

The Perception of KORUP Project among the inhabitants of the project region

- An Impact Assessment -



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by

Dr. Kai Schmidt-Soltau

(SchmidtSol@aol.com)

with the assistance of

Christol Fombad Focham

Eyong Charles Takoyoh B.Sc. — Fuh Divine Fuh B.Sc.

Primus Mbeanwoah Tazanu B.Sc. — Oletus Temah Temah

Executive Summary

This impact assessment was carried out in January/February 2000 in 21 villages in the south-west province of Cameroon. The aim of the research was to assess the perception of Korup Project among the inhabitants of the project region. The research is based on the assumption that perception arises from actions and interactions. Due to that the perception of the activities of Korup Project - following the structure of the logframe - will be assessed, before the general perception is investigated. The following findings are a representative picture of the perception of the inhabitants of the Korup Project area.

The Korup Project started work on February 3rd 1988. The project applied different approaches and strategies to achieve its overall goal, which is nowadays specified as: **The Conservation of biodiversity of Korup Project Area**" (Annual Plan 1999). It embodies the following activities and expected results:

Activity 4.1. Assist Rural Infrastructure projects

All stakeholders know, that infrastructure hardly contributes directly to the protection of the biodiversity, but the assistance to communal infrastructure was implemented as Korup Project activity, to produce confidence and good relations. Only a 10,8% minority experienced this assistance and support to the village infrastructure. Additional 11% realised that schools received aid - mostly teaching material distributed by the now-abandoned environmental education component. The villagers have the impression that Korup Project has no strategy or procedure on how, when and/or if infrastructure is established in a village. They also do not see a relation between this assistance and the conservation of biodiversity. The low rate of people, who realised benefits and the fact that even those people, who realised the assistance of Korup Project, do not have a more positive perception of conservation activities questions this strategy.

Activity 4.2. Support sustainable alternative income generating activities

For the majority, which see themselves primarily as farmers (65,3%), this could result in assistance to their farming activities, but also in alternative sources of cash income. Among the male population this should effect those 17,2 % who hunt, those 27,9 % who collect forest products and those 11,2 % who fish. Among the female population activity 4.2. should effect those 42,3 % who collect forest products and those 3 % who fish. 15,7 % realised benefits from the Korup Project activity 4.2.. 12,5 % of the villagers have the impression that Korup Project is assisting them in their farming and implementing income generating activities. Whether the implementation of alternative income generating activities are related to the overall conservation aim of the project, remains uncertain. The villagers agreed not to have reduced their hunting and gathering activities due to the support of the implementation of sustainable alternative income generating activities (Activity 4.2).

Education and sensitisation

Education and sensitisation are - following the logframe - overall activities to support the other activities. 33,4 % of the villagers have the impression that Korup Project is mainly holding lectures. Assistance to schools and education is seen by 15,7 % as the main contribution of Korup Project to the villages. The environmental education component was disbanded following the mid-term review. Our findings underline the decision taken, because the trained pupils and students do not care more than others about the lectured ideas of conservation when they have to earn their living from the forest. The assistance received in the area of environmental education was more of a contribution to the infrastructure of schools and education in the villages (see activity 4.1.). This is appreciated by a significant group of people as an important achievement,

but it did not contribute substantially to the conservation goal.

Activity 5.1.: Establishment of participatory land-use plans

None of the inhabitants of the project area had any knowledge on land use plans.

Activity 5.2.: Support the sustainable forest use through capacity building

The impact of the activity 5.2. can be assessed through the level of knowledge on sustainable natural resource management. 2 % of the villagers realised that sustainable forest use is the aim of the Korup Project and 1 % recognised sustainable forest use as one of the methods of conservation applied by Korup Project. On the other, hand 13,7 % stated that sustainable forest use was their reason for a positive perception of forest conservation. Following the argument that certain technical terms were more popular among students and pupils, one could come to the conclusion that the term "sustainable forest use" is one of them. 17,7 % of the people below 25 gave this as reason for their positive perception of conservation, but only 11,4 % of the people above 25. Nevertheless, one has to consider that this positive perception of conservation through sustainable forest use is not reflected as a concrete activity of Korup Project, but abstract vision to reconcile forest use and conservation.

Capacity building

57,9 % were aware of a participative approach in caring out activities. These people are satisfied with this interaction, while people, who did experience that activities were organised in a participatory manner were unsatisfied with the interaction.

Activity 5.3.: Community forest in appropriate areas

1 % of the villagers realised community forest as a conservation method applied by Korup Project. 60 % of them came from Mbenyam, 20 % from the neighbouring Ndebaya and 20 % from Ashum, but only for Ndebaya a community forest is prospected for now. Bakebe and Fabe have applied for a community, but the ordinary villagers was not informed.

Activity 5.4.: Protection of the Korup National Park

The general perception of Korup National Park is positive (73,8 % think well about it), but detailed knowledge about the aims and objectives was very limited and most villagers can not differentiate between Korup Project and Korup National Park. The perception of the villages close to or in the national park is not as positive as among the general populace, but still very positive: 67,3 % think that the Korup National Park is a good institution. The most common reason for this is seen not only in its impact to conservation and sustainable forest management, but also its impact to the development and job opportunities. The negative perception of Korup National Park is in these villages with 30,6 % nearly twice the size of the general figure. Most of the people in the villages close to the Korup National Park, who do not like the park are doing so, because they have the impression that Korup National Park deprives them from many things. The game guards were strongly criticised.

Result 4: Participatory conservation

The environmental awareness is very high and results in a positive perception of conservation, but only a minority (41,4 %) realised, that Korup Project is primarily a conservation project. Only 5,2 % understood the new strategy and experienced the activities 4.1. and 4.2. as methods of conservation. Education and advises, which are - according to the logframe - not Korup activities were seen by 48,9 % as the main method of Korup Project to promote conservation.

The positive perception of conservation is neither related to environmental

education and lectures, nor to the activities 4.1. and 4.2.. Half of the villagers are not satisfied with the methods applied by Korup Project and even 21,1 % have the impression that the methods applied by Korup Project to promote conservation are destructive or useless. Even among those people, who understand conservation of wildlife and forest as a very important aim, 20,4 % have the impression that the methods applied by Korup Project are not effective, 13,8 % as useless and 6,6 % as destructive. 40,8 % of the target population are not satisfied with the methods applied by Korup Project. It seems as if this is caused by the methods applied. Quite a number of villagers (also a good number of priority villages) were not invited to participate in the decision-making process and are consequently not satisfied with the interaction. Korup Project staff visited the villages less than once a month and then mostly held lectures. In the view of the majority of the inhabitants of the project area, this approach is not effective, useless and destructive. The participatory methods and approaches introduced in the process of restructuring have not reached the villages.

Result 5: Participatory land use plans

Land use plans and patterns are unknown among the inhabitants of the project region, but some of the activities which are intended to result in the implementation of a participatory land use plan had an impact on the villagers. The capacity building activity of Korup Project was perceived quite positively and also the idea of sustainable forest management, but community based conservation is not experienced as Korup Project activities, but as theoretical concepts. The concept of a high protected area (national park) was perceived very positively and could even be better if Korup Project could communicate the legal framework and procedures of anti-poaching activities.

The image of Korup Project

The image of Korup Project is in our opinion based on the activities carried out by Korup Project and the interaction established by the field staff. It is important to realise that the general perception is not only based on the activities implemented in the 1999-2000 annual plan, but also on past strategies. The common impression that Korup Project is a development and agriculture project seems to be related to the former strategy applied (conservation through rural development) and from our interviews and findings we received the impression that this development assistance was appreciated by the villagers, but hardly effected their attitude towards forest and wildlife.

A majority does not want Korup Project to close down their activities, but the majority does not have any knowledge about the aims, objectives and main activities of Korup Project. Especially the relation of rural development (assistance to infrastructure and income generating activities) and conservation is hardly known. A significant number understand Korup Project as a pure development project, while others think that they are hunters or a logging company.

A significant number of people is neither satisfied with the benefits they derive from their cooperation with Korup Project, nor with the established interaction. More than half of the people think that the methods applied by Korup Project are not effective and quite a good number have only bad feelings when asked about Korup Project.

Conclusion

On the whole, the image of Korup project has to be improved if sustainable natural resource management is to be based on the active participation of the villagers. While Korup Project stated in the presentation that the findings are underlining the Korup Project success story, we are of the view that participatory natural resource management can only be successful if almost everybody (more than 75 %) is satisfied with the benefits, the level of participation, the methods applied and the general interaction. As long as only a minority or small majority appreciate the co-operation, it will be difficult to fulfil the

aim of the project, because sustainability can only be achieved if all stakeholders agree to the concept applied. As long as numerous villagers refuse to join the projected joint management of their natural resources, it will be uncertain whether the projected impact on wildlife and forest comes to fruition.

RECOMMENDATIONS / SUGGESTIONS

We recommend the implementation of a participatory impact assessment programme in all villages and zones. This main recommendation is based on our finding, that the interaction between all stakeholders is able to be improved if it is to be more fruitful and participatory. Since a productive cooperation between the Korup Project and the inhabitants of the project region can be seen as the key for a participatory and sustainable management of the natural resources in the Korup Project area, the involvement of the local population in decision making processes should be increased. The local population should be involved at all levels of management, from the evaluation of the performance of field staff to the Steering Committee.

According to our findings, it seems necessary that the Korup Project accelerate the prescribed change from a "patronage"-project to a service project, which is based on joint management by all stakeholders involved. It seems necessary that Korup Project, the donors, the Government of Cameroon and the local population discuss and reassess the "new" strategy applied. Most of the villagers did not know that the former strategy (conservation through rural development) - which was applied for 10 years - was changed. In the following we will give some recommendations on how the interaction between the villages and Korup Project could be made more fruitful for the overall aim of conserving the biodiversity in the region through sustainable and participatory natural resource management.

The frequency and quality of interaction with the villages has to be increased. One step could be to include in the terms of reference of field staff, that they have to live for 20 days a month in the villages they work with. While the administration should supervise the relevance of the activities for the overall project aim, the villagers could assess through the suggested participatory impact monitoring, the impact of activities and methods in the field.

Benefits are not equally distributed. Some villages received much assistance, while others - including priority villages - stated that they were not visited in years. The strategy of priority villages should be reassessed. We are of the view that the applied stratification is not suitable for the overall aim (conservation of the biodiversity of the Korup Project area), because all villages have an impact on the biodiversity of the project region. To be effective in the 187 villages in the project area, more field workers should be employed. They should be based in a central village of the region they are working in.

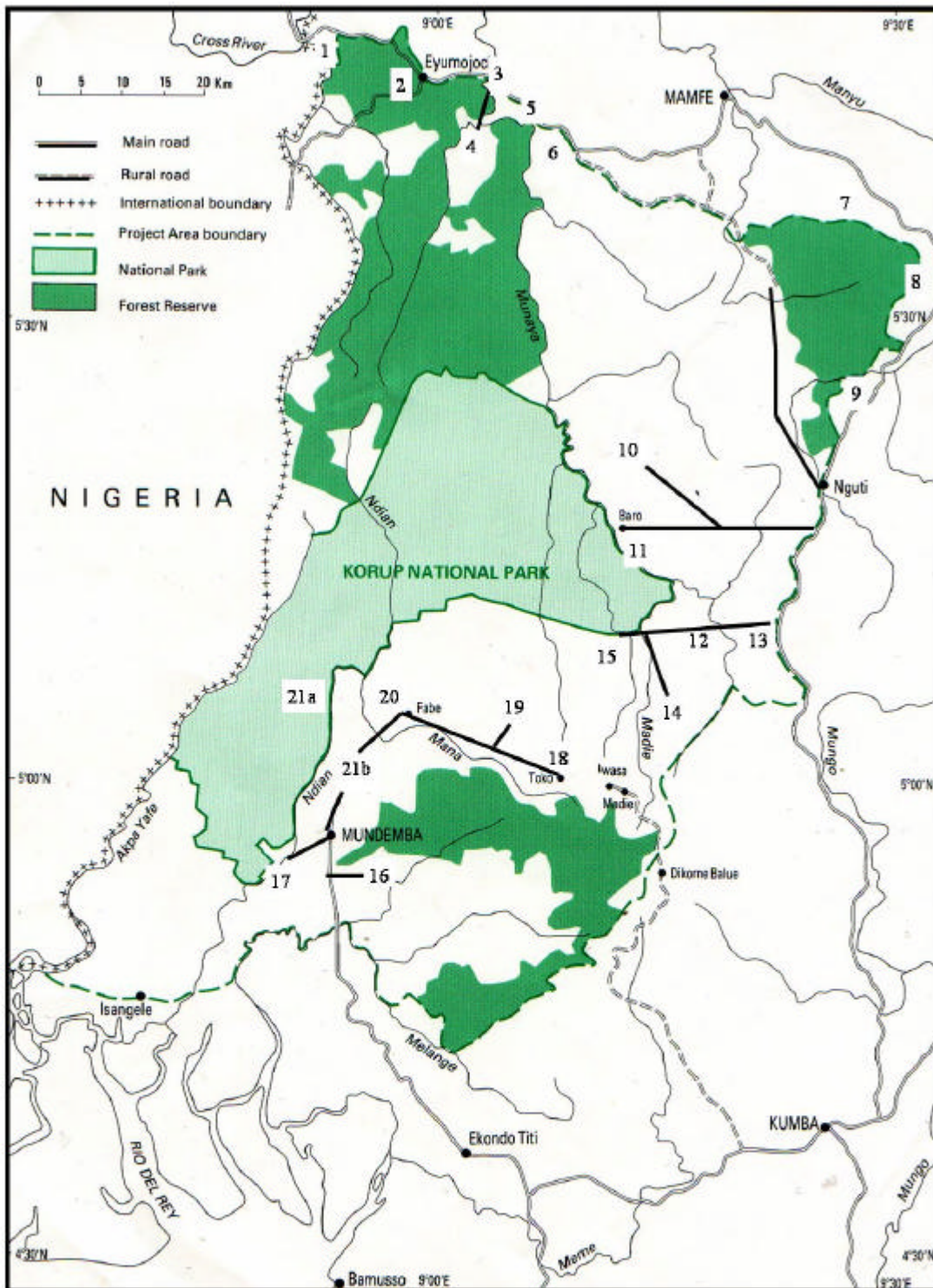
Special emphasis should be laid on a sustainable and participatory management of the natural resources. Quite a number of villagers are prepared to jointly manage the forest resources with Korup Project, but it has to be made clear that it is still their environment. Korup Project should put more emphasis on the idea of joint management options for hunting, fishing and NTFP's collection. They should offer "in-service" training for the marketing of all these forest products. The facilitation of participatory management of natural resources requires both the sincere commitment of project field staff and a sense of ownership by the villages concerned.

We did not have the chance to assess the impact of the traditional methods of conservation and it is surprising that in the past no research was carried out with that perspective. We hold the view that the traditional methods of conservation have to stand - at least as a starting point - in the centre of a community-based conservation. Their ability to deal with the challenges of automatic rifles and chainsaws is uncertain. We found it surprising that the villagers hold the view that the Korup-staff never discussed

traditional forms of conservation and their effectiveness - or gave them strategies to enable adaptation to contemporary challenges.

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Northern Sector	Eastern Sector	Southern Sector
1 Ekok	7 Mbinjong	20 Toko
2 Eyumojock	8 Bakebe	16 Meka
3 Ndebaya	9 Ashum	17 Ndian Town
4 Mbenyan	10 Abat	18 Toko (Resettlement-Site)
		19 Lipenja I
5 Mbakem	11 Baro	
6 Ayukaba	12 Sekam	
	13 Ebanga	
	14 Mwangele	
	15 Tombe(l)	
		21a Ekundu-Kundu
		21b Ekundu-Kundu (Resettlement-Site)

1. INTRODUCTION

The Korup Project has been working since February 3rd 1988 in a huge project area. The project applied different approaches and strategies to achieve its main goals: the conservation of bio-diversity in the area and especially in the Korup National Park. The main goal of this report is to analyse the perception of Korup Project among the inhabitants of the project region. This includes the question if, how and in which way the interventions of Korup Project towards a more sustainable use of forest and wildlife resources are perceived, because social sciences hold the view that perception is based on activities and interaction.

"The protection of old, undisturbed forest in Korup National Park area, through the improvement in living standards and economic conditions in the surrounding Support Zone, through the raising of environmental awareness among local communities, and through the protection of the National Park" (Mid-Term, 133) can be seen as the overall aim of Korup Project for its first ten years (1988-1997). This aim was based on the premise that the uncontrolled hunting and harvesting inside the Korup National Park is a result of poverty and underdevelopment in the whole region. Based on a very critical mid-term review the overall aim was changed in December 1997. According to the logframe in force until May 2000 the mission of Korup Project is to "conserve biodiversity of Korup Project Area." The project purpose is: "The Korup National Park and natural resources of the Support Zone are well managed" (Annual Planning 1999).

The approach towards local communities is said to have changed after the restructuring in 1997/1998 from simple donations to a system of participatory activities. Villages are supposed to get more responsibilities and should contribute if they want to benefit from project services. In spite of the many activities carried out in the project area, Korup Project staff itself realised that the reputation of the project is rather bad as far as local communities and authorities are concerned (Image Workshop Nguti 23/10/99). The major recommendation of that workshop was to contract a neutral person to evaluate the image of Korup Project, based on the fact that, better interaction can only be achieved on a profound knowledge of the others' perception of oneself.

The Government of Cameroon and the different international donors (EU, WWF, ODA (DFID), KFW, GTZ, WCS and US DoD) spent quite some money for the Korup Project. The research team is of the view that the input-output relation has to be taken into consideration if the perception of a projects is assessed, because the populace does this as well - even though this was not mentioned in our terms of reference. Based on the financial agreements compiled in the report of Tamajong Motuba Obase (1995), one can estimate that in the last 12 years, Korup received more than 10.000.000.000,- FCFA, or 830.000.000 FCFA a year. Korup National Park covers 1260 km², Rumpi Hills forest reserve 438 km², Ejagham forest reserve 462 km² and the Nta-ali forest reserve 313 km². The Korup project is theoretically able to spend 340.000 FCFA a year for the conservation of each km² of protected forest in the overall project area. This amount is one of the highest in Africa. Only South Africa is spending more (\$ 2.129 per km² - James et al. 1997, p.16) while the famous

national parks in eastern Africa have smaller budgets (\$400 per km² - ARTS 1998, p.1). The team holds the view that the Korup Project can not claim - as it was done in the discussion after the presentation of the Draft Report (Mundmeba 3/5/2000) - that it is under-financed and consequently hindered to fulfil its aims (Wilkie 1998).

In the past, two similar researches were carried out:

In 1993, Martin N. Tchamba from the Centre d'Etude de l'Environnement et du Développement au Cameroun (DEDC) in Maroua compiled a study with the title "A rapid assessment of the interventions and results of the Korup Project" on behalf of the World Conservation Union and the Commission of the European Communities. The shortcoming of this report can be seen in the fact that the findings are solemnly based on Korup Project documents and interviews with project staff. The result offers hardly any details and does not give reasons why, how and in which way the intervention of Korup Project was "very effective" (Tchamba 1993, p.23).

In June 1998, Enoch Thomas Tiku submitted a B.Sc. research report with the title "The relation between communities and environmental protection projects - Case Study: Korup National Park" to the Department of Sociology and Anthropology (University of Buea). The study, which was partly supervised by the co-ordinator of the impact assessment, focuses on the village of Baro. While the general part could be seen as the perception of a conservation project by a local elite, the use of the findings is limited by the fact that he never visited the village where he claimed to have carried out his research.

2. HISTORICAL AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND OF THE INTERVENTION BY KORUP PROJECT

Based on the assumption that prestige and perception are based to a certain extent on actions and interaction it seems necessary to analyse the different strategies applied by Korup Project including a short review of their theoretical backgrounds.

Tropical evergreen rainforest is highly endangered all over the world. The rainforests in Cameroon are up to a certain extent destroyed, degraded or used for timber exploitation. The forests in the western part of the South-West Province of the Republic of Cameroon are seen by scientists as some of the oldest of their kind in Africa. Research revealed that more than 3000 species of trees, plants, animals and insects live in an area which was established in 1937 as Korup Native Administration Forest Reserve (Gartlan 1984). Gartlan brought to light that the Korup forest is the home for 25% of African's primate species. Based on the research of Stephen Gartlan and Phil Agland, first conservation activities were carried out in the early eighties by the Earthlife Foundation and the Government of Cameroon. In November 1985 the Korup National Park Project organised a workshop in Mundemba to finalise the transformation of Korup forest reserve into a national park. As a result of these various activities, ODA decided in June 1986 to provide funding for further research. The rising awareness for the need of conservation and the willingness of international donors to support conservation of the tropical rainforest in Cameroon resulted in the Presidential Decree No. 86/1283 of October 30th 1986, in which the Korup National Park was created. It is larger than the former forest reserve (84.246 ha) and covers an area of 125.900 ha.

