

Project Update: November 2011

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN NOVEMBER 2011 IN THE DJA-BOUMBA MINING AREA

Environmental education time table for wildlife clubs in the Dja-Boumba Mining area

Activities	Sub-activities	Resources required	Period	Responsibility
First sensitisation campaign	Conferences, debates, establishment of information boards, development of wildlife ethics code.	Card boards, papers, bold makers, pictures on wildlife, bill board.	November 2011	Club presidents, teachers of wildlife clubs, project coordinator
Competition activity	Painting, drawing and cartoon contest.	Paints and colours of different types, card boards, pencils, pins, pens etc.	January 2012	Club presidents, project coordinator
Second sensitisation campaign	Collection of pupils and student's folktales, myths and fables on wildlife management.	Crayons, colours, papers, pencils, erasers, pens,	January 2012	Club presidents, teachers of wildlife clubs, project coordinator
Youth week activities	Drama on wildlife, demonstration of unsustainable hunting to parents and local administrators	Hunters dresses, card boards, plastic guns, animals statues, forestry department uniforms	February 2012	Club presidents, teachers of wildlife clubs
Visit through hunters trials to watch animals and signs	Identify animals species , sleeping sites, feeding signs, and foot prints	Hunter guide, forest shoes, note books, digital camera,	February 2012	Club presidents, teachers of wildlife clubs, project coordinator
Capacity building	Mind mapping and counseling , environmental audits, forestry laws and regulations, school visits	Documents on environment, forestry manual	May 2012	Club presidents, project coordinator, teachers of clubs.
Composing and gardening	Identify sites, construct heaps and monitor		May 2012	Club presidents, agricultural extension workers.

Conference on changes in wildlife population caused by unsustainable hunting

Objective of the conference was to raise awareness of the local communities and students on the changes in wildlife population caused by unsustainable hunting. The conference was organised from 22nd - 25th of November 2011 in the Kongo school hall.

The clubs members stressed that hunters concentrate initially on large animals, many of which play keystone roles in forest ecology, as well as comprising the majority of the vertebrate biomass. Reduction or extinction of wildlife population can result in:

- Loss of seed dispersers. Village hunters concentrate most of their hunting on frugivores and granivores (primates, bats, birds, ungulates, elephants), which perform a primary role in seed dispersal. Loss of such species will reduce seed dispersal which, in the long term, will affect forest composition. Seeds of maobi (*Baillonella taxisperma*) must pass through the intestine of an elephant before germination.
- Loss of seed predators (such as squirrels *Protoxerus stangeri* and *Anomalurus beecrofti*, pig's *potamocheirus porcus* and *Hylochoerus meinertzhageni*). With reduced seed predation due to unsustainable hunting, trees with large seeds are at a competitive advantage over trees with small seeds.
- Loss of pollination mechanism. Some large mammals such as gorilla, chimpanzee and other primates act as pollinators as they carry seeds on their hairy bodies during movement.
- Loss of food for predators. Hunting of ungulates can reduce the population of predators that depend on them for prey. Hunting can result in the reductions of more than 90% of the ungulate prey normally eaten by leopards. This both reduces the densities of leopards and results in their hunting smaller prey, thereby causing further detrimental impacts on the wildlife population of our forest.

In these villages, no distinction is made between subsistence and trade hunting. It has been estimated wildlife is used by more than one person per km².

DEVELOPMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS FOR WILDLIFE CLUB MEMBERS.

This meeting lay down ethics relating to wildlife club members of the Dja-Boumba mining area. The club assembly has deliberated and adopted the following wildlife ethics set out below:

It is prohibited for any club member to kill, hunt, buy or sell and consume wild meat, also the destruction of its habitats.

Club members should encourage their parents to rear domestic animals and produce plant based protein sources in order to reduce reliance on bushmeat.

Accommodation should not be provided in villages to mid-persons involved in bushmeat trade.

Humans do not need to consume animal meat for growth and health, so club members and their relatives should rapidly switch to vegetarians. This transition will be attained through major educational campaigns.

Club members must ensure that forestry laws and regulations are effectively applied.

Any violation of these ethics code is subjected to expulsion from the club and any activity of the project.

Activity of the old hunters association

The old hunters association improved on the agricultural system in the project area by integrating the agricultural extension agents into their day to day activities. The extension agents reinforced the capacities of the association and foster their self-promotion through agro-forestry techniques. Activities rotated around influencing the association to modify the environment, reduce degradation and improved on their livelihoods in the absent of wild meat. The extension agents carried out participatory diagnosis of the farms, assists the old hunters in preparing their farming seasons, trained the old hunters (now farmers) on appropriate technologies, and carried out exchange visits between farmers or producer organisations. The extension agent is educating in an informal manner, the farmers with the support of the project how to influence their environment in order to derive benefits from today and in future.

The GATE-GTZ techniques of conservation agriculture have been successfully introduced in the project area. It is a farming practice where minimal tillage among other techniques is practiced. The introduction of the technique at the grassroots level raised a lot of hopes for the project as women and other rural dwellers are now eager to try the technique and reduced dependent on wildlife for income and protein. Conservation agriculture is environmentally friendly.