

# **CEPF Final Completion and Impact Report**

Organization's Legal Name: Wildlife Conservation Society

**Project Title:** Saving Cross River Gorillas from Extinction in

Nigeria

**Grant Number:** CEPF-100813

**Hotspot:** Guinean Forests of West Africa

**Strategic Direction:** 3 Safeguard priority globally threatened species

by identifying and addressing major threats and

information gaps

**Grant Amount:** \$349,997.16

**Project Dates:** July 01, 2017 - March 31, 2021

**Date of Report:** November 12, 2021

#### **IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS**

- Nigeria National Parks Service: Responsible for the overall management, coordination and oversight of all national parks in the country. On this project, responsible for overseeing Cross River National Park's engagement in the project, including ranger patrols and participation in SMART training workshops, and education and work with farmers and women's groups around the Cross River National Park.
- Cross River State Ministry of Climate Change and Forestry (MCCF): Government agency with responsibility for the management of all forests within Cross River State, outside of the national park. The MCCF was responsible for overseeing Cross River State Forestry Commission's engagement in the project, including ranger patrols and participation in SMART training workshops, and education and work with farmers and women's groups around the Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary and facilitated government support for implementation of the project in the Mbe Mountains.
- Cross River State Broadcasting Corporation: Broadcast of the My Gorilla My Community radio program on the corporation's radio stations in Ikom and Calabar.
- Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN): A major focus of CRIN is to promote and improve cocoa production in Nigeria including extension services. CRIN supplied the improved cocoa seedlings distributed to farmers on this project.
- Conservation Association of the Mbe Mountains (CAMM): A community-based organization that manages the Mbe Mountains. CAMM provides an excellent platform for mobilizing community buy-in and support for the project that is necessary for its sustainability. CAMM helped to organise farmers and women's groups, and facilitated their training. WCS and CAMM jointly supervised all project activities in the Mbe Mountains.

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# **CONSERVATION IMPACTS**

Planned Long-Term Impacts: 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal)

Impact Description	Impact Summary
By 2020 there has been no decrease in the number of Cross River gorilla nest sites recorded per km (baseline in Mbe Mts = 0.17 nest sites per km during period 2009-2014) and area occupied by Cross River gorillas increases by 10% compared to baseline established in 2017.	Average encounter rate of gorilla nest per kilometre walked sites at the three sites during the period of the project was 0.03 representing a 77% increase from the baseline encounter rate of 0.017 (in the Mbe Mts). There has been no change in the area occupied by Cross River gorillas.
By 2020, levels of knowledge, attitudes and behaviors improve by 10% compared to 2014 baseline	Support from the project for the production and broadcast of the radio program, My Gorilla My Community was critical to raise awareness and change attitudes and behaviors towards conservation. A total of 104 episodes of the program were produced and broadcasted over the duration of the project, reaching approximately 100,000 people in the project landscape, and over 1 million across the entire Cross River State. A post-broadcast survey of knowledge, attitudes and behavior was completed in 2019. The results showed that the MGMC program was successful in changing attitudes and behaviors of the local communities regarding Cross River gorillas and their habitat. For example, there was 200% increase from baseline in the percent of respondents supporting protection of gorillas from hunting and their habitat from destruction. The percent of respondents who adopted improved farming methods increased by 190%, and the percent of respondents who reported talking to other community members to discourage gorilla hunting or encourage adoption of sustainable farming methods increased by 43% compared to baseline.
By 2020 there is zero poaching of forest elephants for their ivory	The project was successful in reducing levels of poaching in the three protected areas. Average encounter rate of gorilla nest per kilometre walked sites at the three sites during the period of the project was 0.03 representing a 77% increase from the baseline. However, the threat of elephant poaching for ivory (we estimate 1-2 elephants are killed each year) remains with a thriving international illegal ivory trade ongoing and with Nigeria playing a significant role as a major hub in the trade.
By 2020, ecosystem services, including maintenance of micro-climate for farming, soil stabilization, water security, as well as access	The project worked with local communities through community associations such as CAMM and protected area authorities to improve forest

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Impact Description	Impact Summary
to non-timber forest products are maintained through improving forest governance.	governance and ensure the maintenance of ecosystem services as well as access to non-timber forest products such as bush mango. Conservation contracts (1,669 with cocoa farmers, 9 with bush mango women's groups) signed between project beneficiaries and WCS and CAMM ensured that the beneficiaries respected the terms of agreement of support and continue to apply sustainable practices in cocoa farming and bush mango harvesting to reduce deforestation. By training and supporting farmers to adopt best practices in cocoa farming and cocoa and bush mango agroforestry, the project contributed to the protection of Cross River gorilla with no net loss of forest detected since inception of the project. Analysis of historic deforestation over the Cross River gorilla landscape in Nigeria showed a decrease from 2.22% during 2000-2010 to 1.36% during the 2010-2018 period, with some forest gain recorded in the Mbe Mountains in particular.