Funded by ODA and WWF - which took over from Earthlife after the charity went into liquidation in March 1987 - a first project proposal to secure the Korup National Park was elaborated and signed on February 3rd 1988 by the Government of Cameroon and WWF. The Korup Project started with 17 employees of whom four were expatriates (Korup 1988a, p.1). The main objective was still research and was supposed to result in the development of the Masterplan which was published and distributed in December 1989.

"The goal of the Korup Project is the conservation of the unique natural resources of the African tropical rainforest which is extremely rich in species diversity and endemism. The two-part strategy to achieve this goal is:

- A) To establish a national park in a part of the Korup rainforest area in order to provide a high level of protection for the genetic diversity and also to provide the level of protection necessary for the development of new economic opportunities based on research and tourism industry.
- B) To integrate resource management and development plans for natural resources outside the national park, which will develop sustainable resource utilisation and establish integrated management controls." (Hazam 1990)

In 1992 already 50 people were employed by the Korup Project, which by that time was

enlarged by the still existing GTZ component (7 employees) and a WCI/USAID component (7 employees). In April 1993 the Commission of the European Communities joined the funding board of the Korup Project and became soon the main sponsor of Korup Project. The financial agreement specified the actions to be undertaken as contributions to the above quoted former overall aim of the project:

- 1) "Developing a management and controlling system of the Korup Programme that could be operated and maintained by the appropriate government institutions and indigenous NGO's;
- 2) creating the necessary infrastructure related to the conservation and protection of the protected areas, including its physical demarcation;
- 3) resettling (on a voluntary basis) at least 4 of the 6 villages presently located within the Korup National Park;
- 4) building and implementing a development programme directed towards the rural areas surrounding the Korup Park ('support zone') in order to help local people find sustainable economic alternatives to the present hunting, trapping, gathering and deforesting practices in the park. The programme outside the park will be based on the development of appropriate, sustainable farming and extractive systems, the improvement of community social infrastructure and the development of small scale economic activity;
- 5) establishing three forest reserves within the support zone;
- 6) developing an environmental education and awareness programme that would assist the local people to take part in the decision making process, manage their own resources and address issues of poverty, population, health, environment and sustainable development;
- 7) undertaking research and monitoring of the ecosystem of the Korup Park and the support zone." (Financial Agreement 1992; p.1/2)

ad 1: These systems and their performance are subject to evaluation and are only indirectly related to this research. Conflicts, misunderstandings, insufficient co-operation can result from problems in the management, but also from other factors.

ad 2: Since 1992 the Park boundary is demarcated (Allo 1992; p.3) and several game guard posts have been established. Nevertheless it is important to mention, that "except of the Master Plan, the Korup National Park has not received sufficient park management attention. There is no management plan for the park" (Vabi 1999). Special emphasis will be placed on the visited villages in the three km zone around the national park (Baro, Tobe(l) and Ndian Town).

ad 3: The limited time available for the impact assessment did not allow us to visit any village in the park. The assessment of the Ekundu-Kundu (Ikondo-Kondo) resettlement site has therefore to be seen as an addition to the available study (Schmidt-Soltau 1999). The other park villages and their perception of Korup and the resettlement process was researched in November 1999 by a team under the supervision of Dr. Röschentaler. An evaluation of the resettlement component of Korup Project was carried out in February 2000.

- ad 4: The intervention of Korup Project in the support zone will be at the centre of the impact assessment.
- ad 5: The three forest reserves (Rumpi Hills forest reserve 438 km², Ejagham forest reserve 462 km² and Nta-ali forest reserve 313 km²) are demarcated, but especially the Ejagham forest reserve is subject to hunting and logging activities. Villages at the boundary, but also inside forest reserves were visited and will receive special attention (Eyumojock, Ndebaya, Mbenyan, Ashum and Meka).
- ad 6: A chapter will focus on environmental education, sensitisation and capacity building.
- ad 7: Even though an assessment of research activities carried out by Korup Project itself was not subject of this study, the Village Information Database (Butcher 1997), which had to be used as basis of the quantitative part of the study, has to be criticised. Some of the information in the report is far from reality and it has to be mentioned that the Korup Project does not make any effort to update it's Village Information Database.

Nevertheless, the aims and objectives of the Korup Project were seriously changed in 1997 and an adjustment towards a more conservation centred approach was implemented. The idea of rural development and environmental education as instruments of conservation was criticised and the Rural Development Component and Environmental Education Component were closed down. The major problem is still seen in the fact that the inhabitants of the region rely to a large extent on unsustainable hunting, trapping and collecting of NTFP's. While in the first ten years of Korup Project this human pressure on wildlife and forest was seen as result of the underdevelopment of the region and should have been reduced through rural development, the participatory management of the natural resources is seen as an appropriate method to reduce it to a sustainable level nowadays. The pressure on the biodiversity arises for the Korup National Park not only from 6 villages inside the boundaries of the national park, but also from 23 villages in a three km zone around the park. In general, the hunting and trapping activities of 187 villages, which assemble nearly 30.000 people, are seen as having an impact on the biodiversity of the Korup Project Area (Bijnsdorp 2000). It is the aim of the Korup Project to reduce the negative aspects of this impact. Six results were defined in April 1999:

- " 1. Institutional capacity of Korup Project strengthened
- 2. Approved participatory management plan for Korup National Park implemented
- 3. Participatory resettlement strategy of Korup National Park villages developed and implemented with stakeholders
- 4. Communities actively participate in and support conservation
- 5. Participatory land use plans implemented
- 6. Management plans for forest reserves established" (Annual Plan 1999)

Following this overview of expected results from the intervention of Korup Project the results 4 and 5 will have an direct impact on the prestige of Korup Project in the project area, because they are the guideline for the activities of Korup Project with the villages. In detail the results 4 and 5 combines the following activities:

- " **4. Communities actively participate in and support conservation**

- 4.1. Assist/support communities to organise implementation and maintenance of infrastructure
- 4.2. Support sustainable alternative income generating activities implementation
- 5. Participatory land use plans implemented**
- 5.1. Establish community based land use plans for the support zone
- 5.2. Strengthen capacities of communities to use land and forest resources sustainably
- 5.3. Promote and establish community forests in appropriate areas
- 5.4. Extend/Improve understanding of legal framework in the Korup Park Area
- 5.5. Assist MINEF to ensure that timber exploiters in support zone adopt sustainable practices
- 5.6. Develop operational channels to actively involve Government of Cameroon services in participatory conservation development. (Annual Plan 1999)

In the interpretation we will see how these activities are perceived by the local communities and if, how, and in which way they have effected the general perception of Korup Project and its objectives in the project area.

3. FINDINGS

3.1. Methodology

In rural sociology a combined approach of qualitative and quantitative methods is seen as the most effective way to gather rural perceptions (International Rural Sociology Association 1999). One can understand the quantitative data as the bones and the qualitative results as flesh of the body. While representative quantitative data are facts, which are beyond discussion, it is the job of the qualitative data to document the position and importance of the different facts by interpretation.

To gather sufficient data, the team was divided into two groups: One team (Eyong Charles Takoyoh B.Sc., Fuh Divine Fuh B.Sc., Primus Mbeanwoah Tazanu B.Sc., Cletus Temah Temah) elaborated, under the supervision of Dr. Kai Schmidt-Soltau, a questionnaire and a representative sample size for the project area. In the field this group was responsible for gathering quantitative data.

As second team, Foncham Christol Fombad and Dr. Kai Schmidt-Soltau, gathered qualitative information on the impact and perception of natural resource management in the Korup Project Area through open-ended semi-structured interviews with chiefs, traditional councils, elites and teachers of different schools (strategic informants). The Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) and Rapid Rural Appraisal (RRA) methodologies of data collection were used in the qualitative part of the research to analyse the perception of Korup Project among the inhabitants of the project region. It also made the research a collective and negotiated effort between the researchers and the community, which was documented by the fact that in all villages, the inhabitants and local authorities were friendly and willing to discuss. Interviews were carried out sometimes individually. But most times collective interviewing was forced on the researchers, who, on arrival at a village and wanting to see the village chief to introduce the object of their mission, always caused a drift of the population towards the palace or the village hall. This collective method paid off well, because information given by one person was corrected, completed and updated by another.

In general, the report only gives overall results, because a detailed cross-table between the different questions and the villages consumes already 210 pages without any data analysis. If requested and/or necessary the team is prepared to introduce Korup Project Staff into the employed data-analysis programme (SPSS) to utilise all collected data. The semi-structured questionnaires used in the quantitative part will - beside of the results of this research - allow Korup Project to analyse its long-term impact through the use of timeframe databases (SPSS etc.). To reduce the length of the report cross-tables are sometimes employed without a printed out documentation in the text. The user can be assured that the findings result from the in brackets quoted cross-table.

This study portraying the interaction between villagers and Korup Project aimed at covering

the whole project region. Considering the fact that the Korup Project identifies 187 villages within their project area (Bijnsdorp 2000), and that time and means were limited, only a representative survey (random sampling) was possible.

Random sampling does not imply haphazard sampling, but rather a procedure that is independent to human judgement. A random sample is therefore one which is drawn such that the researchers, from all pertinent points of view, have no reason to believe a bias will result. To achieve equiprobability the selection was done in such a way that every item in the population has an equal chance of being included. In the first stage we employed the stratified random sampling method:

The research is based on the statistics given by the Village Information Database (Butcher 1997). According to this report 28.830 people are living in the Korup Project Area. To receive a highly representative result, we decided to submit 577 questionnaires - 2% of the overall population. Social sciences hold the view, that 2% stratified random sampled produces a highly representative result. The village information database was questioned and criticised several times in the past for its inadequate data. Butcher's et. al. results are - based on our own experiences - far from correct. The reason is - according to the Korup Project management - that they did not have sufficient funds to gather data at village level and established the data based on the memory of the project staff.

One criteria for division was the geographical position of the villages. We followed the structure (clusters) given in the village information database. Korup Project changed the structure of the project region quite often: while the Master Plan proposed the creation of 8 subdivisions (Master plan 41), Korup is nowadays structured into three sectors and five teams. However, no document dealing with population density is related to the nowadays employed stratification, so we had to base our study on the problematic village information database. It identifies 10 clusters inside their project region:

Sector	Cluster No.	Name of cluster	Population	Questionnaires	Villages surveyed
Northern	1	Eyumojock	9405	188	<i>Eyumojock, Ekok, Ndebaya, Mbenyan</i>
Northern	2	Mbakem	2500	50	<i>Mbakem, Ayukaba</i>
Eastern	3	Nta-ali	3369	67	<i>Mbinjong, Bakebe, Ashum</i>
Eastern	4	Abat/Bakogo	1389	28	<i>Abat</i>
Eastern	5	Nguti	2838	57	<i>Baro, Sekam, Ebanga</i>
Southern	6	Southern Rumpis	693	14	<i>Meka</i>
Southern	7	Mundemba	2297	46	<i>Ndian Town, Fabe</i>
	8	Park	251	5	<i>Ekundu-Kundu</i>
Southern	9	Lipenja	4829	97	<i>Lipenja 1, Tombe, Mwangale</i>
Southern	10	Toko	1260	25	<i>Toko</i>
Total			28831	577	21 villages

As one can see from the list we followed the division into clusters, and used a stratified cluster

sampling. Clusters up to 1250 inhabitants (or up to 25 questionnaires at 2 % collecting rate) were represented by one village, clusters between 1251 and 2500 by two, between 2501 and 5000 with three and between 5000 and 10000 with four villages.

The second and last division we employed was the division in sex groups. Following the statistics of the South West Province we wanted to have a 50:50 relation between men and women. In the village itself we used the systematic random sampling method to receive an result of very high representation.

In the presentation of the draft report we were informed that Korup Project is not working in all villages of the Project Region, but solemnly in the 73 priority villages (Bijnsdorp 2000). Priority villages included in the survey are given in the list in *italic*. The reasons for the introduction of priority villages is easy: with 9 field-staff the support zone management team is hardly able to assess all villages. The priority villages are villages, which are close to the forest reserve - not the national park -, embody a high pressure on the natural resources, are easy accessible and are interested in cooperation (Interview von Löbenstein).

Based on the assumption that Korup Projects overall aim is the conservation of the biodiversity of the Korup Project Area (Annual Planning 2000) this study was not limited to those priority villages, but included 4 (19 %) villages, which are not priority villages. They represent four different qualities: one (Ekundu-Kundu) is a village in the process of resettlement out of the Korup National Park - organised by Korup Project -, one (Mwangele) is used as base for a Korup sponsored bio-monitoring programme, one (Ndian Town) is in the three km zone around the Korup National Park and one (Ebanga) does not have any special "qualities". It is obvious that 19% of villages surveyed are unable to cover 61% of the villages in the project area (114 villages), which are not priority villages. This seems to reduce the level of representation for the overall project region and to pay tribute to the fact that the major aim of this study of the assessment of people interacting with Korup Project, but we only learned about the concept of priority villages after the selection of villages. Due to that, the level of representation of our findings in concern of the project region - as it was requested in the terms of reference - is not effected by that.

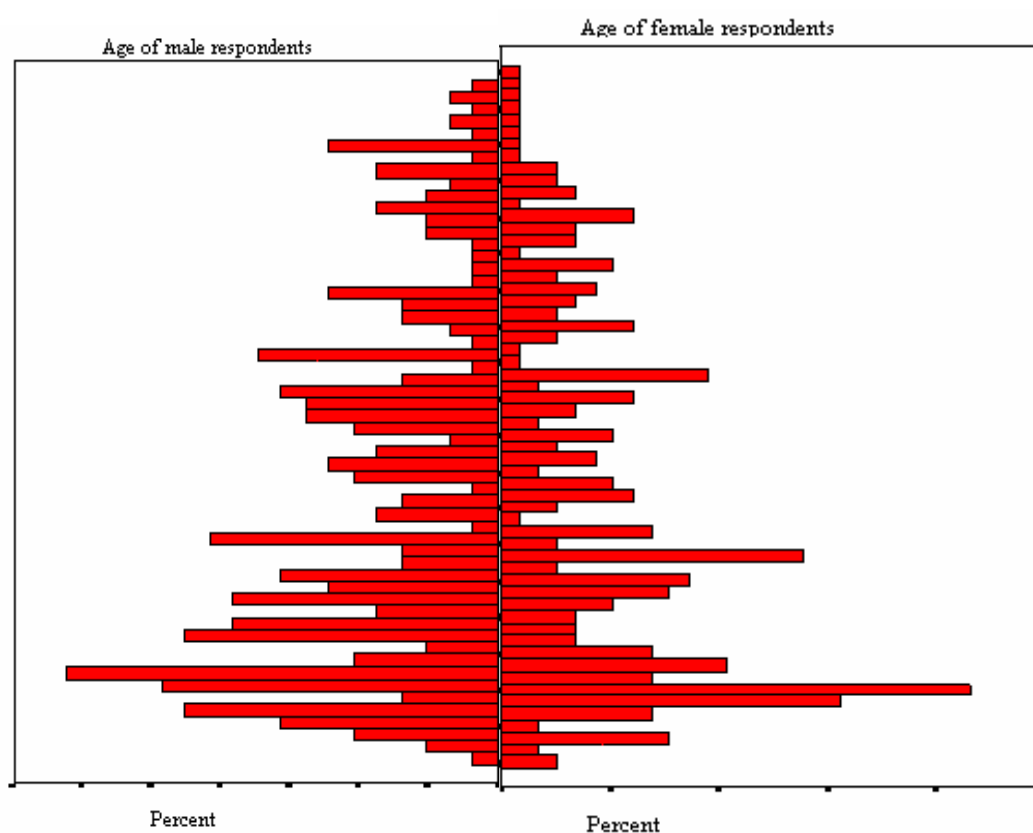
Demography and sample size

Village	Population	Questionnaires submitted										
		Male					Female					Total
		<20	20-40	40-60	>60	Subtotal	<20	20-40	40-60	>60	Subtotal	
Eyomojock	3500	7	12	8	3	30	7	12	8	3	30	60
Ekok	4000	7	12	8	3	30	7	12	8	3	30	60
Ndebaya	280	4	8	5	2	19	4	8	5	2	19	38
Mbenyan	200	3	7	4	1	15	3	7	4	1	15	30
<i>Cluster 1</i>	<i>9405</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>94</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>94</i>	<i>188</i>
Mbakem	750	3	6	3	1	13	3	5	3	1	12	25
Ayukaba	700	3	5	3	1	12	3	6	3	1	13	25
<i>Cluster 2</i>	<i>2500</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>50</i>
Tot.: Northern Sector		27	50	31	11	119	27	50	31	11	119	238
Mbinjong	479	2	4	2	1	9	2	4	2	1	9	18
Bakebe	663	3	5	2	1	11	3	5	2	1	11	22
Ashum	703	3	7	3	1	14	3	6	3	1	13	27
<i>Cluster 3</i>	<i>3369</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>67</i>
Abat	620	3	6	4	1	14	3	6	4	1	14	28
<i>Cluster 4</i>	<i>1389</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>28</i>
Baro	164	1	2	1	1	5	1	2	1	1	5	10
Sekam	280	2	3	2	1	8	2	3	2	2	9	17
Ebanga	600	3	7	4	1	15	3	7	4	1	15	30
<i>Cluster 5</i>	<i>2838</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>57</i>
Tot.: Eastern Sector		17	34	18	7	76	17	33	18	8	76	152
Meka	450	2	2	2	1	7	2	2	2	1	7	14
<i>Cluster 6</i>	<i>693</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>14</i>
Ndian Town	250	3	5	2	1	11	3	5	2	1	11	22
Fabe	175	3	5	3	1	12	3	5	3	1	12	24
<i>Cluster 7</i>	<i>2297</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>46</i>
Ikundu Kundu	253	1	1	1	0	3	1	1	0	0	2	5
<i>Cluster 8</i>	<i>251</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>5</i>
Lipenja 1	500	3	5	3	1	12	3	6	3	1	13	25
Tombe	32	2	2	1	1	6	2	2	1	1	6	12
Mwangale	1500	7	12	8	3	30	7	12	8	3	30	60
<i>Cluster 9</i>	<i>4829</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>48</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>97</i>
Toko	350	3	5	3	1	12	3	5	3	2	13	25
<i>Cluster 10</i>	<i>1260</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>25</i>
Tot.: Southern Sector		24	37	23	9	93	24	38	22	10	94	187

TOTAL	28831	68	121	72	27	288	68	121	71	29	289	577
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3.2. PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS AND DATA ANALYSES

Age distribution among respondents reflects the Cameroonian reality. The youth dominates and if one takes into consideration that we did not interview people below 12 years, the respondents represent only the "adult" part of the village societies. We did not include younger people, since the worldview of the youth below 12 years is said to be still in the process of making.



While other African countries are affected by a serious loss of population between 25 and 40 due to Aids, we could not document a significant impact of Aids in that age group. Everybody knows that Aids is a common reason for early death, but it seems as if the villages in the Korup region are not (yet?) as seriously affected as other regions. The health situation differs quite significantly in the villages we visited: in some villages several cases of leprosy are documented, while others have a functioning health-care system. In general the health situation is according to our informants better than some years ago. Only inhabitants in regions which were linked to the rest of the world by a road constructed by the Korup Project (Toko Subdivision) relate their better health care to the interventions of the Korup Project. In the other villages, NGO's, churches and governmental services are seen as the main promoters of an improved health situation.

It is important to mention that the improved health situation is seen by our informants as the main achievement of the past and the main aim of the future in the perception of the people. The Korup Project is said to be disinterested in health care and that their infrastructure programme does not focus on better sources of water. Korup Project argues, that health care is state business, but this argument did not have reached the villages. It was a common impression among village elites, that Korup does not promote health care, because better health care results in more people and more pressure on the forest.

