



CONSERVATION EDUCATION QUARTERLY REPORT
AFI, MBE AND OKWANGWO: APRIL TO JUNE 2018



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SUMMARY

This report covers conservation education activities implemented in communities in the Cross River gorilla landscape in Nigeria by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) from April to June 2018 to raise awareness and strengthen local support for conservation. Activities implemented include 19 school visits, 9 field trips with 221 students, great ape film shows in 26 villages (viewed by a total of 7,172 people), and 9 conservation club exchange visits. This quarter, WCS joined the rest of the world to celebrate World Environment Day 2018 on June 5. In addition to activities within Cross River State, WCS participated in the “Nigerian Wildlife and Conservation Week” organized by French Embassy in Abuja to raise awareness among students and other stakeholders within Abuja metropolis. Presentations by WCS at the event focused on conservation efforts at four key sites in Cross River State, and in Yankari Game Reserve in Bauch State. WCS is considering organizing a similar event in Calabar in the future.

FIELD TRIPS

Nine field trips were organized this quarter for students in 9 schools around Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary and the Mbe Mountains. A total of 221 students and 18 teachers participated in the field trips. Field trips help students to better understand conservation issues discussed in the classroom during school visits by the WCS education staff.

Table 1: Number of students that participated in field trips organized by WCS between April and June 2018.

Date	Site	School	Camp visited	No of pupils
April 10	Afi	Community Secondary School Ubong	Base Camp	23
April 14th	Mbe	Community Secondary School Butatong	Obue's Camp	25
April 20th	Afi	Community Secondary School Irruan	Esekwe Camp	20
May 9	Mbe	Community Secondary School Bamba	Obue's Camp	24
May 16th	Okwangwo	Community Secondary School Okwa	Base Camp	25
May 23rd	Afi	Government Primary School Esekwe	Esekwe Camp	25
June 16	Mbe	Community Secondary School Okwangwo	Base Camp	30
June 18th	Okwangwo	Community Secondary School Okwangwo	Obue's Camp	24
June 23rd	Afi	Government Secondary School Buanchor	Base Camp	25
	Total			221

Film Shows

This quarter WCS continued to use film to raise awareness in local communities around Cross River gorilla sites in Nigeria. Great ape films were showed in a total of 26 villages in Mbe, Afi and Okwangwo. A total of 7,172 people were reached through these films. The films were used to highlight threats to great apes such as hunting, and habitat lose through logging, unsustainable farming practices, and bush burning. WCS staff further discussed these threats, as well as potential mitigation measures, with the audience at the end of the films.

Table 2: Villages visited for film shows and estimated number of viewers

Date	Community	Site	Estimated number of viewers
12/4/2018	Buanchor	Afi	290
13/4/2018	Olum	Afi	187
16/4/2018	Ubong	Afi	480
17/4/2018	Ashishie	Okwangwo	350
18/4/2018	Okwabang	Okwangwo	400
19/4/2018	Butatong	Okwangwo	284
26/4/2018	Anape	Okwangwo	300
8/5/2018	Butatong	Okwangwo	140
10/5/2018	Bamba	Mbe	162
11/5/2018	Bokalum	Mbe	200
13/5/2018	Wula II	Mbe	313
24/5/2018	Nkanyang	Afi	240
25/5/2018	Kakwagom	Afi	400
26/5/2018	Bitiah	Afi	180
4/6/2018	Okwangwo	Okwangwo	441
5/6/2018	Okwangwo	Okwangwo	287
7/6/2018	Olum	Afi	350
9/6/2018	Buanchor- Mbanya	Afi	140
10/6/2018	Katabang	Afi	300
11/6/2018	Katabang	Afi	291
12/6/2018	Butatong	Okwangwo	450
14/6/2018	Bokalum	Mbe	200
15/6/2018	Bokalum	Mbe	320
24/6/2018	Ndomechang	Afi	363
25/6/2018	Esikwe	Afi	104
	Total		7,172

SCHOOL VISIT

WCS staff visited 19 schools in Mbe, Okwangwo and Afi this quarter (Table 3) to implement education activities with conservation clubs established to motivate schoolchildren to take an interest in conservation. During the visits, WCS staff facilitated discussions among students on a variety of conservation issues, including great apes conservation. The children were taught about the unique characteristics of great apes, as well as their slow rate of reproduction that makes them especially vulnerable to the effects of hunting. The children were encouraged to share this knowledge with people in their communities to help discourage the hunting of great apes.