Planned Short-Term Impacts: 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal)

Impact Description	Impact Summary
Levels of hunting within the 3 protected areas, measured as the number of wire snares recorded per km walked, decrease by 10% by 2020 as measured against the 2016 baseline	The project was successful in reducing levels of hunting, measured as the number of wire snares recorded per km walked, at the three sites.  Encounter rate of hunting signs such as wire snares, empty shotgun cartridges and gunshots heard decreased significantly (by 68%) from 3.1 signs/km at inception of the project to 0.98 signs/km at the end of the project. Encouragingly, no gorillas were killed at any of the three sites during the period of the project.
By 2020, incomes generated by 1,500 men and women from improved cocoa production and bush mango collection and marketing increase by 10% compared to 2017 baseline.	Support to 9 women groups (2210 women out of which 1,582 were trained and also provided with bush mango seedlings) to improve bush mango storage and marketing helped to increase income from bush mango by over 20%, as they are now able to sell stored bush mango in large markets outside their communities (where they have been registered through supported from the project) long after the harvest season at better prices.
By 2020, the outputs and income generation of 64 communities at 3 sites from improved cocoa farming and bush mango harvest, processing and marketing increases by 10%.	The project supported 1348 farmers at the three sites to replant their old, increasing unproductive cocoa farms with improved variety that is fast-growing, more resistant to diseases and pests, and high-yielding. The replanted farms are growing well and nearing maturity. However, the new improved seedlings planted in 2018 have not started fruiting (they take 3-4 years to mature and bear fruits). Therefore, we are not able to measure and report

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Impact Description	Impact Summary
	increase in average yield of the replanted farms compared to baseline. The project also provided training on proper drying and storage of cocoa beans and bush mango seeds to improve seed quality, thereby helping to add value and increasing income.

### **Unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?**

Covid-19 restrictions caused unexpected delays in implementation of project activities, resulting in a no-cost extension of the project. In response, WCS developed a detailed protocol for implementing activities in communities that allowed us to gradually restart all project activities and to mitigate unexpected impacts.

### PROJECT RESULTS/DELIVERABLES

#### **Overall results of the project:**

This project was immensely successful in helping to improve the protection of critically endangered Cross River gorillas at three sites in Nigeria. Funding through this project allowed WCS to train, equip and support protected area staff on the frontline of enforcement to conduct a total of 784 anti-poaching patrols of Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary, Mbe Mountains, and the Okwangwo Division of Cross River National Park that led to the arrest of a total of 178 offenders including 83 hunters. The patrols also removed a total of 26,135 wire snares and dismantled a total of 322 hunting camps helping to reduce hunting pressure. Encounter rate of hunting signs such as wire snares, empty shotgun cartridges and gunshots heard decreased by 68% from 3.1 signs/km at inception to 0.98 signs/km at the end of the project, an indication of the positive impact of the project. Because of the regular patrols supported by the project, no Cross River gorillas were reported killed at any of the three project sites. As further indication of the success of this project, camera traps set up in the Mbe Mountains by WCS captured the first photos of a family of gorillas with several infants and young ones of different ages in June 2020 that show that the population was healthy and reproducing after decades of past hunting.

The project also allowed WCS to implement a comprehensive conservation education and awareness and outreach program that included a radio magazine program entitled "My Gorilla My Community", film shows, community meetings, conservation clubs and field trips for schoolchildren. Implemented in the local schools and communities, the program was effective in raising level of awareness and changing attitudes and behaviors towards Cross River gorillas and their rainforest habitat. A knowledge, attitudes and behavior impact assessment survey completed in 2019 showed that the MGMC program was successful in changing attitudes and behaviors of the local communities regarding Cross River gorillas and their habitat. For example, there was 200% increase from baseline in the percent of respondents supporting protection of gorillas from hunting and their habitat from destruction. The percent of respondents who adopted improved farming methods increased by 190% (56% post-campaign compared to 19% at baseline). Fifty-five percent of respondents in the post-campaign survey (compared to 41% at baseline) reported contributing to protecting gorillas through actions such as obeying wildlife and forest laws, discouraging others from hunting gorillas, supporting the work of conservation organisations, or supporting their communities to reduce forest loss. The number of respondents who reported starting a new livelihood, such as trading, beekeeping, or rearing goats, increased from 20% at baseline to 35% post-campaign. Survey results also show a decrease in the use of fire for land preparation for farming. Sixty-one percent of

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respondents in the post-campaign survey reported not using fire to clear land for farming compared to 24% at baseline. The intervention also had a positive impact on interpersonal communication. For example, the percent of respondents who reported talking to other community members to discourage the use of unsustainable farming methods such as using fire to clear land for farming increased by 43% compared to baseline (40% in the post-campaign survey compared to 28% baseline).

The project also contributed towards improving cocoa and bush mango agroforestry practices in the project landscape and increasing income for local farmers and women while reducing rates of deforestation of Cross River gorilla habitat. As a result of the training provided by the project, women in the project landscape no longer use unsustainable bush mango harvesting methods that destroy and degrade the forest. Women's groups supported by the project reported over 20% increase in income from bush mango through selling their product off-season at better prices. Higher income through better prices is helping to reduce levels of poverty among the women thereby reducing the need to collect larger quantities to increase income, which would consequently increase pressure on the forest. Conservation contracts (linking the project interventions to biodiversity conservation) signed between farmers and women's groups supported by the project, WCS and CAMM (in the case of Mbe) helped ensure that beneficiaries respected the terms of agreement for support. A total of 1,669 farmers (out of the 1,970 trained, i.e. 1,348 men and 622 women\*) and 9 women's groups signed conservation contracts.