Level of Education

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
No Response	2	,3	,3
No Schooling	101	17,5	17,9
Primary school drop out	57	9,9	27,7
Primary school pupil	21	3,6	31,4
FSLC	214	37,1	68,5
Secondary school drop out	37	6,4	74,9
Secondary school student	52	9,0	83,9
O Level	20	3,5	87,3
High school drop out	1	,2	87,5
High school student	13	2,3	89,8
A Level	18	3,1	92,9
CAP	9	1,6	94,5
Diploma	19	3,3	97,7
University drop out	1	,2	97,9
University student	3	,5	98,4
Bachelor Degree	9	1,6	100,0
Total	577	100,0	

The level of education is seen by our informants as another main improvement of the last 10 or 20 years. From the 18 %, who never visited a school and are due to that illiterate, none were below 40 years. The majority did not have any education above the first school leaving certificate (FSLC) and it is only among youth, that secondary and high schools become common. On the other hand people with University degrees, among them a retired professor of mathematics, were mostly retired civil servants who returned to their village of origin.

Occupation

		Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No Response	1	,2	,2
	Student	75	13,0	13,2
	Farmer	377	65,3	78,5
	Hunter	4	,7	79,2
	Teacher	22	3,8	83,0
	Unemployed	31	5,4	88,4
	Businessperson/Trader	30	5,2	93,6
	Carpenter	4	,7	94,3
	Seamstress	4	,7	95,0
	Driver	4	,7	95,7
	Builder	1	,2	95,8
	Clergy	2	,3	96,2
	Civil Servant	6	1,0	97,2
	Pensioner	6	1,0	98,3
	Customs	1	,2	98,4
	Housewife	3	,5	99,0
	Cook	1	,2	99,1
	Herbalist	2	,3	99,5
	Apprentice	3	,5	100,0
	Total	577	100,0	

Following the statement of occupation, the transformation of the people in the region from hunter and gatherer to farmers already took place, but one has to realise that a farmer is not only farming but also hunting, fishing and gathering.

Sex of Respondent in relation to the frequency of forest visits

		Frequency of forest visits						
		DK	Daily	4 times a week	twice a week	once a week	irregularly	never
Female	Count		100	66	60	35	18	10
	% within Sex of Respondent		34,6%	22,8%	20,8%	12,1%	6,2%	3,5%
	% within Frequency of forest visits		47,2%	49,3%	61,2%	53,8%	39,1%	47,6%
Male	Count	1	112	68	38	30	28	11
	% within Sex of Respondent	,3%	38,9%	23,6%	13,2%	10,4%	9,7%	3,8%
	% within Frequency of forest visits	100%	52,8%	50,7%	38,8%	46,2%	60,9%	52,4%
Total	Count	1	212	134	98	65	46	21
	% within Sex of Respondent	,2%	36,7%	23,2%	17,0%	11,3%	8,0%	3,6%
	% within Frequency of forest visits	100%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100%	100,0%	100%

As one can see from this table, men frequent the forest more, but the difference is not significant. In general 60 % of the villagers in the project area go at least 4 times a week to the forest. The forest, which means in the worldview of the villagers all areas which were not clear felled - such as plantations etc.-, can be seen as their major source of living. They carry out different activities, as one can see from the next table, which gives the major or primary activity of the villagers in the forest.

Activities in the forest

	Frequency	Percent
Farming	490	46,6
Hunting	94	8,9
Collecting Forest Products	308	29,3
Fishing	76	7,2
Rituals	4	,4
Collecting Medicinal Plants	58	5,5
Logging Timber	22	2,1
Total	1052	100,0

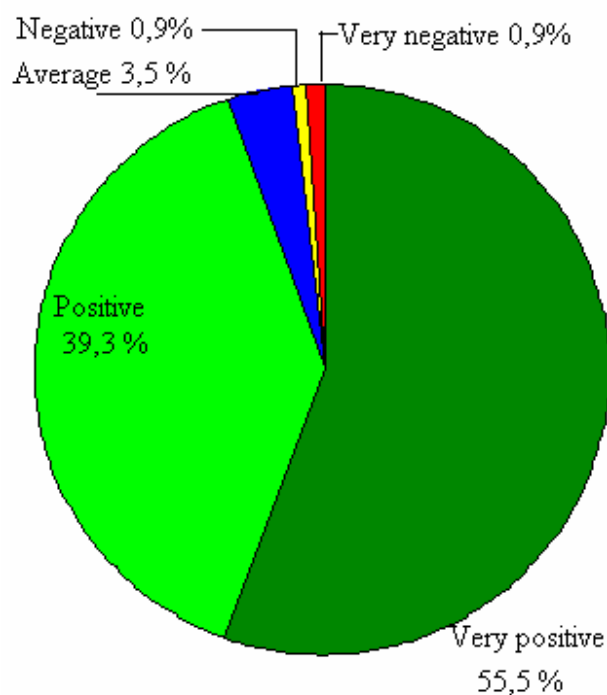
Men's activities in the forest

	Frequency	Percent
Farming	234	42,7
Hunting	94	17,2
Collecting Forest Products	115	21,0
Fishing	61	11,2
Rituals	3	,5
Collecting Medicinal Plants	38	6,9
Logging Timber	3	,5
Total	548	100,0

Women's activities in the forest

	Frequency	Percent
Farming	256	50,7
Collecting Forest Products	193	38,3
Fishing	15	3,0
Collecting Medicinal Plants	20	4,0
Logging timber	20	4,0
Total	504	100,0

While both - men and women - are farming for subsistence and for cash, the collection of NTFP's is more of a women's taste, and hunting is a purely men's business. While the main purpose of most farms and farming activity is still to satisfy the personal needs concerning food-crops, the other activities are mostly carried out with the intention of generating cash income. That is underlined by the fact that 2/3 see themselves as farmers. It is also the reason why 28% of the villagers claim that they have no cash income from the forest or their farms. They just farm and harvest enough to secure their living. More than 50% stated that they earn 5.000 FCFA or less a week and only 10% earn more than 10.000 FCFA a week. These higher incomes are equally shared between men and women (51% men and 49% women).

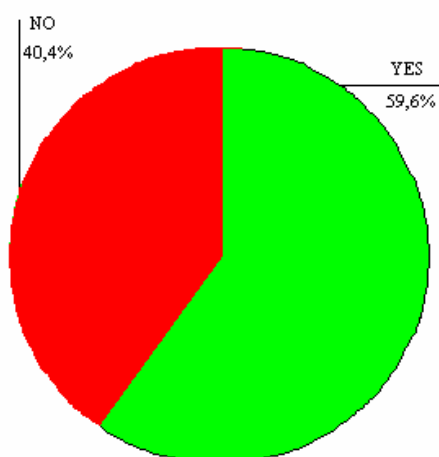
The Perception of forest

Men earn an average of 4288 FCFA weekly. Statistically, women generate 4420 FCFA from the sale of crops and forest products.

The general perception of the forest is very positive and only less than 2 % do not like the forest at all. As reason 84,8 % stated that they like the forest, because it is their main source of living (including people who appreciated the farming and gathering opportunities).

Hardly any difference exists between men and women as concerns forest perception. Both agreed, that the positive aspect of the forest as a source of life overrules the negative aspect, which is seen in dangerous animals and the destruction of crops through animals. But for 84,8 % the forest is important and good because it is the prime source of survival. The youth has already a very modern perception of forest - 4,9% claim that the natural beauty of the forest is

Is it important to have animals in the forest?



Reasons for Animal Importance

	Frequency	Percent
Crop Destruction	248	42,9
Hunting	220	38,1
Agents of seed dispersion	9	1,6
Animals fertilise the soil	8	1,4
Biodiversity	30	5,2
Animals are Beautiful	6	1,0
For the posterity	56	9,7
Total	577	100,0

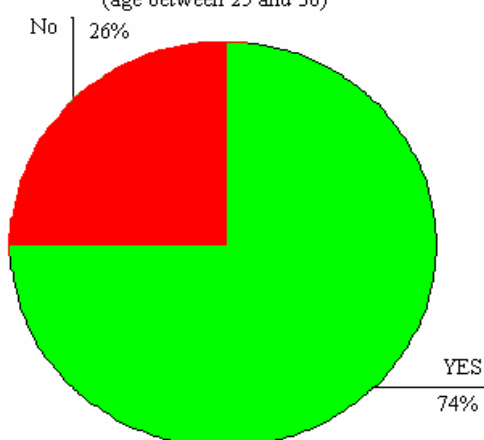
important for them - and 2,9 % realise that the dense rainforest offers them, through conservation projects, job opportunities (table reason for forest perception). We found a negative perception especially among those whose village of origin is not accessible by road (cross-table village of origin/forest perception). They claimed in interviews that the forest has a negative impact on their chances of progress and that the animals endanger their lives.

The main reason for the negative perception of wildlife can be seen in the destruction which results from wildlife and especially from large mammals like elephants and buffalos. These people don't like Korup Project, which aims at protecting the wildlife in the Korup National Park and its support zone (cross-table animal importance/perception of Korup Project). It is quite important to realise that 2/3 of the people, who think that animals are important, see them as "running" meat (cross-table animal importance/reason for animal importance).

The "conservationist" view of wildlife (biodiversity, animals are beautiful, agents of seed dispersion and fertilisation of the soil, which should be protected for the posterity) is mostly found among students and pupils (cross-table profession/reason for animal importance). The interviewed villagers saw this as a direct impact of the environmental education work of Korup Project, because they hold the view that these abstract categories hardly arise without lectures and classes based on the teaching material which Korup distributed widely to the schools in the project zone.

A change in the perception of forest and wildlife occurs when the students and pupils have to earn their living through interaction with the forest and no longer with environmental teachers - as one can see from the following tables. Our findings underline that adults between 25 and 30, which have experienced environmental education in the past have the same idea about wildlife as other age groups. From interviews we can summarise that the environmental education programme did not translate awareness to action. As soon as students and pupils are forced to earn their living they see animals mostly as a source of bush-meat and an agent of crop destruction.

Is it important to have animals in the forest?
(age between 25 and 30)



Reasons why animals are seen as important (age between 25 and 30)

	Frequency	Percent
Crop destruction	14	26,9
Hunting	25	48,1
Biodiversity	3	5,8
Agents of seed dispersion	2	3,8
For the posterity	8	15,4
Total	52	100,0

Is it important to have animals in the forest? (Between 25 and 35 years)

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	72	67,9
No	34	32,1
Total	106	100,0

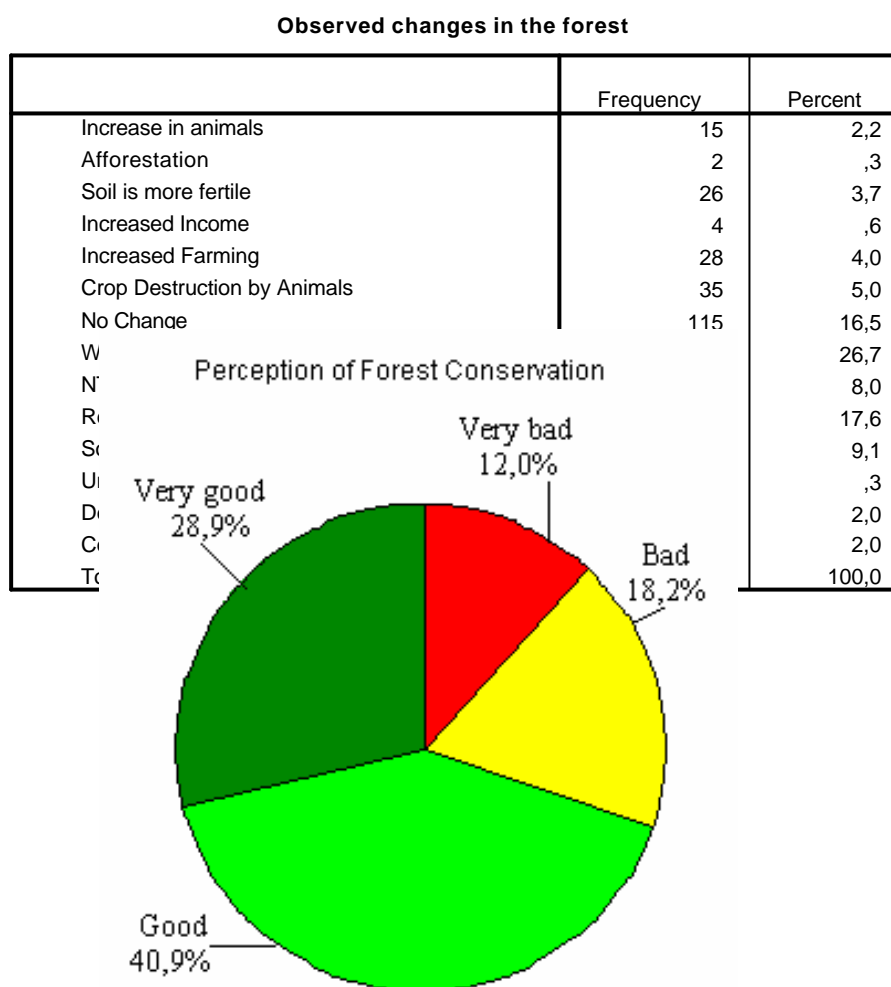
Reasons for the importance of animals (Between 25 and 35 years)

	Frequency	Percent
Crop Destruction	34	32,1
Hunting	46	43,3
Agents of seed dispersion	5	4,7
Biodiversity	8	7,5
Animals are beautiful	1	,9
For the posterity	12	11,3
Total	106	100,0

Another important criterion and starting point for conservation projects is the awareness about changes in the forest. It is quite interesting that 6,2% hold the view that the forest offers more animals, more trees and better soils than in the past. But it is worth mentioning, that at least this group together with the 4,6%, who see increased income from increased farming, the 5%, who are angry about animals, and the 16,5% who realised no changes in the forest are resistant to grassroots conservation (cross-table forest changes/ perception of KP). They do not agree with the very first premises of conservation: that crops, NTFP's and wildlife are on the decline.

More
2/3 of

than
the



villagers in the project area have realised, that the forest has changed in the past and that this change was not an improvement. Especially hunters and people involved in the gathering of NTFP's have experienced that the changes in the forest affect their own lives, because it becomes more difficult to find animals and NTFP's (cross-table activity in forest/observed change in the forest). In theory, this knowledge of negative changes in the forest in combination with the fact that most villagers rely solely on the income from forest use and farming, should result in a positive attitude towards the conservation of the forest. And as one can see: 2/3 of the villagers hold the view that forest conservation is good or even very good.

A very significant result underlines the theory that sustainable environmental awareness is based on individual experiences. This can be seen in the fact that the perception of forest conservation is higher among those who earn their living from the forest (cross-table income from forest/perception of forest conservation). Consequently, we found the highest awareness for the need of conservation of forest among hunters ("part-time" and "professionals") and people, who are related to the bush-meat trade etc. (cross-table activity in forest/perception of forest conservation). These people, who are seen by the protectionists as the arch-enemies of conservation, have the highest understanding and the highest knowledge of the need for conservation.

**Perception of forest conservation
(among people related to hunting)**

	Frequency	Percent
Very Bad	17	7,7
Bad	37	16,8
Good	96	43,6
Very Good	70	31,8

Perception of forest conservation (among those who understand forest primary as source of living)

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Very Bad	25	11,8	11,8
Bad	33	15,6	27,4
Good	85	40,1	67,5
Very Good	69	32,5	100,0
Total	212	100,0	

As one can see from the next table, the majority of the population understands conservation as a method of securing their major source of income, they know the abstract meaning of biodiversity conservation, but they have different priorities.

Interestingly, the fear that conservation stops people from hunting is higher among those villages which are far away from the park like Mwangele and Eyumojock than those which are directly at the park boundary. (cross-table village/ reason for perception of forest). Nobody from Baro, which theoretically has a game guard post in the village, fears that hunting is becoming more difficult because of conservation activities.

Reason for Perception of Conservation

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
For the posterity	147	25,5	25,5
Sustainable forest use	79	13,7	39,2
Forest Protection	72	12,4	51,6
Animal Protection	68	11,7	63,3
Animals help in seed dispersion	1	,2	63,5
Source of Income	80	13,9	77,4
Provides more farm land	7	1,2	78,6
Support crop destruction	46	8,0	86,6
Brings hunger	28	4,9	91,5
Stops us from hunting	30	5,2	96,7
Hinders development	10	1,7	98,4
Useless to conserve forest	9	1,6	100,0
Total	577	100,0	

The only major age-related difference in the reasons for the perception of conservation can be seen in the lower interest in posterity among young people, which is contrary to the reasons for the importance of wildlife (see above) given by them. But somehow this documents that the village youth is not different from any other youth in the world. They want to live now and their "conservatism" - introduced by their teachers is not very consistent. For them sustainable

Figure 10: Knowledge of Traditional Methods of Conservation from

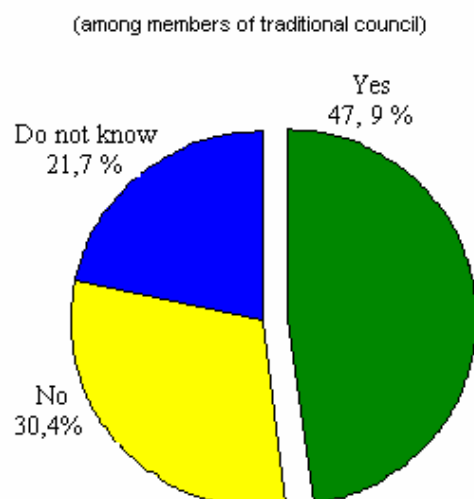
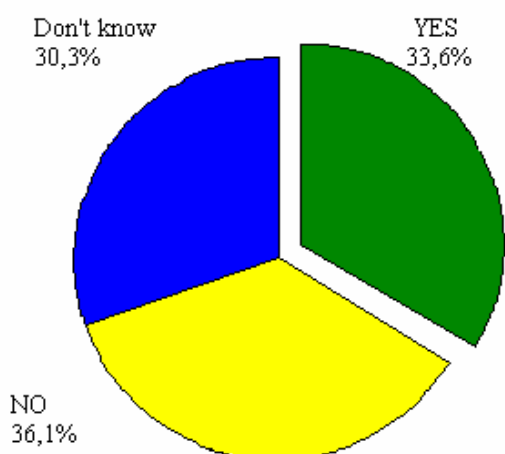


Table 10: Knowledge of Traditional Methods of Conservation from (among members of traditional council)

Frequency	Percent
106	28,3
42	11,1
47	12,4
39	10,3
49	13,1
7	1,9
30	8,0
17	4,5
20	5,4
6	1,6
5	1,4
368	100,0

As was to be expected, members of traditional councils have a higher knowledge about traditional methods of conservation than others. It is also obvious, that some cultural groups have traditional methods of conservation while others do not. Especially in the northern zone, traditional methods of conservation are common, while they are rare in the southern zone. It seems important to mention that the youth in particular do not know much about traditional forms of conservation (cross-table age/knowledge of traditional methods of conservation).

From those, who have tradition methods of conservation, ... % are coming from the following zones

	Frequency	Percent
Northern	105	53,6
Eastern	54	27,6
Southern	37	18,9
Total	196	100,0

Traditional methods of conservation

	Frequency	Percent
Regular forest clearing	14	5,8
Sacred forest	97	40,2
Regular local patrols	29	12,0
Advise/Laws	57	23,7
Injunctions	29	12,0
Selective hunting	4	1,7
plant trees	2	,8
Shifting cultivation	9	3,8
Total	241	100,0

As one can see, sacred forests, as they are common among the Ejaghams, are the dominating traditional method of conservation and are mostly found in the northern sector of the project zone, which is the area of the Ejaghams.

Is Korup Project contributing to conservation?



The result that 64 % of the inhabitants of the Korup project area believe that Korup Project contributes to the joint conservation goal, can be seen as a statement that 12 years of conservation work in the region had an impact. It is interesting that the perception of the Korup Project with regard to forest conservation among those who do not like conservation (very bad) and those who find it important (very good) is still close.

Is Korup Project contributing to conservation?

(Among those, who think that conservation is very good)



Is Korup Project contributing to conservation?

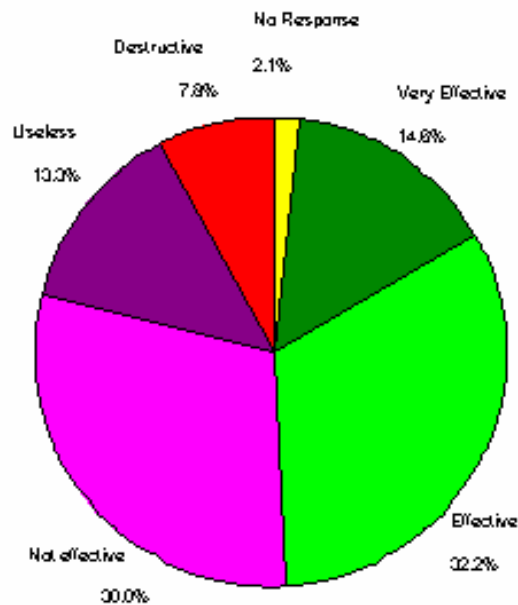
(among those, who do not like conservation at all)



20 % of the people who think that conservation of the forest is very important are not of the view that the Korup Project is contributing to the common goal.

