

## Project Update: December 2009

CAD has been tackling critical issues affecting wildlife resources and local livelihoods in the Muanenguba and Bakossi regions in the S.W. Province of Cameroon with the financial support from Rufford Small Grants Foundation in the UK with focus on threatened and endangered animals such as chimpanzees and drills. This is being achieved through raising local people's awareness against illegal hunting and sale of bushmeat and disseminating knowledge of wildlife policy and regulations among grass root communities. In addition, the project, together with local people identified and is promoting a series of viable micro-enterprises aimed at curbing uncontrolled exploitation of wild animal resources in the region. Such wildlife conservation-related livelihood support systems acceptable and being practiced by local communities during the second phase of this project: snail farming, beekeeping and pig farming. This brief report highlights the achievements made so far in the above areas.

### A. ACHIEVEMENTS IN SNAIL FARMING

As a newly introduced innovation in the region, this activity is increasingly attracting local interest, particularly among women and children. Though snails serve as an important alternative bushmeat, it is worth noting that this resource is itself subjected to severe threats not only in our project area but in West Africa in general where it is heavily collected for food and income. So far;

- We have organized one training workshop on snail farming in Ngusi involving 32 group representatives from 5 village communities who gained practical skills and knowledge on snail farming techniques;
- 56 people from 5 groups including 31 men, 20 women and 5 youths actively engaged in snail farming
- One central demonstration snail farm has been set up;
- 6 snail farms have been established in five villages with local people.

Name of Group	Location	No. of adult snails	No. of young snails	No. of eggs
Rom Orphans	Ngusi	896	0	81
Bekume Wildlife Committee	Bekume	510		
Mahole Wildlife Group	Mahole	1,099	40	257
Mebone household	Mbengmekoge	708	11	0
Unity Group	Edizie	633	0	142
Slow and Steady Group	Muandon	324	0	54
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4,170</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>534</b>

## B. ACHIEVEMENTS IN BEEKEEPING:

- 3 on-farm training sessions on hive baiting and installation have been organized;
- 9 beehives have been donated to 4 wildlife committees;
- Three of the hives have already been colonized by bees
- Furthermore, over 120 litres of honey have been produced by old groups in the programme.

Name of Group	Location	No. of hives
Wildlife Committee	Ngusi	2
Wildlife Committee	Mbenmgmekoge	2
Wildlife Committee	Bekume	3
Pepper Soup Women	Mahole	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>9</b>

## C. ACHIEVEMENT IN PIG FARMING

Our approach we use here is that of *Passing Over the Gift*. In this case, when a beneficiary group produces piglets, at least one piglet is passed on to a newly created group with interest in hunting or sale of bushmeat. Some beneficiary groups include:

Name of Group	Location	No. of pigs
Wildlife Committee	MBengmekoge	1
Wildlife Committee	Ngusi	1
Wildlife Committee	Bekume	2
Pepper Soup Women	Mahole	2
Unity Group	Edizie	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>7</b>

## D. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED

- We are faced with the problem of inadequate working materials and equipment to expand in these activities. As such we are unable to support all the several requests that we receive from new communities.
- Due to the difficult terrain in which we operate, the lone motorcycle we have regularly breaks down and this make extension very difficult.
- Some people who are involved in illegal hunting activities hide their identity as hunters and bushmeat dealers for the fear that they will be arrested. This therefore make the identification process very difficult.

- The volunteers serving at CAD do not receive salaries and what they earn as allowances is unsatisfactory. While this could weaken staff commitment to work, it also puts management in the fear that staff could leave CAD in search of other more paying jobs.
- Two of our pig farming groups suffered from the recent African swine fever epidemic.

## **F. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- There is also the need to intensify and expand in the newly introduced alternative sources of income and nutrients so that people spend more time on them than going hunting. In addition, a study of a marketing strategy to add value to produce from these activities is necessary to increase local profit margins.
- CAD will also need further strengthening of local wildlife groups put in place by way of legalization and capacity building in monitoring and control of illegal activities, especially now that part of the project area has been turned into a national park.
- There is the need to for an environmental education programme for school children who might grow up as hunters when they drop out of school for poverty reasons or weak academic performance. This will help to build an informed new generation that takes interest and leadership over wildlife protection at an early age.
- In order to understand the bushmeat market situation in the project area, there is need to conduct a bushmeat market survey to generate baseline information to inform conservation and decision-making.
- There is the need to improve CAD's networking capacity through registration with national and international networks so as to ensure information and experience sharing with organizations having similar conservation objectives.
- Need to organize training workshops on each of the above livelihood systems, particularly in the area of beekeeping and pig farm management so that local peoples skills will be more developed in these activities than in hunting.