\*Some farmers who only participated in training but did not receive cocoa seedlings to replant their farms did not sign a conservation contract.

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# **Results for each deliverable:**

Com	Component		erable	
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
1.0	Protect Cross River gorillas and other key species at three sites.	1.1	Effectiveness of ranger patrols at three sites, measured by a reduction in encounter rate of wire snares, empty cartridges, and hunting camps, is improved as demonstrated by ranger patrol reports.	The project supported a total of 784 antipoaching patrols of Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary, Mbe Mountains, and the Okwangwo Division of Cross River National Park that covered a total of 32 250 kilometres and led to the arrest of a total of 178 offenders including 83 hunters. The patrols also removed a total of 26,135 wire snares and dismantled a total of 322 hunting camps helping to reduce hunting pressure. Encounter rate of hunting signs such as wire snares, empty shotgun cartridges and gunshots heard decreased by 68% from 3.1 signs/km at inception to 0.98 signs/km at the end of the project, an indication of the positive impact of the project. Because of the regular patrols supported by the project, no Cross River gorillas were reported killed at any of the three project sites.
1.0	Protect Cross River gorillas and other key species at three sites.	1.2	Threats to Cross River Gorillas and other key species at three sites are monitored using SMART	We continued to monitor threats to Cross River Gorillas and other key species at the three sites by using SMART to analyze data on human activities and wildlife collected by ranger patrols. As result of the regular patrols supported by the project, no Cross River gorillas were reported killed at any of the three project sites and hunting pressure (measured as encounter rate of hunting signs such as wire snares, hunting camps and

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Com	ponent	Deliv	verable	
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
	•	_		empty cartridges) decreased significantly during the period of the project (a 68% decrease).  The project trained and supported 1,970 cocoa farmers (both men and women) at Afi Mbe and Okwangwo to improve efficiency of existing farms and the sustainability and profitability of bush mango harvesting and marketing to increase income while reducing deforestation. Improved cocoa and bush mango seedlings provided to farmers and women for planting are growing well and will help increase productivity and income and reduce pressure on the forest. The seedlings

Com	ponent	Deliv	verable	
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				rate decreased from 2.22% during 2000-2010 to 1.36% during the 2010-2018 period.
2.0	Protect important forest habitat and corridors through co-management with local communities to provide benefits from improved cocoa production, bush mango harvesting and watershed protection.	2.2	Increased benefits to local women's groups as a result of training in improved bush mango collection, processing, storage and marketing, as demonstrated by baseline and final BNS reports.	As a result of the training provided by the project, women in the project landscape no longer use unsustainable bush mango harvesting methods that destroy and degrade the forest. The women were also supported with improved bush mango seedlings for planting on farms and degraded forest areas to boost production and reduce pressure on the forest. The project trained a total of 1,582 women in bush mango processing, storage, and marketing, as well as propagation. The women were also trained in processing and storage of bush mango seeds to improve quality. Improved storage resulted in better quality seeds and higher price for the product. Well-dried bush mango seeds sold after the harvest season fetch a much higher price compared to fresh seeds sold during the harvest months. To improve access to market, the project supported the registration of nine women's cooperatives with large markets in cities where prices are better. Women groups supported by the project reported over 20% increase in income from bush mango through selling their product off-season at better prices. Higher income through better prices is helping to reduce levels of poverty among the women thereby reducing the need to collect

Comp	oonent	Delive	erable	
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				larger quantities to increase income and
				reducing pressure on the forest.
3.0	Raise awareness and improve local attitudes and behaviors towards conservation through a schools-based conservation education and a radio drama program.	3.1	Increased awareness and local support for Cross River gorilla conservation as result of strengthened schools-based conservation education outreach program, as demonstrated by project report and reports from community conservation initiatives such as CAMM.	Through support for a schools-based conservation education program that includes school visits, creation of conservation clubs, films and field trips for schoolchildren reaching over 80,000 people in the project landscape, the project helped raise levels of conservation awareness and support for Cross River gorilla conservation. A total of 137 field trips, 326 school visits by WCS' education staff, 136 exchange visits between conservation clubs and 243 film shows were organized with the support of the project. As an indication of the positive impact of the program, no Cross River gorillas were killed in Nigeria during the period of this project. A number of communities took steps to strengthen their community rules and regulations in support of Cross River gorilla conservation. For example, the communities around the Mbe Mountains (through CAMM) developed a set of bylaws, which they presented to the local government authority for endorsement to strengthen the protection of the Mbe Mountains. Community conservation initiatives such as CAMM were targeted for engagement in our outreach program.
3.0	Raise awareness and improve local attitudes and	3.2	Improved local behaviors and attitudes towards	Support from the project for the production and broadcast of the radio program, My Gorilla
	behaviors towards		conservation influenced by	My Community was critical to raise awareness