It seems obvious that this critical perception of the activities of the Korup Project has to be related to the methods and interventions applied by the Korup Project. Which methods are used and how are they perceived by the villagers? Do they assess them as effective or not?

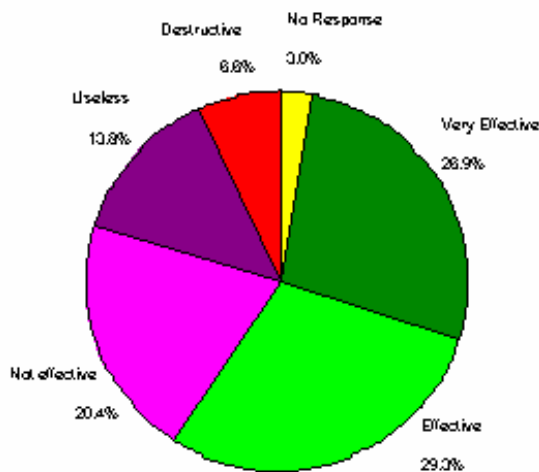
Are the methods applied by KP effective?



The majority of people living in the Korup Project area are of the view that the methods applied by Korup Project are not effective. That means - according to our informants - that the villagers are of the view that the Korup Project is contributing to the conservation of the natural resources, but that the output is not related to the effort. It is very important and very critical to note that nearly 8% are of the view that the methods of conservation are not only ineffective or useless but even destructive. It is important to mention that among those, who think that conservation is very important, still more than 40% believe that the methods applied by Korup are not effective and one has to realise that even in this group of active conservationists 6,6 % are of the opinion that the intervention of Korup Project is destructive (cross-table perception of conservation/perception of KP methods).

Effectiveness of KP conservation methods

(among those, who think that conservation is very important)



The effectiveness of KP conservation methods

(among those, who don't like conservation)



This critical perception of the activities of Korup Project must be related to the methods applied, because a significant majority of the villagers join the Korup Project interest to conserve the forest in the region, but do not see Korup Project contributing effectively to this common goal.

Methods of conservation applied by Korup Project

	Frequency	Percent
Game/Forest guards	99	20,9
Law/Order	77	15,9
Education/Advise	237	48,9
Forest management committees	3	,6
Community forest	5	1,0
Sustainable forest use	5	1,0
Compensation - Resettlement	2	,2
Afforestation	23	4,7
Promoting agriculture	17	3,5
Promoting animal breeding	8	1,7
Cleaning the forest	5	1,0
Buying game from hunters	2	,4
Promises	2	,4
Total	485	100,0

Nearly 50 % of the overall population understand the Korup Project as an education project, that uses environmental education and advises to raise the awareness of the importance of conservation. 37 % have the impression that the Korup Project is a traditional protection project, which uses game/forest guards and force to stop people from entering the forest. One has to realise that the participatory methods of conservation (forest management committees, sustainable forest use and community forest), are only realised as method by less than 3 % of the overall population. Among those who see them as the major method applied by Korup, the perception of the effectiveness is higher than among those who believe that Korup Project is teaching and protecting (cross-table methods used/effectiveness of Korup Project activities). Even more important is the finding, that the new methods of participatory forest management, which has become the main method of Korup Project since the restructuring in 1997, has not reached the villages. What are the reasons for that? A first step was to find out what are the villagers see as the major Korup Project activity.

Activities carried out by Korup Project

	Frequency	Percent
Arrest Hunters	5	,8
Conservation	254	41,4
Afforestation	12	2,0
Education	43	7,0
Research	6	,9
Employment	11	1,8
Town Planning	1	,2
Resettlement	6	1,0
Development	135	22,0
Produce calendars	1	,2
Agriculture	110	17,9
Gives loans to people	3	,5
Hunting	14	2,3
Forest Exploitation	12	2,0
Total	613	100,0

As one can see from the activities realised by the villagers, conservation is the main activity of Korup Project, but for the local population the methods used (lecturing) to achieve conservation are not suitable (double cross-table main KP activity/method applied and level of KP contribution to conservation). Development and agriculture are seen, in contrast to the logframe of Korup Project, as separate activities with no relation to the overall conservation goal. The negative perception of the applied methods - counterproductive to the conservation goal and destructive - are related to activities, which are not appreciated by the local population: arresting hunters, carrying out hunting and timber exploitation without permission (cross-table level of KP contribution to conservation/KP activity). Korup Project denies to be involved in any of these activities, but one has to realise that a significant number of people believe that Korup Project was created to hunt and log. It is interesting, that half of the people who see the main activity of Korup Project as hunting, are coming from the area of Eyumojock (cross-table KP activity/village). Whether this is based on the misunderstanding that wildlife protection was established to secure hunting opportunities for Europeans, or on real hunting activities by project staff could not be investigated. Nevertheless, it is important to mention that beside the aims and activities which are perceived negatively by the local population, their criticism is mostly related to the methods applied (cross-table level of KP contribution to conservation/methods). We asked them what could be changed to make the work more effective:

**What can be changed to improve the effectiveness of
KP-activities?**

	Frequency	Percent
Nothing	34	9,6
Resettlement	1	,3
Use force/forest guards	36	10,2
Dismiss KP-staff	1	,3
Promote education	57	16,2
Increase conservation	4	1,1
Use of FMCs	18	5,0
Regulated hunting	6	1,6
Keep to promises	12	3,3
Better relations	2	,6
Regular working visits	5	1,4
Employ villagers	53	15,0
Balanced development in all villages	13	3,6
Provision of livestock	15	4,3
Give loans	10	2,8
Promote agriculture	24	6,6
Alternative sources of meat	14	4,0
Alternative sources of income	9	2,0
Kill unwanted plants	4	1,1
Division of the forest	8	2,2
Forest path tracing	2	2,8
Use better chemicals	3	,8
Free hunting	19	5,3
Total	350	100,0

This list document a significant potential for a shared vision of conservation and especially a community-based conservation in the region. A good number of villagers are appealing to the Korup Project to promote forest management committees, regulate hunting and help in the establishment of alternative sources of meat and income. Even though some people (mostly teacher - cross-table recommended changes/ profession) want to see more force used, most villagers are in favour of a participatory approach. Only a minority wants Korup Project to liberalise the hunting regulations, but the villagers would appreciate a change in the interaction with the project.

What do you think of Korup Project?

	Frequency	Percent
They are thieves	4	,7
They are liars	8	1,4
Exploitation	35	6,1
Don't know	108	18,7
Mean Nothing	20	3,5
Good idea	168	29,1
Get benefits	14	2,4
Education	12	2,1
Agriculture	34	5,9
Development	49	8,5
Afforestation	5	,9
Sustainable forest use	4	,7
Forest conservation	116	20,1
Total	577	100,0

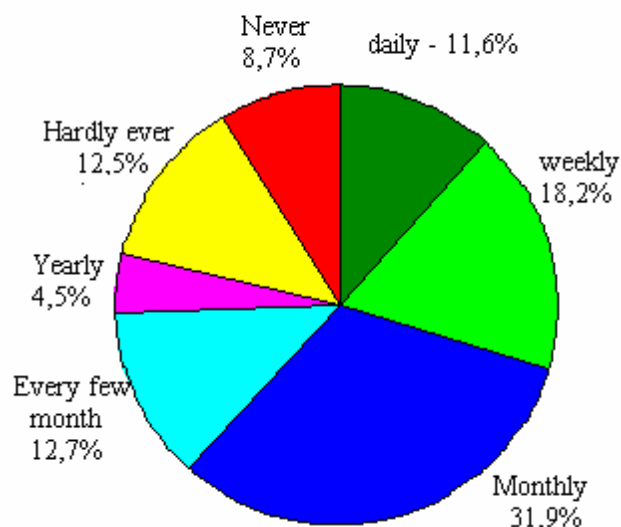
The aim and objective of Korup Project

	Frequency	Percent
Timber exploitation	9	2,0
Resettlement	2	,4
Development	86	18,8
Education	9	2,0
Agriculture	29	6,3
Self sufficiency	5	1,1
Animal protection	67	14,6
Posterity	17	3,7
Forest conservation	224	48,9
Research	1	,2
Sustainable forest use	9	2,0
Total	458	100,0

While 94 % of the inhabitants of the project zone have heard of Korup Project, the attitude towards Korup Project is highly differentiated. Quite a number of people do have a very negative impression of Korup Project (they are liars and thieves), which is related to the wish, that the methods of interactions should be changed in future (cross-table perception of KP/desired changes). After 12 years of Korup Project more than 1/3 of the villagers have no real idea of what Korup Project is out for. Nearly 20% misinterpreted the Korup Project as a development project, which can be seen as a sign, that Korup Project failed till 1997 to communicate the connection between conservation and development to the local population and from 1997 on the new objective (biodiversity conservation).

If one compares the unspecific knowledge about the aim of the Korup Project with the critique of the methods used, it seems quite obvious that the interaction between Korup Project staff and ordinary villagers is not very developed. This goes along with the observation that the field staff in most places only occasionally show up. Even those villages, where Korup has its own infrastructure (Eyumojock, Abat, Baro, Tombe, Lipenja I, Toko and Ekundu-Kundu - resettlement site), are not visited on a regular basis (cross-table village/frequency of visits).

Frequency of KP-Staff visits in the villages

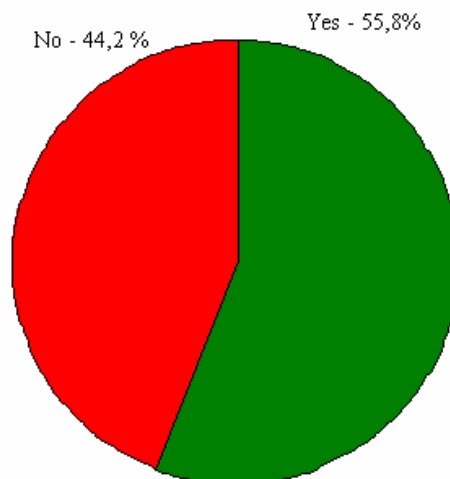


As one can see from the above figure, the average frequency of visits in the villages is less than once a month. If one takes into consideration, that most of the villages we visited are accessible by car, it would be interesting to receive the frequency of visits in those villages which are one or two days trekking from the nearest road.

Activities of KP-staff in the villages

	Frequency	Percent
Hold lectures	205	33,4
Encourage agriculture	64	10,4
Work in the forest	82	13,4
Animal rearing	13	2,1
Development	40	6,5
Supervise their work	50	8,2
Meet chief and elders	7	1,1
Research	9	1,5
Distribute calendars	2	,3
Provide transport	3	,5
Just passing	102	16,6
Do nothing	18	3,0
Personal visits	12	2,0
Buy animals	4	,7
Buy fuel	2	,3
Total	613	100,0

Did your village receive any benefit from KP?

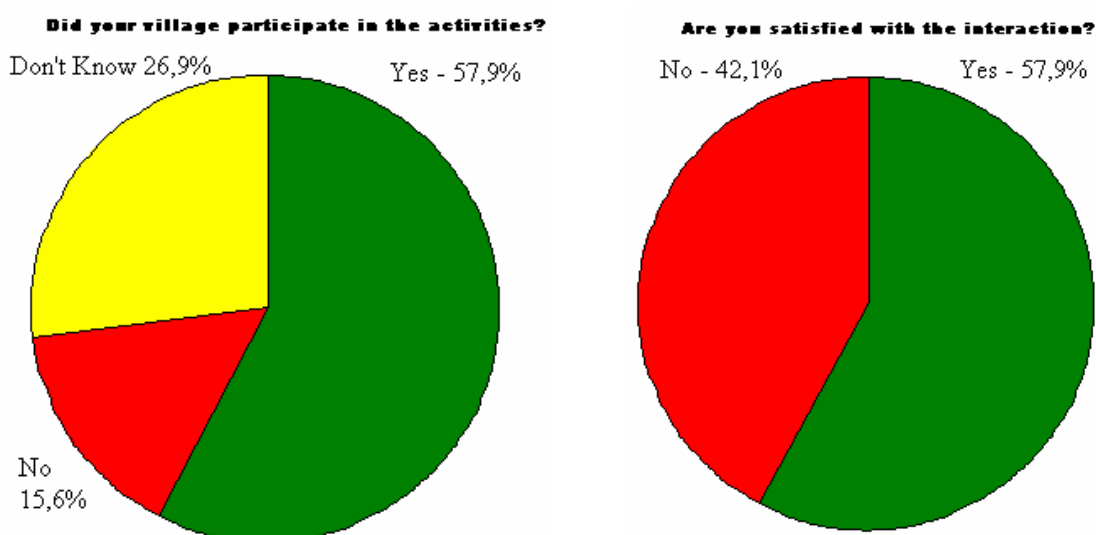


As was to be expected the perception of the concrete actions by the field staff is related to the general perception of aims and activities. A good number of villagers have the feeling that no benefit for the village results from these activities.

Benefits from Korup Project

	Frequency	Percent
Education	40	8,6
School aid	93	20,0
Prizes/Award	1	,2
Calendars	82	17,6
Seed donation	26	5,6
Animal donation	25	5,4
Fuel/Firewood	1	,2
Improed agricultural techniques	38	8,2
Agri-tools at low rate	3	,7
Machine	35	7,5
Bridge	18	3,9
Road construction	19	4,1
Portable water	36	7,7
Community hall	13	2,8
Employment/Job opportunities	11	2,4
Abandoned house/Office	14	3,0
New Village	3	,6
Health care centre	3	,6
Promises	4	,9
Total	465	100,0

From the benefits which are realised as a result of the Korup Project activities, it must be noted that they are mostly related to traditional forms of donations and not to a participatory interaction. That the donation of calendars and school aid is seen as the most significant benefits.

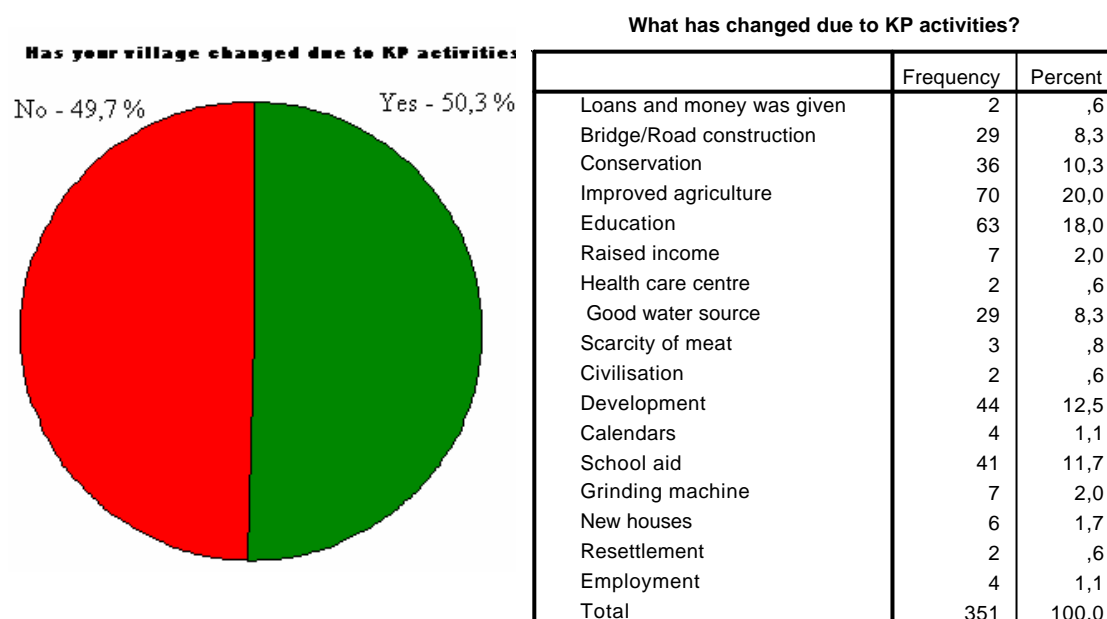


Both figures document that nearly half of the villagers are not satisfied with the interaction. The ordinary villager is not involved in planning and organising activities in the village (cross-table level of participation (satisfaction)/function in the village).

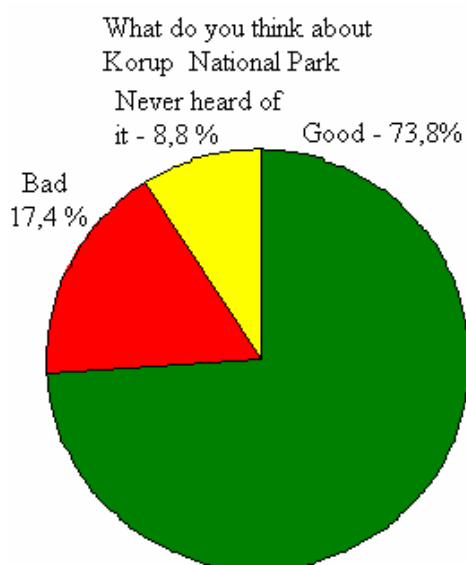
Reason for Satisfaction/Disatisfaction

	Frequency	Percent
No Response	73	12,7
Inadequate staff	2	,3
Not committed	37	6,4
Uninformed	14	2,4
Personal disappointment	65	11,3
Employment	8	1,4
Cause no problems	29	5,0
No benefit from KP	59	10,2
Need development	47	8,1
Advise/Education	83	14,4
Cooperation with village	109	18,9
Improved agricultural technology	15	2,6
Conservation	11	1,9
Good job	25	4,3
Total	577	100,0

1,9 % of the villagers are satisfied with Korup Project, because of their contribution to conservation, the aim of Korup Project.



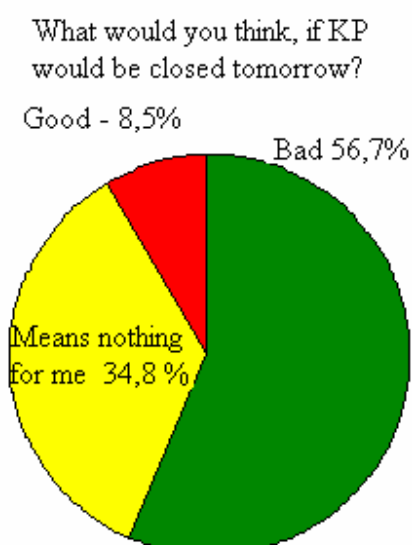
Nearly half of the villagers did not feel any impact of the Korup Project activities in the last 12 years. As documented before the participatory management of natural resources is nearly unknown the villages in the project zone. The realised impacts (health care, education, school aid, bridge and road construction) are more related to the donating-approach, which was officially abandoned in the process of restructuring. 10% of those 50%, who realise some changes, have realised an impact in the area of conservation, while for the others, the Korup Project is a rural development project and not a conservation project.



Reason for the perception of Korup National Park

	Frequency	Percent
Forest conservation	205	35,5
Comes from government	3	,5
Resettlement	2	,3
Deprive us from many things	55	9,5
Source of living	16	2,8
Employment	8	1,4
Sustainable forest use	52	9,0
Personal disappointment	16	2,8
Ignorance of objectives	3	,5
Development	58	10,1
They never visit my village	1	,2
Farmer education	55	9,5
Distributes calendars	9	1,6
Provides medicine	3	,5
Give loans	1	,2
Provide free transport	1	,2
Don't know KNP	89	15,4
Total	577	100,0

A large number of people appreciate the creation of the Korup National Park. Asked for the reasons for this perception, we found out that only a minority has a knowledge of the objectives and aims of the national park. It became clear also in interviews that most villagers cannot differentiate between the park and the project.