Table 3: Schools visited in Afi, Okwangwo and Mbe from April to June 2018

Date	School Visited	Site
10/4/2018	Community Secondary School Ubong	Afi
13/4/2018	Community Secondary School Butatong	Okwangwo
20/4/2018	Community Secondary School Irruan	Afi
23/4/2018	Community Secondary School Kakwagom Irruan	Afi
23/4/2018	Community Secondary School Kakubok	Afi
25/4/2018	Government Primary School Obudu Cattle Ranch	Okwangwo
25/4/2018	Government Primary School Anape	Okwangwo
7/5/2018	RABU International Nursery/Primary School Okwabang	Okwangwo
7/5/2018	Divine International Nursery and Primary School Okwabang	Okwangwo
15/5/2018	Community Secondary School Okwabang	Okwangwo
21/5/2018	Government Primary School Kakwagom Irruan	Afi
23/5/2018	Government Primary School School Esikwe	Afi
4/6/2018	Government Primary School Okwangwo	Okwangwo
5/6/2018	Community Secondary School Okwangwo	Okwangwo
7/6/2018	Community Secondary School Olum	Afi
14/6/2018	Community Secondary School Butatong	Okwangwo
14/6/2018	Eastern Academic Secondary School Wula	Mbe
16/6/2018	Comprehensive Secondary School Okwabang	Okwangwo
25/6/2018	Government Primary School Esikwe	Afi

EXCHANGE VISITS

Nine exchange visits involving eighteen schools were facilitated by WCS staff this quarter. The exchange visits were organized to facilitate knowledge and experience sharing among students on biodiversity conservation, as well as help newly established conservation clubs learn from old school club. A total of 957 students participated in the activity this quarter. Activities implemented during schools exchange visits include Cross River gorilla game, Nature poems recitation, tree planting and quiz competition. These activities were carried out in a competitive manner, and involved all the teachers

in the host schools. The students were excited and participated actively throughout the program. The competitive nature of the exchange visits motivate students to take conservation club activities seriously.

Table 4: Schools and number of participants in exchange visit organized by WCS from April to June 2018.

Date	Site	School(s)	Location	No. of students
April 11th	Mbe	Eastern Academy Secondary School vs St. John the Baptist Secondary School Wula	Wula	110
April 23rd	Afi	Community Secondary School Kakwagom Irruan vs Community Secondary School Kakubok	Kakubok	128
April 25th	Okwangwo	Government Primary School Obudu Cattle Ranch vs Government Primary School Anape	Anape	84
May 7th	Okwangwo	RABU Nursery/Primary School vs Divine International Nursery/Primary School Okwabang	RABU Primary School	108
May 15th	Okwangwo	Community Secondary School Okwa vs Comprehensive Secondary School Okwabang	Comprehensive Secondary School Okwabang	86
May 21 st	Afi	Government Primary School Kawagom vs St. Linus Catholic Primary school Kakwagom Irruan	Anape	140
June 7	Afi	Community Secondary School Bokalum vs Community Secondary School Olum	Olum	109
June 14th	Mbe	Community Secondary School Butatong vs Eastern Academic Wula	Wula	84
June 16th	Okwangwo	Community Secondary School Okwangwo vs Comprehensive International Secondary School Okwabang	Okwabang	108
	Total			957

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

During this reporting period, WCS facilitated 9 community meetings in Afi, Mbe and Okwangwo to raise awareness and discuss emerging conservation issues. In Mbe, additional meetings were organized with cocoa farmers to discuss the ongoing sustainable cocoa production project implemented by WCS. The meetings were led by the WCS socioeconomic lead, Juliet Ntui, with support from WCS education

coordinator, Louis Nkonyu. The meetings with some Afi communities (Nkanyang, Bitiah and Kakwagom Irruan) focused on farm encroachment in the Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary. Other threats such as illegal logging and hunting in the sanctuary were also discussed.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY CELEBRATION

On June 5 2018, WCS Nigeria joined the rest of the world to celebrate World Environment Day, which had as its theme, “Beat Plastic Pollution”. June 5 was set aside by the United Nations to promote worldwide awareness and action for the protection of our environment. Each World Environment Day is organized around a theme that focuses attention on a particular pressing environmental concern. This year’s theme calls for action by all to combat one of the great environmental challenges of our time - plastic pollution. To mark the day, WCS brought together traditional leaders, schools, community organizations such as the Conservation Association of Mbe Mountains (CAMM), Cross River National Park and local political leaders to interact and jointly seek ways to reduce plastic pollution and improve the conservation of our natural resources. Activities during the celebration include a rally against littering by students of schools around Afi, Mbe, and Okwangwo led by WCS staff, schools presentations, art competition, and speeches from invited guests and traditional leaders. The activities were intended to encourage people to consider making changes in their everyday lives to reduce the heavy burden of plastic pollution on our natural places, our wildlife and our own health. At the end of the program, participating schools returned to their respective communities and helped to collect all plastic litter to encourage others to join the fight against plastic pollution.



Students rally in support of the fight against plastic pollution during this year’s World Environment Day Celebration © WCS Nigeria

NIGERIAN WILDLIFE AND CONSERVATION WEEK

In addition to WCS' regular education activities within Cross River State, WCS participated in the "Nigerian Wildlife and Conservation Week" organized by French Embassy in Abuja to raise awareness among students and other stakeholders within Abuja metropolis. Presentations by WCS at event focused on conservation efforts at four key sites in Cross River State, and in Yankari Game Reserve in Bauch State. WCS is considering organizing a similar event in Calabar in the future.