Com	ponent	Deliv	erable	
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
	conservation through a schools-based conservation education and a radio drama program.		'My Gorilla My Community' radio program, as demonstrated by knowledge, attitudes, and behaviours survey report.	and change attitudes and behaviors towards conservation. A total of 104 episodes of the program were produced and broadcasted over the duration of the project, reaching approximately 100,000 people in the project landscape, and over 1 million across the entire Cross River State. A post-broadcast survey of knowledge, attitudes and behavior was completed in 2019. The results showed that the MGMC program was successful in changing attitudes and behaviors of the local communities regarding Cross River gorillas and their habitat. For example, there was 200% increase from baseline in the percent of respondents supporting protection of gorillas from hunting and their habitat from destruction. The percent of respondents who adopted improved farming methods increased by 190%, and the percent of respondents who reported talking to other community members to discourage gorilla hunting or encourage adoption of sustainable farming methods increased by 43% compared to baseline.
4.0	CEPF project management and monitoring for compliance with project results, indicators, programmed activities and safeguard policies	4.2	Capacity of farmer cooperatives and women's groups increased as evaluated through appropriate tracking tool	The project contributed to capacity development of farmers and women's groups in the project landscape through training in improved farming practices and supply of improved planting material to the farmers. Farmers supported by the project are applying best practices in cocoa farming to reduce deforestation. Old, less productive farms

Com	oonent	Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				replanted with improved fast-growing and high-yielding variety of cocoa are growing well and will potentially increase productivity and income. The project also helped develop the capacity of women's groups through training and support to the groups. At inception of the project, all the women's groups were at their formative stages and none was registered. None of the nine groups had a work plan or a business plan, a benefit sharing mechanism nor financial management system in place. None of the groups had financial records or any savings. However, with the support of the project nine women's groups have been officially registered with the government as cooperatives defined vision and mission statements and written bylaws. All the nine groups now have membership records and clear benefit sharing mechanism and keep financial records. The project encourages information and experience sharing between the groups through support for exchange visits.
4.0	CEPF project management and monitoring for compliance with project results, indicators, programmed activities and safeguard policies	4.3	Management effectiveness of Cross River National Park improved as evaluated through a Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT)	A reassessment of management effectiveness of the three sites showed some improvement in METT scores for all sites: new METT score for Afi = 45 against a baseline score of 37, Mbe = 68 against baseline score of 65 and Okwangwo = 69 against 67 at baseline.
4.0	CEPF project management and monitoring for	4.1	Lessons learnt from this project, both negative and	Working with CAMM on this project has been useful in terms of securing the needed

Com	ponent	Delive	erable	
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				Community buy-in compared to other sites where there are no similar associations to provide a platform for engagement with the people.  Use of SMART greatly improved our ability to plan and implement patrols and monitor their effectiveness. Using SMART allowed more efficient data collection, and faster data analysis and reporting.  Based on discussions with cocoa farmers and our improved understanding of cocoa production in the project landscape, we expanded the project's support to cocoa farmers beyond training, to include providing improved cocoa seedlings to the farmers for replacement planting existing old and unproductive farms. A major constraint to efficiency in cocoa production in the area is the use of poor quality planting material, which results in low yield and consequent need to clear more forest for expansion.
				Signing conservation contracts with the farmers helps to ensure that the farmers
				adhere to best practices that reduce deforestation.
				Organizing women into groups and supporting the groups to be registered as bush mango cooperatives facilitated access to market for

Com	Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable	
				women in the project landscape who collect and trade in bush mango as means of livelihood.	
4.0	CEPF project management and monitoring for compliance with project results, indicators, programmed activities and safeguard policies	4.4	Project financial and programmatic reports submitted to CEPF on time and accurately	Progress financial and programmatic reports submitted to CEPF on time and accurately.	
4.0	CEPF project management and monitoring for compliance with project results, indicators, programmed activities and safeguard policies	4.5	Report focusing on the project impacts is completed online at project close	A final project report focusing on the project impacts has been completed online at project close.	

### Tools, products or methodologies that resulted from the project or contributed to the results:

- Spatial Monitoring And Reporting Tool (SMART): A valuable tool for measuring, evaluating and improving the effectiveness of wildlife law enforcement patrols and site-based conservation activities (see www.smartconservationtools.org). Using SMART enhanced our ability to plan, implement and adapt our law enforcement program, and monitor and improve the effectiveness of the patrols supported by the project.
- My Gorilla My Community Radio Program (MGMC): In an effort to inspire positive change in attitudes and behavior towards Cross River gorillas and other threatened species and their habitat, the education program of WCS Nigeria launched the radio program MGMC in 2015, in collaboration with PCI Media Impact. The program features a particularly influential drama series set in a fictional area reminiscent of the geographical range of the Cross River gorilla and neighbouring human communities. By touching the heartstrings of about 100,000 listeners in and around the Cross River gorilla's landscape—and about 1,000,000 in Cross River state —the drama was particularly effective in encouraging behavior change that helped protect the gorilla and other threatened species and their habitat. Over time, listeners formed emotional ties with the fictional characters in the drama segment of the program, whose thinking and behavior regarding various environmental and conservation issues positively and gradually evolved. Through this connection, the drama has had a greater influence on listeners' values and behavior than the purely cognitive information provided via documentaries or through education. The program sought to encourage listeners to engage in protective behavior, such as: refraining from hunting protected species,

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hunting in areas that are properly zoned, hunting using only legal methods, supporting law enforcement authorities and protected area staff, adopting sustainable farming methods, volunteering as a gorilla guardian, using social gatherings to encourage dialog on conservation, designing social gatherings around conservation themes, and involving a broader spectrum of community members and stakeholders in decisions about the forest that affect the entire community. The drama was broadcast in parallel with community action campaigns that supported the key messages through events, written materials, speaker series, school visits and other local activities. Collecting feedback from listener groups was the primary means of monitoring for changes in knowledge, attitude and behavior. A total of 104 episodes of MGMC were produced during the project.