Reason for the reactions on the closure of KP

	Frequency	Percent
Increased/Uncontrolled forest exploitation	45	7,8
Bad for forest protection	3	,5
No more education	69	12,0
No more development	31	5,4
No more benefits	168	29,1
Unemployment	4	,7
Interested in KP	17	2,9
No response	46	8,0
No impact	129	22,4
Drop in harvests	10	1,7
Business from private investments	4	,7
Not committed	11	1,9
Ignorance of objectives	11	1,9
Enough benefits	20	3,5
Never heard of KP	3	,5
Personal disappointment	6	1,0
Total	577	100,0

The overall assessment of the local population towards Korup Project is not all that bad. At least the majority does not want Korup Project to be closed down. A serious problem, which should be the subject of the projected participatory impact monitoring, is related to the 8,5%, who would appreciate if Korup Project would end its work in the region. From the findings (cross-table reaction to stop of KP/ perception of conservation) and from interviews, we can say that these are not people, who hate Korup Project because of its effective protection, but people who are interested in conservation and not satisfied with the methods applied.

4. DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION OF FINDINGS

As said before this research is based on the assumption that perception arises from actions and interactions. In the case of Korup Project, it means that it is appropriate to analyse first the perception of the activities of Korup Project - following the structure of the logframe discussed in chapter 2 -, before the general perception is investigated.

Infrastructure

An indicator for the first activity ("4.1. Assist/support communities to organise implementation and maintenance of infrastructure") could be that the villages realise this assistance and support by Korup Project as benefits. From the findings one can say that the assistance and support of Korup Project to the village infrastructure (bridge, road construction, portable water, community hall, health care centre, resettlement) is only realised by a 10,8% minority (19,7% of those 55% who realised any benefit). Additional 11% (20% of those who realised any benefit) realised that schools received aid from Korup Project, but in the interviews the villagers made clear that this was mostly teaching material, distributed by the now abandoned environmental education component. The same minority saw the infrastructure of their village changing due to Korup Project activities (9,8%).

If one focuses solemnly on this group (through cross-tables), one realises that they are very strong supporters of Korup Project (perception of KP and reaction to KP closure), but do not have significant different perceptions of forest, wildlife and conservation. More than others, this group of people who realises and appreciates the assistance of Korup Project to village infrastructure, understand Korup Project primary as rural development project. The technical and material assistance to schools, water supply and health posts is highly appreciated by the villages which received assistance and even the annual calendars are seen as a major improvement. It seems as if the main impact from the assistance of Korup Project to infrastructure is related to road construction projects. This assumption is based on the fact, that most people of this group are coming from the Toko subdivision (Lipenja and Toko cluster). In interviews we learned that Korup Project contributed to the construction and maintenance of the road from Mundemba to Toko. Whether all these activities are related to the overall aim of the project remains uncertain. Based on this findings and underlined through interviews one could summarise that the villagers do not realise the assistance to infrastructure (Activity 4.1) as an activity leading to a participatory conservation (result 4).

Generally, the villagers have the impression that Korup Project has no strategy or procedure on how, when and/or if infrastructure is established in a village. Some priority villages never received any assistance, while others received assistance to two or more projects (see details in the annex). While it is clear from the overall conservation perspective, that infrastructure hardly contributes to the protection of the biodiversity, the assistance to communal infrastructure is producing confidence and good relations. The low rate of people, who realised benefits in the area of assistance to the implementation and maintenance of infrastructure and the fact that this people have not a more positive perception of conservation activities questions this strategy.

Income generating activity

The second activity (4.2), which supposed to achieve the result 4 ("communities actively participate in and support conservation") is formulated in the logframe as such: "Support sustainable alternative income generating activities implementation". For the majority, which see themselves primary as farmers (65,3%), this would result in assistance to their farming activities, but also in the introduction to alternative sources of income to "compensate" for a reduction of hunting activities. From the project purpose ("The (...) natural resources of the support zone are well managed") one can draw the conclusion that Korup Project does not understand conservation as contrary to hunting, gathering and fishing activity in the area, but that the outtake should be reduced to a sustainable level. Among the male population this should effect those 17,2 % who hunt, those 27,9 % who collect forest products and those 11,2 % who fish. Among the female population activity 4.2. should effect those 42,3 % who collect forest products and those 3 % who fish. 15,7 % (27,4 of those 55 % who realised benefits from KP activities) realised benefits from the Korup Project activity 4.2. (Seed donation, animal donation, improved agricultural techniques, agricultural tool at low rate, machines). 12,5 % of the villagers have the impression that Korup Project is assisting them in their farming (10,4 %) and implementing income generating activities (animal rearing 2,1 %). These activities changed for 12 % the village (improved agriculture, raised income and donated grinding machines).

If one focuses solemnly on this group of people, who experienced the income generating project by Korup Project (through cross-tables), one realises that they are very strong supporters of Korup Project (perception of KP and reaction to KP closure). Farming is - as it was intended by Korup Project - the main occupation of this group, but hunting and gathering of NTFP's is still very common and an important source of income. From the interviews we received the impression that this group have in contrast to the intention of Korup Project not reduced their hunting and gathering activities. They stated that the livestock projects, which were introduced by Korup Project as "compensation" and/or alternative for a proposed reduction of hunting, did not effect their hunting activities. The attitude towards forest and wildlife among this group is better than the average and they understand that conservation of these important sources of living as necessary. From interviews we received the impression that this awareness is more related to individual experiences gathered in the forest, than to the alternative sources of income generating activities. Based on this, their attitude towards the abstract conservation goals and activities of Korup Project does not differ from others. They trust more their traditional forms of forest conservation. Bush-meat is for them an important element of livelihood and Korup Project has in their views not succeeded in finding alternative sources of "meat-production." One of the problems could be, that for them bush-meat is more a source of cash income than a source of protein and that goat-donation does not satisfy them in the first perspective. The intervention of Korup Project was intended to offer benefits and alternatives for the local population, but only 12 % of the villagers realised any benefit in that perspective. Whether the implementation of alternative income generating activities are related to the overall conservation aim of the project remains uncertain. Based on the findings and underlined through interviews one can summarise that the villagers do not reduce their hunting and gathering activities due to the support of the implementation of sustainable alternative

income generating activities (Activity 4.2) as an activity leading to a participatory conservation goal (result 4).

Education and sensitisation

While the elites and especially the teachers of the various schools praise Korup Project for its environmental education programme, which provided schools with materials and training, one has to realise that the environmental education component was closed down after the restructuring in 1997. Education and sensitisation are - following the logframe - not seen as separate activities required to fulfil the result 4 (Communities actively participate in and support conservation), but as an overall activity. Nevertheless, 33,4 % of the villagers have the impression that Korup Project is mainly holding lectures. Assistance to schools and education is seen by 15,7 % (28,6 of those 55 who realised a benefit) as main contribution of Korup Project to the villages and 16,3 % (29,7 % of those who saw things changing) realised an impact of Korup Project in the educational sector.

The environmental education component was disbanded following the mid-term-review, which came to the conclusion "that the environmental education component has been rather successful in reinforcing the protectionist and alien image of the project, that in achieving its stated intention of fostering partnership" (Mid-term 147). Our findings underline the decision taken, because one can draw the conclusion that the environmental education has not fulfilled its mission, because the trained pupils and students do not follow the lectured ideas when they have to earn their living from the forest. The assistance received in the area of environmental education was more of a contribution to the infrastructure of schools and education in the villages. This is appreciated by a significant group of people as an important achievement, but it did not contribute substantial to the overall conservation goal.

Participatory land use plans

Other activities fall under the expected result 5 "participatory land use plans implemented". The first activity (5.1) under this heading is the "establishment of community based land use plans for the support zone". None of the inhabitants of the project area had any knowledge on land use plans.

Sustainable forest use

The impact of the activity 5.2. ("strengthen capacities of communities to use land and forest resources sustainable") can be assessed through the level of knowledge on sustainable natural resource management. 2 % of the villagers realised that sustainable forest use is an aim of the Korup Project and 1 % recognised sustainable forest use as one of the methods of conservation applied by Korup Project. On the other hand, 13,7 % stated that sustainable forest use was their reason for a positive perception of forest conservation. Following the argument that certain technical terms were more popular among students and pupils, one could come to the conclusion that the term "sustainable forest use" is one of them. 17,7 % of the people below 25 gave this as reason for their positive perception of conservation, but only 11,4 % of the people above 25. Nevertheless, one has to consider that this positive perception of conservation through sustainable forest use is not reflected as a concrete activity

of Korup Project, but - according to the interviews - abstract vision to reconcile forest use and conservation.

Capacity building

Korup Project did not specify capacity building in the villages as a activity on its own, but it can be presumed that Korup Project comprehended that complex conservation approaches such as community based land use plans, sustainable land and forest management are only possible on the bases of a good relationship of local communities and Korup Project. The activity 5.2. even mention capacity building as an activity in view of sustainable resource management. One mean of verification could be seen in the level of participation of local communities in Korup Project activities. 57,9 % were aware of a participative approach in caring out activities. These people are satisfied with this interaction, while people, who did not know about participative activities (26,9 %) and people, who were sure that activities were not organised in a participatory manner were unsatisfied with the interaction. A significant high number of people who were satisfied with the interaction with Korup Project mentioned as reason for their satisfaction the good cooperation between local communities and Korup Project. As mentioned before, does Korup Project cooperate with some village, while others - a good number of them priority villages - hardly have any contact. This people are unsatisfied with this low level of cooperation and stated in interviews to have no idea why Korup Project works in some villages and in others not. They agreed that they were not informed about the decision making process or the procedure to implement a more regular interaction. As said before the method of lectures is not perceived very positive by the villagers, but on the other hand are 16,2 % of the view that Korup Project should promote education to improve the effectiveness of their activities. Education can be seen as one element of capacity building, but - as documented before - had the abandoned environmental education component only an unsustainable impact on the environmental awareness of the inhabitants of the project region.

Community forest

The perception of the activity 5.3. ("promote and establish community forest in appropriate areas") could logically only effect those areas, which are seen by Korup Project as appropriate for community forest. 1 % of the villagers realised community forest as a conservation method applied by Korup Project. 60 % of them came from Mbenyam and 20 % from the neighbouring Ndebaya, but it is Ndebaya which is "working on its application files" (Interview Löbenstein). 20 % of the people, who have heard about community forest, came from Ashum, but it is the neighbouring Bakebe which is preparing an application. In Bakebe itself and Fabe, the only other village we visited with a prospected community forest, none of the villagers had any knowledge about this. The reasons for that are unknown, but it seems as if the information flow is not reaching the ordinary villager.

Protection of the Korup National Park

Activity 5.4. ("extend/improve understanding of legal framework in the Korup Park Area")

The general perception of Korup National Park is positive (73,8 % think good about it), but the detailed knowledge about the aims and objectives is very limited and most villagers can not differentiate between Korup Project and Korup National Park. Our impression was that this

general perception is related to the fact, that most of the villages visited are far away from the national park. The perception of the inhabitants of the three villages inside the three kilometre zone and the resettled park village is not as positive as among the general populace, but still very positive. 67,3 % think that the Korup National is a good institution. The most common reason for that is its impact to conservation and sustainable forest management (42,5 %), but also its impact to the development and its job opportunities were mentioned as reasons for a positive perception. The negative perception of Korup National Park is in these villages with 30,6 % nearly twice the size of the general figure. Most of the people in the villages close to the Korup National Park, who do not like the park are doing so, because they have the impression that Korup National Park deprives them from many things (20%).

In the interviews the work of the game guards was strongly criticised - not only from the villages mentioned above -, but on the other hand requested 10,2% more force and game guards in the future. Nevertheless, our informants reported negatively about some cases of bush-meat confiscation (without giving details), which were not carried out inside the park, but at Osirayib, which is a road-point 20 km away from the park.. A good number of these informants stated that the people in the villages situated near the Korup National Park do not care any longer where to hunt, "because the game guards do not differentiate from where the bush-meat comes from". Other reasons for conflicts are related to the common impression among our informers, that the game guards use the confiscated bush-meat for their own purpose - they are said to eat it themselves or sell it. None of the villagers interviewed was able to explain the official procedure for confiscation and all of them denied any visit of Korup Project in their village, which intended to improve their understanding of the legal framework of the Korup National Park.

We received the impression that the activities 5.5. ("assist MINEF to ensure that timber exploiters in support zone adopt sustainable practise") and 5.6. ("develop operational channels to actively involve Government of Cameroon services in participatory conservation development") did not have any impact on the villagers. None of them know about any activity in that perspective.

Result 4: Participatory conservation

As said before the result 4 of Korup Project is seen in an active participation and support of the communities to the conservation of the biodiversity in the project region. The environmental awareness is very high and results in a positive perception of conservation, but only a minority (41,4 %) realised, that Korup Project is primary a conservation project. From interviews one can draw the conclusion that a good number even of the village elite did not realise the change in the approach of Korup Project after the restructuring. Only 5,2 % understood the "new" strategy and experienced the activities 4.1. and 4.2. as methods of conservation. Education and advises, which are - according to the logframe - not Korup activities were seen by 48,9 % as the main method of Korup Project to promote conservation.

The positive perception of conservation is - outlined by our informants - neither related to environmental education and lectures, nor to the activities 4.1. and 4.2.. Half of the villagers

are not satisfied with the methods applied by Korup Project and even 21,1 % have the impression that the methods applied by Korup Project to promote conservation are destructive or useless. They stated that they do not need books, newsletters or lectures to realise that the forest is changing and that the animal density is reducing. 26,7% of the populace realised that wildlife is reducing and 25,6 % experienced a reduction of plants and NTFP's. Based on this, they have their own ideas about conservation and the environment. Numerous informants complained bitterly that they feel treated as children, when Korup Project field staff advices them not to hunt or to harvest.

Even among those people, who understand conservation of wildlife and forest as very important aim 20,4 % have the impression that the methods applied by Korup Project are not effective, 13,8 % as useless and 6,6 % as destructive. 40,8 % of the target population are not satisfied with the methods applied by Korup Project. It seems as if this is caused by the methods applied. Quite a number of villagers (also a good number of priority villages) were - following our informants - not invited to participate in the decision making process and are consequently not satisfied with the interaction. Korup Project staff visited the villages - according to our informants - less than once a month and then mostly held lectures. In the view of the majority of the inhabitants of the project area, this approach is not effective, useless and destructive. The participatory methods and approaches introduced in the process of restructuring have not reached the villages. Only 0,6 % have heard about forest management committees.

Result 5: participatory land use plans

As said before, land use plans and patterns are unknown among the inhabitants of the project region, but some of the activities which are intended to result in the implementation of a participatory land use plan had an impact of the villagers. The capacity building activity of Korup Project was perceived positive and also the idea of sustainable forest management, but community based conservation (community forest and sustainable natural resource management) is not experienced as Korup Project activities, but as appropriate theoretical concepts. The concept of a high protected area (national park) was perceived very positive and would even be better if Korup Project could communicate the legal framework and procedures of anti-poaching activities. Generally we received the impression that the activities which supposed to result in the implementation of participatory land use plans are progressing quite slow: the preparatory activities (sensitisation and capacity building) are experienced by the villagers and result in a positive perception of Korup Project and Korup National Park, but the activities which implement land use plans and sustainable natural resource management did not have much impact.

The image of Korup Project

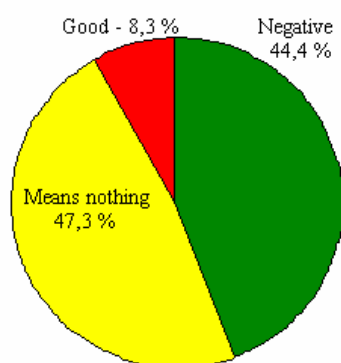
The image of Korup Project is - as said before - in our opinion based on the activities carried out by Korup Project and the interaction established by the field staff. It is important to realise that the general perception does not base solemnly on the activities implemented in the 1999-2000 annual plan, but also on past experiences. The common impression that Korup Project is a development (22% realised this as the main activity) and agriculture (17,9 % realised this as the main activity) project seems to be related to the former strategy applied (conservation

through rural development) and from our interviews and findings we received the impression that this development assistance was appreciated by the villagers, but did hardly effect their attitude towards forest and wildlife.

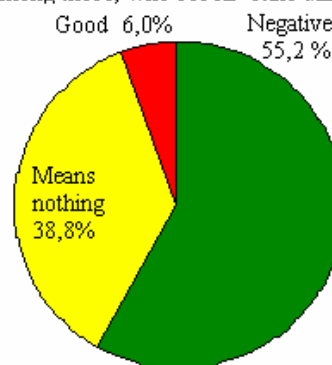
A majority does not want Korup Project to close down their activities even though this perception is not based on a detailed knowledge. The majority does not have any knowledge about the aims, objectives and main activities of Korup Project. Especially the relation of rural development (assistance to infrastructure and income generating activities) and conservation is hardly known. A significant number understand Korup Project as a pure development project, while others think that they are hunters or a logging company.

A significant number of people is neither satisfied with the benefits they derive from their cooperation with Korup Project, nor with the established interaction. More than half of the people think that the methods applied by Korup Project are not effective and quite a good number have only bad feelings when asked about Korup Project.

Reaction to a stop of all KP activities
(among those, who hardly see a KP staff)



Reaction to a stop of all KP activities
(among those, who see KP staff daily)



As one can see from these two pie charts, the people do not appreciate the low frequency of visits in the villages. The people who interact frequently with Korup Project have the highest perception of the project.

Conclusion

On the whole, the image of Korup project has to be improved if sustainable natural resource management should be based on the active participation of the villagers. While Korup Project stated in the presentation of the draft report that the findings are underlining the Korup Project success story, social scientists are of the view that participatory natural resource management can be only successful if nearly everybody (more than 75 %) is satisfied with the benefits, the level of participation, the methods applied and the general interaction (Ghimire and Pimbert 1997). As long as only a minority or small majority appreciate the co-operation it will be difficult to fulfil the aim of the project, because sustainability can be only achieved if all stakeholders agree to the concept applied. As long as numerous villagers refuse to joint the projected joined management of their natural resources it will be uncertain whether the projected impact on the wildlife and forest comes to fruition or not.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS / SUGGESTIONS

Based on the findings of this impact assessment, we recommend the implementation of a participatory impact assessment programme in all villages and zones. This main recommendation is based on our finding, that the interaction between all stakeholders is able to be improved if it is to be more fruitful and participatory. Since a productive cooperation between the Korup Project and the inhabitants of the project region can be seen as the key for a participatory and sustainable management of the natural resources in the Korup Project area, the involvement of the local population in decision making processes should be increased. The local population should be involved at all levels of management, from the evaluation of the performance of field staff to the Steering Committee. Since it is in their interest to participate in these management meetings, no compensation (per diem, sitting allowance, over-night allowance, etc.) except transport allowance should be provided. According to our findings, it seems necessary that the Korup Project accelerates the prescribed change from a "patronage"-project to a service project, which is based on joint management by all stakeholders involved. A service project means that Korup Project should change from the donation approach to the participatory approach, which was already recommended by the mid-term review team and implemented in the logframe.

All other approaches seem to be unable to answer the question about the future of the project. Our findings indicate that during the first ten years (1988-1997) - the normal duration of a development or conservation project - the local population and administration was hardly involved in decision making. The new approach - to base the conservation of the biodiversity in the region on participatory and sustainable natural resource management - is still unknown to the majority of the inhabitants of the project region. Active participation of the local population should be at the centre of all activities, because who else will be able to conserve the biodiversity of the region in the future, if Korup Project is not accelerating the capacity building processes for a joint management of the natural resources now?

In general it seems necessary that Korup Project, the donors, the Government of Cameroon and the local population discuss and reassess the "new" strategy applied. Most of the villagers did not know that the former strategy (conservation through rural development) - which was applied for 10 years - was changed. To reduce misunderstandings and unattainable expectations Korup Project should inform all villages about the changes, give reasons for the decision taken in the past and discuss the new strategy applied, including the planned activities for the next year. The question, whether this "abstract" discussions are contributing to the overall aim is easy to answer: only the comprehensive involvement of the local population enables Korup Project to fulfil its mission.

In the following we will give some recommendations on how the interaction between the villages and Korup Project could be made more fruitful for the overall aim of conserving the biodiversity in the region through sustainable and participatory natural resource management.

INTERACTION WITH THE VILLAGES

A good number of the inhabitants of the region consider in the interviews Korup Project field

staff as not committed, disinterested and arrogant. They claim that they see them less than once a month. This cannot be the basis for a fruitful interaction. "Live with them, work with them, talk with them, plan with them and learn from them" are seen as commitments of successful community based conservation. Besides the individual performance, which should be evaluated by a joint commission of Korup Management and the local population of the concerned villages, the administration should supervise the relevance of the activities for the overall project aim. The frequency of interaction with the villages has to be increased. One step could be to include in the terms of reference of field staff, that they have to live for 20 days a month in the villages they work with. It is surprising that field staff receives per diems and overnight allowances when they go to the field. This should be looked into, cancelled or changed.

