

## Project Update: September 2013

Following the training in GPS use and tree identification supported by Rufford, CERCOPAN forest patrols have been out on their weekly treks to prevent illegal bushmeat hunting and logging. During these often 4-day treks we observe wild species as well as monitor human forest use.

The community forests and adjoining Cross River National Park in south-east Nigeria are extraordinarily diverse, even by African standards and our knowledge about them is probably equally limited! The patrols collect data on sightings of the many primate species such as mangabeys and drills (and any other animals seen). We also collect observations (since 2007) on when individual trees leaf and fruit – essential to understanding how the food resources of our primates vary across the year and between years.

As our knowledge builds, we are seeing major differences from year to year and within seasons. Individual trees seem to vary even more – vital information on how a troop of monkeys can support themselves in the long term over an area.

This has been a bumper year for wild mango. Great for our primates but is also attracting illegal human harvesting and associated hunting, meaning our work is even more important in continuing the pioneering reintroduction of primates to the key community forests of Nigeria.



Stilt roots such as these within Rhoko forest often have termite mounds around them. Some trees fall when termites weaken the roots - all part of the life cycle of the forest that CERCOPAN monitors.



### Project Grid Ref:

N 01 4 02.6

E 08 16 12.5

CERCOPAN patrols sleep overnight in hunting sheds when in the Research Area forest. In the evenings they meet other forest users and record what activities they have been undertaking.



CERCOPAN's phenology study records all fruits and flowers along a transect, noting whether the shrub or tree is carrying a full or partial crop.