- School Conservation Clubs: These provided a forum through which students learned about the environment and biodiversity conservation and then reached out to influence and engage their parents and neighbourhood communities to promote sound environmental behavior. Conservation clubs empowered students to explore environmental concepts and actions beyond the confines of their syllabus or curriculum. The project supported over 50 conservation clubs in schools in the project landscape.
- Women's Bush Mango Cooperatives: The project supported the formation of cooperatives of women involved in harvesting and trade in bush mango as a means of livelihood, as an effective way of engaging with the women. The cooperatives enhanced governance, facilitated access to market and increased income from bush mango, thereby reducing levels of poverty among women in the project landscape.

#### **PORTFOLIO INDICATORS**

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
3.1	Priority actions identified in Conservation Action Plans are implemented for at least 15 Critically Endangered and Endangered species.			2	The project contributed to the implementation of a number of priority actions identified in the regional action plans for Cross River gorilla and Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee respectively including improving law enforcement effectiveness, creating awareness and changing attitudes and behaviors,

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Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
			•		and supporting sustainable local livelihoods.  The project trained, equipped and supported Nigeria National Park Service and Cross River State Forestry Commission rangers as well as CAMM ecoguards to implement
					anti-poaching patrols in Okwangwo Division of Cross River National Park, Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary and Mbe Mountains Community Forest Cross River gorillas and Nigeria- Cameroon chimpanzees.
					Through support for school conservation clubs, community meetings and radio drama, the project contributed to increased awareness, positive attitude and behavior change and local support for conservation.
					The project contributed towards improving local livelihoods through support to local farmers and women's groups to improve the productivity and

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
					sustainability of cocoa production and non-timber forest products harvesting.
3	Populations of at least 30 globally threatened species targeted by CEPF grants are stable or increasing.			7	The project strengthened law enforcement at three Cross River gorilla (CR) sites helping to reduce hunting pressure. Encounter rate of hunting signs such as wire snares, empty shotgun cartridges and gunshots heard (proxy for hunting pressure) decreased by 68% over the duration of the project resulting in zero poaching of Cross River gorillas in the project landscape. Law enforcement patrols supported by the project also contributed to the protection of a number of other globally threatened species including Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee (EN), drill (EN), Preuss's monkey (EN), slender-snouted crocodile (CR), forest elephant (EN), and Mount Kupe bush-shrike (EN). The white-bellied Pangolin (EN) population is probably still decreasing though.

### **GLOBAL INDICATORS**

#### **Protected Areas**

Protected areas that have been created and/or expanded as a result of the project. Protected areas may include private or community reserves, municipal or provincial parks, or other designations where biodiversity conservation is an official management goal.

Name of Protected   WDPA   Latitude   Longitude   ID*	Country Original Total Size (Hectares)	Protected	Year of Legal Declaration or Expansion
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<sup>\*</sup>World Database of Protected Areas

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<sup>\*\*</sup>If this is a new protected area, 0 should appear in this column

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> This column excludes the original total size of the protected area.

# **Key Biodiversity Area Management**

Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) under improved management—where tangible results have been achieved to support conservation—as a result of the project.

KBA Name	KBA Code	Size of KBA	Number of Hectares with Improved Management
Afi River Forest Reserve	NGA1		10,000
Mbe Mountains and Cross River National Park: Okwangwo Division	NGA7		72,500

### **Production Landscapes**

Production landscapes with strengthened management of biodiversity as a result of the project.

A production landscape is defined as a site outside a protected area where commercial agriculture, forestry or natural product exploitation occurs.

Name of Production Landscape	Latitude	Longitude	Hectares Strengthened	Intervention
Unprotected community forest within the Cross River Landscape	6.311577	9.120764	5,000	The project encouraged and supported the adoption of agricultural best practices by the local farmers and discouraged the use of unsustainable farming methods such as using fire to clear land for farming. Cocoa farmers were trained and provided improved cocoa seedlings to replant existing old and unproductive farms increase productivity and limit expansion and consequent deforestation. The project also discouraged unsustainable bush mango harvesting

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Name of Production Landscape	Latitude	Longitude	Hectares Strengthened	Intervention
				methods that destroy and degrade the forest, and promoted conservation contracts with 1,669 farmers and 9 women's groups to ensure compliance to reduce deforestation. It also led to the strengthening of bylaws to protect the forest and wildlife.