Benefits are not equally distributed. Some villages received much assistance, while others - including priority villages - stated that they were not visited in years. Some villages were involved in all kinds of activities, while others felled abandoned. Especially villages which are considered to be problematic and critical felled neglected by the field staff. This selection is contrary to an effective cooperation. Korup Project cannot fulfil its mission if it works only together with those, who do everything requested.

The strategy of priority villages should be reassessed. We are of the view that it is not suitable for the overall aim (conservation of the biodiversity of the Korup Project area), because all villages seems to have an impact on the biodiversity of the project region. By offering benefits just for those, which are seen as priority villages, jealousy and unnecessary inequality is implemented. To be effective in the 187 villages in the project area, more field workers should be employed. With more than twenty villages per team (2 field workers) as it is for now, it is certain that no fruitful interaction can be established. We hold the view that at least 10 additional field staff should be employed. However, the approach of working in multidisciplinary teams is regarded as an effective instrument. The selection of new staff has to be serious to avoid uncommitted field staff. They should be based in a central village of the region they are working in.

Land use and income generating activities

The experience has been made that anything given free of charge is hardly cared for. So items or inputs for livestock and agriculture projects should be given, at most, at subsidised rates. Also, Korup Project must have had enough experience by now to decide whether to only assist groups or also individuals. An individual who successfully carries out any of these projects can be a standard or light for the village or even the sector. Unless there is proof of unusual dynamism of a specific village, one village should not receive more than others.

Special emphasis should be laid on a sustainable and participatory management of the natural resources. Quite a number of villagers are prepared to jointly manage the forest resources with Korup Project, but it has to be made clear that it is still their environment. They have to be able to identify themselves with the management committees, which is difficult if they have such

abstract names like "Eastern Sector Natural Resource Management Commission". Korup Project should put more emphasis on the idea of joint management options for hunting, fishing and NTFP's collection outside the park. They should offer "in-service" training for the marketing of all these forest products. The facilitation of participatory management of natural resources requires both the sincere commitment of project field staff and a sense of ownership by the villages concerned.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Should Korup Project have funds to assist infrastructure projects in the Support Zone, it should first proceed on a census of all uncompleted building projects (water, halls, classrooms, bridges, etc.) and programme their completion, before implementing new projects. Korup Project is in the process of erecting offices/bases at Lipenja I and Toko; a site for one has been prepared at Tombe. Korup Project should ensure that the buildings are completed and put to effective use. Korup Project should also deploy means towards renovating and refurbishing the deteriorating buildings in Baro and Abat and putting them to use by placing the field staff there.

The issue of road maintenance/construction, bridges and culverts, needs careful study and attention. There should be a balance between fears about road facilitating access and therefore constituting a danger to protected areas, and the cherished hope that they also ease the transport of goods that the people need for their development and the evacuation of agricultural produce they are encouraged to cultivate in ever increasing quantities.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

Even though the environmental education component of Korup Project has been scrapped, any team going out on mission automatically plays a sensitisation and awareness raising role. A milestone for fruitful discussions on the environment could be the recommended decentralisation: the fact that Korup Project field staff should live together with the people. Actions and joint experiences contribute more to a raising awareness of the importance of the environment than any lecture etc.

We did not have the chance to assess the impact of the traditional methods of conservation and it is surprising that in the past no research was carried out with that perspective. We hold the view that the traditional methods of conservation have to stand - at least as a starting point - in the centre of a community-based conservation. Their ability to deal with the challenges of automatic rifles and chainsaws is uncertain. We found it surprising that in the qualitative interviews the villagers hold the view that the Korup staff never discussed traditional forms of conservation and their effectiveness - or strategies to enable their adaptation to contemporary challenges.

Whether shifting cultivation, regular forest clearing and regular forest patrols are methods which contribute to the conservation of the natural resources is widely discussed among scientists. While Fairhead and Leach are of the view that shifting cultivation is an effective method of improving biodiversity, other scientists claim the contrary. The local patrols are seen by promoters of a community-based conservation as a very effective method to reduce the

unsustainable forest use of foreigners while others claim that all activities in the forest are destructive. In view of these traditional methods of conservation we strongly recommend that the Korup Project assesses the impact and effectiveness of these methods and - if they contribute to the conservation goal - try to promote them among those, who do not apply them in every day lives or have even never heard of them.

Appendix

- 1. Terms of Reference**
- 2. Time schedule**
- 3. Questionnaire**
- 4. Detailed description of villages and its interaction with Korup Project**
- 5. List of persons interviewed**
- 6. Literature list**
- 6.1. Maps**

Appendix 1: Terms of Reference

KORUP Project

Terms of Reference for the Research "The Perception of KORUP Project among the inhabitants of the project region - An Impact Assessment"

Introduction

KORUP Project is working since 1988 in a huge project area. The project applied different approaches and strategies to achieve its main goals: to conserve the bio-diversity in this area. After the restructuring process of KORUP Project in 1997/98 the project has attached importance to the sustainability of conservation. The approach towards local communities has changed from just donating to more participatory activities, i.e. villages are getting more responsibilities and they have to contribute, if they want to benefit from project services. In spite of many activities realised in the project area, it seems as if the reputation of the project is rather bad as far as local communities and authorities are concerned.

A research group (Fuh Divine Fuh B.Sc., Eyong Charles Takoyoh B.Sc., Primus Mbeanwoah Tazanu B.Sc., Cletus Temah Temah) under the supervision of Dr. Kai Schmidt-Soltau (SchmidtSol@aol.com) and in co-operation with Mr. Foncham Christol Fombad, will gather information on the impact of natural resource management in the KORUP Project Area and analyse the perception of KORUP Project among the inhabitants of the project region.

The Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) and Rapid Rural Appraisal (RRA) methodologies of data collection, which are suited for qualitative rural research, will be used as well as questionnaires and fieldwork observations, as quantitative research tools. While the participatory approaches have the advantage that they make research a collective and negotiated effort between the researcher and the community, semi-structured questionnaires and observation reports will allow KORUP to analyse its long-term economic impact through the use of timeframe databases like SPSS.

The findings and results are to be used as the system of references and baseline data for a long term impact assessment and for a monitoring and evaluation system, which enables KORUP Project to achieve its main goals and satisfy the needs and interests of the inhabitants of the project region. The concept of sustainable conservation lies emphasis on a harmonic combination of conservation and development. To achieve this it is important to know how the conservation goals of KORUP Project are perceived by local communities. The final report should include recommendations how the reputation of KORUP Project could be improved without jeopardising the conservation objectives of the project.

The work of the research group is as follows:

Conception

- Elaboration of a detailed research programme, including the development of suitable interview guidelines and other methods to document and evaluate the perception of KORUP Project. This will cover the following fields of research:
- Gather information about the general opinion on KORUP Project among different target groups (traditional leaders, farmers, hunters, young people, woman, local administration, etc).
- a) In a representative study.
- b) in a qualitative study.
- What do the different groups in the villages know about the project about its objectives
- Was the creation of the national park a good or wrong approach in the view of these groups. Why?
- Analyse the activities of KORUP Project in the villages
 - Which activities have been carried out by KORUP Project in the selected villages?
 - How did the different groups in the villages perceive these activities?
 - What was their direct or indirect benefit of each activity?
 - What were the major changes - if any - for the village due to the presence of KORUP Project?
- What is the opinion of the different groups on the achievement of the conservation goal of KORUP Project?
 - How do they define conservation by their understanding and than according to KORUP Project?
 - Is conservation in general considered as important? Why or why not?
 - Is KORUP Project carrying out the right activities to contribute to conservation according to the different groups?
 - If not, what do they propose KORUP Project should carry out as priority activities for conservation?
 - Do they have any traditional techniques to address conservation purposes?
 - How do they feel if KORUP Project is no more?

Fieldwork

- The research is based on the statistics given by the Village Information Database (KORUP 1997). According to this report 28.830 people are living in the KORUP Project area. To receive a representative result, we will submit 577 questionnaires at random to selected people, which is 2% of the overall population. Additionally we will gather about 100 interviews: Short interviews (max. 1 hour) and open ended and detailed interviews (up to 4 hours) with administrative and traditional authorities, opinion leaders, businesses-people, KORUP staff and focus groups.

KORUP identifies 10 clusters inside their project region:

Name of cluster	Population	Questionnaires	Villages included in the survey
Eyumojock	9405	188	Ekok, Eyumojock, Mbenyan, Ndebaya
Mbakem	2500	50	Mbakem, Ayukaba
Nta-ali	3369	67	Mbinjong, Bakebe, Ashum
Abat/Bakogo	1389	28	Abat
Nguti	2838	57	Baro, Sekam, Ebanga
Southern Rumpis	693	14	Meka
Mundmeba	2297	46	Ndian Town, Fabe
Park	251	5	Ekundu-Kundu
Lipenja	4829	97	Lipenja 1, Masaka Bakundu, Mwangale
Toko	1260	25	Toko
Total	28831	577	21 villages

- The interviews will take place within 16 days of fieldwork. Four Cameroonian enumerators, one senior consultant and one supervisor will be used to carry out this research.

Evaluation and Utilisation

Production of a Report, including:

- Detailed methodology of research
- Research conditions: Positive and negative experiences, difficulties faced while carrying out the research.
- Transcription of interviews, coding/decoding of questionnaires, etc.
- Analysis of information following the main fields of research.
- Recommendations as guidelines for a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation process on the long term impact of KORUP Project.

Presentation and discussion of findings:

- On the basis of the draft report, a summary of findings and recommendations will be presented to and discussed with representatives of KORUP Project and the interested public. This is to compare the collected data with the different perceptions of KORUP, to obtain feedback on the research findings and to allow for immediate implementation of a guided conflict management system.
- Production of Final report, including the contributions given during the presentation of draft report.

Time-schedule for the research:

- As preparation, a 1 days workshop will take place in Buea
- Fieldwork
 1. day - Arrival of the research group in the northern research region (Eyumojock).
 2. day - Preparation of research in co-operation with the traditional and administrative authorities, KORUP project, etc. in the northern sector.
 3. day - Research in **Ekok** (60 questionnaires; 6 interviews) (*urban area of cluster 1*)
 4. day - Research in **Eyomojock** (60 q; 6 i) (*urban area of cluster 1*)
 5. day - Research in **Ndebaya** (38 q; 4 i) and **Mbenyan** (30 q; 3 i) (*rural area of cluster 1*)
 6. day - Research in **Mbakem** (25 q; 3 i) and **Ayukaba** (25 q; 2 i) (*cluster 2*)
 7. day - **Mbinjong** (18 q; 2 i), **Bakebe** (22 q; 2 i) and **Ashum** (27 q; 3 i) (*cluster 3*)
 8. day - Preparation of research in co-operation with the traditional and administrative authorities, KORUP project, etc. in the eastern sector (Nguti)
 9. day - Research in **Abat** (28 q; 3i) (*cluster 4*) and **Baro** (10 q; 2 i), **Sekam** (17 q; 2 i) (*cluster 5*).
 10. day - Research in **Ebanga** (30 q; 3 i) (*cluster 5*). Transfer to Mundmeba
 11. day - Preparation of research in co-operation with the traditional and administrative authorities, KORUP project, etc. in the southern sector. Research in **Meka** (14 q; 2 i) (*cluster 6*)
 12. day - Research in **Ndian Town** (22 q 3 i), **Fabe** (24 q, 2 i) (*cluster 7*) and **Ekundu-Kundu** (5 q, 2 i) (*cluster 8*)
 13. day - Research in **Lipenja 1** (25 q; 3 i), **Masaka Bakudu** (12 q; 2 i) (*cluster 9*) and **Toko** (25 q, 3i) (*cluster 10*).
 14. day - Research in **Mwangale** (60 q, 6 i) (*cluster 9*).
 15. day - Presentation of findings to the staff of Korup Project and the interested public. Discussion and agreement on the further procedures and activities.
 16. day - End of research; Return to Buea.

- Interpretation of data
4 days are expected to be the minimum to interpret and analyse the data from the field and to transcribe the collected interviews. This will take place between February 7th and February 10th 2000.
- Production of a draft report
Foncham Christol Fombad and Dr. Kai Schmidt-Soltau are expected to produce a draft report. This will take approximately 3 days (14.2.-16.2.2000). The deadline for the distribution of the draft report will be February 20th 2000.
- Presentation of findings
This presentation is aiming to provide the whole Korup Project with the findings and recommendations of the impact assessment. The presentation will be scheduled in co-ordination with Korup Project. This will take 1 day. One additional day is expected to cover the transport to and from Mundemba.
- Final Report
The principal researchers are expected to deliver the final report, including the recommendations and reaction given by the participants of the presentation, to KORUP-Project two weeks after the presentation, in the form of 2 hard copies and 1 diskette.

January 16th 2000

Dr. Jochen Esser
Project-Manager
KORUP

Dr. Kai Schmidt-Soltau
Co-ordinator of the research

Appendix 2: Time-schedule of the research:

- As preparation, a 1 days workshop took place in Buea (17.1.2000)
- Fieldwork
 1. day (19.1.2000) - Arrival of the research group in the northern research region (Eyumojock).
 2. day (20.1) - Preparation of research in co-operation with the traditional and administrative authorities in the northern sector. Since the KORUP staff was not around during our four days stay, no information about the activities of KORUP Project in that region was available.
 3. day (21.1) - Research in **Ekok** (60 questionnaires; 6 interviews) (*urban area of cluster 1*)
 4. day (22.1.) - Research in **Eyumojock** (60 q; 6 i) (*urban area of cluster 1*)
 5. day (23.1.) - Research in **Ndebaya** (38 q; 4 i) and **Mbenyan** (30 q; 3 i) (*rural area of cluster 1*)
 6. day (24.1) - Research in **Mbakem** (25 q; 3 i) and **Ayukaba** (25 q; 2 i) (*cluster 2*)
 7. day (25.1) - **Mbinjong** (18 q; 2 i), **Bakebe** (22 q; 2 i) and **Ashum** (27 q; 3 i) (*cluster 3*)
 8. day (26.1) - Preparation of research in co-operation with the administrative authorities and KORUP project in the eastern sector (Nguti). Research in **Abat** (28 q; 3i) (*cluster 4*) and **Baro** (10 q; 2 i) (*cluster 5*).
 9. day (27.1) - Research in, **Sekam** (17 q; 2 i) (*cluster 5*), **Tombe** (12 q; 2 i) (*cluster 9*) and **Mwangale** (60 q, 6 i) (*cluster 9*).
 10. day (28.1) - Research in **Ebanga** (30 q; 3 i) (*cluster 5*). Transfer to Mundmeba.
 11. day (29.1) - Preparation of research in co-operation with the traditional and administrative authorities, KORUP project, etc. in the southern sector.
 12. day (30.1) - Research in **Meka** (14 q; 2 i) (*cluster 6*) and **Ndian Town** (22 q 3 i) (*cluster 7*).
 13. day (31.1.) - Research in **Fabe** (24 q, 2 i) (*cluster 7*), **Ekundu-Kundu** (5 q, 2 i) (*cluster 8*), **Lipenja 1** (25 q; 3 i) (*cluster 9*) and **Toko** (25 q, 3i) (*cluster 10*)
 14. day (1.2) - Preparation of the presentation of preliminary findings.
 15. day (2.2) - Presentation of the preliminary findings to the staff of Korup Project. Discussion and agreement on the further procedures and activities.
 16. day (3.2.) - End of research; Return to Buea.

APPENDIX 3:**Questionnaire No.**

- 1) **How do you see the forest?** 1-Very Positive 2-Positive 3-Average 4-Negative 5-Very Negative
- 2) **Why?**
- 3) **How often do you go to the forest?** 1-daily 2-four times a week 3-twice a week 4-once a week 5-irregularly 6-never
- 4) **What are you doing in the forest?** 1-farming 2-hunting 3-collecting forest products 4-fishing 5-rituals 6-to collect medical plants 7-logging timber 8-others: specify!
- 5) **How much income do you receive from the above mentioned activities per week?**
- 6) **What changes have you observed in the forest?**
- 7) **Is it important for you to have a forest with animals?** 1-Yes 2-No
- 8) **Why?**
- 9) **What do you think about conservation of the forest?** 1-Very bad 2-bad 3-good 4-very good
- 10) **Why?**
- 11) **Was the creation of Korup National Park a good or bad approach?** 1-Good 2-Bad 3-Never heard of Korup National Park
- 12) **Why?**
- 13) **Do you have any traditional method of conservation?** 1-Yes 2-No 3-Do not know
- 14) **Which method and how effective is it?**
- 15) **Have you heard about Korup Project?** 1-Yes 2-No
- 16) **What do you think about Korup Project?**
- 17) **What are the major activities of the project?**

- 18) **What are its aims and objectives?**
- 19) **Is Korup Project contributing to the conservation of the forest?** 1-Yes 2-No 3-Do not know
- 20) **Which methods do they use?**
- 21) **How effective are they?** 1-very effective 2-effective 3-not effective 4-useless 5-destructive
- 22) **What could be changed and how?**
- 23) **How often do you see Korup Project Staff in your village?** 1-every day 2-once a week 3-once a month 4-every view month 5-once a year 6-hardly ever 7-never
- 24) **What are they doing in your village?**
- 25) **Have you or your village benefited from Korup Project activities?** 1-Yes 2-No
- 26) **Why and in which way?**
- 27) **Was your village involved and consulted in the planning and implementation of Korup Project activities?** 1-Yes 2-No 3-Do not know
- 28) **Are you satisfied with the interaction of Korup Project Staff and local population?** 1-Yes 2-No
- 29) **Why?**
- 30) **Has there been any change in the village due to the activities of Korup Project?** 1-Yes 2-No
- 31) **Which?**
- 32) **How do you feel if Korup Project is no longer working in your village?** 1-Good 2-Does not mean anything for me 3-Negative
- 33) **Why?**
- 34) **How old are you?**
- 35) **Where are you from?**
- 36) **Do you live here all the time?** 1-Yes 2-No

- 37) **What is your occupation?**
- 38) **Level of education?**
- 39) **Are you a member of the village council? 1-Yes 2-No**

Observation and comment:

Sex 1-Male 2-Female

Name of village

Additional Information

Appendix 4: Detailed description of villages and its interaction with Korup Project

The list of activities carried out by Korup and benefits/assistance received is based solely on the information of our informants and our group interviews. We did not update it by including activities and benefits reported by the Korup Project field staff, because this list supposed to document the activities, benefits and assistance realised and remembered by the villagers. Errors and shortcomings are related to this premises. To compare the list given below with the reported activities and distributed benefits can be understood as a first step towards a participatory impact monitoring. If activities were carried out and benefits distributed, without the villagers recognising them, the expected result could be missed. The impact is not as prospected and the different stakeholders have a good chance to discuss and find solutions.

1. Northern Sector

Eyumojock is headquarters of this sector. As a border area, commerce with Nigeria to the West is very regular through the road Mamfe – Ekok or by the rivers Munaya and Manyu, which provide exit ways for the sector's production of cash-crops (cocoa), NTFP's (especially Eru) and bush-meat into Nigeria. It is said that Nigerians even enter the Eyumojock Subdivision to hunt, fish, harvest and log. The insufficient governmental services are seen as unable to stop this uncontrolled forest use. The Divisional Delegate of MINEF for the Manyu Division told us, that his forest and wildlife guards are not able to carry out any control in the region, because of the aggressiveness of the poachers.

The sector has known some prosperity through forestry exploitation in the free forests (employment and roads) and government forestry regeneration in the Ejagham forest reserve, but these activities came to an end some years ago.

Korup Project is working in the whole region with one team of five persons which is at the present made up of a single field worker. He is assisted by an accountant, an office attendant, a driver and night watchman. Korup Project has a small office with guest rooms in Eyumojock and is able to communicate with the Korup headquarter in Mundemba by radio. A major constraint for the work in the Eyumojock region are the roads, which are in the rainy season impassable for months. Another problem arises from the fact, that the most important villages for Korup Project (in the three km zone around the park) are two or three days trekking distance from the road. The field worker stated that it is impossible to visit them more often than once a year.

The overall assessment for the region is quite negative as regards of rural development. In comparison to the sixties, the communal infrastructure has hardly changed, while the forest shows all signs of overuse.

The villages covered by the survey were: Ekok, Eyumojock, Mbenyan, Ndebaya, Mbakem and Ayukaba.

