

Project Update: November 2012

Trip to Present Reports and Posters to Minister and Some Organizations and Sensitisation over National Radio & TV

This activity was achieved in two trips:

On 20th August 2012 we booked but could not have audience with the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife. We registered and left an Update Report of the Sustainable Medicinal Wildlife Initiative, 20 more copies of the poster, a special invitation for the minister to be the chief launcher of the film: *Medicinal Wildlife Palaver*, and an advance disc of the film. We still wait for the minister invite us back.

The same day we presented some aspects of our work to officials of WWF-CARPO, Yaounde.

Back again in Yaounde on 25th September 2012 we presented the poster, the film and our work in the popular *Morning Safari*, the radio talk show and *Hello*, a TV programme, both of the CRTV. After these radio and TV presentations, (received also by satellite), we receive feedback from all over Cameroon and abroad.

Awareness Campaigns

The Medicinal Wildlife Quarter Hour Radio slot continued up to end of August 2012. During every meeting, workshop or seminar attended this year I've always solicited the chance to present/distribute the poster and talk on the medicinal wildlife conservation initiative.

Launching of Film for Awareness Raising

The movie, *Medicinal Wildlife Palaver*, produced both for conservation education through art and for fund raising for "own" contribution for the medicinal wildlife conservation projects, was launched on the 31st August 2012 which was also the 10th African Traditional Medicine Day. The venue was the Bamenda/British Council Library, Bamenda. For publicity for the launching, we pasted 100 coloured posters all over town, distributed 300 invitation letters in and out of Bamenda and paid announcements/advertisement slots were made over four radio stations. The national radio/television corporation, CRTV, and a local radio station were contracted for the coverage of the film launching. Two youth groups that have opted to work with us in propagating the campaign presented sketches, comedies, etc. at the film launching.

The heavy and incessant rainfall before and during the film launching time and the retarded delivery of the eventually malfunctioning CDs seriously compromised our goal of high fund raising at the launching. Only a meagre 65200 FCFA was realised. But some invitees and supporters of the conservation cause later supported the film initiative and have raised the sum to 140,200 FCFA, forming the base of our "own" contribution for the next phase of the project.

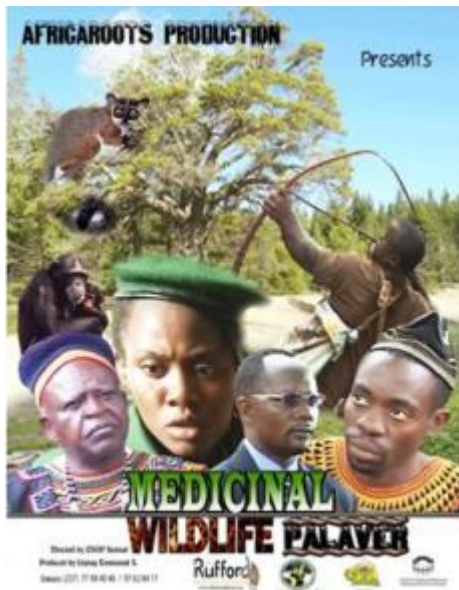
The launching was presided over by a representative of the Regional Governor but without financial support. The Regional Delegate of Forestry and Wildlife for the North West sent a representative with financial support.



A YOUTH DRAMA GROUP AT FILM LAUNCHING



GOV'T REP. AT FILM LAUNCHING



FILM JACKET: FRONT AND BACK VIEWS

Participation at Commemoration of African Traditional Medicine Day

Earlier on 31st August 2012 we of the Sustainable Medicinal Wildlife Initiative joined the commemoration of the 10th African Traditional Medicine Day, starting with a march past of affiliates of the Regional Union of Tradipracticitioners, of which I (as a promoter of medicinal wildlife conservation) had been co-opted as a Technical Adviser. I also presented the keynote exposé of the day, on the why and how of sustainable use of wildlife species in traditional medicine.

Granting RSG-Subsidized Hunting Permits

This activity of the project had the biggest hitch. Having duly advertised the RSG grant of subsidizing by 75% the acquisition of 7 Sports Hunting Permits for Small Game, the nationals' category, we had been checking up on the Regional Delegation of Forestry and Wildlife to present the hunters who must have submitted correct applications for the grant. But there has been a serious hurdle at the level of obtaining the Authorization to buy and bear Fire Arms, which is issued at the discretion of the appointed administrative officers at no set price.

At last only one hunter succeeded to present an application file complete with the fire arms authorization, and benefitted from the RSG subsidy, as handed over on October 2nd 2012. He is Mr. Tantoh John Takwi of Bamandakwe, Bamenda I Sub-Division, North West Region.



SUBSIDIZED HUNTING PERMIT



MINFOF AND PROJECT OFFICIALS WITH GRANTEE

Monitoring and Evaluation

Through Questionnaires

Of the 100 copies of questionnaires given out for the Monitoring and Evaluation of the both phases of the project, only about 55% responded, 29 of which were men, 25 women.

- ❖ 70% knew of the campaign for the sustainable use of medicinal wildlife.
- ❖ Majority knew of it through the poster and radio/TV presentations.
- ❖ All those who responded said it the campaign is relevant.
- ❖ Only about 40% of the respondents have the poster have the medicinal wildlife poster.
- ❖ About 70% had seen or heard of the poster but do not have it.
- ❖ For those who have seen the poster, pictures of the identified species and the list of illnesses they treat rank highest in what interest them most on it.
- ❖ Majority of respondents have not watched the film; those who have watched it had the following comments:
 - ✓ The fact that some of the medicinal wildlife species can be reared.
 - ✓ The fact that there is law enforcement for the protection of the species.

- ✓ The fact that some animals are actually used for medicine.
- ✓ The message that everyone should be involved in the protection of the species.
- ❖ The most liked aspect of the project were: -
 - ✓ The poster of medicinal wildlife species: 80%.
 - ✓ The Training Seminar on the sustainable use of medicinal wildlife: 60%.
 - ✓ Medicinal Wildlife Quarter Hour radio slot: 59%.
- ❖ The awareness campaigns should be taken down to the grassroots.
- ❖ Research on medicinal wildlife should also be carried out in the rest of the country.
- ❖ More posters should be produced for the population (schools, palaces and other organisations).
- ❖ Respondents would like to see government of Cameroon also contributing to this conservation work.
- ❖ Some respondents indicated the need for an information centre for medicinal wildlife conservation.

Through Radio Quiz

Public views expressed in the radio quiz organised for the M & E of the project can be summed up thus:

- Medicinal wildlife use in traditional medicine is a strange reality.
- Medicinal wildlife species are more vulnerable in traditional medicine than medicinal plants.
- Practising or working for the sustainable use/management of medicinal wildlife is a moral obligation.
- The medicinal wildlife conservation education activities should be diversified and expanded.
- Need for the greater involvement of youths in the campaign and conservation actions

Constraints

The main constraint to this conclusive stage of the project was in having adequate time from my civil service job of a protected area manager (conservator) to concentrate of the medicinal wildlife conservation work. In early September 2012, I was transferred from the Kagwene Gorilla Sanctuary to the Kilim/Ijim Plant Life Sanctuary, wide distances apart. Consequently, there was the added task of concluding and reporting on one tenure and taking over and setting the new stage in another. This has caused a prolongation in the timeframe of the project beyond the planned 9 months. But this problem ceases because my civil service career ends with the year.