# **Benefits to Individuals**

# • Structured Training:

Number of Men Trained	Number of Women Trained	Topics of Training
1348	2204	<ul> <li>Establishment of cocoa farm – land preparation &amp; site history,</li> <li>Planting material selection &amp; nursery establishment</li> <li>Pruning</li> <li>Shade trees management</li> <li>Weed management</li> <li>Soil fertility management – mulching &amp; composting, Fertilizer application and management</li> <li>Integrated Pest Management (IPM) – prevention, observation, intervention</li> <li>Rational pesticide use – decision steps for applying pesticides to cocoa in the field, reducing pesticide residues in cocoa</li> <li>Cocoa harvesting, pod storage and pod breaking</li> <li>Fermentation and Drying</li> <li>Sustainable bush mango harvesting methods</li> <li>Proper bush mango drying and storage</li> <li>Financial management and records keeping training for bush mango cooperatives</li> </ul>

# • Cash Benefits:

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Number of Men	Number of Women	Description of Benefits							
- Cash Benefits	- Cash Benefits								
1348	2204	Training provided by the project as well as farm supplies such as good quality planting material, wheelbarrows, boots, and tarpaulins provided to farmers and bush women's groups enabled them to receive increased income from their activities.							

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# **Benefits to Communities**

View the <b>characteristics</b> column below with the following	View the <b>benefits</b> column below with the following
corresponding codes:	corresponding codes:
1- Small Landowners	a. Increased Access to Clean Water
2- Subsistence Economy	b. Increased Food Security
3- Indigenous/ Ethnic Peoples	c. Increased Access to Energy
4- Pastoralists / Nomadic Peoples	d. Increased Access to Public Services
5- Recent Migrants	e. Increased Resilience to Climate Change
6- Urban Communities	f. Improved Land Tenure
7- Other	g. Improved Use of Traditional Knowledge
	h. Improved Decision-Making
	i. Improved Access to Ecosystem Services

Community Name	Community Characteristics									Тур	ре с	of B	en	efit			Country	Males	Number of Females Benefitting
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	а	b	С	d	е	f	g	h	i			
Abo Mkpang	$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$					$\boxtimes$					$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$	Nigeria	35	60
Abo Obisu	$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$					$\boxtimes$		$\boxtimes$							$\boxtimes$	Nigeria	32	55
Abo Ogbagante	$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$					$\boxtimes$		$\boxtimes$							$\boxtimes$	Nigeria	32	55
Kanyang I	$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$					$\boxtimes$		$\boxtimes$						$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$	Nigeria	35	55
Kanyang II	$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$					$\boxtimes$		$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$	Nigeria	35	60
Wula I	$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$					$\boxtimes$		$\boxtimes$						$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$	Nigeria	36	55
Wula II	$\boxtimes$						$\boxtimes$									$\boxtimes$	Nigeria	35	55
Bokalum	$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$					$\boxtimes$		$\boxtimes$						$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$	Nigeria	35	55
Bamba	$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$					$\boxtimes$		$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$	Nigeria	35	60
Okwangwo	$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$					$\boxtimes$		$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$	Nigeria	35	55
Okwa II	$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$					$\boxtimes$		$\boxtimes$							$\boxtimes$	Nigeria	32	55

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Community Name	Community Characteristics									Туј	ре (	of B	en	efit			Country	Males	Number of Females Benefitting
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	а	b	С	d	е	f	g	h	i			
Butatong	$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$					$\boxtimes$		$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$	Nigeria	35	60
Buabre	$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$					$\boxtimes$		$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$	Nigeria	35	55
Oguefor	$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$					$\boxtimes$		$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$	Nigeria	30	55
Bakuriku	$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$					$\boxtimes$		$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$		Nigeria	35	57
Kakwe-Beebo	$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$					$\boxtimes$								$\boxtimes$		Nigeria	35	55
Bagabo	$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$					$\boxtimes$		$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$	Nigeria	35	55
Okwa I	$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$					$\boxtimes$		$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$	Nigeria	35	60
Boggo	$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$					$\boxtimes$		$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$	Nigeria	35	55
Busi VI	$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$					$\boxtimes$		$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$		Nigeria	35	55
Bakie	$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$					$\boxtimes$		$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$		Nigeria	32	55
Yangwabe	$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$					$\boxtimes$		$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$		Nigeria	35	60
Ukampor	$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$					$\boxtimes$		$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$	Nigeria	35	55
Esekwe	$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$					$\boxtimes$		$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$	Nigeria	35	55
Olum	$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$					$\boxtimes$		$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$	Nigeria	36	60
Buanchor	$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$					$\boxtimes$		$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$		Nigeria	35	55
Katabang	$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$					$\boxtimes$		$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$	Nigeria	35	55
Kakwagom	$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$					$\boxtimes$		$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$	Nigeria	35	55
Njuar	$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$					$\boxtimes$		$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$	Nigeria	35	55
Bitiah	$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$					$\boxtimes$		$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$	Nigeria	35	60
Ebok	$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$					$\boxtimes$		$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$		Nigeria	33	55
Enyi							$\boxtimes$		$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$	Nigeria	35	55

