remembrance of his legacy.

#### IV. Capacity building

- Continuation of training of team member in wildlife monitoring data collection using line transects/recee and in Acoustic deployment of data from acoustic monitoring units.
- 30<sup>th</sup> May to 1<sup>st</sup> June 2016: Advanced GIS training for camera trap data analysis.
- 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> July 2016, GIS and excel data management training organized by the PSMNR in Limbe.
- The KRCS programme adviser also completed his scholarship from the Australian Awards to with a 2 years Master’s degree in Protected area management from James cook Uniersity in Australia (2015 to 2016)



*Orume Robinson (KRCS programme adviser) graduated from JCU, Australia.*

- KRCS mobilized funds and launched the Namata Memorial scholarship for undergraduate students from the korup region pursuing conservation related studies in any of the state universities. In honor of his legacy, for this pilot scheme, one applicant was selected by a mixed jury selected from the loal communities. Mr. Okatukisenwanamoto was selected as this years recipient who received the sum of 100,000FCA as fees and support for basic needs.



*Recipient (in green) amidst KRCS representative, father and Pa Namata's widow.*

- With seed funding from Rotary club of peace river, Canada, KRCs and PSMNR innitiated a scholarship scheme in support of vulnerable segments of communities living around Korup National Park. The Chimpanzee scholarship scheme (CHICS), is an offshoot of the collaborative management approach implemented by the KNP since 2011 and shall support about 50 less previledged kids from high impact communities through secondary and high schools for about 7 years, selected progressively in the next three (3) years. For this academic year, the goal has been to test the scheme in five (5) pilot communities (Erat, Ekon 1, Esukutan, Esoki and Mopako) and suport at most 10 kids; 2 per village. Together with the KNP, KRCS led sensitisation meetings in target villages during which potential candidate where selected and/or nominated by the communities themselves based on the following criteria;

- The age of the kid,
- Number of years since the kid completed primary school,
- The academic performance of the kid so far
- Number of parents still alive?
- The age, occupation and economic status of the parent/guardian

#### *Final selection of kids*

A 3 instead of 4 man committee met at the KNP headquarters on the 26<sup>th</sup> of November 2016. 10 kids (5 males and 5 females) were selected from the 13 kid's preselected based on careful scrutiny of past academic performance as well as personal and background information. The following 10 kids were selected for the 2016/2017 academic year;

VILLAGE	NAME OF BENEFICIARY	SEX
EKON I	Edet Winifred	Female
	Inyang Joseph Inyang	Male
EKON II(ERAT)	Ekpe Juliet Etta	Female
	Inyang Godswill	Male
ESOKI	Effim Mariana Mbenda	Female
	Namolongo Fabrice Itoe	Male
ESUKUTAN	Yango Hanna Mbese	Female
	Edonor Gideon Mebu	Male
MOPAKO	Andu Melani	Female
	Etongo Future Senase	Male

### *Kids commence schooling in Mundemba*

Following school registration formalities, signing of agreements between KNP, KRCS and their parents or guardians and distribution of school needs, the following were achieved in 2016;

- Kids effectively started school on the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016. For 2 weeks they attended classes at the Government Bilingual Secondary school (GBHS) in Mundemba up to the 23<sup>rd</sup> when schools observed the Christmas break.
- During this 2 weeks period kids attended school from homes of relatives based in Mundemba as furniture for the shared accommodation was not yet ready.
- KRCS mentor organised additional evening classes for kids from teachers assigned by the school administration to a make-up for their late arrival.
- All kids were safely transported to their villages for the Christmas break on Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>.



*Pioneer CHICS laurates secondary school uniforms (2016/2017)*

## **V. Conservation/Development initiatives for livelihood improvement**

The CHICS scholarship is intended to improve on the levels of literacy in the korup region and in the long term impact of enabling locals to take on various livelihood opportunities.

## **VI. Constraints, Conclusions and Recommendations**

- Prolonged rainy season and its associated impacts such as poor roads and flooding of rivers.
- Long distances and means of communication with very remote target villages.
- Limited funds also limiting our ability to intervene in other priority conservation issues in the area.

However, inspite of the above mentioned constraints, our activities especially the PSMNR bio-monitoring contract and the CHICS have been very successful thanks to our devoted field teams, our commitment to transparency and team work and to the very generous financial support for the PSMNR.

The continuous recruitment and training of community members into our field teams and conservation education interventions have so far been successful with apparent positive behavioral change from villagers. We also recorded achievements in other respect such as increase in number of registered members (mostly local villagers), fund raising, awareness and recognition mostly from our partners especially the PSMNR-SWR. However, we do not need to relent our efforts. We need to extend to more villages, fish more members and funds so as to have even greater impact in the area and meet our objectives. We also need to improve our collaboration with other partners working around the park in identifying and promote reliable alternatives to livelihood. For 2017, our strong resolve is to continue to improve on our public image while also acquiring capacity to become self-sufficient.