1.1. EKOK

a) Presentation

A border town, about 4.000 (4000; Butcher 1997) inhabitants with great interaction with Nigerians who carry out petty commerce. The export of bush-meat, timber and NTFP's is not controlled. The MINEF control post at the boarder is unmanned. Our informants agreed that especially Eru and bush-meat are taken to Nigeria at large scale.

- Has a Government Primary School (Class 7; 385 pupils).
- Has a Health Post, SONEL electricity installations in place but not yet functional, present supply is by private generators.
- Water source is a spring 500m away, installation by SICAC (SCAN water?) is in disrepair.
- They grow palms, yams, melons, coco-yams, plantains and cassava, as cash and food crops.
- Livestock consists of goats, pigs and local fowls.
- NTFPs are harvested by women and children for local consumption or for sale to traders from across the border (eru, bush mango, njangsang, ...)

b) KORUP PROJECT Activities:

- Sponsored the Headmaster of the Government School Ekok to two seminars at Eyumojock on environmental education
- Donated text books for teachers' use for all classes; besides charts maps and magazines which are useful for teaching science and environmental protection to pupils.
- Held talks with villagers to boost their capacity in understanding environmental issues and acting in a way friendly to the environment

c) However, KORUP PROJECT has disappointed them in that:

- KORUP PROJECT activities and interaction with them were reduced to near zero with the death of one KORUP PROJECT officer two years ago. They have no response or follow-up to their request and desire to improve their livestock (pigs, goats, poultry).
- The Government School (GS) of the locality received no response to their application for farm tools and school furniture, neither the population any encouragement in growing palms and cocoa and supply of farm tools like sprayers.

For them, water supply is a development priority.

1.2. EYUMOJOCK

a) Presentation

- Sub-Divisional headquarters, about 3.500 inhabitants (3500; Butcher 1997)
- Has a district Hospital, a Government High school
- Primary schools and other services

- Pipe-borne water non-functional; far away springs and wells provide water
- Electricity lines installed, but no current yet. Present electricity supply by generators.
- Main crops are cassava, yams, maize, cocoyams
- Livestock: local fowls, goats, pigs
- NTFPs are eru, bush mango and njangsang

b) KORUP Project Activities

- Provided chitted nuts from Lobe at subsidised rates
- Supplied text books, maps, charts, etc. for teaching in the primary school
- Organised meetings and seminars for environmental education and conservation. This encouraged them to form a village environmental committee

c) However, they decry the fact that:

- KORUP PROJECT's promise to educate and help them launch their goat and pig-keeping project did not materialise. Rather, their goat species has been supplied to other villages – Ndebaya, Ayaoke, Otu – as breeding stock.
- Their request to construct a town hall has received no attention despite their readiness with a site and local materials
- The same for water supply, improvement of the school and road infrastructure (bridges)
- Reported buffalos damage to crops and loss of life was paid no attention

In general, they claim that as a Sub-Divisional Headquarter, they should receive priority attention, especially in the improvement of the GHS and SAR/SM which admits students from beyond the Sub-Division.

1.3 NDEBAYA

a) Presentation

- About 500 inhabitants (280; Butcher 1997)
- Situated about 5 km from Eyumojock
- Has a class 7 Government Primary School
- A good, well protected water point constructed with the assistance of the Community Development Department, little flow in the dry season.
- Important crops grown are yams and cassava
- Keep goats and local fowls
- Collect NTFPs from surrounding forests for cash and subsistence

b) KORUP PROJECT Activities

KORUP PROJECT assistance has been received and appreciated in Ndebaya for the following services:

- Assistance in goat and pig keeping on Heifer Project principles
- Popularisation of palms growing by supply of chitted nuts
- Supply of a cassava grinding machine and therefore encouragement of cassava growing

- Built 3 classrooms and supplied desks for them
- Supplied textbooks, charts, etc. for teaching in school
- Education through lectures and seminars on community forestry and other environmental issues.

As a result of this special attention by KORUP PROJECT, the village has setup many committees, the most active being the Forest Management Committee, which is fighting against shifting cultivation and preventing illegal entry into their forests by foreigners to exploit timber, wildlife or NTFPs. They have passed local laws against the production of illicit gin, fishing with gamalin, leaving goats tethered. They admit that poor agricultural practices – slash and burn – has been responsible for their water problem and the dwindling wildlife population.

As in Eyumojock, damage to crops by Buffalos has been reported, but no reaction made by the authorities.

1.4. MBENYAN

a) Presentation

- Main village situated on a track about 5 km from Ndebaya; the new settlement called Up Station Mbenyan being situated on the other side of the road opposite Ndebaya.
- About 400 inhabitants (200; Butcher 1997)
- Grow cocoa, plantains, cassava

b) KORUP PROJECT Activities

In the absence of the Chief and other village personalities, interview with a youth (30 years old) revealed that KORUP PROJECT has:

- Educated them in agriculture, nature conservation and protection of their forests from interlopers. They are told to diversify production.
- Helped a group of youths start a 2 Ha. Palm plantation

KORUP PROJECT has not realised any project for the interest of the village, probably because they have not collectively requested any

However, by their personal efforts, the youths have embarked on digging a well, have dug about 6 m, but lack financial means to continue.

1.5. MBAKEM

a) Presentation

- Has a population of about 800 inhabitants (750; Butcher 1997)
- Has a class 7 Government Primary School
- Served as base of forestry exploitation carried out by BONANZA ESTATES and C.I.F.
- No pipe-borne water. Electricity is by generators

- Cash crops are cocoa and palms. There is an industrial palms plantation by Bonanza Estates
- Livestock: Pigs and goats

b) KORUP PROJECT Activities

KORUP PROJECT presence was felt in the village, but has not been as regular, since the death of the officer in charge of the area about 2 years ago. KORUP PROJECT has educated them on improving their living standards by:

- Goat keeping: they have aided an animal club in the village with 2 goats
- Supplying a cassava grinding machine to a cassava group, which is respecting loan conditions
- Have helped them purchase chitted palm nuts from Lobe and Sprayers from Douala at reduced cost.
- Supplying textbooks, charts and sundry teaching apparatus to their Primary School.

c) They would like KORUP PROJECT to assist in:

- Improving their school buildings; in view of their central position, the school could be an examination Centre
- Another development priority is a water point in the village and a bridge on the road to their farms.

They add that SNV are assisting them in the health sector. A site for a maternity has been selected and two staff (male and female) are already in training in Mamfe.

1.6 AYUKABA

a) Presentation

- Has about 800 inhabitants (700; Butcher 1997)
- Has a class 7 Government Primary School
- No pipe-borne water, no electricity
- Cash crops are cocoa and palms, but they are re-introducing coffee, the original cash crop.
- Livestock: goats, pigs

b) KORUP PROJECT Activities

KORUP PROJECT has

- Lectured them on environmental issues
- Distributed calendars and educative pamphlets
- Supplied textbooks, charts, etc. to the school
- Helped them in goat keeping
- Helped them purchase chitted palm nuts and sprayers

c) They deeply regret that since the death of the former officer, they have not received regular,

sustained KORUP PROJECT assistance. There is thus no action on their requests for:

- Supply of sprayers
- Assistance and guidance in livestock: goats and pig-keeping
- Construction of a village hall despite their readiness with local materials

d) They consider pipe-borne water supply a development priority to meet with their position as a Youth Day Centre. Finally, they deplore the fact that a community forest is under creation for AKWEN village without their (Ayukaba) knowledge and consent since they are neighbours and co-owners of the forest in question.

2. *Eastern Sector*

With headquarters in Nguti, this sector covers the area west of the Kumba – Mamfe road, from about Talangangye to Bachuo-Akagbe. Forestry exploitation activities and wood-transformation (sawmill) in the area date a long time back, and continued till of recent. Benefits from employment and road infrastructure (even though poor) have been enjoyed by the local communities.

The eastern sector is along the main road from Kumba to Nguti and Mamfe more developed than the Eyumojock area. Water points were installed in the past and especially the two hospitals in Nguti and Manyemen provide excellent health care. The area between the national park and the main road profited from the exploitation of timber some years ago. At least the major villages are accessible by cars and trucks and the other villages are less than one day trekking distance from the next accessible point. The local population perceives these roads as major development and there is quite some hope that the logging companies come back one day.

Korup Project has its main office for the sector in Nguti. While cars, workers and equipment are not a constraint for the work, the lack of communication facilities causes major problems. In the area, Korup Project has established quite some infrastructure. Two huge buildings in Baro, which was supposed to be the sub-headquarter of Korup Project, are said to serve as a game guard post. There are also game guard posts in Osirayib and Tombe(I) (under construction), while in Abat a rural development centre was constructed. All these infrastructure are hardly ever used. Korup Project works in the region with two teams, with two people each. An expatriate forest advisor and an expatriate income generating activity expert are supporting the activities in the field. If one compares the Nguti office, its facilities and field staff with other natural resource management projects in the south west province, one gets the impression that this could be a project on its own. From the infrastructure and human resources the eastern sector should be - in contrast to the northern sector - able to fulfil its mission.

Villages covered were Mbinjong, Bakebe, Ashum, Baro, Abat, Sekam and Ebanga. Mwangale and Tombe, which originally belong to the Lipenja cluster are accessible by road only from Nguti and are covered by the Nguti-east team.

According to the terms of reference, we were to carry out research in Masaka-Bakundu. In Mwangele, from where we wanted to approach Masaka-Bakundu, we learned that this village is only a quarter of Mwangele, while the village information database described it as a separate village. In co-operation with the Korup Project staff in Nguti, we therefore decided to replace Masaka-Bakundu with Tombe(I), which belongs to the same cluster and is even more interesting because it is located just outside the Korup National Park.

2.1. *MBINJONG*

a) Presentation

- Has about 600 (519; Sanga 1999; 479; Butcher 1997) inhabitants
- Has a class 7 Government School (GS) with 250 pupils.
- There is pipe-borne water by village community effort and foreign assistance, now maintained by the village water committee
- Cash crops: cocoa, coffee, palms
- Food crops: cassava, yams, plantains, bananas, cocoyams
- Livestock: goats, pigs and fowls

b) KORUP PROJECT Activities

- Involved Mbinjong in the organisation and functioning of the Eastern Regional Natural Resource Management Committee (ERNAMAC)
- Promoted tree planting by supplying orange seedlings for a village orchard. The selected site proved unsuitable: the planted seedlings were attacked and destroyed by termites. Encouraged compound tree planting but the village reacted poorly
- Organised and sponsored the headmaster and 1 teacher to seminars on environmental issues in Nguti
- Supplied GS with textbooks, Charts, etc. 4 years ago

They indicate disappointedly that KORUP PROJECT collected a list of persons interested in purchasing sprayers, oil press and pursuing livestock husbandry, but took no further action

c) They would like KORUP PROJECT to:

- Improve their GS
- Assist them in growing cocoa and palms
- Renew their assistance in growing fruit trees especially oranges, this time on individual basis
- Assist them in livestock husbandry to remove pressure from hunting in the forests

2.2. *BAKEBE*

a) Presentation

- Has a population of about 1.000 (698; Sanga 1999; 663; Butcher 1997) inhabitants
- Has a total of 250 pupils in 2 Class 7 Government Schools
- Existing pipe-borne water supply by SNEC gives very little flow in the dry season (Dec. to March).
- Electricity supply by SONEL from 4 p.m. to mid-night
- Cash crops: plantains, cassava, cocoyams, sweet potatoes, yams, maize, groundnuts
- Livestock: goats, local fowls and a few pigs

b) KORUP PROJECT Activities

- Educated and encouraged groups in livestock husbandry
 - Educated the population on environmental protection. Stimulated their creation of a forest management Committee to protect their forest and water ways (against use of gamalin) and control poaching of protected animal species
 - Given assistance in the purchase of sprayers and chemicals, but allegedly, the poor attitudes of the primary beneficiaries towards repayment killed KORUP PROJECT's zeal for further pursuit of the scheme
- c) They would like KORUP PROJECT to:
- Give assistance in improving the GS. An application has been lodged to this effect
 - Help in the construction of a Community Hall
 - Help them create a Community forest

2.3. *ASHUM*

a) Presentation

- About 600 (633; Sanga 1999; 703; Butcher 1997) inhabitants
- There is a class 7 Government School (GS) with 172 pupils
- No electricity by SONEL; 2 or 3 private generators
- KORUP PROJECT is in the process of connecting them to the SCAN water installations which had failed
- Cash crops: cocoa, coffee, little palms
- Food crops: cocoyams, cassava, maize, plantains, bananas, a few sweet potatoes
- Livestock: Goats, Pigs (provided they are fenced)

b) KORUP PROJECT Activities

- Sponsored the Headmaster and 1 teacher to a workshop/seminar on Environmental Education
- Supplied textbooks and teaching aids to environmental education
- Attracted the people to conservation of land
- Organised ERNAMAC groups in the zone, who hold frequent rotative meetings
- Provided loans to individuals to purchase sprayers and chitted nuts and assistance in pig-keeping
- In the process of connecting them to failed SCAN water installations

c) KORUP PROJECT has not:

- Kept their promise to grant them a loan to construct a house over their cocoa drier and to assist them in the construction of their village hall

2.4. *ABAT (Eyumojock Sub-Division)*

a) Presentation

- About 600 (347; Village information sheet 1999; 620; Butcher 1997) inhabitants
- Have a village generator which is not yet installed because they do not have cables
- No pipe-borne water; they use a stream 1 km away
- Cash crops: cocoa, coffee
- Food crops: plantains, cassava, cocoyams, bananas
- Livestock: fowls (local) some goats and pigs
- Weekly market on Thursdays

b) KORUP PROJECT Activities

- Sponsored Headmaster to three seminars on EE at Mundemba and supplied textbooks to all classes
- Supplied 2 bails of zinc and workmanship for 2 classrooms
- Distributed their calendars
- Helped their farmers obtain sprayers
- Have begun bridge building with concrete abutements and culverts on the MPL road which KORUP PROJECT also uses
- Built their offices at Abat but only visit and never stay. It is the population that clears around.
- Trained one youth who raised and sold palm seedlings. These were bought and planted out, but were destroyed by rodents and the villagers gave up
- Introduced Soya beans but received no response

c) They request KORUP PROJECT to:

- Help them construct a town hall
- Supply them electricity cables
- Grade the road constructed by MPL and which KORUP PROJECT also uses

They have this against KORUP PROJECT: that KORUP PROJECT took over and away their agric staff and so deprived them of education and assistance in agriculture

2.5. *BARO*

a) Presentation:

- Population about 350 (101; Sanga 1999 - 164; Butcher 1997) inhabitants
- GS (class 4) with only 22 pupils
- Exxon Chemical installed electricity in the late eighties and built structures to house the Korup Project Sub-headquarter. Electricity was only enjoyed for 2 month before Korup Project carted off the generator, a trench excavator and radio communication system and abandoned the station. The excavator was purportedly sold to the chief of Manyemen. Exxon Chemicals also built a hanging bridge into the national park now in disrepair.
- Road to Baro constructed by CTL but Korup Project did the last 2 km.

- Cash crops: Cocoa, coffee.
 - Food crops: Bananas, plantains, cassava.
 - Livestock: mostly local fowls.
- b) KORUP PROJECT Activities:
- Built a community hall, floor unlevelled, un-cemented.
 - Provided zinc for the headmaster's house.
 - Given textbooks to the GS and calendars to some people.
 - Held sensitisation and education meetings.
 - Built offices but abandoned them.
- c) They have this against Korup Project:
- Korup Project removed the electricity installation carried out by Exxon
 - Korup Project has not respected the Master-Plan to establish a sub-headquarters at Baro as specified in the Master-Plan (Section 4.1.2.1.6. their quotation!)
 - Offices built and equipped to this effect have been abandoned.
 - The road from Baro to Ebanga completed by Korup Project is in disrepair.
 - Korup Project gets there with their sturdy vehicles, but the population have difficulties to evacuate their products.
 - Korup Project comes mostly to arrest hunters.
 - They hardly spend the night or interact with the people.

2.6. *SEKAM*

- a) Presentation
- Population of about 150 (29; Sanga 1999 - 280; Butcher 1997) inhabitants
 - A community School of about 40 pupils (Class 2)
 - Water from a stream which dries up by Jan. – March
 - No electricity at all
 - Cash crops: cocoa, coffee, local palms
 - Food crops: plantains, cocoyams, yams, cassava, maize
 - Livestock: few goats and pigs, local fowls
 - NTFPs: Bush mango, Djave, njangsanga
- b) KORUP PROJECT Activities
- Built 3 classrooms and supplied benches for their community school. KORUP PROJECT promised to follow up with cementing the floor. Village is ready to play their part
 - Educated the village on conservation of the environment
 - Supplied them calendars
- c) They hope that KORUP PROJECT will
- Complete the building of their community school
 - Help out with their water problems

2.7. *EBANGA*

a) Presentation

- Population above 500 inhabitants (600; Butcher 1997)
- GS Manyemen situated nearby has 274 pupil (class 7)
- Pipe-borne water constructed by the community with the help of the Community Development Department and external elites, has little flow in dry season
- Electricity by individual generator for special occasions
- Cash crops: cocoa, coffee
- Food crops: plantains, cocoyams, cassava, maize, beans
- Livestock: a few straying goats and pigs, fowls

b) KORUP PROJECT Activities

- They lectured on diversification of agriculture, tree planting, conservation of nature, etc. but gave no practical support
- Distributed handouts on loans, but their conditions are too hard for the villagers
- Supplied textbooks, charts for teachers' use in all classes. Distributed very educative calendars

c) The village Chief confesses that they have never had the idea of requesting any development assistance from KORUP PROJECT

Question: Must a village request before KORUP PROJECT can assist? Hasn't KORUP PROJECT also the responsibility to identify and act?

Also, an important personality of the village rated KORUP PROJECT negatively because of a personal experience in Baro. According to him, elephants completely destroyed his large plantain farm some years back. He received neither a visit to the farm by, nor a word of consolation from KORUP PROJECT authorities (Park conservator). He abandoned the farm ever since then. He recounts again that a villager was killed by an elephant and the relatives received no visit or word of condolence from KORUP PROJECT

Remark: Food for thought: Lack of human touch to KORUP PROJECT activities? (Cf. Buffalo destruction at Eyumojock)

2.8. *MWANGELE-BAKUNDU*

a) Presentation

- Population 2000 approximately (1500; Butcher 1997)

- Class 7 Government School partially damaged by wind in October 1999, 300 pupils
- Electricity by generator
- Water from a stream 500 meters away
- Have a community hall by self effort but floor not yet leveled and cemented
- Cash crops: cocoa, coffee
- Food crops: plantains, cocoyams (2 types), cassava. Local palms maintained for oil for local consumption
- Livestock: Goats, sheep, pigs, local fowls
- Fruit trees: mangoes, plums, oranges, pears
- NTFPs harvested: Spices, njangsanga, bush mango and onion

b) KORUP PROJECT Impact

- Donated textbooks to all classes of the government school
- Organised local seminars to sensitise and educate people on nature conservation and pollution and planting of compound trees
- Employed three members of their community (village) for bio-monitoring
- Supplied their calendars which are educative

c) KORUP PROJECT has not yet

- Supplied the generator requested
- Attended to their request for assistance to repair their school building damaged by wind in October 1999

2.9. *TOMBE*

a) Presentation

- About 46 inhabitants (32; Butcher 1997)
- No school
- Water from a stream which dries up (Jan – March)
- No electricity, even by generator
- Cash crops: cocoa and coffee
- Food crops: plantains, bananas, yams cocoyams and cassava
- Fruits: oranges, plums, mangoes, pears
- NTFPs: For food and sale: njangsanga, bush mango, country onion and djave.

b) KORUP PROJECT Impact

- Lectured and educated them on group work to enable them receive assistance
- Given them calendars

c) KORUP PROJECT has not

- Constructed their village hall
- Constructed the bridge to the village

The village is bitter about the project because most of their farms are situated in the NP. This

is exacerbated by the fact that KORUP PROJECT is in the process of clearing a site for a project camp. Though their illegal hunting activities will come under great scrutiny, they may benefit from the infrastructure that KORUP PROJECT camp will entail: access road, bridge which they require, water, etc.

3. *Southern Sector*

Until the advent of Korup Project the only industrial activity of importance was the PAMOL plantations. Mundemba, headquarter of Korup Project and Ndian Division, is a fast growing town since it was reachable by road in the late 1980s.