Community Name	ty Community Characteristics		•	Type of Benefit									Country	Number of Males Benefitting	Number of Females Benefitting				
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	а	b	С	d	е	f	g	h	i			
Ebbranta		$\boxtimes$					$\boxtimes$		$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$	Nigeria	35	60
Kachie	$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$					$\boxtimes$		$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$	Nigeria	35	55
Asuben	$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$					$\boxtimes$		$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$	Nigeria	35	60
Nkanya	$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$					$\boxtimes$		$\boxtimes$							$\boxtimes$	Nigeria	35	55
Okubuchi	$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$					$\boxtimes$		$\boxtimes$							$\boxtimes$	Nigeria	35	57
Ndemechang	$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$					$\boxtimes$		$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$	Nigeria	35	55
Kakubok	$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$					$\boxtimes$		$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$	Nigeria	35	60

#### Characteristics of "Other" Communities:

Abo Mkpang: Forest communityAbo Obisu: Forest community

Abo Ogbagante: Forest community

Kanyang I: Forest community

Kanyang II: Forest community

• Wula I: Forest community

• Wula II: Forest community

Bokalum: Forest community

• Bamba: Forest community

Okwangwo: Forest community

• Okwa II: Forest community

Butatong: Forest community

• Buabre: Forest community

Oguefor: Forest community

• Bakuriku: Forest community

Kakwe-Beebo: Forest community

• Bagabo: Forest community

Okwa I: Forest community

Boggo: Forest community

Busi VI: Forest community

Bakie: Forest community

Yangwabe: Forest community
Ukampor: Forest community
Esekwe: Forest community
Olum: Forest community
Buanchor: Forest community
Katabang: Forest community
Kakwagom: Forest community
Njuar: Forest community

• Bitiah: Bitiah

Ebok: Forest community
Enyi: Forest community
Ebbranta: Forest community
Kachie: Forest community
Asuben: Forest community
Nkanya: Forest community
Okubuchi: Forest community
Ndemechang: Forest community
Kakubok: Forest community

# **Policies, Laws and Regulations**

View the <b>topics</b> column below with the following corresponding codes:							
A- Agriculture	E- Energy	I- Planning/Zoning	M- Tourism				
B- Climate	F- Fisheries	J- Pollution	N- Transportation				
C- Ecosystem Management	G- Forestry	K- Protected Areas	O- Wildlife Trade				
D- Education	H- Mining and Quarrying	L- Species Protection	P- Other				

No.	Name of Law	Scope								Тор	ics							
			Α	В	С	D	Е	F	G	H	Ι	J	K	Г	М	Z	0	Р
1	A byelaw to make provision for the preservation of the natural resources of Mbe Community Wildlife	Local	$\boxtimes$						$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$		$\boxtimes$			$\boxtimes$	

No.	Name of Law	Scope								Тор	ics							
			Α	В	O	D	Е	П	O	Н	Ι	J	K	L	М	N	0	P
	Sanctuary and for other matters connected thereto																	

<sup>&</sup>quot;Other" Topics Addressed by the Policy, Law or Regulation:

No.	Country/ Countries	Date Enacted/ Amended	Expected impact	Action Performed to Achieve the Enactment/ Amendment
1	Nigeria	January 01, 2018	Improved protection of the Mbe Mountains Community Forest and its wildlife, including Cross River gorillas and Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzees	Facilitated engagement between CAMM and the Boki Local Government Council to enact the bylaw.

# **Companies Adopting Biodiversity-friendly Practices**

A company is defined as a for-profit business entity. A biodiversity-friendly practice is one that conserves or uses natural resources in a sustainable manner.

Name of Company	Description of Biodiversity-Friendly Practice	Country/Countries
		where Practice was
		Adopted

# **Networks and Partnerships**

Networks/partnerships should have some lasting benefit beyond immediate project implementation. Informal networks/partnerships are acceptable.

Name of	Year	Country/	Established	Purpose
Network/Partnership	Established	Countries	by Project?	

# **Sustainable Financing**

Sustainable financing mechanisms generate funding for the long-term (generally five or more years). These include, but are not limited to, conservation trust funds, debt-for-nature swaps, payment for ecosystem services (PES) schemes, and other revenue, fee or tax schemes that generate long-term funding for conservation.

Name of Mechanism	Purpose	Date Established	Description	Country/ Countries	Project Intervention	Delivery of
						Funds?

### **Globally Threatened Species**

Globally threatened species (CR, EN, VU) on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, benefitting from the project.

Genus	Species	Common Name (English)	Status	Intervention	Population Trend at Site
Pan	troglodyte s	Common Chimpanzee	EN	Implementation of key actions recommended in the regional action plan for the conservation of the Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee including patrolling to halt poaching of the species, habitat protection, species monitoring, conservation education and awareness, and support for diversified livelihoods.	Stable
Mandrillus	leucophae us	Drill	EN	Patrolling to halt poaching of the species, habitat protection, species monitoring,	Stable

