

Project Update: April 2008

We administered questionnaires in February 2008 to 50 individuals each from three communities surrounding the Amurum Forest Reserve inquiring about: most pressing needs of community members; which forest resources were most used; what problems were encountered as a result of the establishment of the Reserve. We got interesting results, for example that the most pressing need was water, followed by employment and most used resource, wood.

Problems posed by the Reserve were increased bird and monkey numbers (that feed on crops) as well as deprivation of their means of livelihood, most especially wood collection (for sale) and hunting, which are prohibited within the Reserve. Their attitude towards the establishment of the Reserve was encouraging, however most complained about the prohibition from using resources within the Reserve. Educating them on the need for conservation and sustainable resource utilization, which was our next step, became extremely vital.



Akwashiki Ombugadu a member of the team administering a questionnaire to a woman from Laminga community.

Mary Molokwu interviewing a young man from Kerker community bordering the Amurum Forest Reserve during the questionnaire survey