Korup Project activities, especially in road infrastructure include: the suspension footbridge over the Ndian river (now in disrepair), the bridge over Mana river and the road from Ndian via Fabe and Toko, etc. are a ray of hope in the sector.

Korup Project has its headquarters in the southern sector. The two teams (Mudemba South and Mundemba North) are profiting from that. In the centralised management of Korup Project they have the advantage that they are right at the source of power and decision making. The support zone manager, the forest advisor and the Project Manager are based in Mundemba. Especially the team working in the Toko district seems to transfer this advantage to the villages. Rural development extension posts were established in Toko and Lipenja I but as in the other sectors they are hardly ever used. Schools received assistance by way of farm tools and seedlings. While the Mundemba north part seems to attract the necessary attention for a successful work, the villages in Mundemba south felt abandoned. Neither Meka, which is the gate to the Rumpi Hills forest reserve, nor Ndian Town received much attention in the last years. The nursery at Meka is not used any longer and the road to Ndian Town through Besingi, constructed by Korup Project, is in disrepair.

While the northern sector is able to complain about insufficient support from the headquarters (one field worker for a whole sector) and the eastern sector complains about insufficient communication, the southern sector can hardly find any excuse outside their own responsibilities.

Villages covered were: Meka, Ndian town, Toko, Lipenja I, Fabe and Ekundu-Kundu (resettlement-site).

3.1. *MEKA*

a) Presentation

- Population of about 500 inhabitants (450; Butcher 1997)
- GS with 150 pupils
- Water source is a stream 500 m away
- No electricity even by generator
- Cash crops: cocoa, coffee, plantations
- Fruits: oranges, coconuts, apples, plums, soursop, pineapples, mangoes
- Livestock: Few pigs and goats, local fowls
- NTFPs: bush mangoes, njangsanga, country onion

b) KORUP PROJECT Activities

- KORUP PROJECT established one of their first tree nurseries here (Ms Ruth Malleson) and Meka benefited from it to carryout tree planting along the village road
- KORUP PROJECT employed 3 village boys as drivers, but only 1 is still in service there
- Lectured on natural resource management and activities forbidden in the Rumpi Hills Forest reserve
- Distributed about 36 calendars in the village

c) KORUP PROJECT has not supplied:

- Pipe-borne water and electricity to the village as promised
- Farming tools such as wheelbarrows, machetes, hoes, etc. as with other villages e.g. Mobenge, Nyangwe I & II
- Iron poles for goal posts and sign board for the Government School. We suggest that Korup Project should straight away reject such a trivial request which can be handled by the PTA of the school.

NB. They indicate that KORUP PROJECT authorities are reminded about their desiderata whenever they come to lecture the villagers i.e. twice yearly

3.2. *NDIAN TOWN*

a) Presentation

- Mother town of Ndian Estate (PAMOL), which started in 1927
- Population has dwindled to about 300 at present (250; Butcher 1997)
- The government school has 200 pupils (class 7)
- Water from 3 springs nearby (not pipe-borne)
- No electricity, even by generator
- Cash crops: cocoa, coffee
- Food crops: cassava, plantains, sweet yams
- Have also plum trees, oranges, pineapples and vegetables
- Livestock: goats, sheep, pigs, and fowls (all local)

- NTFPs: Njangsanga, bush mangoes

b) KORUP PROJECT Activities

- Barely felt despite proximity to KORUP PROJECT headquarters and despite several requests and reminders

However, KORUP PROJECT has:

- Donated textbooks for use by teachers for all classes of the government school
- Invited the Headmaster and some teachers to KORUP PROJECT headquarters for seminars
- Distributed about 14 calendars in the village

c) KORUP PROJECT has not yet

- Constructed a classroom block for 4 classes despite the plans presented
- Carried out improvement of and construction of culverts on the road to Besingi; so no vehicle has visited the village since three years ago

NB. Pitiful situation for a village, which they feel, is the breadbasket of Mundemba, whose government school scores 100% in the FSLC. So near to PAMOL factory and farms, to KORUP PROJECT headquarters and to Divisional headquarter, yet so far away because of no road link. Yet attempt at building a bailey bridge had been initiated by Community Development. One abutment was constructed 8 years ago with the contribution of the village both in cash and in kind, but was unfortunately abandoned.

3.3. TOKO

a) Presentation

- Headquarters of Toko District in Mundemba Sub-Division
- Population of about 1000 inhabitants (350; Butcher 1997)
- Nearby government primary school has 215 pupils. Also, a Government secondary school exist up to class 2
- District Office and Gendarme Post in same temporary structure
- Rural Council office under construction with wood
- Water source: two springs about 300 m away
- Have a village generator. Villagers supply cables for their houses if they need it
- Cash crops: coffee, cocoa
- Food crops: plantains, bananas, cassava, cocoyams
- Livestock: goats, sheep, fowls, and dwarf cows
- NTFPs: country onion, bush pepper, njangsanga

b) KORUP PROJECT Activities

Highly felt and appreciated

- KORUP PROJECT has constructed a Rural Development Centre in Toko, functioning as

an agricultural demonstration post. The following are raised and distributed to groups, schools and churches: palms, pepper, cabbages, free of charge, but at subsidised rates for individuals

- KORUP PROJECT helps to obtain chemicals and sprayers
- Supplied about 20 calendars
- Aided GSS with 100 benches (desks)
- Aided GS Meangwe I with 30 desks, charts and over 60 textbooks for all classes
- Supplied GS Meangwe I with hoes, spades, cutlasses, packet of files, 2 wheel barrows, garden forks, diggers and a roll of rope
- Held educative seminars in the Toko
- Would have constructed a semi-permanent building as classrooms, but for some contractual problems.

c) KORUP PROJECT has however not

- Undertaken the water supply voluntarily promised. In fact KORUP PROJECT started to dig a well, but after digging very deep and not striking water, abandoned the project. After a long time, the villagers found the hole a potential danger and so filled it up. Discouraged, they dared ask nothing more.

But 2 years ago, another institution (Community Development Department?) started a water supply by gravitation. The water tanks at the catchment have been built, but no delivery pipes. Work has been abandoned.

d) They would like KORUP PROJECT to:

- Backfill the culverts on the main road
- Continue road construction to IJOWE, which would link them faster with Kumba.

3.4. LIPENJA I

a) Presentation

- Population of about 590 inhabitants (500; Butcher 1997)
- Has a GS with 150 pupils (Class 7)
- Water source is a stream about 1 km away, not pipe-borne
- No electricity. Village generator in disrepair
- Has a health Centre dating back to 1929
- Cash crops: coffee, a little cocoa
- Food crops: Cassava, bananas, cocoyams, a little of plantains
- Livestock: njangsanga, country onion, bush pepper

b) KORUP PROJECT Activities

- Constructed their office in the village. Yet to be completed
- Renewed the roof of the Health Centre
- Dug and roofed a toilet for the GS. No walls yet
- Supplied benches and agric tools (wheelbarrow, cutlasses, hoes and file) and charts,

jersey and calendars to the government school

- Supplied farming tools (cutlasses, hoes, pick axes, spades, headpans, wheelbarrows and files) to the village
- Held seminars with villagers and school on forest management

They are happy with KORUP PROJECT

c) But KORUP PROJECT should

- Complete their office and staff it
- Put walls to the school toilet
- Improve the road to the village which they, the villagers, constructed manually

3.5. FABE

a) Presentation

- Population of about 160 inhabitants (175; Butcher 1997)
- Class 6 government School with about 70 pupils
- No pipe-borne water. Source is a spring 200 m away
- No electricity
- Cash crops are cocoa and coffee
- Food crops: bananas, plantains, cassava, cocoyams, sweet yams
- Livestock: goats, pigs, fowls
- NTFPs: bush mango, shell nut, cola nuts, cashew, monkey cola, njangsanga, country onion and bush pepper
- Fruits: oranges, paw-paw, apples, plums

b) KORUP PROJECT Activities

- Happy with KORUP PROJECT and have positively felt their presence
- Provided road link to Mundemba, with good culverts and especially the bridge over River Mana
- Built the two classrooms so far available in the school. In fact KORUP PROJECT started the school
- Supplied teachers' textbooks for classes 1-3 and also charts and calendars (20)
- Supplied farm tools (hoes, wheelbarrows, diggers, spades and cutlasses)
- Headmaster of GS and teacher often invited to seminars in Mundemba. One seminar was currently on
- Repaired their primary Health Post that was damaged by a falling tree, and supplied some drugs. However, the Health Post is now in-operational for lack of funds.

c) However, they would like KORUP PROJECT to

- Complete the school building to enable each class occupy a room (Class 1 – 7)
- Revive their Health Post
- Assist them with a cocoa oven

- Improve their living standards to match that of the resettled population (Ikundu Kundu I) who are occupying their land.

3.6. EKUNDU_KUNDU (Resettlement-site) (IKONDO KONDO)

Ekundu-Kundu (or Ikondo-Kondo) is a village that was in the process of resettling during our visit in January 2000. The information given is not representative, because we hardly found any villagers in the resettlement site. The ones who were there were mostly members of the task-force for resettlement. Our limited time did not allow us to visit the old Ekundu Kundu in the park and also other villages in the park. The insufficient information can be updated by reading Ikundu Kundu a detailed socio-economic survey (Schmidt-Soltau 1999) and an forthcoming evaluation report.

a) Presentation

- A pilot resettlement village
- Population of about 50 inhabitants
- School pupils of about 25 (Classes 1 –5)
- Pipe-borne water, village hall, health post

b) KORUP PROJECT Activities

- KORUP PROJECT has changed their way of living. Different structures are available: Ekpe hall, Community hall, living houses, a health post and a school. Some said that they are better than in the old village
- Trained some youths in building, carpentry and tile manufacturing, to make them independent.
- Supplied pipe-borne water
- Supplied planting materials free of charge: pears, palms, plums, oranges, plantain suckers etc.
- Supplied yearly farming tools: cutlasses, files, spades, pickaxes and wheelbarrows irregularly

c) Would like KORUP PROJECT to:

- Complete construction of school to class 7 so that the school has a room per class
- Supply electricity by generator
- Make the Health Post functional
- Before leaving us in the care of GoC, they grade the road to and in the village

4. RESULTS OF THE VILLAGE TO VILLAGE SURVEY

1. Analysis of the declaration of the interviewed communities/individuals as to what KORUP PROJECT has realised for them, gives the following placing in descending order:
 - Supplied textbooks, charts, maps etc.
 - Lecture to communities on environmental conservation
 - Construction/Improvement of social infrastructure: schools, water supply, halls, health centres
 - Sponsor teachers to seminars
 - Assistance in supplying farm equipment
 - Assistance in planting material
 - Assistance in livestock breeding
 - Build/Improve roads, bridges, culverts
 - Etc.

2. As regards what KORUP PROJECT promised to do but failed the following order (descending) is observed:
 - Failed to construct village hall
 - Failed to construct/improve roads, bridges, culverts
 - Failed to supply pipe-borne water
 - Failed to assist in livestock breeding
 - Failed to improve school building
 - Etc.

3. As regards what they would like KORUP PROJECT to do for them (new requests)
 - Improve school building
 - Construct/improve roads, bridges, culverts
 - Supply water
 - Improve health post
 - Construct community hall
 - Etc.

These analyses enable deduce/conclude from the declaration of the communities that:

1. KORUP PROJECT has made quite an effort to raise the environmental awareness among the communities. A very great number of villages in all the sectors were educated on environmental conservation, including schools and their teachers through lectures, seminars and educative material, but the education was not sustainable. As soon as pupils and students are forced to earn their living in and from the forest, they seem to abandon their former knowledge. Another evidence for that could be seen in the fact, that the villagers only mentioned lectures and seminars after guiding questions: "Have they not taught you something?" To which the reply: "Oh, you mean that one? Yes they used to lecture us on ... give us ... call us (teachers) to seminars, etc ..."

2. Improvement of the living standards and economic conditions of the communities has not

made the expected impact. Not only do the realisations in this aspect appear lower in the ranking, but also the promised projects and activities that KORUP PROJECT failed to carry out, and those that the village would like KORUP PROJECT to assist in carrying out, are of the nature to improve their living conditions.

Kindling environmental awareness, carrying environmental education, etc... are essential for the success of the project in the long term, especially as concerns the youth and above all pupils and students. It is in line with the proverbial: teaching a man to fish and not giving him fish. However, the facts from the survey indicate that Korup Project has not created the expected impacts on the communities.

According to the survey, it is concrete long-lasting things that create an impact: water flowing in the village, a village hall, a classroom, a road, good bridges and culverts, etc. When these are started and completed, that makes an impact. Promising, tickling their interest and raising their expectations is as bad as abandoning a project already started.

A careful look at the results of the interviews show that some sectors are better off than others; and within a specific zone, some villages have it better than others. E.g.:

- The southern sector would appear to have the lion's share (proximity obliges perhaps), but within this zone Meka and Ndian Town are the neglected villages.
- In the northern sector, there is a general feeling of abandonment since the death of the former KORUP PROJECT officer, but Ndebaya village is well off.

In general, activities geared towards improving the living standards of the communities would also appear to have been carried out in a way to arouse petty jealousies amongst the villages. Some villages indicated that they had no idea that they could solicit Korup Project assistance (Mbenyan, Ebanga).

The question thus arises whether Korup Project has any adopted approach towards assistance in the Support Zone; whether a community must invite Korup Project to come and help; whether Korup Project can on their own and in the line with its policy of development in the Support Zone, identify projects in participation with the people and execute them. Finally, experiences gained during the survey tour show the need for Korup Project to clean its public image and improve on its public relations.

According to the document "Korup Project Plan for Developing the Korup National Park and its Support Zones" (Master-Plan - Appendix 9.1), the Project Manager "has the responsibility of ensuring that the project maintains good relationship with the population in and around the National park. He has also to ensure that the rural development component of the project proceeds on schedule, and is of benefit to the local community".

The interview results have indicated that Korup Project achievements so far have not impacted

on the communities as expected, especially in the northern and eastern sectors. Furthermore, a few public relations failures have helped to dilute the achievements made.

The responsibility rests on staff who execute their duties with aloofness, lack of human touch, incompatible with agents of intervention in the rural world:

- It is a staff problem that there is no continuity of Korup Project action. A staff is transferred, retrenched or dies with his ideas and projects. His/her successor starts a new page (Ekok, Mbakem).
- It is a staff (ir)responsibility if the people's problems, however trivial, are not listened to and looked into, to find solutions in concert with local administrative authorities, and, failing which, channelled to Korup Project headquarters (e.g. buffalo destruction in Eyumojock).
- KORUP Project staff lack human touch not to visit a farm purportedly destroyed by elephants; worse still when an elephant kills a villager and they do not visit the bereaved to condole with them (see the report on Ebanga).

Surely, Korup Project activities are geared towards the development of the people. Avoiding to commune with them by not occupying constructed quarters and offices (Baro, Abat, Toko, Lipenja I), or even spending a few days to works around and so interact with them, is suggestive that Korup Project activities are against their interests.

Korup Project should be open with the communities and pass freely to them information that concerns them, especially changes in programmes. There are educated people in the village: retired workers of the public and the private sector. The documented reference of the creation of Baro as Korup Project sub-headquarters was presented to the researchers there at Baro. Yet they do not know why nothing has happened so far. They know and see, with aching hearts and grudges against Korup Project, how what was provided by another benefactor to assist Baro sub-headquarters has been carted off and some of it sold to people they can identify. This is negative to Korup Project.

Appendix 5: List of interviewed people

Quite a number of people did not like us to indicate their name. We respect their wish.

Village/Town	Names	Quantity
<i>Northern Sector</i>		
EKOK	Mr. ATEM George Mr. NTUI Jacob	Headmaster, GS Village Chief 4 elders participated in a group interview
EYUMOJOCK	Mr. AGBOR Atah Henry Mr. AGBOR Manaseh Ebot Mr. ENYONG Micheal Etem Mr. George Okpa Ashu Mr. Ayuk Gabriel	Regent Principal, GHS Headmaster, GS Village Councilor Village Councilor In the meeting with the traditional council more than 30 people participated
NDEBAYA	Mr. Samuel Ntui NDUM Mr. Ashu Gregory NDUM Mr. ASHU John	Chief, Retired Agric. Officer Headmaster, GS Repr. Local NGO (RUDEF) 3 members of RUDEF participated in the discussion
MBENYAN	Mr. NTUI Ferdinand NDUM	Village Youth 4 members of the traditional council participated in a group interview
MBAKEM	Mr. OBEN Tabot Daniel Mr. OBI Samuel Ayuk Mr. BECHEMANYOR Benjamin Ebimiako	Regent Village Secretary Headmaster GS
AYUKABA	Mr. TAMBE Benedict Ashu Mr. Dickson OBI	Village Chief – Agric. Merit No. 3946 Vice Chairman, Trad. Council
<i>Eastern Sector</i>		
MBINJONG	Mr. EWANG Ejolle Cletus Mr. ASHU Joh Agbor Mr. J. T. OROCK Mr. DIFANG Samuel Takem	Headmaster, GS Quarter head, Farmer Retired PAMOL Employee Former Delegate, ERNAMAC
BAKEBE	Mr. EBINI Zacheria Mr. Carl-Jones Enow ASHU	Headmaster, GS Vice Chairman of Trad. Council
ASHUM	Mr. AHU TANGTANG Mr. ASHUTABI Martin	Village Chief Farmer

	Mr. Gregory TATA Mr. NKNNGHO Benjamin Oben	Farmer Headmaster, GS
BARO	Mr. Isaiah Tambe ARUNG Mr. Noah Ngoh Nkase Mr. Pius GNAH Mr. ETA Lucas Agbor Mr. Zacharia OBENANYA Mr. John NDIP Mr. Stephen ESUKE	Village Chief Village Secretary Quarter head Teacher, GS
ABAT	Mr. OBEN John Nemoh Mr. ABGOR Jacob Oben Mr. ANYA Samson Obasse Mr. NDIP Mathias Etta Mr. OBENENGU George Ojong	Village Chief Village Councilor Quarterhead Village Assistant Secretary Headmaster, GS
MWANGALE BAKUNDU	Mr. NJEMOH Thomas Mr. Mathias Modomi Mr. Barnabas Mutia Mr. William Modimi Mr. Isah Joseph Mr. Osih Moses	Village Chief Village Head Vice village Head Village Councillor Village Secretary Headmaster, GS
TOMBE	Mr. OBIE Francis Mr. Lucas EBOKA Mr. Joseph DISONGE Mr. Joseph MOKOMBE Mr. Lucas MOKOMBE	Village Chief Village Councillor Town Crier Farmer Farmer
SEKAM	Rev. EBONG Simon Basua Mr. MEANGO Robert	Retired Pastor, village chief Elite, Retired Mechanic Administrative Garage, Yaounde
EBANGA	Mr. MBENG Abel Mr. TABI Jacob Mr. DIFFANG Tabi lawrence (Name not given)	Village Chief Farmer Village Councillor Headmaster, GS Manyemen

<i>Southern Sector</i>		
MEKA	Mr. Balemba Daniel MOTULE Mr. KEMBA Jonas Moses Mr. Mokomi Jonas MOTULE Mr. Epaka patrick NGOMO Mr. Zacharia MINDAKO Mr. James Etambina MBIA	Village Chief Village Councillor Sec. PTA, GS Farmer Farmer Farmer
NDIAN TOWN	HRH NJUMA Besenge Stephen Mr. MBENDA John Meriki Mr. BESINGA Orume Mr. John Epite NAKERI Mr. Peter Orume EPIE	Paramount Chief PTA Chairman, GS Councillor Councillor Councillor
TOKO	Mr. EPIE Jonas Etune Mr. MUKETE George Mr. MALIBA Edward Esile Mme Alice Ekole Mr. BOKUBA Alexander Mr. MOKI Augustine Mr. MBARA Patrick Mr. MALE Thomas	District Officer, Toko Headmaster, GS Meangwe I Chairman of Toko Vill. Council Municipal Councillor Village Councillor Discipline master, Toko Youth Town Crier King Maker
LIPENJA I	Mr. MEKONGO Samson Mr. ANDU John Mr. ANAMANI Henry Mr. EKPANG peter	Village Chief Headmaster, GS Pharmacy Attendant Farmer
FABE	Mr. USMANU Yakubu Mr. EKPOH Mamfred Mr. ORUME Stephen Mr. MOKI Sopher	Village Chief Village Councillor Village Councillor Village Councillor
IKONDO KONDO	Mr. Awoh Daniel	President, Resettlement Task Force

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APPENDIX 6.1. MAPS

Area map of the Korup Project.