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Genus	Species	Common Name (English)	Status	Intervention	Population Trend at Site
				conservation education and awareness, and support for diversified livelihoods	
Allochroce bus	preussi	Preuss's Guenon	EN	Patrolling to halt poaching of the species, habitat protection, species monitoring, conservation education and awareness, and support for diversified livelihoods.	Stable
Phataginu s	tricuspis	African White- bellied Pangolin	EN	Patrolling to halt poaching of the species, habitat protection, species monitoring, conservation education and awareness, and support for diversified livelihoods	Decreasing
Mecistops	cataphract us	African Slender- snouted Crocodile	CR	Patrolling to halt poaching of the species, habitat protection, species monitoring, conservation education and awareness, and support for diversified livelihoods	Stable
Loxodonta	africana	African Elephant	VU	Patrolling to halt poaching of the species, habitat protection, species monitoring, conservation education and awareness, and support for diversified livelihoods	Stable
Chloropho neus	kupeensis	Kupe Bushshrike	EN	Patrolling to halt poaching of the species, habitat protection, species monitoring, conservation education and awareness, and support for diversified livelihoods	Stable
Gorilla	gorilla	Lowland Gorilla	CR	Implementation of key actions recommended in the regional action plan for the conservation of the Cross River gorilla including patrolling to halt poaching of the species, habitat protection, species monitoring, conservation education and awareness, and support for diversified livelihoods	Stable

#### **LESSONS LEARNED**

Working with community organizations such as the Conservation Association of Mbe Mountains on this project was useful in terms of securing the needed community buy-in compared to other sites where there are no similar associations to provide a platform for engagement with the people.

Use of technology such as Spatial Monitoring And Reporting Tool (SMART) greatly improved our ability to plan and implement patrols and monitor their effectiveness. Using SMART allowed more efficient data collection, and faster data analysis and reporting.

Based on discussions with cocoa farmers and our improved understanding of cocoa production in the project landscape, we expanded the project's support to cocoa farmers beyond training, to include providing improved cocoa seedlings to the farmers for replacement planting existing old and unproductive farms. A major constraint to efficiency in cocoa production in the area is the use of poor quality planting material, which results in low yield and consequent need to clear more forest for expansion. Signing conservation contracts with the farmers helps to ensure that the farmers adhere to best practices that reduce deforestation.

Organizing women into groups and supporting the groups to be registered as bush mango cooperatives facilitated access to market for women in the project landscape who collect and trade in bush mango as means of livelihood.

### SUSTAINABILITY/REPLICATION

The project was successful in improving the effectiveness of anti-poaching patrols and reducing threats to the Cross River gorilla, as well as building the capacity of protected area staff who will continue to apply the knowledge and skills gained through this project to protect gorillas and other endangered species. In addition to reducing hunting pressure, the project was success in raising levels of awareness and changing attitudes and behavior towards Cross River gorilla and forest conservation. Developed and implemented with the active involvement of local stakeholders, the My Gorilla My Community radio program and other outreached activities such as conservation clubs established in local schools can be sustained by the local stakeholders and can be replicated at other sites. Capacity of local farmers and women built during the project through training in sustainable farming and non-timber forest products harvesting and marketing, as well as support for the formation and registration of cooperatives will continue to benefit biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction in the landscape long after the project's end. Importantly, relationships established between the local communities and local institutions such as the Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN) during this project will ensure that farmers in the area continue to have access to training support and quality planting material beyond the life of the project to improve agricultural productivity and sustainability. The project was also successful in building the capacity of local community organizations such as the Conservation Association of the Mbe Mountains to take ownership and responsibility for the long-term conservation of Cross River gorillas. The Conservation Association of the Mbe Mountains is a good model of community conservation that can be replicated elsewhere.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS/STANDARDS**

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The project was implemented in accordance with the Process Framework Plan that was agreed during the project development stage. WCS ensured the full involvement of key stakeholders in the implementation of the project including all communities adjacent to the project sites, the Conservation Association of the Mbe Mountains (CAMM), local women's groups, existing cooperatives and Boki Local Government Council through consultative meetings and group discussions. The selection of farmers and women to be trained followed procedures requiring community consultation. WCS targeted disadvantaged groups such as women, hunters and unemployed youths for support and worked with CAMM and local chiefs at all three project sites to make sure that such affected persons involved in support to improve the profitability and sustainability of cocoa production and bush mango harvesting, as well as environmental education. To ensure that any aggrieved persons had a fair to receive redress, WCS established clear grievance communication channels between communities, the Conservation Association of the Mbe Mountains, the Cross River State Forestry Commission and the National Parks Service, and WCS. All affected local communities were informed of the objectives of the project and the existence of a grievance mechanism. Contact information of relevant WCS staff, the Regional Implementation Team and the CEPF Grant Director were made publicly available to the affected communities and other stakeholders through appropriate means. In addition to ensuring full compliance to the project Process Framework Plan, WCS's global safeguarding policies and specific Law Enforcement SOPs and Safeguards as well as Social Safeguarding Procedures, which align with CEPF's safeguard policy, were also followed. The WCS SOPs and Safeguards require all law enforcement personnel and partners to treat each other and the communities where we work with dignity and respect and according to internationally recognized standards of human rights.

### ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

#### **ADDITIONAL FUNDING**

Total Amount of	\$410,503.00
Additional Funding	
<b>Actually Secured</b>	
(USD)	
Breakdown of	Wildlife Conservation Society: 56354
Additional Funding	Arcus Foundation: 58715
	U.S Fish and Wildlife Service: 200687
	Rainforest Trust: 49601
	Darwin Initiative: 28757
	Kolmarden Fundraising Foundation: 16389

### **INFORMATION SHARING AND CEPF POLICY**

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned and results. For more information about this project, you may contact the organization and/or individual listed below.

Wildlife Conservation Society, wcsnigeria@wcs.org

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